

FROM THE EDITOR: HONORING THE OHS CO-FOUNDERS

In the last issue of *Hindsight* we highlighted the fact that the Optometric Historical Society had been founded 50 years ago, and we featured articles on the history of the OHS and on the circumstances surrounding its formation. In this issue we continue the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of OHS by bringing you articles honoring the OHS co-founders Maria Dablemont and Henry Hofstetter.

Dablemont and Hofstetter each brought to the OHS a combination of professional skill, passion for the history of optometry, and a desire to involve others in that history. Dablemont served as Secretary of OHS for its first 18 years and Treasurer for its first 17 years. Hofstetter was President of OHS for its first five years and variously editor, co-editor, or contributing editor of the OHS newsletter for over 30 years.

Important in their leadership was their conviction that optometry has a grand history. Dablemont declared that optometry has a “glorious past.”¹ Hofstetter wrote that optometry has “an honorable heritage... a truly proud history which includes many prominent and accomplished personalities.”² Together they got the OHS off to a good start. We hope you find these articles about Maria Dablemont and Henry Hofstetter to be informative and inspiring.

References

1. Hofstetter HW. For the record. *Hindsight* 1995;26:25-27.
2. Hofstetter HW. The OHS mission. *Hindsight* 1996;27:17-18.

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GUEST EDITORIAL: MARIA DABLEMONT'S MUSEUM



Maria Dablemont, Librarian, contemplates an optometry history exhibit at the International Library, Archives & Museum of Optometry, 1971.

“I didn’t know you had all this stuff!” is the most common reaction of visitors to the Archives & Museum of Optometry (AMO). The truth is that, up until recently, even we did not know what we had, but we knew that we needed to find out, and that it needed to be shared. Since I joined the staff

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of Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation in 2013, I have seen how the artifacts in the museum never fail to inspire astonishment and fascination in seasoned optometrists, students, and members of the public alike. I also have come to understand that our ability to unlock their full potential for increasing public awareness of optometry is limited without the assistance of the academic community.

In this issue, we focus on one of the first collaborations between organized optometry and academia to build the infrastructure for preserving optometry’s historical legacy—the relationship between the American Optometric Association’s Maria Dablemont and Indiana University’s Henry W Hofstetter. Among the many projects undertaken by the co-founders of the Optometric Historical Society, the construction of a pipeline for channeling donations from private collectors to the International Library, Archives and Museum of Optometry (ILAMO) may be one of the least known but most important. Sometimes in drips and drabs, and at other times as a flood, the ILAMO correspondence files between 1965 and 1990 chronicle the steady flow of