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INTERNATIONALIS

AUSPICIIS ACADEMIAE
OPHTHALMOLOGICAE INTERNATIONALIS

VOL. 2/FASC. I

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
EUROPEAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
(1956 — 1980)



WAYENBORGH
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HISTORIA OPHTHALMOLOGICA INTERNATIONALIS VOL. 2, FASC. I

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HISTORY OF THE
EUROPEAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

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INTRODUCTION

After the second World War, in 1950, R. Argañaraz (Buenos Aires), H. Arruga (Barcelona), J. Charamis (Athens), L. Coppez (Brussels), De Lemnos (Lisbon), C. Espildora Luque (Santiago de Chile), H. Ferrer (Havana), L. Maggiore (Genoa), A. Magitot (Paris), J. Malbran (Buenos Aires), J. Sédan (Marseilles) and J. Vidal (Rio de Janeiro) founded the Latin Ophthalmological Society, with E. Filippi-Gabardi (Bologna) as Secretary General. This Society organized two Congresses, the first in Rome in 1953, on toxoplasmosis, and the second in Madrid in 1956, on plastic material in ophthalmology.

One of the objectives of the Society was to attract the South American ophthalmologists and to bring them to Europe. This objective could not be realized, as the South Americans were very few in Rome or in Madrid. Moreover, although the conception of Europe has for some years been in the forefront of actuality, and although the European nations appear once more to be drawing together, after too many missed opportunities, it must be recognized that, beside the Governments — and frequently in advance of them — private personalities, and among them the ophthalmologists, have for a long time already been striving to look beyond the confines of their countries and to exchange their ideas, knowledge and techniques with their partners in other European countries. For that reason the Council of the Latin Society, on the initiative of P. Bailliart, A. Franceschetti, J. François and L. Paufigue, decided unanimously on 26th April, 1956, to found the European Ophthalmological Society (*Societas Ophthalmologica Europaea*), its first President being Paul Bailliart (Paris) (Fig. 1) and its first Secretary General Jules François (Ghent) (Fig. 2), these functions, of course, having no national character.

At the outset, the Secretary General had a double mission:

1. To draw up the Statutes of the European Ophthalmological Society, and
2. To constitute the Council of the Society, which should have one representative from each European country. The European members of the former Latin Society were to become members *ex officio*. They were H. Arruga (Spain), J. Charamis (Greece), L. Coppez (Belgium), L. Maggiore (Italy) and J. Sédan (France). The representatives of the other countries were to be designated by their respective national societies.

Thus the Council has been completed during 1956 by the following representatives: M. Amsler (Switzerland), N. Ayberk (Turkey), G. von Bahr (Sweden), J. Böck (Austria), A. Hagedoorn (Holland), P. Ladekarl (Denmark), F.W. Law (Great Britain), A. Lopes de Andrade (Portugal), Sv. Pavisic (Yugoslavia), P. Riise (Norway), R. Thiel (Germany), M. Vannas (Finland), V. Vejdosky (Czechoslovakia) and L.E. Werner (Ireland).



Fig. 1. Dr. Paul Bailliar (Paris).



Fig. 2. Prof. Jules François (Ghent).

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Council of the European Ophthalmological Society met for the *first time on 14th May, 1957*, in Paris, under the presidency of Dr. Paul Bailliart. It decided that the first Congress should be held in Athens in April 1960, under the presidency of Prof. J. Charamis, and that its theme should be *secondary glaucoma*. Since this decision, it has become a tradition for the European Congresses to be devoted to only one single theme, the free papers having also to relate to the same subject.

The *second meeting* of the Council was held in Brussels in *September 1958*, on the occasion of the International Congress of Ophthalmology. Three new countries sent representatives, namely Poland (I. Abramowicz), Romania (D. Manolesco) and Hungary (Mrs. M. Radnot).

The Council selected the *reports* and the *rapporteurs* for the Athens Congress as follows:

1. Hypertensive uveitis and post-inflammatory glaucomas (R. Weekers and G. Lavergne, Liège).
2. Glaucoma in Fuchs' iris heterochromia (A. Huber, Zürich).
3. Postoperative glaucomas (G. E. Jayle and A. G. Ourgaud, Marseilles).
4. Glaucoma due to lensswelling (S. Miller, London).
5. Secondary glaucoma due to epithelial proliferation in the anterior chamber (R. Thiel, Frankfurt).
6. Capsular glaucoma (Th. Joannides, N. Karsourakis and P. Velissaropoulos, Athens).
7. Electrorétinography in secondary glaucoma (J. François and A. De Rouck, Ghent).
8. The ERG in rapid changes of ocular tension (G. Karpe and B. Wulfing, Stockholm).
9. Glaucoma due to haemorrhage in the anterior and posterior segments (L. Werner, Dublin).
10. Glaucoma secondary to an extraocular vein obstruction (G. B. Bietti and V. Vanni, Rome).
11. Glaucoma due to thrombosis of the central retinal vein (Mrs. S. Vannas, Helsinki).
12. Traumatic glaucoma (A. Heinc, Olomouc).
13. Glaucoma due to essential progressive atrophy of the iris (M. S. Miron, Bucarest).

14. Glaucoma secondary to pupil seclusion (A. Moreu, Santiago de Compostela).
15. Glaucoma due to rubeosis iridis in diabetes (V. Ohrt, Aarhus).
16. Glaucoma in endocrine exophthalmos (J. Böck and J. Stepanik, Vienna).
17. Glaucoma due to intraocular tumours (F. Papolczy, Budapest).

Moreover, the Council adopted the following *statutes*:

1. The European Ophthalmological Society shall be directed by a Council, composed of representatives of the national Ophthalmological Societies. They shall elect a Secretary-General chosen from within or outside the Council.

2. The Council of the Society shall elect a president every four years, from among the members of the council. He shall not be eligible for re-election.

3. One national representative shall be elected from each national Society by the Council. There may not be more than one effective representative for each country.

4. Ophthalmologists of the European Nations are eligible for membership of the Society provided they are member of their National Society. Ophthalmologists from other continents may be admitted as associate members by permission of the Council.

5. The Society shall hold a Congress in a European country every four years at the invitation of the Ophthalmological Society of that country and with the agreement of the Government. The congresses shall alternate with the international Congresses of Ophthalmology. The dates of the Congress shall be fixed four years in advance.

6. The inviting country shall appoint an organizing committee, the President of which shall be the representative of that country on the Council. The organizing committee shall give a report of its activities to the Council.

7. Normally, there shall be only one main theme for discussion at each Congress.

8. Any European language may be used at the Congress, but the official languages shall be chosen by the Council before each Congress.

9. The organizing Committee of each Congress shall pay to the Council such sum, for each registered full member, as shall be determined by the Council. It shall provide an adequate sum for the publication of the Acta and remit the credit balance to the Council.

10. The Council of the European Ophthalmological Society may receive donations and subsidies.

11. The President and the Secretary General may convene the Council when necessary. Councillors may submit opinions by correspondence.

All elections shall be by secret vote. A simple majority of the attending members shall decide. The President has the right to vote.

The E.O.S. obtained in 1958 an ex-officio seat on the International Council of Ophthalmology and this seat shall be occupied by the Secretary General, Jules François.

The Council met again in *September 1959* in Zurich at the invitation of Prof. M. Amsler. Two new countries sent representatives, namely Bulgaria (E.S. Zhivkov) and Soviet Union (V.N. Archangelsky). Thus, and for the first time in the history of medicine, all the European countries without any exception were members of the E.O.S. Council.

The Council accepted a proposal by S. Karger (Basel), who was prepared not only to publish all the Acta of the European Congresses, but also to publish free of charge all the principal reports in *Ophthalmologica*. The Acta would be distributed free of charge to the registered members of each Congress and sold at a reduced price to the subscribers to *Ophthalmologica*, provided that the subsidy of the Organizing Committee of the Congress were sufficient. This proposal had the great advantage of ensuring a wider distribution of our publications and at the same time of making it possible to render them uniform.

The Council met for the *fourth time on 13th April, 1960* in Athens, on the occasion of the first European Ophthalmological Congress. As Dr. Paul Bailliart's term of office was completed, Prof. G. von Bahr (Sweden) was elected President of the Council and the Society (Fig. 3), Jules François remaining Secretary General. The Council decided to send a delegate to the Congresses of the Panamerican Association of Ophthalmology. Dr. H. Arruga was nominated, whereas the Panamerican Association selected Dr. Derrick Vail (Chicago) as its representative for the E.O.S. In addition, the Council accepted the invitation from Prof. J. Böck, to hold the next Congress in Vienna in June 1964, with as topic the *aetiology, diagnosis, classification and treatment of tumours of the eye and its adnexa*. Finally, Dr. P. Bailliart was elected Honorary President.

The *fifth meeting* of the Council was held on *6th May, 1961* in Paris, under the presidency of Prof. G. von Bahr. It learnt with regret of the resignation as member of the Council of Prof. M. Amsler (Zurich), who has retired. Prof. B.E. Streiff (Lausanne) was elected to replace him.

The Council selected the *reports* and the *rapporteurs* for the 1964 Congress in Vienna. As proposed by Prof. R. Thiel, the Congress should be opened with three lectures on general cancerology: (1) Problems in cancerology (H. Lettré, Heidelberg), (2) Radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant tumours (M. Ledermann, London), (3) Malignant tumours of the eye and its adnexa. Roentgentherapy, late results (F. Baclesse, Paris).

The reports will be:

1. Tumours of the lacrimal sac (M. Radnot and J. Gall, Budapest).
2. Epitheliomas of the lids, clinical and therapeutic study (M.A. Dollfus, Paris).
3. Scleral tumours (G. E. Hewson, Galway).
4. Histopathology of lid tumours (F. Rintelen, Basel).
5. Malignant tumours of the conjunctiva (R. Thiel, Frankfurt).
6. Malignant tumours of the cornea (I. Pácurariu, Cluj).
7. Primary tumours of the iris (N. Ashton and K. Wybar, London).
8. Diagnosis of malignant melanomas of the choroid (J. François, Ghent).
9. Histopathology of malignant melanomas of the choroid (J. François and M. Hanssens, Ghent).
10. Treatment of malignant melanomas of the choroid (J. Charamis and C. Topalis, Athens).
11. Diagnosis of retinoblastoma (N. Sezer and R. Barishak, Istanbul).
12. The heredity of retinoblastoma (J. Schappert-Kimmijser, G.D. Hemmes and R. Nijland, The Hague).
13. Treatment of retinoblastoma (H. B. Stallard, London).
14. Tumours of the retina and choroid (with the exception of retinoblastoma and malignant melanoma of the choroid) (F. Swab, Vienna).
15. Neoplasms of the optic nerve (V. N. Archangelsky, Moscow).
16. Metastatic tumours of the eye and orbit (J. Casanovas, Barcelona).
17. Ocular manifestations of Recklinghausen's neurofibromatosis (H. Ehlers, Copenhagen).
18. Diagnostic methods in unilateral exophthalmos (T. I. Bertelsen, Bergen).
19. Tumours of the lacrimal gland (J. Bock and F. Feyrter, Vienna).
20. Pseudotumours of the orbit (F. Moro, Padova).
21. Incidence of neighbouring tumours (I. Stankovic, O. Litricin and P. Stefanovic, Belgrade).
22. Pseudotumoral malformations of the eye (J. Babel, Geneva).
23. Metastases of ocular tumours (A. Lopes de Andrade, Lisbon).

The *sixth meeting* of the Council was held on *1st June, 1962* in Uppsala, at the invitation and under the presidency of Prof. G. von Bahr, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Gullstrand. It was decided that the reports should not ex-



Fig. 3. Prof. Gunnar von Bahr (Uppsala).



Fig. 4. Meeting of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society in Ghent (5th July, 1963). From left to right: Prof. L. Coppez, Prof. L. Maggiore, Prof. B.E. Streiff, Prof. J. François, Dr. H. Arruga, Prof. Lopes de Andrade, Prof. A. Hagedoorn, Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót, Mrs. François, Prof. A. Franceschetti, Mrs. de Andrade, Mrs. Hagedoorn, Dr. Zehetbauer, Mrs. Ayberk, Mrs. Werner, Prof. L.E. Werner, Prof. J. Böck, Mrs. von Bahr, Miss Radnót, Dr. N. Ayberk, Dr. P. Riise, Prof. G. von Bahr, Mrs. Thiel, Prof. J. Charamis, Prof. R. Thiel.



Fig. 5. Prof. L. E. Werner (Dublin).



Fig. 6. Prof. B. E. Streiff (Lausanne).

ceed fifteen pages each, including the illustrations. It agreed to sponsor the European Committee for the Study of Strabism, of which Prof. Ch. Thomas (Nancy) was the President. An ex-officio-seat on the Committee was reserved for the European Ophthalmological Society and would be occupied by its Secretary General.

The *seventh meeting* of the Council (Fig. 4) was held on *5th July, 1963* in Ghent at the invitation of Prof. Jules François and under the presidency of Prof. G. von Bahr. Dr. P. Ladekarl (Denmark) having resigned, Prof. H. Ehlers (Copenhagen) was elected to replace him. The Council was informed of the preparations for the Vienna Congress (1964) by Prof. J. Böck.

The *eighth meeting* of the Council was held on *7th June, 1964* in Vienna, under the presidency of Prof. G. von Bahr, on the occasion of the Second Congress of the Society. It accepted with pleasure an invitation from the Netherlands, for the Third Congress to be held in Amsterdam, under the presidency of Prof. A. Hagedoorn. As the mandate of Prof. G. von Bahr came to an end, Prof. L. Werner (Dublin) was elected President of the Society (Fig. 5). The Council unanimously re-elected Prof. J. François as Secretary General.

Among several themes, "*Occupational and medicative hazards in Ophthalmology*" was chosen for the next Congress.

The *ninth meeting* of the Council was held on *20th April, 1965* in London, at the invitation of Dr. Frank Law and under the presidency of Prof. L. Werner. The President recalled the memory of Prof. M. Vannas (Helsinki), who died at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Salme Vannas (Helsinki) was elected to replace him. Prof. Manolesco (Bucarest) having retired, Prof. P. Vancea (Bucarest) was elected to replace him. As proposed by Dr. J. Sédan, the following personalities were nominated Founder Members of the European Ophthalmological Society: Paul Bailliart, Jean Charamis, Léon Coppez, Eugène Filippi-Gabardi, Jules François, André Magitot, Louis Pauifique, Per Riise and Jean Sédan.

The Council selected the *reports* and the *rapporteurs* for the forthcoming Congress in Amsterdam (1968):

1. Ophthalmology in the past, the present and the future (J. Nordmann, Strasbourg).
2. A retrospective study of eye injuries (M.J. Roper-Hall, Birmingham).
3. Surgical treatment of ocular paralyses secondary to fractures of the orbit (J. Rougier, Lyons).

4. Contusion of the eye (A.M. Tonjum, Oslo).
5. Repeated electromagnetic interventions (I. Stankovic, Belgrade).
6. Extraction of magnetic foreign bodies from the transparent lens (H. Moutinho, Lisbon).
7. UV and sunrays (K. Heinz, Innsbruck).
8. Chemical lesions of the eye in occupational medicine (J. Lange, Gummersbach).
9. Electrical injuries (G. von Bahr, Uppsala).
10. Ocular lesions due to ultrasounds (A. Oksala, Turku).
11. Ocular hazards in agriculture (J. Blake, Dublin).
12. Chemical burns of the eye due to pesticides (I. de Grosz, Budapest).
13. Methylalcohol intoxication (M. Salorio, Santiago).
14. The prevention of ocular injuries in industry (V.H. Smith, Birmingham).
15. Visual fatigue (A. Dubois-Poulsen, Paris).
16. External ocular diseases due to direct external factors (A. Heinc and K. Kubena, Olomouc).
17. Ocular professional diseases in relation with atmospheric and spatial flights (A. Grignolo, Genoa, and A. Scano, Rome).
18. Treating the patient a threat for his eyes (F.A. Nelemans, Leidschendam).
19. Lesions of the anterior eye segment due to drugs (K.A. Schrader, Giessen).
20. Some aspects of retinal drug toxicity (S.J. Crews, Birmingham).
21. Early diagnosis of retinal and optic nerve lesions due to drugs (R. Brückner, Basel).

Mauno VANNAS
(1891–1964)

Mauno Vannas was born in Uusikaupunki (Finland) and graduated from the Helsinki University Medical School in 1923. He received his postgraduate training at the Helsinki University Eye Hospital and visited the eye departments in Vienna and Prague. He was appointed professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Helsinki in 1937.

Mauno Vannas was a great ophthalmologist and a brilliant surgeon. He published more than 100 papers. His thesis on "Clinical studies about the effect of adrenalin in glaucoma" (1927) was a pioneer work. His studies on lymph-node amyloidosis in trachoma, pigment changes in the eye, tuberculinallergy and phlyctenular conjunctivitis, gonioscopy after cyclodialysis are well known. Already in the 1930's he performed round-pupil intracapsular cataract extractions, corneal grafting operations and oblique muscles surgery. He designed new instruments and among these his scissors are famous. He emphasized the value of bacteriologic examinations of

the conjunctiva, the syringing of the lacrimal passages and the systemic medical examination of ophthalmic patients.

Doctor honoris causa of the University of Turku, Honorary member of the Barraquer Institute, Mauno Vannas was a member of the Finnish Academy of Science, advisor of the WHO for trachoma, president of the Finnish Eye Foundation and past dean of the Helsinki Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Mauno Vannas was a great organizer, a jovial and sympathetic person, a true gentleman, a companionable, hospitable and erudite ophthalmologist.

The *tenth meeting* of the Council was held on *13th August, 1966*, at Munich, under the presidency of Prof. L. Werner, on the occasion of the International Congress of Ophthalmology. Dr. P. Riise (Norway) having resigned, Prof. T. Thomassen (Oslo) was elected to replace him. For economic reasons, it was decided that the number of pages, including the figures, should be limited for the next Congress to 10 pages for the reports, 5 pages for the free papers and half a page for the discussions.

The *eleventh meeting* of the Council was held on *22nd May, 1967*, in Dublin, under the presidency of Prof. L. Werner, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Irish Ophthalmological Society. The Council was very cordially received by Mr. de Valera, President of the Republic of Ireland.

The Council decided to sponsor the International Ergophthalmological Association, of which Prof. Merté (Munich) was the President, and which will hold a meeting on the occasion of each Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society.

Regarding the Amsterdam Congress, it was decided that full members pay 250 fl and receive the Proceedings, while scientific members would pay only 200 fl, but would not receive the Proceedings.

The following apportionment of pages for the Proceedings of the 3rd Congress was approved by the Council still for economical reasons: 10 pages, including illustrations, for the main speakers (speaking time 30 min); 6 pages, including illustrations, for the invited speakers (speaking time 15 min); 4 pages, including illustrations, for the free papers (speaking time 10 min); 2 pages, including illustrations, for the invited discussions (speaking time 5 min) and half a page for the other discussions, so that the total number of pages of the Acta should not exceed 600 pages.

The *twelfth meeting* of the Council was held on *17th June, 1968*, in Amsterdam, under the presidency of Prof. L. Werner, on the occasion of the Third Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society. The President recalled the memory of Prof. M. Amsler, former member of the Council, Prof. E. Filippi-Gabardi, Honorary Secretary General, Prof. A. Franceschetti, Treasurer, Dr. J. Sédan (Marseille) and Prof. R. Thiel (Frankfurt), who died since the last meeting. Prof. Z. Pavisic (Jugoslavia) sent in his resignation.

The Council elected Prof. A. Dubois-Poulsen (Paris) to replace Dr. J. Sédan, Prof. G. Meyer-Schwickerath (Essen) to replace Prof. R. Thiel and Prof. Z. Postic (Novi Sad) to replace Prof. Pavisic. The Council decided that the Secretary General would assume also the functions of Treasurer of the Society.

Prof. L. Werner's term of office having come to an end, the Council elected Prof. B.E. Streiff (Lausanne) as President of the European Ophthalmological Society (Fig. 6).

The Council accepted gratefully the invitation of Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót for the Fourth Congress of the Society to be held in Budapest. Its theme will be "*Functional examinations in Ophthalmology*".

Prof. L. Werner generously offered a President's Badge to the Council. Dr. F. Law and Prof. J. Charamis would present a project of design at the next meeting.

The Council had received a sum for a gold medal, which will be named the *Helmholtz Medal* (Fig. 7). This medal will be awarded every four years to the European ophthalmologist who had done most for the Society and for Ophthalmology. The recipient will be selected by secret vote of the members of the Council held the year before the Congress and shall give a memorial lecture at the opening ceremony of the Congress.

The medal would represent on one side the portrait of Helmholtz and on the other side the goddess Europa and the god Zeus, as suggested by Prof. J. Charamis.

Eugenio Filippi GABARDI (1907–1967)

After having obtained the "*libero docenza*", Prof. Filippi-Gabardi devoted himself to private praxis in Bologna. Secretary General of the Latin Ophthalmological Society, he organized its first Congress at Rome in 1954. The great success of this meeting was entirely due to his efforts, as he was alone to organize the Congress on the social and scientific as well as on the financial point of view.



Fig. 7. Helmholtz Medal.



Fig. 8. President's badge.

Adolphe FRANCESCHETTI
(1896 – 1968)

Adolphe Franceschetti was born in Zurich, where he received all his education. From 1921 to 1925, he was Assistant to Professors Sidler-Huguenin and Vogt in the Zurich Ophthalmological Clinic, and in 1925 he became head of Prof. Brückner's Clinic in Basel. In 1933, he was chosen to succeed Prof. Gourfein and to occupy the Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Geneva.

Franceschetti displayed an extraordinary activity, an exceptional clinical sense and an ever-alert curiosity. He published nearly 500 clinical and scientific papers that went far beyond the bounds of casuistry and still retain their full validity today. Among his most important subjects, his research on the intra-ocular fluids, oto-neuro-ophthalmology, the relationship of the eye with general diseases, keratoplasty, electrophysiology, ultrasonography and above all heredity must certainly be cited. Many syndromes bear his name, the best known being mandibulofacial dysostosis. He contributed the chapter on heredity in the *Kurzes Handbuch der Ophthalmologie*. With Jules François and Jean Babel he wrote the report for the French Ophthalmological Society on chorioretinal heredodegenerations, and with Waardenburg and Klein the treatise on Genetics in ophthalmology.

Franceschetti founded the "Institut de Génétique Médicale" at Geneva, and he was the publisher of the "Journal de Génétique Humaine". He was the President of the *Consilium Diagnosticum* of the German Ophthalmological Society, with which he collaborated very actively.

He was a member or honorary member of many ophthalmological societies and a member of the Editorial Boards of many scientific journals. He was the President of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology and of the Swiss Academy of Sciences. He was Doctor honoris causa of the Universities of Ghent, Heidelberg and Toulouse.

Franceschetti was a charming and kind companion. His eagerness to work, his dynamism and his enthusiasm were contagious. He was a skilled organizer, his memory was prodigious and his knowledge enormous; fatigue was unknown to him. He had a warm welcome for everyone and gave unstintedly his moral and material aid to the unfortunate. Because of his great kindness, his exquisite indulgence, his keen humour and unshakable optimism, Franceschetti has left a vacuum which cannot be filled. His death was a sad loss to ophthalmology throughout the world.

Jean SEDAN
(1891–1967)

After his medical studies and his return from the war in 1918, Jean Sédan submitted a thesis on the treatment of the severe forms of purulent ophthalmia by conjunctival flaps and studied in Paris under Victor Morax. In 1923, he became Head of Prof. Aubaret's Clinic in Marseilles, and in 1926, hospital ophthalmologist, becoming Director of the Ophthalmological Department of the Hôpital de la Conception.

Supported by his wife, Simone Sédan-Bauby, also an ophthalmologist, Jean Sédan displayed a prodigious activity, which he never slackened. With his great surgical dexterity, he was the Head of a school which occupied a noteworthy place in the French world of ophthalmology. There were very few aspects of ophthalmology in which he was not interested, whether it were surgery, therapeutics, neuro-ophthalmology or trachoma. He collaborated in the French Ophthalmological Treatise (1938), to which he contributed the chapter on palpebral motility, as well as in the Treatise on Medical Therapeutics in Ophthalmology and in the book on Modern Investigation Techniques in Ophthalmology. He wrote a monograph entitled "Post-cure de l'Amblyope rééduqué".

Jean Sédan was a member of the Board of the French Ophthalmological Society and of the "Annales d'Oculistique", President of the "Ligue Anti-trachomateuse", Secretary General of the International Organization against Trachoma, representative of France at the W.H.O., President of the "Syndicat des Oculistes Français" and also of the Regional Council of the "Ordre des Médecins".

Jean Sédan had a very attractive personality, setting an example of enthusiasm and generosity, honesty and rectitude, kindness and courage, friendship and steadfastness, obligingness and loyalty.

He was a Founder Member of the Latin Ophthalmological Society and later of the European Ophthalmological Society.

Rudolf THIEL
(1894–1967)

Rudolf Thiel was born in Berlin and studied at Freiburg, Tübingen and Jena. In 1925, he became Chief Physician in the Ophthalmological Clinic of the University of Berlin and in 1935, Professor at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt.

Thiel was very active, both clinically and scientifically, which earned him an enviable reputation. He was interested in every problem of ophthalmology, in particular in the relations between ocular affections and systemic diseases.

The following are examples of his many highly successful books: (i) "Flüssigkeitswechsel, Augendruck und Glaukom", (ii) "Ergebnisse der allgemeinen Pathologie", (iii) "Glaukom", which he wrote for the *Kurzes Handbuch der Ophthalmologie*, (iv) the "Atlas of ocular diseases", which has been translated into a large number of languages, (v) "X-ray diagnostics of the cranium in diseases of the eyes and of their adnexa".

Thus it is not surprising that Thiel's merits were recognized by his colleagues. He was an Honorary Member of a large number of ophthalmological societies and President of the German Ophthalmological Society, as well as a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology and of the German Academy Leopoldina. In 1957, he was awarded the Graefe Medal and in 1964, the Plaque of Honour of the City of Frankfurt. He was for many years Editor-in-Chief of the "Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde".

A tireless worker, a skilful organizer, a clear and instructive speaker, Rudolf Thiel had a full and authoritative character; he was a little impulsive and would never accept a compromise. He was very cultivated and loved art, music and nature.

Marc AMSLER (1891–1968)

Marc Amsler became Private Docent at the Lausanne University in 1928 and later Deputy Physician at the Ophthalmic Hospital, where his Chief, Jules Gonin, strongly influenced his medical personality. In 1933, he succeeded Gonin and became Professor of Ophthalmology at the Faculty of Medicine of Lausanne. In 1944, he obtained the Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Zurich, where he succeeded Alfred Vogt.

Amsler was a surgeon of the highest class, having a masterly elegance and precise movements. He contributed greatly to make known Gonin's ideas on the pathogenesis of retinal detachment and the operation that Gonin had developed for that affection. Without counting his innumerable lectures, Amsler published twenty-two important papers on the subject.

Marc Amsler's second subject of predilection was the study of the pathologic aqueous humour, and he designed for that purpose a most remarkable needle for puncturing the anterior chamber. In recognition of this study, he was invited by

the French Ophthalmological Society to write a report on the aqueous humour and its functions, which he undertook with his fellows Florian Verrey and Alfred Huber.

He was also interested in keratoconus, uveitis and in the examination and treatment of macular diseases, for which he invented his famous charts.

Amsler published more than 120 papers, the scientific importance of which made him one of the most outstanding figures of contemporary ophthalmology. He was a member of a large number of ophthalmological societies and of the Editorial Boards of many scientific journals, he was an Honorary Member of the Belgian and the Swiss Ophthalmological Societies and of many others.

Amsler had an engaging personality and great personal charm. Subtle in spirit, a brilliant speaker and lover of perfection, he had good friends among artists, writers and musicians, who could consider him as one of themselves, since he was an excellent organist. In addition, he was a collector of autographs of famous people.

The *thirteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *7th June, 1969*, in Lisbon, under the presidency of Prof. B.E. Streiff and at the invitation of Prof. Lopes de Andrade.

Dr. F. Law submitted a remarkable drawing for the President's Badge, donated by Prof. L. Werner (Fig. 8): a tear with an eye, the goddess Europa and the god Zeus, as suggested by Prof. J. Charamis.

Concerning the 4th Congress in Budapest (1972) it was decided that the fees should be 60 \$ for full members and 35 \$ for associate members.

The following *reports* and *reporters* on Functional Examinations in Ophthalmology, were chosen:

1. The development of vision, Some considerations on the stress factors influencing the light-sense (P. Dwyer-Joyce, Dublin).
2. Methods for functional exploration of the visual apparatus (A. Dubois-Poulsen, Paris).
3. Refraction examination (K. Hruby, Vienna).
4. Fundus reflectometry (R.A. Weale, London).
5. Absolute thresholds of luminance (D. Gligo and J. Luttenberger, Rijeka).
6. Light sensitivity and static perimetry (E. Aulhorn and H. Harms, Tübingen).
7. Visual acuity (Dreyer V., Copenhagen).
8. Subjective and objective evaluation of flicker (Van der Tweel L.H. and Estévez O., Amsterdam).

9. Colour vision (G. Verriest, Ghent).
10. Stereoscopic and binocular vision (V. Tommila, Helsinki).
11. Electronystagmography and electro-oculography (S. Erbakan, Izmir).
12. Electromyography of the ocular muscles (A. Huber, Zurich).
13. Electro-oculography (Kolder H. E., Iowa City).
14. Electroretinographic method for the separation of cone and rod responses (J.R. Brunette, Montreal).
15. Electroperimetry (H.E. Henkes and G.H.M. van Lith, Rotterdam).
16. Visual occipital potentials (M. Monnier, Basel).
17. Optokinetic nystagmus (P. Enoksson, Stockholm).
18. Pupillography (M. Peleska, Prague).
19. Dynamography (P. Follmann, Budapest).
20. Combined functional examination (A.G. Ourgaud, Marseilles).
21. Functional syndromes (J. François, Ghent).

The *fourteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *17th September, 1970*, at Lausanne, under the presidency of Prof. B.E. Streiff, on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Jules Gonin. Prof. L. Werner presented the President's Badge to Prof. Streiff.

The President recalled the memory of Prof. Z. Postic, who died recently. Prof. M. Blagojevic (Belgrade) was elected to replace him.

Thanks to a donation from Baroness Ebba Thott, widow of Prof. J. Imre, a *Joseph Imre Prize* was founded. This Prize will be awarded every four years on the occasion of the Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, for the most original and outstanding paper presented at the Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society as a free paper. The laureate, who shall not be more than 40 years of age at the opening of the Congress, shall be selected by secret vote by the members of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society at the end of the Congress.

The Council also decided that the members of the Council, who have reached the age of 70 years, shall become Honorary Members and remain in a consultative capacity. They shall remain members of the Council, but shall have no vote. This article shall be added to the Statutes.

Consequently, Prof. Abramowicz, Dr. Arruga, Dr. Ayberk Sen., Prof. Coppez, Prof. Ehlers, Prof. Hagedoorn, Dr. Law, Prof. Lopes de Andrade and Prof. Maggiore were elected Honorary Members of the Council.

Dr. F. Alves (Portugal), Prof. N. Ayberk Jr. (Turkey), Prof. P. Braendstrup (Denmark), Prof. J. Casanovas (Spain), Prof. P. Danis (Belgium), Dr. D. Greaves

(United Kingdom), Prof. A. Grignolo (Italy), Prof. H. Henkes (Netherlands) and Prof. T. Krwawicz (Poland) were elected to replace them.

Dr. Skydsgaard (Copenhagen) was designated Regional Secretary (Europe) of the International Association for Prevention of Blindness.

Svetozar POSTIC (1896—1969)

Svetozar Postic was brought up at Novi Sad, in the Yugoslav province of Vojvodina and studied medicine in Vienna, where he specialised in ophthalmology under Prof. Meller and Prof. Lindner. After 1929, he was actively engaged in the fight against trachoma, leading to his appointment in 1952 as Expert on Trachoma in the W.H.O. In 1944, he became Head of the Ophthalmological Department of the Provincial Hospital at Novi Sad, and in 1960, he was appointed Professor at the Medical School of this city.

He published more than 100 papers, dealing mostly with trachoma and viral infections of the eye. In 1967, he published a monograph on trachoma.

He was a member of the International Organization against Trachoma, the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, the Ophthalmological Societies of France, Germany and Austria. He was an Honorary Member of the East German Ophthalmological Society, and he received in 1961 the Golden Wreath of Labour and in 1967, the October Medal of the City Liberation.

The *fifteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *22nd May, 1971*, in Helsinki, under the presidency of Prof. B.E. Streiff, the Council having been invited by Prof. S. Vannas, on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the Helsinki Ophthalmological Clinic.

The President recalled the memory of Prof. L. Maggiore, Honorary Member of the Council, who died on 29th November, 1970.

Prof. J. François (Ghent) (Fig. 2) was elected the first recipient of the Helmholtz Medal.

Knowing the establishment of the Ophthalmological Society of the German Democratic Republic, the Council elected Prof. K.E. Krüger (Halle) as its representative on the Council.

It extended its sponsorship to the European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists.

Prof. V. Vajdovsky (Olomouc) and Prof. L. Werner (Dublin) were elected Honorary Members of the Council. Prof. P. Dwyer-Joyce (Dublin) and Prof. J. Vanysek (Brno) were elected to replace them. Prof. N. Konstantinoff (Sofia) was elected to replace Prof. Zhivkov.

The Council decided to add the following article to the Statutes: "Any member of the Council, who does not attend any meeting of the Council for three consecutive years must automatically resign and be replaced."

Luigi MAGGIORE (1888–1970)

Luigi Maggiore, Sicilian by origin, studied medicine in Rome, where he became, in 1917, Assistant to Prof. Cirincione. In 1924, he became Professor of Physiological Optics at the University of Rome and afterwards of Ophthalmology at Perugia, Sassari, Bari, Pisa and finally from 1933, at Genoa.

Maggiore displayed an immense energy; he published more than 100 papers on social ophthalmology, embryology, normal and pathological anatomy. His studies on Schlemm's canal were remarkable, which illustrated the channels connected to that canal, conveying the aqueous humour toward the surface veins. His studies on the development of the scleral canals and of the lamina cribrosa, the ora serrata, and the relations between the pigment epithelium and the neuro-epithelial layer of the retina, were as remarkable. His experimental work on the retinal changes under the influence of intense light, too, should not be forgotten. It was, however, above all his work on physiological and pathological optics that attracted most attention: perimetry using spectral patterns and Maggiore's perimeter, skiascopic refractometer, quadrifocal lenses, and an instrument for recording graphically the chromatic sense.

Maggiore published eight books, including a volume on blindness, text-books on physiological optics, the ocular manifestations in oto-rhino-ophthalmology and the ocular symptoms and syndromes in general medicine, a hand-book of ophthalmology and a monograph on psychism and blindness.

At Sassari and at Bari, he was involved in the fight against trachoma, in recognition of which he was awarded the Medal of Merit for Public Health. Under his influence, many investigations into the problems of blindness and its prophylaxis were undertaken, leading to his designation as the Italian representative in the International Organization against Trachoma and as a member of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness.

Representative of Italian ophthalmology throughout the world, Maggiore was also a member of the Academy of Medicine of Rome, Vice-President of the Pugliese Academy of Science, member of the Tiberine Academy of Rome and of the French and German Ophthalmological Societies, Honorary Member of the Hungarian Medical Society and the Greek, Portuguese and Belgian Ophthalmological Societies. He was Honorary President of the Italian Ophthalmological Society. For more than forty years, he was Editor of the *Annali di Ottalmologia e Clinica Oculistica* and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Annales d'Oculistique*. He was awarded the Gold Medals of the Fondation des Etudes Ophtalmologiques in 1924, of the Italian Red Cross, of the Ministry of Education and of the University of Genoa. He was a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. He was a Founder Member of the Latin Ophthalmological Society and of the European Ophthalmological Society and was, in 1956, the President of the First Latin Ophthalmological Congress.

Luigi Maggiore had an attractive personality, who had only friends.

The *sixteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *16th April, 1972*, in Budapest, under the presidency of Prof. B. E. Streiff, on the occasion of the Fourth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society. The President recalled the memory of Prof. Lopes de Andrade, who died recently.

Prof. Streiff's term of office having come to an end, Mrs. Prof. Magda Radnot (Budapest) (Fig. 9) was elected President of the European Ophthalmological Society. Prof. J. François remained as Secretary General.

Prof. P. Vancea (Bucarest) was elected an Honorary Member of the Council, and Prof. P. Vancea, Jun. (Iasi, Romania) was elected to replace him.

Dr. Yobbagyi (Budapest) was awarded the first Joseph Imre Prize.

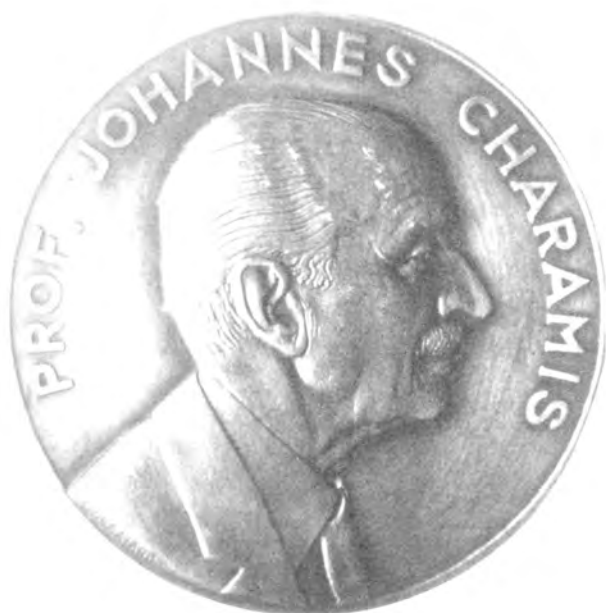
The Council decided to hold the Fifth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society at Hamburg. Prof. H. Sautter would be the President and the theme of the Congress would be: *Blood circulation in the uvea, the retina and the optic nerve (physiology and pathology)*.

Augusto LOPES DE ANDRADE (1896–1972)

Lopes de Andrade, who had graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1922, was appointed Ophthalmologist of the Principal Military Hospital in Lisbon in 1935. In 1942, he qualified as Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and in 1943, he be-



Fig. 9. Mrs. Prof. M. Radnot (Budapest).



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Fig. 10. Charamis' Medal.

came Director of the Dr. Gama Pinto Institute of Ophthalmology. He was subsequently appointed to the Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Lisbon.

Lopes de Andrade published four monographs and eighty articles, some of them original and dealing with a variety of different aspects of Ophthalmology (arsenic poisoning, diabetes, trachoma, orbital tumours, herpetic keratitis, cataract, glaucoma and detachment of the retina, among others).

He was the founder of the "Arquivos Portugueses de Oftalmologia". Past President of the Portuguese Ophthalmological Society, he was a member of the Lisbon Society of Medical Sciences, the Medical Society of the Lisbon Civil Hospitals and the French Ophthalmological Society.

The *seventeenth meeting* of the Council was held on *15th April, 1973*, in Ghent, at the invitation of Prof. J. François and under the presidency of Mrs. Prof. M. Radnot. She recalled the memory of Dr. H. Arruga, Honorary Member of the Council, who died recently.

Prof. Archangelski (Moscow) was elected an Honorary Member of the Council, and Prof. E. Avetisov (Soviet Union) was elected to replace him.

Prof. J. François was designated as representative of the European Ophthalmological Society to the Panamerican Association of Ophthalmology.

Concerning the Fifth Congress at Hamburg, it was decided that the reports should not exceed 8 pages, including the illustrations (speaking time 15 min) and the free papers 3 pages, including the illustrations (speaking time 8 min). The fee would be DM 500 for full members and DM 250 for junior participants.

The following *reports* and *reporters* on the blood circulation in the uvea, the retina and the optic nerve were chosen:

1. Anatomy and physiology of retinal, papillar and uveal vascularization (A. Bill, Sweden).
2. Normal fluorescein angiography, retinal and choroidal circulation time (F. Niesel, Switzerland).
3. A new method for determining the blood quantity in the eye in a unit of time (G. Cristini and R. Meduri, Italy).
4. Angioscotomas (G. Lavergne, Belgium).
5. Entoptic analysis of the intraocular circulation (V. Kadlecova, Tchecoslovaquia).
6. Congenital anomalies of retinal and uveal vessels (M. Tost, DDR).
7. Von Hippel-Lindau disease (A. Wessing, DBR).
8. Macular oedema and central serous chorioretinopathy (G. Coscas, France).

9. Mini-symposium on retinal haemorrhages (R.K. Blach, England): retinal haemorrhages (A.M. Hamilton), retinal macro-aneurysms, a specific cause of retinal haemorrhage (P.E. Cleary), the principles of management of retinal haemorrhages (R.K. Blach), a specific example, retinal vein occlusion (J.S. Shilling).

10. The retinal vasculopathy syndrome (J.A. Oosterhuis and H.O.M. von Winning, Holland).

11. Retinal micro-aneurysms (D. Toussaint, Belgium).

12. Does capillarosis exist? (P. Amalric and P. Dhermy, France).

13. Retinal vasculitis (M.D. Sanders, Great Britain).

14. Physiopathogenesis of retinitis proliferans and retinal new-vessel formation (J.G. Cunha-Vaz, Portugal).

15. Choroidal sclerosis (W.J. Orłowski, M. Bartkowska-Orłowska, P. Pecoldowa and R. Gotzowa, Poland).

16. Macular degenerations of vascular origin (N. Zolog, Rumania).

17. Ischemia of the anterior segment (M. Varga, Hungary).

18. Choroidal infarct (R.F. Verrey, Switzerland).

19. Vascular pseudopapillitis (J. Charamis, P. Velissaropoulos, G. Theodossiadis and G. Palimeris, Greece).

20. Congenital cardiopathies and eye (B.E. Streiff and P.A. Grounauer, Switzerland).

21. Eye fundus in arterial hypertension, a new classification (S. Ry Andersen, Denmark).

22. The eye fundus in blood diseases (M. Quintana and C. Garcia-Alix, Spain).

23. Therapeutics of vascular disturbances in choroid, retina and optic nerve (H. Slezak, Austria).

24. Anticoagulants in the treatment of central retinal vein occlusion (M. Blagojević, M. Striga, M. Savicević and D. Stojanović, Yugoslavia).

25. Branch retinal vein obstruction (D.B. Archer, Ireland).

26. Syndromes of arterial occlusion (J. Hørven, Norway).

27. Uveal circulation in eye and systemic diseases (C. Raitta, Finland).

Hermenegildo ARRUGA (1886–1972)

After his studies at Barcelona, Hermenegildo Arruga specialised in ophthalmology in Berlin and in Paris. In 1926, he obtained his Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Madrid for his thesis on "A simple and efficacious modification of the dacryocystorhinostomy". Although interested in all the aspects of ophthalmology and in its relations with general medicine, it was above all to surgery that he was always attracted. From 1928, his papers on cataract operation began to appear.

and he was among the first to advocate intracapsular extraction. Countless were the instruments that he improved — his capsule forceps, his palpebral separator, his hook and his needle-holder immediately spring to mind.

Arruga contributed also the advances of surgery by his many personal techniques. The subjects that specially interested him were dacryocystorhinostomy, grafting of the cornea and extirpation of the pterygium, but it was above all detachment of the retina that had always captivated him; he was the first to realize the importance and genius of Jules Gonin's discovery, the principles of which he immediately applied.

Arruga published more than 150 papers; his book on the aetiopathogenesis of retinal detachment, his atlas of retinal detachment and his treatise on ocular surgery are classics.

The exceptional talents of this great surgeon were recognized on numerous occasions. He was the recipient of very many honours and was created Count in 1950. He was awarded the Gonin Medal and was Doctor honoris causa of the Universities of Heidelberg and Barcelona. He was a member of the Royal Academies of Medicine of Barcelona, Madrid, Santiago and Seville, and of the National Academies of Medicine of Brazil and Mexico; he was an Honorary Member of at least thirty ophthalmological societies. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology.

Although Arruga was a surgeon of the highest stature, he was also profoundly human; his modesty, his enthusiasm and his vitality earned him universal friendship.

The *eighteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *25th May, 1974*, in Paris, under the presidency of Prof. M. Radnót, on the occasion of the International Congress of Ophthalmology.

The President recalled the memory of Dr. Derrick Vail, liaison officer between the Panamerican Association of Ophthalmology and the European Ophthalmological Society, and of Prof. V. N. Archangelski (Moscow), who died recently.

Prof. J. Böck and Prof. J. Charamis were elected Honorary Members of the Council, Prof. H. Slezak (Vienna) and Prof. G. Chilaris (Athens) being elected to replace them.

The Greek Ophthalmological Society created a "John Charamis Medal" (Fig. 10), which is to be awarded by the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Charamis Medal will be awarded every four years to the European Ophthalmologist, who, in the field of

ophthalmic surgery, had contributed most to the development and the fame of European Ophthalmology. The recipient would be selected by secret vote of the members of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society at the meeting of the Council held the year before the Congress of the Society.

Prof. V. N. ARKHANGELSKY
(1897–1973)

Prof. Vitali N. Arkhangelsky, born in 1897 in Tula (Russia), graduated from the medical faculty of the University of Moscow in 1922. From 1922 to 1938, he was assistant in the University's eye clinic, directed by Prof. V.P. Odintsov.

In 1938, Prof. Arkhangelsky became the head of the ophthalmological department of the Kuibishev Medical Institute, from 1944 to 1953 of the Kiev Medical Institute, from 1953 to 1955 of the Helmholtz Institute in Moscow and from 1955 until his death in 1973 of the first Moscow Medical Institute Setchenioff.

Prof. Arkhangelsky has been for 15 years the editor-in-chief of "Vestnik Oftalmologii", the main ophthalmic journal of the Soviet Union. He was also the editor of a six-volume textbook "Eye diseases" as well as of a manual on ophthalmology for medical students.

Prof. Arkhangelsky was the author of more than 130 papers, mainly devoted to the eye manifestations in systemic diseases (such as arterial hypertension, leucaemia or vitamin deficiency), retinal functions, tumours of the iris and their surgery, etc.

His book "Morphologic Foundations of Ophthalmoscopy" was awarded the Averbach Prize. Past President of the Soviet Ophthalmological Society, he received the Order of Lenine and was corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, honorary member of the Purkinje Society in Czechoslovakia and of the Semmelweis Society in Hungary.

Prof. Arkhangelsky will always be remembered as one of the outstanding ophthalmologists of the Soviet Union.

The *nineteenth meeting* of the Council was held on *30th April, 1975*, at Lausanne, at the invitation of Prof. B. E. Streiff and under the presidency of Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót. The Council decided to sell the Acta of the preceding Congresses at half the official price.

Prof. J. François, Secretary General, was to write the history of the European Ophthalmological Society for 1980.



Fig. 11. Prof. J. Charamis (Athens).



Fig. 12. Prof. H. Henkes (Rotterdam).

Prof. J. Casanovas was elected Honorary Member of the Council. Dr. H. Arruga was elected to replace him.

Prof. J. Charamis (Athens) (Fig. 11) was selected recipient of the Helmholtz Medal and Prof. J. François (Ghent) (Fig. 2) recipient of the first John Charamis Medal.

Prof. G. von Bahr stressed the necessity for each European country to have a national society or committee for the prevention of blindness, which should appoint a delegate to the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness.

The *twentieth meeting* of the Council was held on *5th April, 1976*, at Hamburg, under the presidency of Prof. M. Radnót, on the occasion of the Fifth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society.

The President recalled the memory of Prof. L. Coppez, Dr. N. Ayberk and Prof. A. Grignolo, who died recently. Prof. G. Cristini (Bologna) was elected to replace Prof. Grignolo as representative of Italy. Prof. Braendstrup (Denmark) sent in his resignation. Prof. J. Edmund (Copenhagen) was elected to replace him.

Prof. J. François (Ghent) (Fig. 2), who resigned as Secretary General of the Society, was elected President. Prof. H. Henkes (Rotterdam) (Fig. 12) was elected Secretary General/Treasurer.

Dr. H.F. Krey (Giessen) was selected recipient of the second Imre Prize for his paper on "the normal vascular anatomy of the equatorial and peripheral choriocapillaris".

The invitation of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was accepted. The next Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society would take place at Brighton from 21st to 25th April, 1980. At the same time, there would be the celebration of the centenary of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. The President of the Congress will be Dr. D. Greaves. The theme chosen for the Congress is "*The cornea in health and disease*".

Léon COPPEZ (1899–1976)

Léon Coppez obtained his Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Brussels in July 1924. He qualified as Associate Professor in 1934, with a thesis on pyrometric diathermocoagulation in retinal detachment. In 1948, he was appointed to the Chair of Ophthalmology of the University of Brussels.

Coppez published more than 115 papers on ocular infections, medical diathermy, localisation of intraocular foreign bodies, exploration of the lacrimal ducts, detachment of the retina, sympathetic ophthalmia, ocular burns, nystagmus, keratoplasty and strabismus.

Coppez was a member of a large number of ophthalmological and medical societies and an Honorary Member of the Belgian, French and European Ophthalmological Societies, as well as of the Barraquer Institute. He had been a Founder Member of the European Ophthalmological Society and President of the XVIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology in Brussels in 1958. He was a member and former President of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine and was awarded the Gold Medal of the Belgian Red Cross. He was also a Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown and the Order of Leopold.

Coppez had a very warm personality, but his modesty was unable to conceal his immense erudition. With his great kindness and exquisite gentleness, on all occasions he displayed a most extensive culture.

Antonio GRIGNOLO (1915–1976)

Antonio Grignolo was born in Turin in 1915 and studied medicine in that town until 1939, when he joined the Ophthalmological Clinic of Rome, directed by Prof. Cavara. In 1946, he joined that of Pavia, directed by Prof. Bietti, and remained there until 1959, when he was appointed to the Chair of Ophthalmology of the University of Genoa.

Grignolo was extremely active. He published more than 100 personal papers and had published more than 250 papers by his pupils. Among his important contributions, his book on antibiotics in ophthalmology and that on campimetry must be mentioned, as must also his research at the electron microscope, his studies on retinal detachment and his biometrical studies by echography. He described a syndrome that bears his name: recurrent iritis with hypopyon, polymorphic exudative oedema and anchylopoietic spondylarthritis.

Antonio Grignolo was President of the International Ultrasonographic Society and a member of the National Research Council. He was not only a clinician and a scientist, but also a gentleman in every sense of the word.

The *twenty-first meeting* of the Council was held on *23rd April, 1977*, in Belgrade, at the invitation of Prof. Blagojević and under the presidency of Prof.

J. François. The President recalled the memory of Prof. K.E. Krüger, who died recently. Prof. R. Sachsenweger was elected to replace him.

Prof. A. Dubois-Poulsen was elected an Honorary Member of the Council, Prof. H. Saraux (Paris) being elected to replace him as representative of France.

Prof. H. Henkes, having become Secretary General and ipso facto extra-national, could no longer represent the Netherlands on the Council, Prof. J.A. Oosterhuis (Leiden) was, therefore, elected a representative of the Netherlands.

The *reports* and *rapporteurs* listed below were selected for the Sixth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society at Brighton (1980), its theme being, as already mentioned, "*The cornea in health and disease*".

A. *Basic aspects*

1. Anatomy of the cornea, including ultrastructure (Y. Pouliquen, Paris, France).
2. Physiology of the cornea (P. Payrau, Paris, France).
3. Molecular biology of the cornea (V. Victoria-Troncoco, Ghent, Belgium).
4. The normal tear film, structure and function (N. Ehlers, Arhus, Denmark).

B. *Responses*

5. Healing and repair in corneal tissues (J.V. Prause, Copenhagen, Denmark).
6. Corneal oedema (B. Hedbys, Goteborg, Sweden).
7. Immunological responses in the cornea (C.C. Kok-Van Alphen and J. Van Rood, Leiden, Holland).
8. Vascular responses in corneal disease (A. Vannas, Helsinki, Finland).

C. *Therapeutic principles*

9. Pharmacological principles in the treatment of corneal diseases.
10. Surgical principles in the treatment of corneal diseases (D. Pierce, London, U.K.).
11. Storage of corneal donor material (R. Witmer, Zurich, Switzerland).
12. Therapeutic contact lenses (M. Ruben, London, U.K.).

D. *Specific entities*

13. Interstitial keratitis (Y. F. Maichuk, Moscow, USSR).
14. Physical and chemical trauma to the cornea (A. Henriquez, Barcelona, Spain).
15. Bacterial infections of the cornea (with management) (A. Parunović, Belgrade, Yugoslavia).
16. Herpes simplex keratitis (R. Sundmacher, Freiburg, DBR).
17. Fungal and protozoal infections of the cornea (with management) (P. Velissaropoulos, Athens, Greece).

E. *Dystrophies*

18. Keratoconus (with management) (B. Alberth, Hungary).
19. Dystrophies of the anterior limiting membrane of the cornea (N. Konstantinoff, Varna, Bulgaria).
20. Dystrophies of the corneal stroma (J.E. Winkelman and J.W. Delleman, Utrecht, Holland).
21. Pathology of the corneal endothelium (G. Scuderi, Rome, Italy).
22. Corneal endothelial dystrophies (with management) (H. Slezak, Vienna, Austria).

F. *Degenerations*

23. Peripheral corneal degenerations (L.M.T. Collum, Dublin, Ireland).
24. Non hereditary degenerations of the cornea (excluding peripheral degenerations) (N. A. Puchkovskaya, Odessa, Soviet Union).

G. *Systemic disease*

25. Corneal disorders related to abnormalities of the tear film (P. Wright, London, U.K.).
26. Metabolic diseases affecting the cornea (including keratomalacia) (J. François, Ghent, Belgium).
27. Skub disease and corneal disorders (H.J. Thiel, Kiel, Germany).

H. *Environmental factors*

28. Environmental and ecological determinants in corneal disease (Barrie R. Jones, London, U.K.).

Karl Ernst KRÜGER
(1918–1976)

Born at Stralsund in 1918, Karl Ernst Kruger became in 1952 Assistant and later Medical Director of the Greifswald Ophthalmological Clinic. In 1966, he succeeded Prof. G. Badtke, and in 1969, he was elected to the Chair of Ophthalmology of the University of Halle. His very great scientific activity was generally recognized, his particular interests being strabismus, functional amblyopia, physiopathology of the eye motility, electromyography, nystagmus, ocular surgery and microsurgery, ocular anaesthesia, surgery for myopia, congenital and acquired glaucoma, cataract and ocular malformations. His books on the "Physiologischen und methodischen Grundlagen der Pleoptik und Orthoptik", "Zur Problematik des Strabismus unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Amblyopia, Ergebnisse klinischer und experimenteller Untersuchungen der motorischen und sensorischen Störungen des Sehorgans und der Behandlung", examination techniques, treatment of wounds of the face and hygiene, all met with great success.

Past President of the Ophthalmological Society of the German Democratic Republic, he was a member of the German Academy Leopoldina and an Honorary Member of the J.E. Purkyne Society of Czechoslovakia. In 1962, Krüger received the Medal of Merit, in 1969, the Franceschetti-Liebrecht Prize and in 1975, the Research Prize of the Martin Luther University at Halle-Wittenberg.

Krüger was a talented orator having very wide interests and exquisite friendliness. He died in his fifty-eighth year of a cerebral disorder.

The *twenty-second meeting* of the Council was held on *14th October, 1978*, in Budapest, at the invitation of Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót and under the presidency of Prof. J. François. The President recalled the memory of Prof. J. Charamis and Prof. V. Vejdosky, Honorary Members of the Council, who died recently. He also recalled the memory of Sir Stewart Duke Elder, who was a very great loss for European and world ophthalmology.

Prof. B.E. Streiff and Prof. G. von Bahr having been elected Honorary Members of the Council, Prof. R. Klöti (Zurich) was elected as representative of Switzerland and Prof. E. Linner (Gothenburg) as representative of Sweden.

Prof P. Danis (Brussels) sent in his resignation as representative of Belgium. Prof. L. Missotten (Louvain) was elected to replace him.

The Council extended its sponsorship to the European Glaucoma Society.

It was decided that, for economic reasons, there would be no simultaneous translation at the Brighton Congress, but that the speakers should provide summaries in the two other official languages, which are English, French and German.

The Council made several modifications to the Statutes. At the present time, these are as follows:

Art. 1. The European Ophthalmological Society shall be directed by a Council, composed of representatives of the national ophthalmological societies. They shall elect a Secretary-General-Treasurer chosen from within or outside the Council. During his stay in office the Secretary General cannot be the representative of his national Society. On retirement from office, he shall automatically become a Honorary Member of the Council.

Art. 2. The Council of the Society shall elect a President every four years from among the members of the Council. He shall not be eligible for re-election.

Art. 3. Upon the request of the Council, the national society of ophthalmology shall present a list of at least three candidates together with a short curriculum vitae. The Council remains, nevertheless, free to elect any representative of its own choice.

Art. 4. Any member of the Council, who does not attend a meeting of the Council for three consecutive years, except in case of "force majeure", must automatically resign and be replaced.

Art. 5. Members of the Council who have reached the age of 70 years, shall become honorary members and remain in a consultative capacity. They shall remain members of the Council, but shall have no vote.

Art. 6. Ophthalmologists of the European Nations are eligible for membership of the Society provided they are members of their National Society. Ophthalmologists from other continents may be admitted as associate members by permission of the Council.

Art. 7. The Society shall hold a Congress in a European country every four years at the invitation of the Ophthalmological Society of that country and with the agreement of the Government. The Congresses shall alternate with the International Congresses of Ophthalmology. The dates of the Congress shall be fixed four years in advance.

Art. 8. The inviting country shall appoint an organizing Committee, the President of which shall preferably be the representative of that country on the Council. The organizing Committee shall give a report of its activities to the Council.

Art. 9. Normally, there shall be only one main theme for discussion at each Congress.

Art. 10. Any European language may be used at the Congress, but the official languages shall be chosen by the Council before each Congress.

Art. 11. The organizing Committee of each Congress shall pay to the Council such sum, for each registered full member, as shall be determined by the Council. It shall provide an adequate sum for the publication of the Acta and remit half the credit balance to the Council for prefinancing of the next Congress. In case of a loss, the organizing Committee of the Congress is responsible. The treasurer of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society will nevertheless remit to the organizing Committee a sum equal to half the debit balance, at least when possible.

Art. 12. The Council of the European Ophthalmological Society may receive donations and subsidies.

Art. 13. The ex-officio seat on the International Council of Ophthalmology shall be occupied by the President.

Art. 14. The president and the secretary-general may convene the Council when necessary. Councillors may submit opinions by correspondence.

Art. 15. Every four years the Council of the Society shall elect a prominent European Ophthalmologist to receive the Helmholtz Medal and another to receive the Charamis Medal.

Art. 16. At the end of each Congress the Council shall award the Joseph Imre Prize to the author of the best free paper presented during the Congress.

Art. 17. All elections shall be by secret vote. A simple majority of the attending members shall decide. The president has the right to vote. In case of a tie, the President's vote shall decide.

Art. 18. Amendments of the statutes must be proposed at a meeting of the Council and sent out to all members at least four months before the next meeting of the Council. These amendments must be accepted by at least two thirds of the members present in order to be accepted.

Jean CHARAMIS (1904–1978)

Born in Athens, Jean Charamis attended the ophthalmological clinics in France, Germany and Holland. He had a very brilliant academic career. Firstly Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Athens from 1932 on, he was in 1947 elected Professor and Director of the Ophthalmological Clinic at the University of Athens.

Prof. Charamis published 370 original papers as well as a book on ophthalmic surgery. He designed and established the Athens Ophthalmological Centre.

He was the founder in 1931 of the Hellenic Ophthalmological Society, of which he became the President in 1950. In 1976, the Society established the Charamis Medal, which is awarded every four years by the European Ophthalmological Society.

Prof. Charamis was a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology in 1952, becoming its Vice-President in 1962 and its President in 1966. In 1956 he was Vice-President of the Greek section of the International College of Surgeons, in 1958 Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Athens, in 1960 president of the First Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, in 1963 member of the Executive Council of the French Ophthalmological Society and in 1973 President of the International Congress of Eye Surgeons. He was also a member of the Editorial Committee of many international journals.

Prof. Charamis received the Gold Medal of the International Organization against Trachoma, the Gold Medal for Literature, Art and Science of Paris, the Gold Medal of the Mexican Government, the Medal of Honour of Albi, the Transas Medal, the Helmholtz Medal, the Medal of the Balkan Union and the Favoloro Medal.

He was a member of the Academy of Puglia (Italy), of the Academy of Athens, of the Academy of Medicine of France, of the Academy of Rome, as well as honorary member of many ophthalmological societies. He received many order's stars.

Prof. Charamis was a very engaging person, who inspired a friendly response in everyone who came in contact with him. His natural kindness compelled the affection of all his colleagues.

Vaclav VEJDOVSKY (1896–1977)

Vaclav Vejdovsky was born in 1896 in Prague, where he obtained his Doctorate in Medicine from the Charles University in 1919. In 1921, he was appointed Assistant in Ophthalmology at the Masaryk University of Brno, and in 1946, he was elected to the Chair of Ophthalmology at the Palacky University of Olomouc. Vejdovsky published some 150 scientific papers dealing above all with tuberculosis and surgical problems encountered in plastic surgery, retinal detachment and keratoplasty. In 1935, he was the first to restitute the lacrimal canaliculus by means of buccal mucous membrane.

Past President of the Czech Society of Medicine and of the Czechoslovak Ophthalmological Society, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Olomouc, he was a member of the French and Austrian Ophthalmological Societies and became Doctor of Science in 1956. He received the Czech Peace Prize in 1961 and the Order of Labour in 1967. He was an Honorary Member of the J.E. Purkyne Medical Society of Czechoslovakia.

Vejdovsky was not only a great scientist, an excellent surgeon and an eminent physician, he loved also passionately everything that was beautiful: nature, art, literature, country and mankind. He died at Olomouc in his eighty-second year.

The *twenty-third meeting* of the Council was held on *18th November, 1979*, in Ghent, at the invitation and under the presidency of Prof. Jules François (Fig. 13). The President welcomed the new Council members and recalled the memory of Prof. G. Chilaris, representative of Greece, who died recently. Dr. Greaves, President of the next Congress, explained the really outstanding scientific and social programme for the VIth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society.

Prof. G. Theodossiadis was elected representative of Greece and Prof. T. Bertelsen representative of Norway, replacing Prof. T. Thomassen, who sent in his resignation as active Council member, but who was elected honorary member of the Council.



Fig. 13. Meeting of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society in Ghent (18th November 1979). From left to right, 1st row: Prof. B.E. Streiff, Prof. H. Henkes, Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót, Prof. J. François, Mrs. Prof. S. Vannas, Dr. D. Greaves, Prof. J. Casanovas; 2nd row: Prof. P. Dwyer-Joyce, Prof. J. Edmund, Prof. G. von Bahr, Prof. E. Linnéer, Prof. G. Cristini, Prof. G. Meyer-Schwickerath; 3rd row: Prof. A. Dubois-Poulsen, Prof. H. Saraux, Dr. F. Alves, Dr. B. Nizetic, Dr. F. Law; 4th row: Prof. H. Slezak, Prof. R. Sachsenweger, Prof. P. Vancea, Dr. A. Arruga, Prof. R. Klöti, Prof. L. Missotten, Prof. J.A. Oosterhuis.

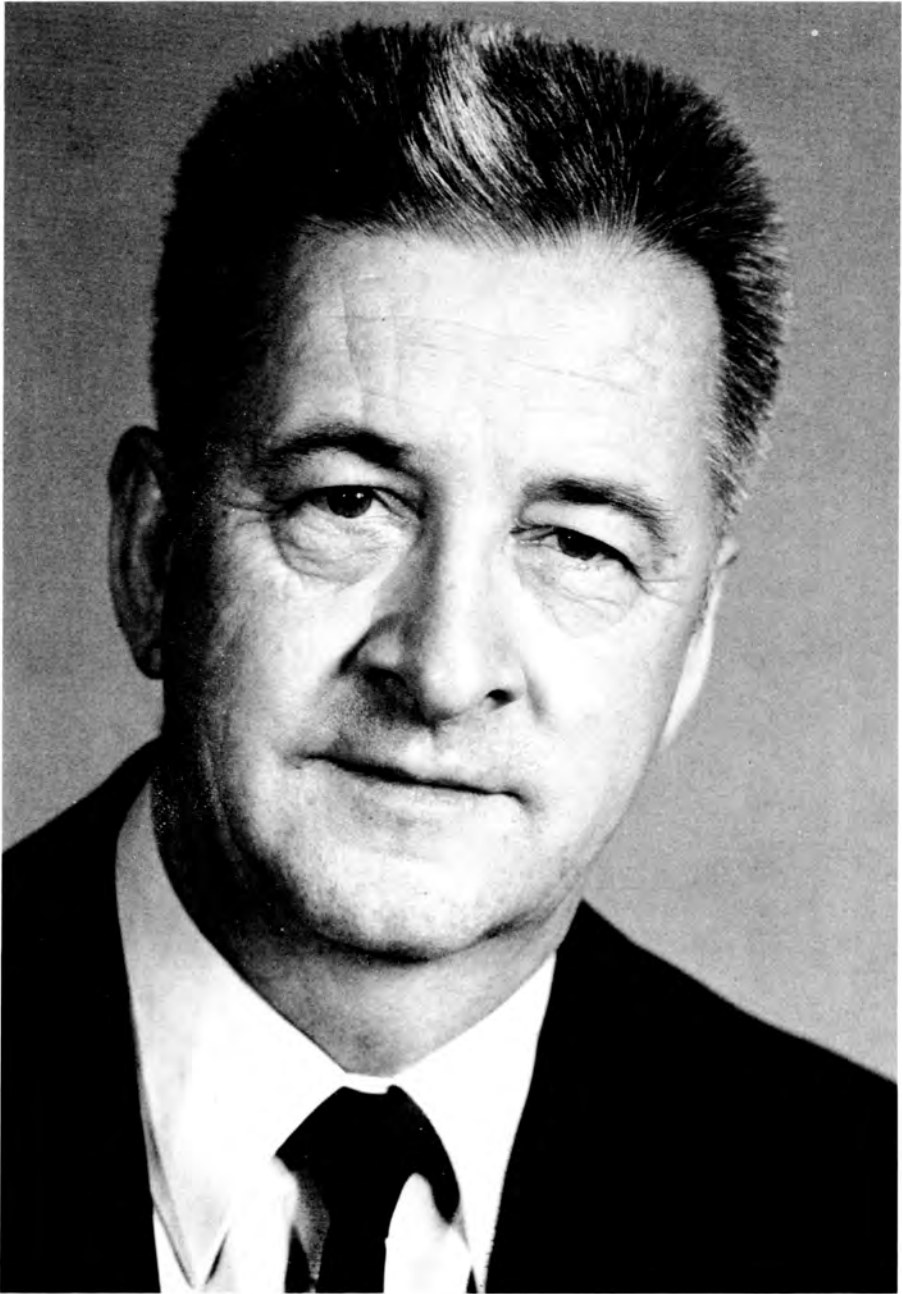


Fig. 14. Prof. R. Klöti (Zürich).

Mrs. Prof. M. Radnóti (Fig. 9) was elected recipient of the Helmholtz Medal and Prof. R. Klöti (Fig. 14) recipient of the Charamis Medal. Some candidates were proposed for the Imre Prize.

The Council decided that the sum of \$ 2, which has to be paid by each participant at the Congress to cover the expenses of the Council, should be increased till S. fr. 5.

The Council unanimously chose Helsinki (Finland) as the site of the VIIth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society. The President will be Mrs. Prof. S. Vannas. The theme of the Congress will be chosen next year in Brighton, where the twenty-fourth meeting of the Council will be held.

Since the last Council meeting we lost Prof. P. Braendstrup from Copenhagen, honorary member of the Council. He died on 26th January 1980.

Georges CHILARIS (1916–1979)

Dr. Georges Chilaris was born in 1916 in Skyros (Greece) and obtained his certificate of Medicine in 1939 at the University of Athens. In 1952, he presented a thesis on "Astigmatism of the Cornea and direction of the most refractive meridian". From 1953 to 1955 he made a stay at the Lariboisière Hospital (Dr. Hartmann) and the Quinze-Vingts (Dr. D. Schiff-Wertheimer) in Paris, where he wrote a paper on the treatment of concomitant strabism. In 1958, he became the chief of the ophthalmological department of the Hellenic Anticancerous Center "Agios Savas".

Dr. Chilaris published more than 200 papers in Greece and abroad. They were particularly dealing with the tumours of the eye, neuro-ophthalmology and glaucoma. He contributed also to ophthalmic surgery by two new antiglaucomatous operations: first goniosomyotomy and in 1968 a trap-door trabeculectomy.

In 1964, Dr. Chilaris founded a review "Ophthalmological Chronicles" of which he was the chief-editor till his death. He was a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Ophthalmology and of the Bulletin of the Hellenic Ophthalmological Society. He was a member of the French, German, British and Austrian Ophthalmological Societies, as well as of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology. He was secretary general of the Hellenic Ophthalmological Society during eight years and its president during two years.

Poul BRAENDSTRUP
(1912 – 1980)

Poul Braendstrup was professor of ophthalmology at the University of Copenhagen and head of the Municipal Eye Department of Copenhagen from 1957.

He wrote more than 30 scientific works, which were interesting and original. His thesis on "Congenital Cataract" and his papers on ablatio falciformis, vitreous haemorrhage in newborn, cystinosis, optical aids for partially sighted, central retinal vein thrombosis, and senile cataract are still landmarks in ophthalmological research.

Poul Braendstrup was a great and inspiring teacher, who was loved by his students. Moreover, for thirty years he was the editor of "Acta Ophthalmologica".

It is not astonishing that his merits were recognized by his colleagues. He was past president of the Danish Ophthalmological Society. He was a honorary member of the European Ophthalmological Society. He was Knight of the Dannebrog and received the Hjalmar Schiøtz Medal. He had the confidence of all his colleagues and his death is a great loss for Scandinavian and European Ophthalmology.

THE CONGRESSES
OF THE
EUROPEAN
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Fig. 15. Goddess Europa, Symbol of the 1st Congress in Athens.

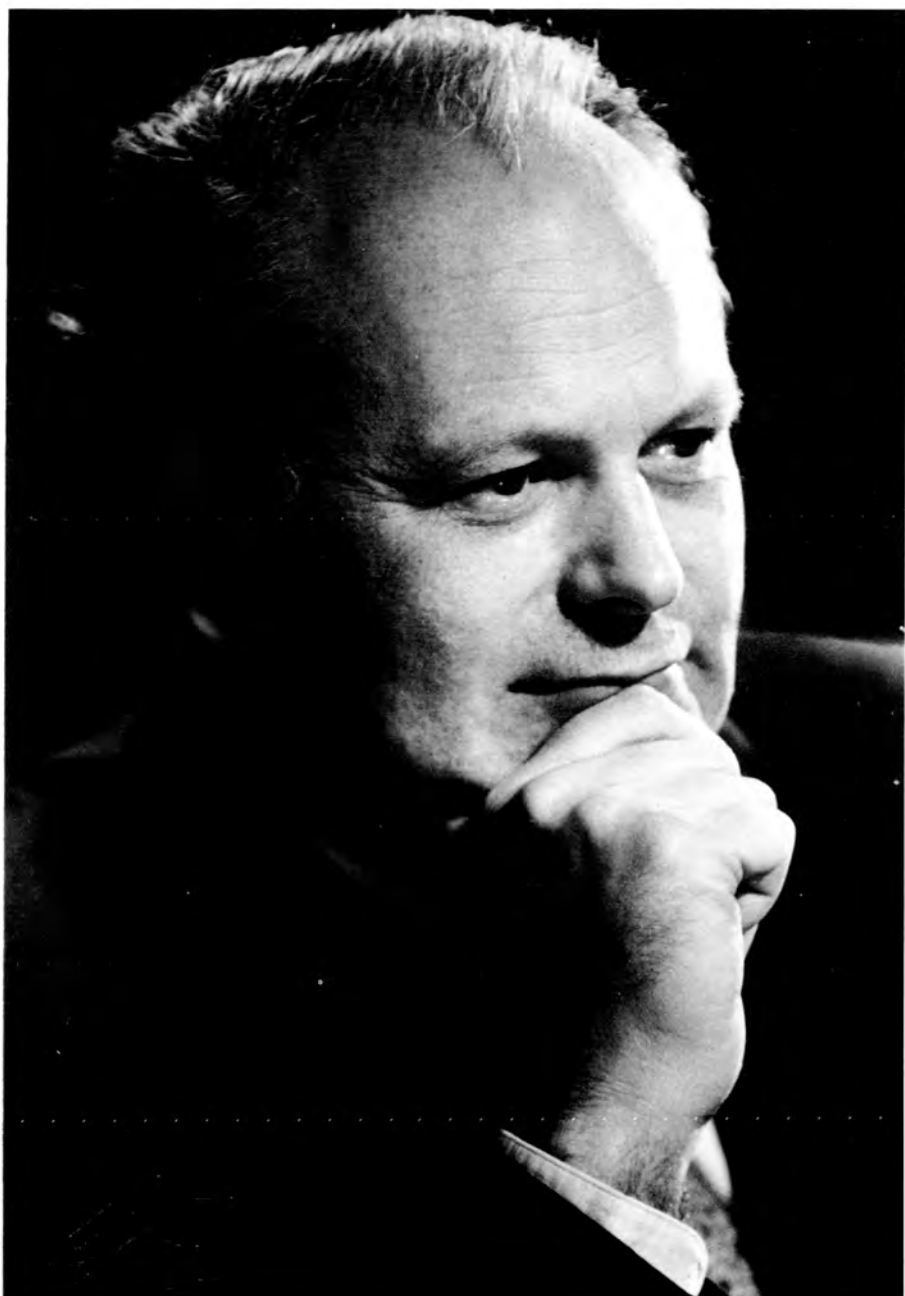


Fig. 16. Prof. J. Böck (Vienna).

1st Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Athens, 18–22 April, 1960)

The first Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, which was devoted to *secondary glaucoma*, was held from 18th to 22nd April, 1960, in Athens, under the high patronage of their Majesties the King and Queen of Greece, and the presidency of Prof. John Charamis (Fig. 11), who, with the aid of Dr. N. Dascalopoulos, Dr. P. Velissaropoulos and Dr. C. Topalis as Secretaries, gave the Congress an entirely particular lustre, from the social as well as from the scientific point of view.

At the opening ceremony the following gave a speech: Prof. J. Charamis, President of the Congress, H.M. the King of Greece, Mr. Constantin Tsatsos, Minister of the Presidency Council, Sir Stewart Duke Elder, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, Prof. J. François, Secretary General of the European Ophthalmological Society, Prof. J. Böck (Austria), Dr. J. Sédan (France), Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót (Hungary), Dr. N. Ayberk (Turkey), Dr. P. Riise (Norway) and Prof. Puchkovskaya (Soviet Union). The following spoke at the closing ceremony: Prof. J. Charamis, President of the Congress, Prof. L. Maggiore (Italy), Prof. G. von Bahr (Sweden), Prof. R. Thiel (Germany), Prof. V. Vejdosky (Czechoslovakia), Prof. L. Werner (Ireland), Prof. W. Arkin (Poland), Prof. I. Pacurariu (Romania) and Prof. J. François, Secretary General of the European Ophthalmological Society.

Prof. Charamis recalled on this occasion that Greece had been the cradle of Europe. The marvellously beautiful goddess Europa had been loved by Zeus, the father of gods and men, who changed himself into a bull of dazzling whiteness, in order to carry off Europa from the shores of Phoenicia and to bear her in his back to the island of Crete. It was that mythological legend that had been the inspiration for the emblem of the Congress and the European Ophthalmological Society (Fig. 15).

There were 750 participants in the First Congress, some fifty of them from other continents. In addition to the seventeen main reports on secondary glaucoma that had been selected by the Council of the Society (p. 7), forty-one free papers on the same subject were submitted. As well as the scientific sessions, there were numerous kind private invitations from Prof. and Mrs. Charamis and all their colleagues, receptions given by the Greek Government and by the Congress National Committee, as well as a production of Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" in the Royal Theatre of Athens.

As Jean Sédan pointed out, all the participants had not only witnessed the exceptional quality and nobility of our origins, but had also become aware of the powerfulness of our appeal to all the European countries, and through them, to the whole world.

In his opening address, Sir Stewart Duke Elder, who on behalf of the International Council of Ophthalmology welcomed the birth of the youngest of its children, recalled that "at a time, when the rest of Europe was still submerged in ignorance and barbarism, men in this city were practising a reasoned art of medicine, were preaching a system of ethics and political philosophy, that has never been equalled, were writing poetry that is as fresh today as it was some twenty-five centuries ago, and were creating works of art so beautiful that it was small wonder that men fell down and worshipped them as divine. All these gifts beyond price has this city given to Europe and the world."

At the same opening ceremony, Jules François, Secretary General of the European Ophthalmological Society, said that it was with emotion, as well as with joy, that we had set foot on Greek soil. As doctors, we could not fail to recall that it was at Epidaurus that Aesculapius, the god of Medicine, had been born. Secret issue of the love of Apollo and Koronis, the daughter of Phlegyas, King of Boeotia, he was abandoned on Mount Thettion, where he was miraculously suckled by a goat. A shepherd, who saw this marvel, told the story, and soon the news spread that this god had the power to cure the sick and resuscitate the dead.

As doctors, we were also disciples of Hippocrates, who, although born long before Jesus Christ, remained still a living example and an ideal of perfection. When granted, with our final degrees, the right to exercise the art of healing, we still today swear the oath of Hippocrates, an oath that has not needed the least change, so perfect was it in the conciseness and completeness of its expression.

On the occasion of the opening of this First Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, Jules François announced with pleasure, but with pride as well, that this was the first time that a society had been able to bring together all the countries of Europe, East as well as West, without any exception, in order to share the results of their research and the fruits of their work, but also to tighten the links of friendship, which should never be allowed to slacken. He concluded with the hope that what ophthalmologists had succeeded in achieving on the spiritual and scientific planes, others might be able to achieve also on the economic and political planes.

At the same time as the Congress, there were a meeting of the International Council of Ophthalmology, a "round-table" discussion on α -chymotrypsin, a meeting of the International Organization against Trachoma, as well as of the International Society for Clinical Electroretinography.

IInd Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Vienna, 7–13 June, 1964)

The Second Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, which was devoted to the *tumours of the eye and its adnexa*, was held from 7th to 13th June, 1964, in Vienna, under the high patronage of Dr. Adolf Schärf, President of Austria, and under the presidency of Prof. Josef Böck (Fig. 16), who had organized, with Dr. F. Schwab, Prof. H. Fanta, Dr. R. Stelzer and Dr. G. Zehetbauer as Secretaries, a magnificent Congress, which will remain for ever in the memories of those who attended it. The emblem of the Congress was Joseph Georg Beer (1763–1821), who was the first director of the oldest University ophthalmological clinic in Europe (Vienna) (Fig. 17).

At the opening session, addresses were given by the following speakers: Prof. J. Böck, President of the Congress, Dr. D. Vail, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, Prof. G. von Bahr, President of the European Ophthalmological Society, Dr. J. Sédan (France) as representative of the Latin countries, Prof. N. Archangelsky (Soviet Union) as representative of the Slavonic countries, Prof. L. Werner (Ireland) as representative of the English-speaking countries, Prof. A. Hagedoorn (Netherlands) as representative of the Germanic countries, Prof. H. Ehlers (Denmark) as representative of the Scandinavian countries, Mr. F. Jonas, Mayor of Vienna, Dr. K. Schmidt and Dr. W. Sturminger, representatives of the Government and Dr. A. Schärf, President of Austria. The following spoke at the closing ceremony: Prof. J. Böck, President of the Congress, Dr. P. Riise (Norway), representative of the Scandinavian countries, Prof. R. Thiel (Germany), representative of the Germanic countries, Dr. F. Law (United Kingdom), representative of the English-speaking countries, Prof. J. Sobanski (Poland), representative of the Slavonic countries, Prof. L. Maggiore (Italy), representative of the Latin countries and Prof. G. von Bahr, President of the European Ophthalmological Society.

There were 1150 participants in this Congress, 170 of them from other continents. In addition to the twenty-six main reports on tumours of the eye and its adnexa, that had been selected by the Council of the Society (p. 10), seventy-three free papers on the same subject were submitted. As well as the scientific sessions, attended by numerous observers, there were some particularly pleasant social events such as performances of the Vienna State Opera (*Madame Butterfly*) and the Vienna Burgtheater (*The ideal husband*), the reception by the Mayor of Vienna, Franz Jonas, at the festively decorated Vienna City Hall, the amusing evening at the Heurigen with wine and old Viennese Schrammel music and the Mozart concert.

Recalling the great Viennese ophthalmologists, such as von Beer, von Jaeger, von Arlt, Ernst Fuchs, Meller and Lindner, recalling also the great Austrian musi-

cians, such as Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Johann Strauss, recalling finally the glory of Vienna and the munificence of its historic monuments, Derrick Vail, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology said in his opening address: "The slightest whisper of its beautiful name evokes a chain of pleasant and nostalgic memories, as easily as does the scent of a rose, the verse of a song and even the smell of xylol for those who worked in the laboratories here in the days of their youth." Louis Werner added that "in this great and beautiful city with its historic background and surgical traditions, a city which every surgeon must visit if he is to consider his education complete, we have indeed a setting worthy of the brightest jewels, which medical research and discoveries can offer." The textbook of Ernst Fuchs has served for instance as the ophthalmic bible of medical students and ophthalmologists throughout the world for nearly a hundred years.

And Frank Law concluded that "we are full of admiration and gratitude to our hosts for the privilege of attending a Congress, which in its scientific deliberations, its social contacts and its diversionary excursions has been second to none", whereas Jean Sédan said that the exaggerated regionalism of the past was over and the time had come, wide, clear and fine, for all mankind to march forward together toward a higher and more perfect destiny for all humanity".

Besides the official part of the Congress, there were also meetings of the International Council of Ophthalmology, the International Organization against Trachoma, the Concilium Strabologicum Europaeum Studio Deditum, the International Society for Clinical Electroretinography, as well as a General Meeting of the International Association for Prevention of Blindness and the European Eye Pathology Club.



Fig. 17. Prof. J.G. Beer. Symbol of the 2nd Congress in Vienna, first director of the oldest University Ophthalmological Clinic in Europe.



Fig. 18. Symbol of the 3rd Congress in Amsterdam.

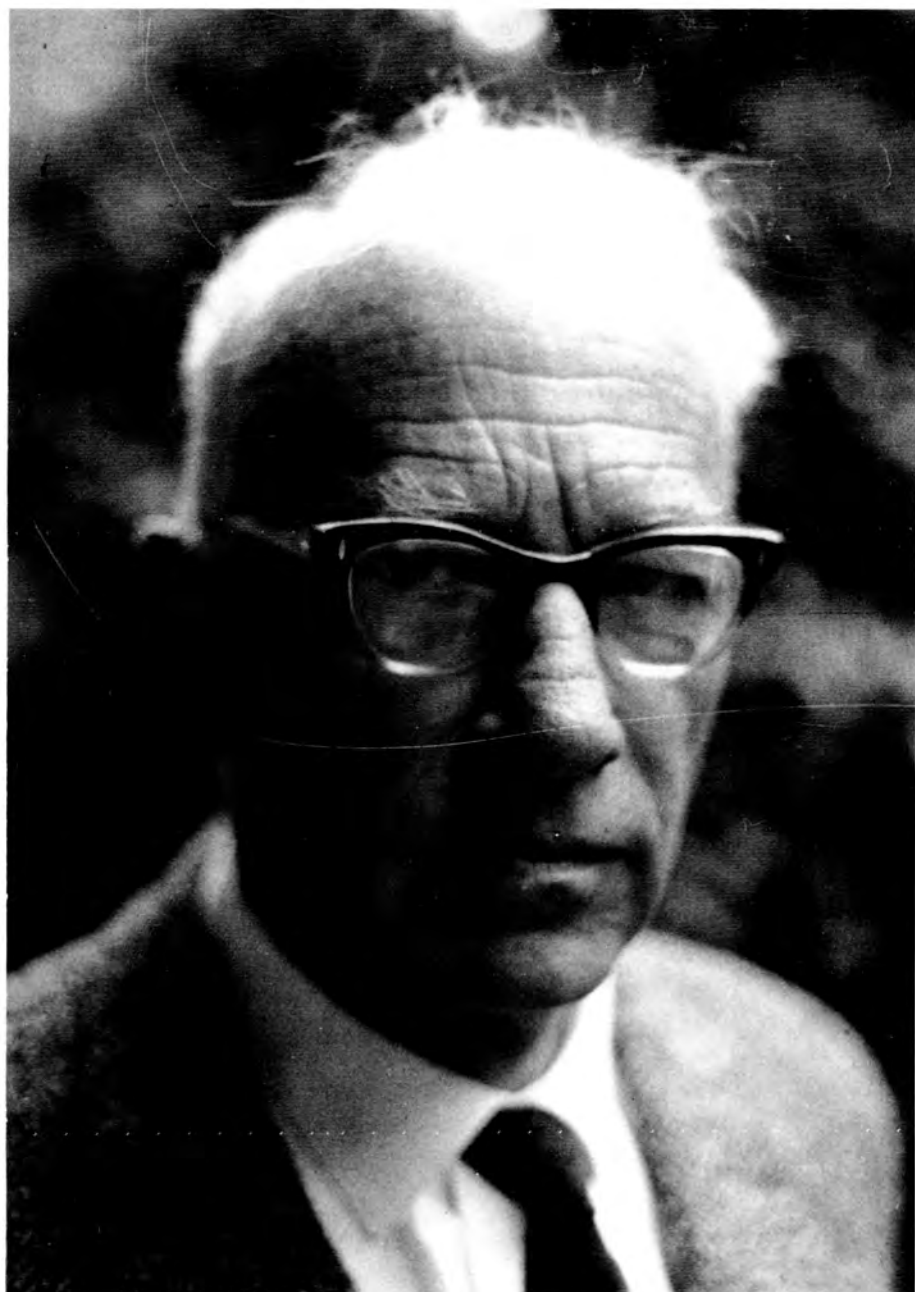


Fig. 19. Prof. A. Hagedoorn (Amsterdam).

IIIrd Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Amsterdam, 18–21 June, 1968)

The Third Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society, which was devoted to *occupational and medicative hazards in ophthalmology*, was held from 18th to 21st June, 1968, in Amsterdam (Fig. 18), under the high patronage of H.M. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, and under the presidency of Prof. A. Hagedoorn (Fig. 19), who, with Prof. H.E. Henkes and Secretary General, Dr. A.C. Copper and Dr. K. van Walbeek as Secretaries, had organized a Congress that was particularly outstanding.

The Minister of Science and Education, Mr. Veringa, and the Mayor of Amsterdam, Mr. Samkalden, were present at the opening ceremony. Addresses were given by Prof. A. Hagedoorn, President of the Congress and Prof. L. Werner, President of the European Ophthalmological Society. Both gave also addresses at the closing ceremony.

In this country, so rich in culture, art, architecture, charm and scientific achievement, which has nurtured such famous ophthalmologists as Snellen, Donders, van der Hoeve and Weve, where so many illustrious artists such as Rembrandt, van Gogh and Jan Steen produced their masterpieces, in this town, the Venice of the North, with its network of canals and its ancient buildings, some 600 ophthalmologists, more than eighty of them from other continents, assembled to listen to the twenty-one reports selected by the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society (p. 11) and the sixty-two papers on the same subject. They celebrated the unity of European ophthalmologists and the friendship with ophthalmologists from other continents at a reception in the National Museum and at a colourful, enjoyable and folkloric gathering with its wonderful reconstruction of a Dutch fair, magnifying the freedom, tolerance and democracy of the country.

In his opening address, A. Hagedoorn predicted public-health ophthalmology and said: "We shall have to cooperate with social departments of universities, country and city, with industry, with other organizations and persons, with publicity media in prevention and after-care. A socio-ophthalmic test in Amsterdam suggested that a major cause of unnecessary monocular amblyopia is an error of communication, insufficient instruction or guidance ignorance. The same will hold for unnecessary loss of eyesight in glaucoma and from occupational and medicative hazards, the main items of this Congress."

The President of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society, Prof. Werner, said at the end of the Congress: "I would ask those of you who came from outside this country to give a standing ovation to our Dutch colleagues in appreciation of their kindness, hospitality and skill in organization which they have displayed during the past week. From the opening ceremony to the completion

of the social entertainments everything not only came up to our hopes and expectations, but indeed surpassed them all".

The President of the Congress, Prof. Hagedoorn, concluded that "all these combined efforts would have been in vein if they had not been met by their indispensable response: a brilliant bunch of scientific papers and a most encouraging interest of the members of the Congress in the lectures delivered".

In parallel with the Congress, there were meetings of the International Council of Ophthalmology, the International Association for Prevention of Blindness, the International Organization against Trachoma and the International Society for Clinical Electroretinography.

IVth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Budapest, 17–21 April, 1972)

The Fourth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Fig. 20) devoted to *functional examinations in ophthalmology*, was held from 17th to 21st April, 1972, in Budapest, under the high patronage of Mr. Pal Losonczí, President of the Popular Republic of Hungary, and under the presidency of Mrs. Prof. Magda Radnót (Fig. 9), who, with Prof. B. Nemeth and Dr. P. Follmann as Secretaries, had organized a unforgettable Congress, of which all who attended it will cherish the memory.

There were 1200 participants, 160 of them from other continents, figures which have never been attained by a European Congress. In addition to the twenty-one main reports on functional examinations in ophthalmology that had been selected by the Council of the Society (p. 18), there were sixty-nine free papers on the same subject. There were also magnificent receptions given by Prof. Radnót in the Hotel Gellért and by the Hungarian Government at the National Gallery, as well as a performance by the Budapest National Opera ("Bank ban" of F. Erkel).

At the occasion of the Congress, Prof. Radnót had published a fine monography of "Famous Hungarian Ophthalmologists", in which the interesting biography of T. János Fabini (1791–1847), Ignác Hirschler (1823–1891), Vilmos Goldzieher (1849–1916), József Imre Sr. (1851–1933), István Csapódi (1856–1912), Károly Hoor (1858–1927), Emil Grosz (1865–1941), László Blaskovics (1869–1938), Leo Liebermann (1882–1938) and József Imre Jr. (1884–1945) can be found. Prof. Radnót could also obtain the issue of postage stamps, bearing the heads of some world-renowned ophthalmologists, namely József Imre, V.P. Filatov, Jules Gonin, A. Gullstrand, Emil Grosz and László Blaskovics (Fig. 21).

At the opening ceremony in the presence of the President of the Hungarian Popular Republic, Mr. Pal Losonczí, the Minister of Health, Dr. Zoltan Szabó, the Minister of Culture, Mr. Pál Ilku, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Tibor Erdey-Gruz, the Mayor of the City of Budapest, Mr. Zoltan Szepvölgyi and the Rector of the Semmelweis University Medical School of Budapest, Dr. Imre Zoltan, addresses were delivered by Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót, President of the Congress, Prof. B.E. Streiff, President of the European Ophthalmological Society, Prof. J. François, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, Prof. A. Dubois-Poulsen (France) in name of the Latin countries, Prof. J. Böck (Austria) in name of the Germanic countries, Dr. D. Greaves (United Kingdom) in name of the English-speaking and Scandinavian countries, and Prof. T. Krwawicz (Poland) in name of the Slavic countries.

At the closing ceremony speeches were delivered by Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót and Prof. B.E. Streiff, Prof. J. Casanovas (Spain) in name of the Latin countries, Prof.

G. Meyer-Schwickerath (Germany) in name of the Germanic countries, Mrs. Prof. S. Vannas (Finland) in name of the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian countries, and Prof. M. Blagojević (Yugoslavia) in name of the Slavic countries.

As D. Greaves has said in his opening speech, "We are much indebted to Prof. Radnót for her beautifully produced book, in which she outlines the achievements of the great Hungarian ophthalmologists. Often working under great adversity, they were able to teach and to develop their professional interests. Their dedication to this, their chosen field of Ophthalmology, should be an example and inspiration to us all."

As J. François, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, said, "It is not by chance that the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society has chosen Budapest, where the University was already founded in the 15th century by Mathias Corvinus and where the first lecturer in ophthalmology, Joseph Jakob Plenck, well-known for his book 'Doctrina de morbis oculorum', was appointed, not later than in 1777. It is in Budapest that the first University Eye Clinic in Europe and even in the world was opened in 1801. Its director, János Fabini, became professor of ophthalmology in 1817. Ever since there was a continuous issue of great ophthalmologists and among these, I would mention Emil Grosz, who published a noteworthy book on examination methods of the eye as an early introduction to this Congress, devoted to visual functions".

"If we are delighted to be in Budapest, it is not because of the great ophthalmological tradition, but also because we love the Hungarian people for their kindness and hospitality, their spirit and goodwill, their hard work and courage, what makes them so sympathetic. Their history goes back to the most ancient times, since Attila established his empire in this country. But it is in fact in 895 that Arpad and his Magyars, coming from the Ural, founded Hungaria. It was a member of Arpad's tribe, Vajk, who became St. Stephen. Since the 10th century, the Hungarians, proud and intrepide people, fond of freedom, had to fight the battles of their country against all their neighbours to defend their independence, their culture and their Magyar language, which is a particular uralo-altaic idiom, allied to Finnish and Japanese".

"In this beautiful capital with its large Danube, its neogothic house of parliament, its mediaeval quarter of the castle and St. Matthias Church, in this wonderful Hungaria with its interesting cities, such as Debrecen, Pecs or Esztergom, numerous artists have given lustre to their country, since the first great poet, Nicholas Zrinyi. The songs of the Kouroutzs in the 17th century, the melodies of the gypsies and the Csardas created a specific national music, which inspired not only great Hungarian composers such as Ferenc Erkel, Franz Liszt, Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly, but also foreign composers such as Brahms, Haydn and Berlioz. And still now, the arts are flourishing with painters such as Mihaly Munkuesy,

Pal Szinyei-Merse, Tivadar Csontvary-Koszka and Bertalan Por and with poets such as Sandor Petöfi, Janos Arany, Endre Ady and Attila Jozsef”.

Concluding, J. François said that “he is convinced that this Congress will be able to realize its purpose, which should be the aim of every scientific meeting, namely the interchange of ideas, the better understanding and the elucidation of one or another complex and specific problem by the addition of new information to the data already known and by the discussion of recent viewpoints and interpretations, so that we know where we exactly are and from where we can start for further research and wider learning. These ends are still possible in regional meetings such as this, where only one subject, the visual functions, is discussed. Moreover, thanks to the greater intimacy of a small circle, this Congress will be the agreeable meeting place of good friends.”

At the opening ceremony the first Helmholtz Medal, created by the European Ophthalmological Society in memory of the genius, who permitted the glow of ophthalmology by ophthalmoscopy, was awarded to Prof. Jules François by Prof. B.E. Streiff, President of the Council of the Society, who drew attention to the merits of the recipient. After thanking Prof. Streiff and the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society, Prof. J. François proceeded to deliver the Helmholtz Memorial Lecture.

During the closing ceremony, Prof. Streiff announced that the Joseph Imre Prize, offered by Mrs. Imre in memory of her husband, had been awarded to Dr. Jobbagyi of Budapest, for his paper on the “examination of intraocular pressure in the hyperbaric chamber”.

In parallel with the Congress, there were meetings of the International Council of Ophthalmology, the International Organization against Trachoma, the International Association for Prevention of Blindness, the Association for Eye Research, the International Society of Ergophthalmology, the European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists, the Intraocular Implant Club, the Hungarian Society of Oncology, the International Committee for Standardization of Tonometers, as well as a symposium on the lacrimal system, on the ultrastructure of the Eye and on Ophthalmology-endocrinology.

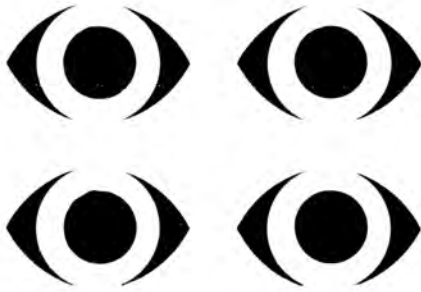


Fig. 20.
Symbol of the 4th Congress in Budapest.



Fig. 22.
Symbol of the 5th Congress in Hamburg.

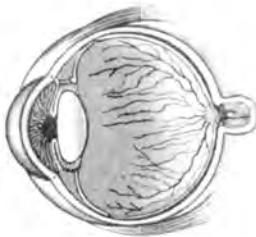


Fig. 21. Stamps with from left to right: A. Gullstrand, P. Filatov, J. Gonin, J. Imre, E. Grosz and L. Blaskovics.



Fig. 23. Prof. H. Sautter (Hamburg).

Vth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Hamburg, 5–9 April, 1976)

The Fifth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Fig. 22), devoted to the *blood circulation in the uvea, the retina and the optic nerve (physiology and pathology)*, was held from 5th to 9th April, 1976, at Hamburg, under the high patronage of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Walter Scheel, and under the presidency of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H. Sautter (Fig. 23), who, with the aid of his collaborators, G. Meyer-Schwickerath, W. Straub, W. Lassen, G. Naumann, H. Rossmann and others, had organized a really outstanding Congress, which the participants will never forget.

There were nearly 1300 full members, of whom more than 130 came from other continents. Besides the 27 reports and 6 invited papers on the blood circulation of the eye (p. 23), there were nearly 150 free papers on the same theme. There were also magnificent receptions, offered by the Senate of the City of Hamburg in the City Hall, by the organizing Committee in the halls of the Atlantic Hotel and by Prof. H. Sautter at his home (Fig. 24), as well as an excursion on the Elbe's river and an organ concert in St. Petri Church.

At the opening ceremony addresses were delivered by Prof. H. Sautter, President of the Congress, Mrs. Dr. K. Focke, Minister of Health, Prof. Dr. D. Biallas, Mayor of the City of Hamburg, Prof. J. François, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót, President of the European Ophthalmological Society, and Prof. W. Straub, President of the German Ophthalmological Society. Prof. Straub delivered the von Graefe Medal to Prof. J. François (Ghent), to whom it was awarded by the German Ophthalmological Society. After having praised Prof. J. Charamis (Athens) (Fig. 11), Mrs. Prof. Radnót gave him the Helmholtz Medal. Afterwards, Prof. Charamis delivered the Helmholtz Memorial Lecture. The first Charamis Medal was awarded to Prof. J. François (Fig. 2).

At the closing ceremony speeches were delivered by Prof. H. Sautter, President of the Congress, Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót, President of the European Ophthalmological Society, Prof. B.E. Streiff (Switzerland) in name of the Latin countries, Prof. T. Krwawiec (Poland) in name of the Eastern countries, Mrs. Prof. S. Vannas (Finland) in name of the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian countries, Prof. H. Slezak (Austria) in name of the Germanic countries. During this ceremony, Prof. J. François praised Prof. P. Brégeat (Paris), who received the Theodore Axenfeld Prize. Dr. H.F. Kréy (Giessen) received the Joseph Impre Prize for his paper on "the normal vascular anatomy of the equatorial and peripheral choriocapillaris".

In his opening address, Prof. J. François said that "it was not by chance that the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society has chosen Hamburg,

where Marchesani's famous University Clinic is now magisterially directed by Prof. Sautter".

"Hamburg originated in 808 from a small fort built on the Alster by Charlemagne. Devastated several times during the 11th century by the Saxons and the Danes, dominated by the Dukes of Holstein during the 12th century, Hamburg became independent in 1189 and, by its alliance with Lubeck, contributed to lay the foundation of the Hanse, which made its prosperity. And so it became the great commercial metropolis and the third harbour in the world, which spreads along the Elbe with its innumerable canals, ramifying across the city and around beautiful monuments, such as St. Michael Church, The Town-Hall, the Court of Justice and the Stock-Exchange. In 1815, Hamburg joined the German confederation as free and sovereign city, the executive power of which is curiously in hand of two mayors chosen by the Senate".

"Germany may be proud of its ophthalmologists. Already in the 17th and 18th centuries, prominent and encyclopaedic personalities such as Heister and Mauchart were followed by many ophthalmic surgeons, such as Sigwart and Reichenbach from Tubingen, Platner and Gunz from Leipzig and Richter from Göttingen".

"But the thorough reformers, founders and creators not only of German ophthalmology, but also of world ophthalmology, were, besides Donders and Bowman, indisputably Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894), the inventor of the ophthalmoscope and the ophthalmometer, as well as the greatest of them all, the genius Albrecht von Graefe (1828-1870)".

In 1890, von Hippel declared: "So begann von Graefe sein reformatorisches Werk, ohne jede staatliche Unterstützung, mit der unwiderstehlichen Kraft des Genies, die den Sieg über alle Hindernisse verbürgt . . . In kaum 1 1/2 Dezennien wurde die Augenheilkunde so von Grund aus neu geschaffen, daß sie allen übrigen klinischen Fächern durch die Genauigkeit der Untersuchungsverfahren, die Sicherheit der Diagnose und die Erfolge der Therapie weit überlegen war. Das Verdienst, ein solches in der Geschichte aller Wissenschaften unerhörtes Ergebnis erreicht zu haben, gehört unbestreitbar von Graefe und seiner Schule."

"Von Helmholtz inspired many fundamental scientists, such as Gauss, the founder of modern dioptrics, Arnold an Brück, the founders of modern ocular histopathology, Seebeck, who studied the colour vision, Johannes Müller, Volkmann and Listing who were physiologists, while von Graefe was followed by innumerable pupils, such as Liebreich, Zehender, the founder of the *Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde*, Alfred Graefe, Theodor Leber, Hirschberg, Schmidt-Rimpler, Weber, von Hippel, Birch-Hirschfeld, Groenouw, Stock, Hess, Wessely, Axenfeld and many others. At the present time famous and outstanding ophthalmologists are still numerous in the German Universities and cities".

"If we are delighted to be in Germany, it is not only because of its great ophthalmological tradition, but also because of the kindness and hospitality, the hard work and courage of the German people, who gave rise to many geni, wonderful musicians, suchs as Mendelssohn, Brahms, Beethoven, and Wagner, famous painters, such as Cranach, and celebrated writers, such as Goethe".

At the occasion of the Congress many satellite meetings and symposia were held: International Symposium on Fluorescein Angiography (Ghent), Ocular Metallosis (Cologne), International Society of Ergophthalmology, Symposium on Strabism, Laser photocoagulation, Intraocular Implant Club, European Society of Histopathology, International Association for Prevention of Blindness, International Organization against Trachoma, Symposium on Electrophysiology, etc.



Fig. 24. Congress in Hamburg. Prof. H. Sautter, Mrs. Prof. M. Radnót and Prof. J. Francois at Prof. Sautter's home.



Fig. 25. Symbol of the 6th Congress in Brighton.



Fig. 26. Dr. D.P. Greaves (London).

Vlth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Brighton, 21–25 April, 1980)

The Sixth Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society (Fig. 25) has taken place at Brighton (Great Britain) from *21st to 25th April, 1980*, under the presidency of Dr. D. Greaves (Fig. 26). Its success was very great and the attendance very important. The main theme of the Congress was "*The cornea in Health and Disease*". The programme included, besides free papers, 28 reports on the main theme subdivided as follows:

1. *Basic aspects of corneal structure and function*: anatomy, including fine structure, physiology and molecular biology.
2. *Tissue responses*: healing and repair in corneal tissues together with corneal responses to injury, immunological responses and vascular responses.
3. *Therapeutic principles*: pharmacological and surgical principles in the treatment of corneal diseases.
4. *Specific entities*: interstitial keratitis, physical and chemical trauma, bacterial, fungal and protozoal infections, degenerations, dystrophies including keratoconus and manifestations of systemic, metabolic or skin diseases.
5. *Environmental factors*
6. *Symposia* on contact lenses, keratoplasty and herpetic eye disease.

Papers of great interest on non-corneal topics were included in the programme. There were in addition a series of Round Table Discussions led by one or two experts on intraocular lens implantation, congenital cataract, phako-emulsification, refractive keratoplasty, medical and surgical management of glaucoma, dysthyroid eye disease, orbital trauma, immunology in relation to uveitis, disciform degeneration, retinal oedema, intraocular malignancy, ophthalmic ultrasound, diabetic retinopathy, vitreous surgery, intraocular foreign bodies, amaurosis fugax, amblyopia and eccentric fixation and congenital glaucoma. Finally, there were a number of didactic sessions on topics of general interest, such as oculo-plastic surgery, retinal pigment epitheliopathies, orbital diseases and ophthalmic aspects of demyelinating diseases.

In his opening address, Prof. Jules François, President of the European Ophthalmological Society and of the International Council of Ophthalmology, said that "all the participants were proud to be in a country, whose glorious past constitutes a guarantee for an exceptional cultural and scientific future and which has distinguished itself in so many Arts, such as architecture with its Gothic cathedrals, painting with Reynolds, Gainsborough, Turner, Constable and many others, literature with Geoffrey Chaucer, Edmund Spenser and especially William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon or Lord Byron".

“The United Kingdom produced geni not only in Fine Arts, but also in Medicine and more particularly in Ophthalmology. The two most famous ones of the XVIIth century were Isaac Newton, the creator of the physical optics, and William Briggs, the creator of the physiological optics. The work of Briggs was continued during the XVIIIth century by Thomas Young, who was the first to give a scientific explanation of colour vision”.

“The greatest ophthalmologist of the XIXth century was William Bowman, who was a pioneer in histology and so many other fields. From that time on till now many illustrious British ophthalmologists are known and it is impossible to recall them all. Starting with Marcus Gunn, Hutchinson or William Mackenzie, we should, nevertheless, remember Parsons, Guthrie, Wardrop, Nettleship and others to end with the greatest of them all, Sir Stewart Duke Elder”.

A very pleasant social programme included a civic reception given by the Brighton Borough Council in the Corn Exchange and Pavilion Theatre, a performance in the Dome by the King's Singers, the famous English group of six male vocalists, and a Farewell Party in the Metropole Hotel. The entertainment included cabaret and typically British strolling players. There were also many excursions for the family members.

During the week preceding that of the Congress in Brighton, the centenary meeting of the ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was held in London.

Satellite meetings were organized by the European Glaucoma Society (Brighton, 19th–20th April), the International Symposium on Herpetic Eye Diseases (Freiburg, 12th–14th April), the Xth European Medical Contact Lens Congress (London, 19th–20th April), the International Lens Implant Symposium (London, 19th–20th April), the International Society of Ergophthalmology (Brighton, 19th–20th April), the International Symposium on practical management of retinal and vitreous disorders (Perth, 4th–8th May), the International Organization against Trachoma and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (Brighton, 25th April).

Conclusion

It is sometimes said that international congresses have no longer very much justification, because they have become too large and because the scientific discussions are too varied and too dispersed, so that they no longer contribute efficaciously to the advancement of science. I cannot share that opinion, and certainly not in the case of regional congresses such as those of the European Ophthalmological Society, in which the number of participants is relatively small and at which only a single topic is discussed. In effect:

1. These Congresses make it possible for ophthalmologists to meet one another, to get to know one another and to form links of friendship, which would be impossible otherwise. It is so much more agreeable, when one reads an article, if one has met, seen or heard the author.

2. As each Congress is devoted to only a single theme, it provides us with a complete statement of the actual situation of the topic, so that we obtain a synthesis of our knowledge, constituting thus a starting point for further research. In my opinion, it is not feasible to undertake clinical or fundamental research on any given subject which has been dealt with in one of the Congresses of the European Ophthalmological Society, without consulting the proceedings on that subject. The Congresses and their Acta thus render an invaluable service to future researchers. Moreover, the success of the European Ophthalmological Society is evident, when one recalls that the number of participants, which was 750 at the First Congress in 1960, has now risen to more than 1,300, and that the ophthalmologists come not only from Europe, but also from all the other continents.

What is the mission of the Council of the European Ophthalmological Society? It consists essentially in preparing the Congresses of the Society, in the first place by soliciting an invitation from one or another national Society, and then in advising and assisting the Organizing Committee, with which the Council works in close collaboration. Furthermore, there is a tradition that each Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society shall be devoted to one single theme – which is a unique tradition in the history of international congresses. This entails that the Council must first of all choose the topic after having asked the national Societies for their suggestions. After that, the Council has to subdivide the theme into a number of chapters, preferably twenty-five, so as to be able to assign one section to each of the European countries. Finally, it has to nominate a qualified rapporteur for each country, after having taken advice of its representative on the Council, who will previously have consulted his national Society.

