

RANZCO Museum

50 years ago – Management of glaucoma at the time RACO was founded

The standard diagnostic instrument for measuring pressure was the Goldman tonometer and to a lesser extent the Schiotz tonometer. Visual field testing used a Bjerrum screen in most practices with some practices and hospitals having purchased a Goldman perimeter. The pathophysiology of glaucoma was still in its infancy and visualising the optic disc required a guess with a direct ophthalmoscope or using the Huby lens on the slitlamp.

Visualising the fundus of glaucoma patients was made even more difficult as the standard medication used was Pilocarpine which constricted the pupil and, in elderly patients with lens opacities, this made the task even harder. Side effects of drugs such as epinephrine and physostigmine inhibited compliance. Surgery often required fistulising procedures, which failed by either leaking or closing. The progress in diagnosis and treatment has been incremental, however, patient numbers have increased with longer life expectancy and better diagnostic tools.

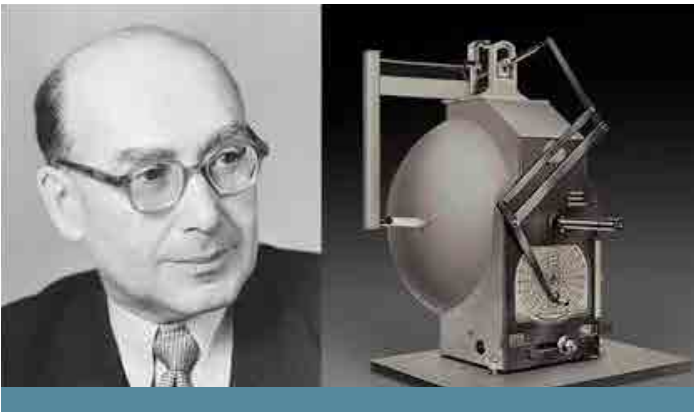


Fig.1 Hans Goldmann and the perimeter that became the gold standard in kinetic perimetry

New acquisition

A trove of memorable correspondence from Ringland Anderson, an outstanding ophthalmologist from Melbourne after whom the first chair of Ophthalmology in Australia was named, has been presented to the College Museum by his grandson Professor Hugh Taylor.

Notable is the letter and photograph of Anderson with Helen Keller whose worldwide contribution to services for the blind included setting up institutions in Australia. The biography of Ringland Anderson is now on the website.



Fig.2 Keller with Anderson in Melbourne

New presentation on the website

The following presentation is now available on the website under 'RANZCO Museum Presentations:' *Eye disease in Europe at the time of the first fleet and its impact on the Aboriginal population thereafter.*

To celebrate the 50 years of the College, Eye2Eye will feature articles on important topics and notable people from the time of its foundation.

David Kaufman
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