

Dental Historian Volume 69 (2), July 2024

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Origins of the Malta Association of Dental Students

George Camilleri

Abstract: This paper describes the origins of the Association of Dental Students in Malta and its early relationship with the International Association of Dental Students.

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UK dentistry in the 1990s - the end of an era, or the start of another?

Kevin Lewis

Abstract: The 1990s proved to be something of a watershed for UK dentistry; this paper reviews the contributory factors and the key events which shaped this important decade.

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A tribute to Barry C Leighton: professor of orthodontics and instigator of longitudinal studies

Zameer Hussain and Stanley Gelbier

Abstract: A fortuitous encounter with a respected and benevolent professor of orthodontics in 1993 set the course of a 30-year career trajectory for a young dentist (ZH), who now seeks to return to academia to follow in his footsteps. Professor Barry Leighton was a heavyweight in his field; an academic, a curator and a seasoned orthodontic professional. His impact can be measured through his output of 30 publications devoted to the development of the jaws, occlusion and nasopharynx in children and his later published serial growth data. While his longitudinal studies in the dental development of twins first piqued the wide-eyed student's interest, it is Prof Leighton's unwavering commitment to the profession that provided inspiration for him to pursue orthodontics in the second innings of his career.

pp 56-60

The deaths of Hermann Göring and Himmler: a possible dental connection

Jerry Asquith

Abstract: This paper examines the life of one of Nazi Germany's leading players, Hermann Göring. After explaining he died by suicide, it goes on to explore possible mechanisms, including involvement of the teeth.

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The history of dental grillz: ancient ornamentation to modern fashion statement

Sugan Shegar

Abstract: Dental grillz are ornamental devices designed to cover the teeth. These devices, with designs ranging from simple to complex, and comprising precious or non-precious metal only, or substructures of different metals decorated with trinkets or gemstones, have transitioned from novelties to significant symbols of cultural and fashion identity.

pp 66-72

Reflections on the Membership in General Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Christine Breare, Kenneth Eaton and Mike Mulcahy

Abstract: This paper records the reflections of three individuals on preparation and the sitting of MGDS RCS Eng examinations, and the impact the award of the MGDS RCS Eng diploma had on their respective careers.

pp 73-78

Tubes via Waterloo: Part One

Roland Hopwood

Abstract: This paper discusses the production of ivory dentures, the sources of materials and the changes from the use of human teeth to the development of porcelain teeth. Waterloo teeth to porcelain tube teeth.

pp 79-83

Rita Mason (1925-2008) pioneer dental radiographer

Stanley Gelbier

Abstract: Rita Mason was a radiographer in the 1950s who was encouraged by her father, Sydney Blackman, consultant radiologist at the Royal Dental Hospital of London, to join his department, helping to make essential contributions to the development of dento-maxillofacial radiology. She was a major contributor to the education of both dentists and nurses.

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John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865) and Lewis Thornton Powell (1844-1865): controversial identification of two Southern conspirators found guilty of Abraham Lincoln's death

Xavier Riaud

Abstract: On April 14th, 1865, at about 10:10pm, a man shot Abraham Lincoln in the back of his head at point blank range. His name was John Wilkes Booth. The President of the United States died the following day. Meanwhile, a man broke into William Seward's office, the Secretary of State, and seriously wounded his face. The attacker's name was Lewis Thornton Powell. Both of these men succeeded in leaving the American capital without being apprehended. However, a few days later, Booth was arrested in a farm in Virginia and was summarily executed. His body was repatriated and an autopsy was conducted on April 27, 1865. While the report was absolutely positive concerning the murderer's identification, the journalists remained doubtful. Are we definitely sure it was Booth's body?

pp 90-104

Orthodontic pioneer Alfred Cookman Lockett, the Lockett family and lives cut short

Helen Nield

Abstract: On the 5th January 1931 after his last patient of the morning had left, Alfred Cookman Lockett, a GDP with a focus on orthodontics smoked a cigarette, swung his dental chair round towards the window, climbed out, hung by his hands from the sill and let go. Dropping from the third floor down into the area he died almost instantly. A successful practitioner well known in orthodontic circles, in good health with no shortage of money, a wife and two teenage daughters nobody could explain his suicide. The coroner's ruling was an open verdict. This is Alfred's story encompassing his orthodontic legacy as a founder member of the British Society for the Study of Orthodontics (BSSO), the tragic death of his brother Leonard, a dentist in the USA, and the effects of these deaths on their descendants.

pp 105-16

Robert Livingstone Mearns (1841-1919): a pioneering Queensland colonial dentist

Gary Smith

Abstract: This manuscript examines the personal life and the dual professional career (dentist and chemist) of Robert Livingstone Mearns, a forgotten, intrepid, if not entrepreneurial, pioneer, who arrived and practised in Queensland (Australia) from 1869 to c1916 at Brisbane (several locations), Charters Towers, Ingham, Ipswich, Mossman, South Brisbane, Toowoomba and Townsville.

pp 117-22

The origins and history of the UK's first postgraduate orthodontic qualifications 1900-1954

Chris Stephens

Abstract: How the first UK postgraduate diploma in orthodontics came to be established.