

TADINI, THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE ARTIFICIAL LENS

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In modern times RIDLEY (1951) was the first one to implant an artificial lens. However, he was not the first who thought of the possibility of such an operation. The idea – as far as we know – was conceived by an Italian oculist named Tadini. This fact is reported by no one less than GIACOMO CASANOVA (1725 – 1798) in the 11th volume of his memoirs.

Undeniably his memoirs make fascinating reading not only for the foresaid obvious reason but also because he reports so vividly on historical and cultural details of his time. Nevertheless, the ophthalmologist deserves to be mentioned who read through all these volumes and then recognized the importance of the meeting of CASANOVA with TADINI for medical history: it was A. TAIEB (1955), a Tunisian doctor who reported on the incidence in the *Archives d'Ophthalmologie*.

CASANOVA stayed in the Polish capital of Warsaw from October 10, 1765 to July 8, 1766. There he met TADINI. This oculist showed CASANOVA a box which contained little balls that looked like lenses. They were well polished and

¹ Dr. jur. Hans Reis prepared the section on Tadini's family

consisted of „*very beautiful crystal*”. TADINI said: „*I am capable of placing such a ball under the cornea in the place of the lens*”. („*C'est ce que je suis le maître de poser sous la cornée à la place du cristallin*” – Cf. CASANOVA, édition Brockhaus/Plon)².

TADINI had made the statement in the presence of a German professor who ridiculed him and caused the board of the faculty to decide that TADINI would have to pass an examination on the anatomy of the eye if he wished to practice ophthalmology in Warsaw. TADINI was desperate; in the street he threatened to attack the professor with his sword and thereupon fled from Warsaw.

In 1768 CASANOVA met TADINI anew, this time in Barcelona. TADINI had not been allowed to practice ophthalmology there but was forcibly recruited as a soldier and had to guard CASANOVA who was imprisoned in the tower of the citadel of Barcelona from November 16 to December 18 of that year. CASANOVA asked TADINI: „*What did you do with the crystalline lenses?*” and received the answer: „*I have never mentioned them again since Warsaw although I am certain that they would be successful.*” From this answer CASANOVA concluded that TADINI actually never had any practical experience with his lenses.

It should be repeated that the idea of implantation of an artificial lens was very likely conceived by TADINI. He, therefore, deserves our attention.

TADINI was an itinerant oculist in the second half of the 18th century.

As we know already he stayed in Warsaw from 1765 to 1766. When he met CASANOVA again in Barcelona in 1768 he reported that in the meantime he had visited Krakow, Vienna, Munich, Strasboug and Toulouse.

² This could be interpreted „instead of the natural lens in the place of the natural lens”. Note the amazing reliability of Casanova’s memory and comprehension of medical details. As a young man he had ardently desired to study medicine and all through his life he remained interested in this subject (CHILDS, 1977). Here we encounter another important example – as yet unknown to Casanovists – of the almost incredible exactness of his memoirs.

Fig. 1: Luebeckische Anzeigen, April 15, 1758:

„This is to announce to everyone that the Knight of Tadini, First surgeon of His Royal Majesty of the Two Sicilies, has during eight days operated upon the following patients and with God’s grace and because of his science and talents happily cured them.

Jürgen Bahr, a male person of 30 years, who for 9 years had the falling disease. Elisabeth Blomsch, a woman of some 30 years, who for 18 years has had the falling disease. Dorothea Fosch, 60 years old, has had the falling disease for 1 year. Diederich Hahn, a man of 70 years, who suffered for 3 years of a tremendous cancer. Christian Paulson, a man of 50 years has had for years and days a severe cancerous disease. Likewise a man of some 70 years, who had been blind in both eyes for 8 years. Furthermore 3 girls and 2 boys who had an eczematous scalp of highest degree, he provided with clean heads in the time of 6 days. All those patients named he cured only for God’s sake and charity. This information should enable other patients to make enquiries. His domicile is on the Cabbage Market with Herr Gaebel.”

Es wird hiemit ^{*} jedermänniglich zu wissen
 gethan, daß der Herr Ritter von Tadini,
 Ober-Chirurgus seiner Königl. Majest. beyder
 Sicilien, in Zeit von 8 Tagen folgende Pa-
 tienten operiret und auch durch Gottes Gna-
 de und vermöge seiner Wissenschaft und Ta-
 lente glücklich curiret hat, als:

Jürgen Bahr, eine Manns Person von 30.
 Jahren, hat 9 Jahr die fallende Krankheit
 gehabt. Elisabeth Blomich, eine Frau von
 etliche 30 Jahr, hat 18 Jahr die fallende
 Krankheit gehabt. Dorothea Fojch, 60 Jahr
 alt, hat 1 Jahr die fallende Krankheit gehabt.
 Diederich Hahn, ein Mann von 70 Jahren,
 hat 3 Jahr einen gewaltigen Krebs Schaden
 gehabt. Christian Paulson, ein Mann von
 50 Jahren, hat über Jahr u. Tag einen schwe-
 ren Krebs Schaden gehabt. Desgleichen ein
 Mann von etliche 70 Jahren, so 8 Jahr auf
 beyden Augen blind gewesen. Wiederum 3.
 Mädgens und 2 Knaben, welche den bösen
 Brind biß im höchsten Grad gehabt, hat er alle
 fünf in Zeit von 6 Tagen, reine und gesunde
 Köpfe verschafft. Alle diese benannte Patien-
 ten hat er bloß um Gottes willen und aus
 Barmherzigkeit curiret. Wornach sich hier,
 mit andere Patienten zu richten und selbst
 Nachfrage thun können. Sein Logie ist auf
 den Kohlmarkt bey Hrn. Säbel.

Fig. 1:

Anhang zum 24sten Stück

Der Herr Ritter von Tadini, Comes Palatinus Caesar. Augen-Arzt des Französischen Hofes, ersuchet die Herren Doctores, Chirurgios, und jeden der es zu sehen wünschet, Sonnabend den 13ten dieses um 10 Uhr, die Augen-Operation beizuwohnen, die der Herr Ritter an einer bejahrten Frau und einen 7jährigen Knaben im goldenen Engel vornehmen wird; der Herr Ritter zeigen zugleich an, daß Sie Vorgestern den 11. Junii bereits diejenige besucht, so sie hier operiret, und sie alle zufrieden und in den besten Zustand vorgefunden. Montag 15. Junii werden der Herr Ritter abreisen, zur Nachricht derjenigen dienend die noch seiner Hülfe bedürftiget.

Fig. 2: Luebeckische Anzeigen, June 13, 1789:

„The Knight of Tadini, Comes Palatinus Caesar., eyedoctor of the French Court asks the gentlemen doctors, surgeons and everyone who wishes to view it to be present at the eye operation which the Knight will perform on Saturday, the 13th of this month, at 10 o'clock on an elderly woman and a 7 year-old boy in the „Golden Angel“; at the same time the Knight announces that the day before yesterday, the 11th of June, he has already visited those on whom he has operated here and that he found all of them satisfied and in the best of condition. On Monday, the 15th of June, the Knight will depart, this serving as information for those who still need his help.“

Der Herr Ritter von Tadini, Augenarzt, der in dieser Stadt mehrere Beweise seiner Geschicklichkeit abgelegt, hat noch am Sonnabend den 13. Junii zwei Operationen mit dem größten Erfolg verrichtet, und obgleich die Operation mit dem siebenjährigen Knaben äußerst schwer war, ist selbige doch zur völligen Zufriedenheit der gegenwärtigen Aerzte ausgefallen.

Fig. 3: Luebeckische Anzeigen, June 17, 1789:

„The Knight of Tadini, eye doctor, who in this town several times has given evidence of his skill, once more on Saturday the 13th of June he performed 2 operations with utmost success, and although the operation of the 7 year-old boy was of extreme difficulty its result was to the complete satisfaction of the physicians present.“

A second source about TADINI is a thesis by MARX (1970) dealing with the history of ophthalmology in Luebeck, a town in Northern Germany. Here one finds details about TADINI which enlarge the knowledge about him considerably. They are based on advertisements which TADINI put in the *Luebeckische Anzeigen*, the local newspaper.

There, on March 18, 1758, he introduced himself to the people of Luebeck. A second announcement followed on April 8, 1758. In these advertisements TADINI presented himself in the style of that time – with all his titles showing that he had no fear of the judgement of his colleagues. He called himself *Knight and First Surgeon of His Royal Majesty of the Two Sicilies*. He advertised that he would perform operations and invited physicians and surgeons to witness the event. At his lodgings he held out-patient clinics from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 2 to 6 p.m. From poor patients he only asked for the refund of his own expenses. A week later, on April 15, 1758, there appeared another advertisement (fig. 1) with a list of patients treated during the preceding days (only one of them had an ocular ailment).

It took three decades until in 1789, TADINI's name appeared again in the *Luebeckische Anzeigen*. Earlier that year he had practiced in Bonn, where on the 26th of March he had advertised in the *Boennisches Intelligenzblatt* (Koch, 1977). From there TADINI crossed the northern part of Germany – probably via Muenster, Bremen and Hamburg – and he arrived at Luebeck in June. He now called himself *Knight and Oculist of the French Court*. In addition he used the title *Comes Palatinus Caesareus* (Imperial Count Palatine). He confined his practice to eye diseases. Again he started his advertising campaign with the invitation to a public operation (fig. 2). Several advertisements followed in which he announced past and future activities, for instance that of figure 3. After his visit to Luebeck in May and June 1789, his next advertisements indicated that he stayed in Wismar and Stralsund (fig. 4), two towns nearby. A last advertisement of August 2, 1789, from Greifswald (fig. 5) gives notice of his approaching departure to Berlin via Stettin and Stargard.

HIRSCHBERG's *History of Ophthalmology* also gives some information on TADINI's life. This is based on an article by VAN DUYSE about the visits of itinerant oculists of the 18th century to the city of Gent (Belgium). The article includes a reprint of a number of advertisements by TADINI in the *Gazette von Gent* in March 1788, September 1791 and March and September 1792. These advertisements amazingly resemble those published in Luebeck. Again he calls himself *Knight, Count Palatine and Ophthalmologist of the French Court* and announces he would operate in the presence of local authorities. Afterwards he reported on his results and announced his close departure, at the same time urging potential patients to call upon him at his lodgings. The treatment of poor people would be free, people of distinction could set the fee themselves and from the rest of his patients he would charge 24 *Sous*.

In a long advertisement of September 19, 1791, in the *Gazette van Gent*, Tadini stated that he was of Italian nationality and lived in Bordeaux. He praised his eye water „*Liqueur Ophthalmique*” for the improvement of vision, mentioned that he carried a stock of artificial eyes made of enamel and referred to his tubes for the treatment of strabismic children. In the same article, TADINI told the readers that he had operated on the sister of Sultan Mustapha, wife of the Grand Vezir in Constantinople, in the year 1766.

Although we don't wish to doubt the fact of that operation it must be stated that this date seems to be incorrect. As we mentioned before – when TADINI met CASANOVA in 1768, he gave him a detailed report on his journeys during the past three years. He did not mention Constantinople. Since CASANOVA knew the Ottoman Court himself, it is unlikely that he forgot to list this detail.

Three more advertisements were made known to us by F.L. MARS, the editor of the journal *Casanova Gleanings*. They appeared in the *Journal de Turin* in 1780. Here TADINI calls himself *Professor Oculiste of the French Royal Court*, states that he is on his way from Naples to France and draws attention to his work in Turin in 1763 and 1768. Otherwise these notices are similar to those we already know.

The advertisements suggest that TADINI was an industrious, correct and somewhat social-minded man. Since he regularly operated in the presence of his colleagues he must have been an adept at his speciality. This opinion is strengthened by the fact that TADINI did not avoid revisiting places of former activities, for example Gent after 1788 again in 1791 and 1792.

Fig. 4: Luebeckische Anzeigen, July 8, 1789:
„Wismar, 6th of July, 1789.

While staying in this town the Knight of Tadini, Comes Palatinus, Oculist of the French Court, has proven his great expertise whilst performing 5 operations. Besides others he has today, on the 6th of this month, operated an 80 year-old Frau Blumenthal, who was blind for several years, with the greatest success, in the presence of her physician, the famous Herr Dr. Klevasahl. The operation was the more difficult since the eyes of the patient were situated very deeply in the skull, so that only the very special method this oculist avails himself of enabled him to perform this operation. He left us today bound for Rostock and Stralsund.”

Fig. 5: Luebeckische Anzeigen, August 19, 1789:
„Greifswald, the 2nd of August 1789.

The Knight of Tadini, Comes Palatinus and Oculist at the French Court, has gone from here to Berlin via Stettin and Stargard. Here, in the presence of most distinct and knowledgeable personalities, he operated very successfully 6 persons and he would have been also successful with the 7th operation on a person of standing had not a so called operateur from Hamburg made an unpardonable mistake in his previous operation. This oculist did not know that he dealt with a milken cataract, and since probably he had no knowledge of the technique of extraction he attempted to depress the lens. Yet since a depression was impossible he punctured the lens with the tip of his needle and the milk which flowed toward the membrane formed a membranous cataract which hinged on the nola. This is the reason why this operation could not be successful.”

Wiemar, den 6. Julii 1789.

Der Hr. Ritter von Tadini, Comes Palatinus, Oculist des französischen Hofes, hat bey seinem Hiersein in dieser Stadt, bey 5 Operationen Beweise seiner größten Geschicklichkeit gegeben. Unter andern hat er heute am 6ten dieses eine 80 jährige Frau Blumenthal, die seit einigen Jahren blind, in Gegenwart ihres Arztes des berühmten Herrn Doktor Kievesabl mit dem größten Erfolg operirt. Die Operation war um desto schwerer da die Augen der Patientinn sehr tief im Kopfe lagen, so daß es nur mit der ganz besondern Methode dessen sich dieser Oculist bedient möglich war diese Operation zu verrichten. Er hat uns heute verlassen um nach Posen und Stralsund zu reisen.

Fig. 4:

Greifswald, den 2. August 1789.

Der Herr Ritter von Tadini, Com. Pal. und Oculist am Französischen Hofe, ist von hier über Stettin und Stargard nach Berlin gegangen. Er hat dieselbst 6 Personen in Gegenwart der vornehmsten Kunstverständigen glücklich operirt, und würde noch die 7te Operation glühier bey einer Person vom Stande glücklich ausgeführt haben, wenn nicht ein sogenannter Operateur aus Hamburg bey seiner Operation vorher einen unverzeihlichen Fehler begangen hätte. Dieser Oculist hat nicht gewußt das es ein Milchstaar war, und da er wahrscheinlich keine Kenntniß von der Extraction hatte, so hat er ihn deprimirt. Da aber keine Depression möglich war so hat er mit der Spitze seiner Nadel die Linse durchstochen, und die Milch, welche nach der Membrane anfloß hat einen häutigen Staar gebildet, welcher an der Nola hing. Dies ist die Ursache weshalb diese Operation nicht glücklich ablaufen konnte.

Fig. 5:

Mediolanensi Palatinae

PRIVILEGIUM

Comitatus Palat. & Militiæ Auratæ

A FERDINANDO
III.

ROMANORVM IMPERATORE
SEMPER AVGVSTO.

CONCESSVM
VENER. NOBILIVM PHYSICOR.
COLLEGIO CIVITATIS
MEDIOLANI.

In Congressu Electoral. Ratisbonæ

ANNO DOMINI MDC LIII.

ALEXANDRVM TADINVM EX CONSERVATO-
RIBVS TRIB. SANITATIS IN TOTO MEDIL-
STATV.

IO. BAPTISTAM GLVSIANVM EX SEXAGINTA
DECVRIONIBVS, ET REGIVM PROTHOPHY-
SICVM IN TOTO MEDIOLANI STATV.
BRANDAM BVRRVM.

IVLIVM SOLARIVM.
IO. HONORATVM CASTILLIONEVVM A MON-
TQVATIO, COMITEM PALATINVM.

GEORGIVM SERPONTVM.

HIPOLYTVM FRANCISCVM CASTILLIONEVVM.

HIERONYMVVM GARDANVM EX DVODECIM

DECVRIONIBVS, ET CONSERVATORIBVS

SANCTALIS TRIB. IN TOTO MEDIOLANI

STATV. ET

HIERONYMVVM CONFALONERIVM, quàm eosum:

successores, qui comprobatis Nobilitate, & Doctrina iuxta

illorum facta comprobatis in premium Collegij sine

cooptabuntur, Sacri Lateranensis Palatii, Archiep. nostre

Caesarej, & Imperialis Consistorij Comites fecimus. crea-

imus, & Comitatus Palatini titulo clementer insigniti-

mus, prout vigore presentium factus, creamus, &

insignimus, aliorumq; Comitum Palatinorum numero;

ordini, & consortio gratiosè adscribimus, & aggregamus.

Decretantes, & hoc Imperiali Edicto nostro firmiter

statuentes, quod ex hoc perpetuo deinceps tempore, præ-

dicti Physici, qui nunc sunt, & insposterum legitimè su-

prefatum Collegium adscribentur, simul, & coniunctim,

siuè collegialiter suopto, vel congregati, infra scriptis Pri-

uilegijs.

A 2

Thirty years of migration throughout Europe must have made TADINI fairly renowned. However, he was probably not of such an eminence that educated people spoke about or even conversed over him. At any rate CASANOVA wrote in his memoirs (1790 – 1792): „*I have never heard what became of this poor man.*” TADINI’s formal dates of life are unknown. One can only make a guess about his origin. It is possible and even probable that he was an offspring of an old and distinguished Milanese family of physicians. This assumption is based on the fact that in his advertisements he called himself *Ritter und Comes Palatinus Caesareus* (Knight and Imperial Count Palatine).

Before Napoleon put an end to the *Holy Roman Empire* in 1806, the Palatinate was a much desired title of honour. It was connected with some judiciary functions like the legitimization of illegitimate children, the appointment of notaries public, and the granting of coats of arms to commoners. Experts in the history of law hold different opinions as to the modalities of its bestowal.

According to MISTRUZZI DI FRISINGA (1961) and PANEBIANCO (1968) the Counts Palatine were created either *pro tempore* or *in perpetuum* by the Pope only and not until the second half of the 14th century by the Emperor as well. In the opinion of these authors the term *pro tempore* meant that the title was bound to the person and that it lasted either for the time that certain official positions were held, or for life. On the other hand the term *in perpetuum* meant in their opinion that the title would be hereditary.

ARNDT (1964), however, does not seem to know that the use of the terms *pro tempore* resp. *in perpetuum* in the patent of appointment was decisive for the question whether or not the title was hereditary. Neither does he seem to know that it had been bestowed also by the Pope. Therefore he imagines that the Emperor before 1350 granted the title solely in the Italian territories of the Holy Roman Empire and only after that time in its German territories, too. He distinguishes between a small, a great and – in his own terms – and „institutional” Palatinate. According to him, the small Palatinate was always bound to the person whereas only the great Palatinate, which he considers as having been held by certain families of the nobility, was hereditary. When the title was connected with an official position, such as certain sees, the chancellorship of certain universities or membership in a college of scholars he speaks about an institutional Palatinate. He expresses no opinion as to whether this form of the Palatinate was hereditary or not.

Furthermore, he states that from the beginning of the 16th century the holders of the great Palatinate were frequently entitled to bestow the small Palatinate, creating „sub-Counts Palatine” so to speak. He says that, although the Chancellery of the

Fig. 6: Part of the patent of bestowal of the titles of Count Palatine (Comitatus Palatinus) and Knight of the Golden Militia (Militia Aurata) by Emperor Ferdinand III to Alessandro Tadini and other members of the College of Doctors of Philosophy and Medicine in Milan.

Imperial Court in Vienna had been very careful with regard to the selection of new dignitaries, the last mentioned manner of appointment led in the 18th century to a real sellout of the title, and in consequence its social value diminished.

When TADINI had first introduced himself in Luebeck in 1758 he had not yet called himself *Comes Palatinus*. It is therefore possible that he received the title later on. If this was the case it could be that it was conferred on him by a grateful patient who belonged to one of those families of the nobility which held the great Palatinate. The reason for this possible explanation is that the complete records of all cases in which the Emperor conferred the title by himself – at least for the time under consideration – still exist in the *Austrian Public Record Office* in Vienna, and in the second half of the 18th century no TADINI is listed. But there is still another and perhaps much more plausible explanation of how TADINI could have received the title.

In addition to a patent of bestowal dated March 19, 1536 for CAMILLO TADINI from Martinengo near Bergamo, we have found in the *Austrian Public Record Office* another patent of bestowal, dated October 16, 1653 for ALESSANDRO TADINI (fig. 6). He lived from 1580 to 1661 and became famous as a Protomedicus of Milan where in 1629–1630 he organized sanitary measures to combat the plague (FERRARIO, 1857, HIRSCH, 1962, CASTIGLIONI, 1950), measures about which he later published a detailed report. The title was granted to him by Emperor Ferdinand III, in his capacity as a member of the College of Doctors of Philosophy and Medicine in Milan, of which he had held the position of Dean. Interesting for us is the fact that the respective Imperial patent granting the title to him and to the other members of the College contains the words „*ex hoc perpetuo deinceps tempore*”. PANEBIANCO (1968) concludes by this, as his translation of the document from Latin into Italian shows, that the title in this case was a hereditary one. Considering the fact that ALESSANDRO TADINI was the son and grandson of physicians (FERRARIO, 1857), it does not seem too unlikely that our oculist Tadini was an offspring of this Milanese family, perhaps a grandson of ALESSANDRO TADINI. If this assumption is correct and if PANEBIANCO is right in believing that ALESSANDRO TADINI was the holder of a hereditary Palatinate, then this would explain why our TADINI called himself a *Knight and Count Palatine* and it would give us at the same time an important clue as to his origin.

We could not find any other details about TADINI's origin – his first name, place and date of birth, family connections and time of his death. One knows only one further fact about him, that TADINI had a son who was very likely born in Lyon/France (VAN DUYSE) and grew up to become an itinerant ophthalmologist like his father. In the *Gazette van Gent* of May 20, 1800, he announced his arrival, calling himself „Tadini-son” and claiming that the government had appointed him as *Oculiste des Hospices des Départements de la Dyle et de Jemmappes*. The rest of the advertisement resembles those of his father.

This advertisement is not the only proof of the existence of a TADINI junior. In the *Ophthalmologische Bibliothek* (Ophthalmic Library) edited by two eminent ophthalmologists of the time, K. HIMLY and J.A. SCHMIDT, there appeared the reprint of a letter written by Geheimrat SCHAEFFER on July 15, 1805. In this letter SCHAEFFER described the young TADINI's eye operation in Regensburg, a town on the Danube river. He also described the knife which the surgeon used, „the knife with which I saw Professor Tadini of Lyon repeatedly operate in the month of May of this year.” A few lines further, he wrote:

„His father who also operated in Germany and even in Regensburg 18 years ago (i.e. 1787, the authors) already used this knife.” — (On page 175 HIMLY writes:) „Herr Geheimrat Schaeffer was kind enough to send together with his letter a very pretty drawing of Tadini's knife and afterwards even the knife itself as he had received it from Tadini's hand.”

The knife is shown on fig. 7.

One can conclude that TADINI senior had a son who was also an itinerant ophthalmologist and probably truly held a professorship. The existence of the junior TADINI suggests that his father, during the span of his life, had probably settled in Lyon for some time, founded a family and educated his son to become his successor.

At this point we have reached the limits of our knowledge and presumptions about TADINI, some of which we have compiled in table 1. Our story, however, is not yet quite at an end, since TADINI's idea had a closing act in his own time. For this we must refer to a most excellent paper — written by MUENCHOW (1964) on the history of the intraocular correction of aphakia. In this article, MUENCHOW tells us that the first person who, in 1795, actually tried to implant an artificial lens was an oculist of the Royal Court at Dresden by the name of Casaamata. As a source MUENCHOW uses a booklet by SCHIFFERLI (1797) in which one reads:

„Casaamata attempted to bring an artificial lens made of glass through the wound of the cornea into the eye. However he realized that the glass lens could not serve instead of the natural lens because during the endeavor the glass immediately fell to the floor of the eye.”

CASAAMATA, therefore, is likely to have been the first person who actually attempted to correct aphakia with an intraocular device.

MUENCHOW continues with the question from whom CASAAMATA might have received the idea of the implantation. He regards it unlikely that TADINI and CASAAMATA had ever met. However, he surmises that CASANOVA might ha-



Fig. 7: TADINI's knife. Drawing based on HIMLY and HIRSCHBERG.

ve served as intermediary between TADINI and CASAAMATA, arguing as follows: At that time there was in Dresden a colony of Italian artists and craftsmen. Besides others, the following belonged to that colony: the mother of CASANOVA, GIANETTA CASANOVA (1708–1776), a daughter and two sons, of whom GIAMBATTISTA later became director of the academy of arts in Dresden (table

Table 1: Tadini. Christian name(s), dates and places of birth and death not known

Year	Places	Curriculum („titles“)	Source
1758	Luebeck	„Knight, First surgeon of His Royal Maj. of Both Sicilies“	Luebeckische Anzeigen (1758)
1763	Turin		Journal de Turin (1780)
1765/66	Warsaw	Tadini told Casanova of his method of lens implantation	Casanova
1766	Constantinople	Tadini asserts to have operated the sister of Sultan Mustapha in C. – (the year seems wrong since T. was in Warsaw in 1766)	unproved statement of Tadini in the Boennisches Intelligenzblatt (1789) and in the Gazette van Gent (1791)
1766 – 1768	Cracow, Vienna, Munich, Strasbourg, Toulouse		according to Tadini’s report to Casanova
1768	Turin		Journal de Turin (1780)
1768	Barcelona	T. was not allowed to practice. Forcably recruited as a soldier. Guarded Casanova in city prison	Casanova
1780	Naples, Turin, France	„Professor, Oculist of the French Court“	Journal de Turin (1780)
1788	Gent, Bruegge, Brussels, Netherlands	„Knight, Comes Palatinus Caesareus Oculist of the French Court“	Gazette van Gent (1788)
1789	Bonn, Muenster, Paderborn, Osnabruock, Bremen, Hamburg		Boennisches Intelligenzblatt (1789)
1789	Luebeck, Wismar, Stralsund, Greifswald, Stettin, Stargard, Berlin		Luebeckische Anzeigen (1789)
1791/92	Gent, Brussels		Gazette van Gent (1791/92)

Table II: Pedigree of Giacomo Casanova

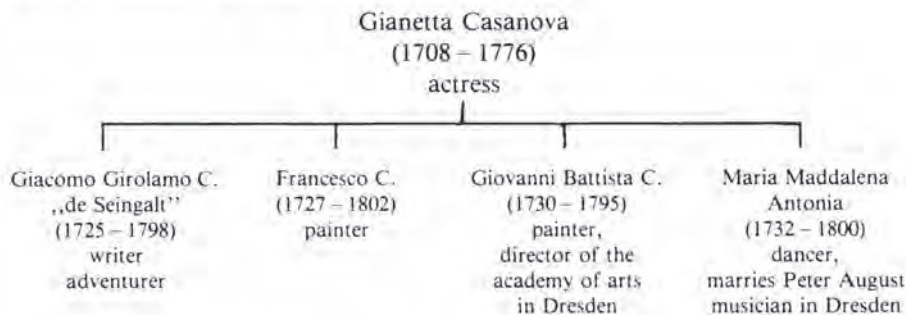


Table III: Curriculum vitae of Casaamata

Johan Virgilius Casaamata

- born in Quero, Venecia, 1741,
- oculist of the Royal Court of Saxony and Doctor
- married on 19th July, 1786
Victoria Camerata, daughter of professor Camerata
- died on 13th of November 1807 in Dresden

II). Another member of that colony was the father-in-law of CASAAMATA, the artist CAMERATA, who taught the art of copper engraving at the academy (table III). Admittedly, CASANOVA does not mention in his memoirs that he met CASAAMATA. However, his memoirs end with the year 1774, and it is known that he revisited Dresden several times thereafter, namely twice in 1783 and once in 1788. MUENCHOW assumes that CASANOVA then met not only his brother but also other members of the Italian colony and, upon such an occasion he might have mentioned TADINI's idea to CASAAMATA. MUENCHOW concludes: „*This is probably the link which completes the chain from the idea to the actual performance of an intraocular correction of aphakia*” – albeit this was unsuccessful.

Summary

Tadini, an Italian by birth, was an itinerant ophthalmologist in the second half of the 18th century. In many places throughout Europe he performed eye operations which is testified by his advertisements in old newspaper, for instance in Luebeck and Gent. This Tadini showed to Casanova a box containing artificial lenses made of glas. Tadini, therefore, in all likelihood conceived the idea of the intraocular cor-

rection of aphakia. Presumably Casanova conveyed the idea to Casaamata, an ophthalmic surgeon in Dresden. At any rate, Casaamata was the first to actually attempt the correction of aphakia by implanting a lens.

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**FECHNER, P. U., FECHNER, M. U. und REIS, H. – Tadini,
der Erfinder der Implantlinse**

Zusammenfassung

Tadini, ein gebürtiger Italiener, war ein wandernder Ophthalmologe in der zweiten Hälfte des 18. Jahrhunderts. Er hat an vielen Stellen Europas Augenoperationen ausgeführt, wovon Anzeigen in alten Zeitungen Zeugnis ablegen, z.B. in Lübeck und Gent. Dieser Tadini führte eine Schachtel mit künstlichen Augenlinsen aus Glas bei sich, die er Casanova zeigte. Die Idee der Korrektur der Aphakie mit einer künstlichen Linse stammt also wohl von Tadini. Es ist zu vermuten, daß Casanova diese Idee an den Dresdner Augenarzt Casaamata weitergab. Er jedenfalls hat eine solche Implantation tatsächlich erstmals versucht.

**FECHNER, P. U., FECHNER, M. U. et REIS, H. – Tadini,
l'inventeur du cristallin artificiel**

Resumé

Tadini est né en Italie et fut un oculiste ambulante de la seconde moitié du XVIII^e siècle. Des annonces dans les journaux de l'époque, entre autres à Lubeck et à Gand, témoignent de ce qu'il a effectué des opérations sur l'oeil dans de nombreux endroits de l'Europe. Ce Tadini montra à Casanova une boîte remplie de cristallins artificiels en verre. Il est donc probable que l'idée de la correction de l'aphakie à l'aide d'une lentille artificielle intra-oculaire est due à Tadini. On peut supposer que Casanova a transmis cette idée à Casaamata, un oculiste de Dresde. C'est de toute façon Casaamata qui fit le premier essai effectif d'une telle implantation.

**FECHNER, P. U., FECHNER, M. U. y REIS, H. – Tadini,
el hombre que inventó las lentes artificiales**

Resumen

Tadini nació en Italia y fue un oculista ambulante en la segunda mitad del siglo XVIII. Los anuncios en los periódicos de la época, como los de Lubeck y de Gante, testimonian de las operaciones sobre el ojo efectuadas por él en numerosos lugares de Europa. Tadini muestra a Casanova una caja llena de cristalinos artificiales de vidrio. Es pues probable que la idea de la corrección de la afaquia por medio de una lentilla artificial intra-ocular sea debida a Tadini. Podemos suponer que Casanova transmitió esta idea a Casaamata, un oculista de Dresde. De todas maneras fue Casaamata quien hizo el primer ensayo efectivo de tal implantación.

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