

Dear Visitor to *Historia Ophthalmologica Internationalis*,

After 33 years of editing, illustrating and completing the English translation of Julius Hirschberg's monumental "*History of Ophthalmology*", I decided to make this huge treatise available to people all over the world. This has been made possible for me through the internet journal: *Historia Ophthalmologica Internationalis*.

Both, today's "Journal" and the original "Treatise" would not have been published without the participation of two giants of the twenty century ophthalmology: Jules François of Ghent and Frederick C. Blodi (Iowa)

Initially, François asked me to publish a new "History of Ophthalmology" that was to be written by Patrick Trevor-Roper, but I rejected the idea knowing that nobody nowadays would have sufficient time to complete such a "History" as Hirschberg's. Reprinting Hirschberg in German was not an option, because that language is little understood by ophthalmologists outside of Europe.

This was the main reason why we originally decided to start a historical journal: *Historia Ophthalmologica Internationalis*. This is now a free internet journal.

With the editorship of François (Chief editor), Baillart, (Paris), Blodi (Iowa), Corcelle (Paris), Duque-Estrada (Rio de Janeiro), Grom (Caracas), Hollwich (Munich), Newell (Chicago), Streiff (Lausanne) and Patrick Trevor-Roper (London) success seemed certain.

Meanwhile, during an International Congress, I met Frederick Blodi in person and I mentioned my old idea of an English treatise on the "History of Ophthalmology" to replace the History in German, written by Julius Hirschberg.

His reaction was immediate: "Why not simply translate it? "

"And who would do that?" I asked.

With a large, warm smile, he offered to me to translate the complete work on a voluntary basis.

Twelve volumes to translate!

That was 1981...

Fred Blodi finished translating the original German edition in 1992, adding a volume of his own composition. (*Ophthalmology & Postal Stamps* 1985). Sadly Blodi died in 1996, shortly after he had completed the translation of all the original Hirschberg volumes.

Now, in 2015, that giant of a treatise with its associated Monographs is finished and will be presented, free of any charges, chapter by chapter and volume by volume to the visitors to the website: *Historia*.

I will start with Robert Fernand Heitz's truly magnificent "*History of Contact Lenses*" (translated by Colin Mailer, London Ontario). This is Hirschberg's "History of Ophthalmology", Volume 11 Part 3a, 3b and 3c, published respectively in 2003, 2005 & 2014.

Piribebuy (Paraguay), April 2015

Jean-Paul Wayenborgh

To visit Hirschberg's History please [Click here](#)