More Chicago Not-So-Trivial Pursuit

Q Why haven't I received my Annual Educational Program yet?
A Due to unavoidable delays, programs were mailed the first week of August instead of the previously predicted mid-July. If you haven't received your program yet, see details in this newsletter entitled: "Did You Get Your Program?"

Q Where will the Scientific Exhibit be found?
A The Scientific Exhibit is held in the main convention area of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Entry to this exhibit can be obtained via registration with the AAO or by purchasing a one day pass.

Q Do I have to be an OPS member to attend the Annual Educational Program?
A No. Registration is open to technicians, nurses, and physicians alike. Members of JCAHPO, ASORN and other ophthalmic organizations are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Q When is the Annual Educational Program being held?
A Saturday, November 13 through Wednesday, November 17, at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

Q Who can I call for more information?
A Telephone calls are often difficult to receive and return in a busy hospital setting. Simple requests for information or mailing instructions are easily communicated via written card or FAX; however, a message may be left via answering machine at (415) 387-9880.

For more information, please contact:
Denise Barsness, CRA, COT
General Chairman
California Pacific Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology
2340 Clay Street 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
FAX: (415) 885-8637

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FINE FOOD AND FRIENDS

The 24th Annual Educational Program’s Formal Banquet will be held this year on Monday evening, November 15. We hope that by moving this event to Monday more members will be able to participate. Won't you join us?

Dinner will feature roast breast of chicken, grilled swordfish or roast sirloin. Wine and dessert are included. A special keynote speaker will entertain you with highlights from the world of photojournalism.

This is the premier social event of the Annual Meeting. The Society’s highest awards will be presented to the honorees. The newest CRA and COPRA recipients will be introduced as well.

Watch for specific details in the Annual Educational Program, which will be mailed the first week of August.

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Did You Get Your Program?

The 24th Annual Educational Program was mailed to all current OPS members the first week of August.

If you did not receive a program and wish to, please FAX or mail your name and address to:

Denice Barsness, CRA, COT
General Chair
California Pacific Medical Center
Department of Ophthalmology
2340 Clay Street 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
FAX (415) 885-8637

We look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago!

Did you know . . .

. . . that the General Chairman begins planning for the Annual Educational Program a year in advance? Most planning team members and coordinators are appointed at the preceding meeting which means advance planning by YOU! It is very disappointing to have to tell an interested member that their ideas are great, but too late! Let’s start planning NOW.

All OPS members are encouraged to participate in the production of the Society’s programs. All it takes is you letting us know you’re interested.

While at the Annual Educational Program in Chicago this year, take a moment to share your interest with me. How about coordinating a workshop? Participating in hotel communications? Producing the formal banquet? Interested in contributing to the Educational Program? These jobs and many more await you.

See you in Chicago!
(Call me - we’ll do lunch . . .)

Denice Barsness, CRA, COT
General Chair - Chicago ’93
San Francisco ’94

Call For Volunteers

The equipment management team is looking for volunteers to assist with the setting up, moving and breaking down of workshop equipment. If you would like to help please contact:

Karen Klima CRA COA
3405 Pinewood Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21206
(410) 955-5214
FAX: (410) 614-4363

Room Monitors are also needed to collect tickets and help with projection. If interested, please contact:

Bob Cavicchi CRA
Joslin Diabetic Clinic
1 Joslin Lane
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 732-2561

The Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society presents:

Indocyanine Green Symposium

Sunday, November 14, 1993
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Palmer House Hotel • Chicago, Ill

Join us for an evening symposium on the latest advances in Indocyanine Green Dye and its clinical applications. Bring your ICG angiograms for case presentations and group discussion.

For information contact:
William Anderson, C.R.A. - Coordinator
Southwestern Medical School
University of Texas
5323 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75235-8866
(214) 648-3845
President's Message

Did you ever notice the odd kind of look you get when you answer someone's inquiry about your career? You may reply with the statement that you are "an ophthalmic photographer". ("A what? Say that again - I didn't quite catch it... "). Or you may try responding with simpler language - for example - "I take pictures of eyes for a living". ("You take pictures of what? Why? All day long?"). I've yet to meet a youngster who's said they've wanted to grow up to be an ophthalmic photographer (my kids included).

It can be lonely out there. Ophthalmic photographers can be few and far between. I remember as a novice being struck with wonder when I found out that someone in the next city over also took pictures of eyes for a living. I recall contacting them (long distance) for help with questions only a fellow ophthalmic photographer could answer. Many ophthalmic photographers can probably remember having to call half-way around the country in an attempt to get their questions answered. That is, at least, how it used to be.

A quick perusal at the back pages of the newest OPS directory reveals just how much times have changed. The city of Houston, Texas contains 18 individual OPS members. The state of California is just shy of 100 OPS members. The OPS is well represented in virtually every major metropolitan area - and also contains members in many smaller areas.

Let me remind you of one more memory before I suggest to you a personal course of action. I'd like to think back to when you first contacted the OPS. If your experience was anything like mine, then it was almost euphoric. Finally - some colleagues! Someone to discuss problems with - someone to swap stories with - someone who understood that special world of ophthalmic photography.

Wouldn't it be great to get together with fellow ophthalmic photographers more than just once a year at the Mid-Year or Annual Meeting? In some areas of the country you can. Chicago, Wisconsin, Long Island - NY, Northern California, and Philadelphia all support Officially Sanctioned Regional Chapters of the OPS. A group of Boston ophthalmic photographers has recently petitioned the Board of Directors concerning a new chapter.

Each chapter meets at least once a year. Individual chapters elect their own officers, determine their own schedule, and apply for their own CE credits. My personal experience with the Wisconsin Chapter (WIOPS) has been tremendous. Not only have I met some fine colleagues, I've also made some good friends. Local chapters are also great for accumulating CECs during those years you just can't make it to the Academy.

My suggestion for a personal course of action? Get involved locally with the OPS. If you have an Official Chapter in your area, contact the president and get on their mailing list. Don't have a local chapter? Contact me for a copy of the simple guidelines (I promise I'll FAX them to you within 24 hours of talking to you!) Remember - think globally - act locally.

Thanks -

Patrick J. Saine, M.Ed, CRA
President

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Considering the Motion

Once a motion has been brought before the assembly, there are ordinarily three basic steps to considering a motion:

1. Members debate the motion
2. The chair puts the question and
3. The chair announces the results of the vote.

Usually the maker of the motion is assigned the floor first in a debate. Any subsequent speaker must be recognized by the chair before proceeding with debate. In the strictest sense, a member has exhausted his right to speak after addressing the assembly twice. The debate must continue until all members have exhausted their right to debate or until the debate is limited, extended or called by a two thirds vote.

Of course, during the debate, members are requested keep their comments to a reasonable length, to confine remarks to the merits of the pending question, to refrain from attacking members motives, and to refrain from disturbing the assembly. All remarks should be made through the chair - who by the way does not participate in the debate.

Adapted from Roberts Rules of Order, Newly revised, 1990 Edition
What do you call a camera with a Nikkor lens and a Canon body?

A Kwannon.

This story began for me in Milan, Italy while visiting a friend who is a renowned fashion photographer for lingerie. While waiting for him I fell upon a book entitled, "Canon, Rangefinder Cameras 1933-1968" by Peter Deichert. Mixed with curiosity about the beginnings of Canon and the envy I felt for my friend’s work, I started to read the book that led me to interesting discoveries.

Sixty years ago Japan had no miniaturized camera technology. All this changed in November 1933 when Goro Yoshida, a man of great vision, got together with Saburo Uchida, a businessman, and Takeo Maeda, a business colleague of Uchida who became Canon’s President in 1974. They started a company called Seiki Kogaku Kenkyujo, Precision Optical Research Institute. Although their beginnings were modest, these three enthusiasts believed that they could build a miniature camera that would rival Leica and Contax. Soon after, they were joined by Tomitaro Kaneko, the first factory manager and chief engineer. The foursome soon finished a set of blue prints for a camera that they would call the Kwannon-X. The camera bore a strange resemblance to the then popular German camera. Since Leica had no patent protection in Japan, their film transport and shutter system had been incorporated into the Kwannon-X. All that however changed in 1935 when Leica patented its lens-mounting and rangefinder-coupling in Japan (the Kwannon was using that particular design).

Needling to design their own system, Mr. Uchida approached a company called Nippon Kogaku K.K. (today called Nikon) to ask for their assistance in developing a wheel-operated focusing mount with a bayonet lens attachment and a pin-operated rangefinder. That same year, Kakuya Sunayama developed the 50mm F3.5 Nikkor lens while Ichiro Yamanaka designed the lens mount. These systems became a standard for all Canon Hansa until 1947.

Nippon Kogaku (Japanese Optical) had been established in 1917 as a joint venture between the Japanese Imperial Navy (Nippon Kogaku produced all binoculars for them) and the Mitsubishi Trust. By 1934, Nippon Kogaku was a strong firm specializing mostly in binoculars and optical systems. In fact they were so powerful that they insisted in appointing a manager of their own choosing to run the Seiki Kogaku Kenkyujo Company. Needless to say that Nippon Kogaku’s influence was considerable in the early designs of Canon (first 13 years).

With the end of the second world war came the dissolution of the Japanese Imperial Navy. The new constitution of 1946 which broke up the Mitsubishi Trust, led to the famous Nippon Kogaku directive: "Develop our own 35mm camera."

continued on page 6
REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Below is an objective report describing the recent JCAHPO Mid-Year Business Meeting held in Sarasota, Florida. Paul Montague and Pat Saine attended this meeting as guests representing the OPS. These are not the official minutes of that meeting nor of any OPS meeting.

The OPS is considering Provisional Membership in JCAHPO. The information below is provided by the JCAHPO Affiliation Committee and is intended to help educate the OPS membership concerning this important question. We strongly encourage all members to write a letter to the newsletter expressing their opinions on this matter.

Thank you —
Paul Montague, CRA, FOPS Chair - JCAHPO Affiliation Committee
Patrick J. Saine, M.Ed., CRA - President, OPS

JCAHPO MEETING
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
April 29 - May 1, 1993

The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology is an association of associations. The membership organizations each send three delegates. The Full Commission is composed of the delegates from all organizations. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary of Certification, and Secretary of Education.

Committee work was scheduled for the afternoon of April 29, all day April 30, and the morning of May 1st. Each committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee, who meet at the conclusion of all other committee meetings. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to resolve discrepancies which might result from two independent committees addressing similar issues. The refined committee reports are then presented to the Full Commission for action, where they might be approved, revised and approved, rejected, or referred back to committee.

About three weeks before the meeting, all delegates including the guests from the Photographic Photographers Society, were sent a complete schedule of committee meetings, and asked to respond by indicating which meetings would be attended. All commissioners were requested to attend at least one item writing session. The OPS guests were granted the same access to all committee meetings as full delegates, which only restricted them from the Executive Committee Meetings.

4/29/93
International Relations Committee

Committee members: MD-7, OMP-4, Home Office-1
(MD = Physician, OMP = Ophthalmic Medical Personnel, Home Office = JCAHPO Employee)

The purpose of this committee is inform other nations of JCAHPO training and expertise. Individual efforts and JCAHPO sanctioned projects, including outreaches to Saudi Arabia and Mongolia were reviewed. The intention to adapt their portable exhibit to different languages for use at international gatherings (including the Pan-American Meeting) was discussed.

Committee members were sensitive to cultural differences. They were interested in defining the needs of international associates and helping to fulfill those needs.

New Commissioner Orientation

Committee members: MD-10, OMP-3, Home Office-1

The mission of JCAHPO as a certifying and educating body was explained. Educational activities include the Annual Educational program and regional meetings. Regional meetings may be administered by JCAHPO or JCAHPO may act as a resource for interested parties. Practical and written certification exams are currently administered at three levels: Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA), Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT), and Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT).

The organization has evolved in the last 25 years, and further evolution is expected through long range objectives and strategies developed by the Long Range Planning Committee.
A confidentiality issue was raised in terms of careful adherence to the committee process. Issues raised at the committee level do not become policy until they are reviewed by the Executive Committee, voted on by the full commission, and approved by the Board of Directors. Commissioners are asked not to make official announcements based upon committee discussions, but rather to wait until the summary statement is issued at the end of the meeting.

JCAHPO sends two representatives to JRCOMP which evaluates educational programs applying for accreditation and makes recommendations to CAHEA. Accreditation decisions are made by CAHEA. JCAHPO participates in NOCA.

JCAHPO supports an independent foundation which is involved in scholarships for education and the funding of research and special projects. JCAHPO was described as a friendly, supportive organization. It incorporates a mentor program for new commissioners.

**Regional Continuing Education**

Committee members: MD-10, OMP-3, Home Office-1

ASORN and JCAHPO have collaborated successfully in a series of courses involving surgical assisting. ASORN expressed its intention to continue these courses as long as they were financially successful. JCAHPO is planning a meeting in conjunction with the Academy's Summer Institute this year.

Future directions of this committee were discussed. Interaction with state ophthalmological societies, the need for JCAHPO directed regional educational activities, and site selection with demographic considerations were discussed. It was interesting to note that these were some of the same issues that the OPS Board of Education is considering.

**Bylaws Committee.**

Committee members: MD-7, OMP-2, Home Office-2

The charge of this committee is not to make policy, but to ensure that changes in one part of the bylaws are not in conflict with other parts. The small changes considered at this meeting will be sent to the full commission 30 days prior to the fall meeting, so that they can be adopted, rejected, revised, or returned to committee at that time.

It was proposed that the ad hoc Audit and Compensation Committee be changed to a standing committee. The composition of this committee was changed to the following:

At least one representative of an allied health organization and one representative of an ophthalmological organization, with five members: Treasurer as Chair, President, Executive Vice President, Finance Committee Chair, Public Advisor, and one other member.

The proposal for this committee was submitted in writing, and was adopted with little discussion.

**4/30/93**

**Certification Committee.**

Committee members: MD-5, OMP-5, Home Office-2

As one of its tasks, the Certification Committee develops standards for recertification. It determines acceptable methods of earning CE credits, and establishes CEC limits for those methods. These standards serve as guidelines within which the Continuing Education Credit Committee assesses the merits of an applicant and grants approval for a specific number of credit hours.

At this meeting, Certification fees were set, qualifications for taking the COMT exam discussed, and proposed revisions to the "Blue Book" were reviewed, revised, and approved. The Blue Book is the published program description, and list of requirements for each of the three JCAHPO certification programs.

**Continuing Education Credit Committee**

Committee members: MD-5, OMP-3, Home Office-1

Year end statistics were noted. Continuing Education Credit applications were reviewed and criteria discussed. Issues raised by controversial correspondence were reviewed by the full committee and resolved. A policy manual was available to all committee members. This manual helped in the resolution of these matters.
Policies concerning reciprocal agreements with AMA and AACO were questioned. It was recommended that friendly correspondence to each of these organizations would help clarify this issue. A discussion of credits for the Annual Educational Meeting concerned the purely technical nature of JCAHPO continuing education credit. JCAHPO CE credit is not granted to courses focused on management issues.

Home office suggestions for reducing the monitoring of courses, thereby reducing paperwork, were introduced. Issues regarding the quality of monitoring process were raised and answered adequately.

Communications Committee.

Committee members: MD-7, OMP-4, Home Office-1

This committee is responsible for public relations issues. A budget item for the presentation of a JCAHPO exhibit at an association of Junior Colleges had been previously approved. When the exhibition cost escalated from $350 to $1,100, the committee halted the program, and revoked the action at this meeting.

JCAHPO produced a promotional video tape intended for presentation to high school students in order to attract newcomers to careers as ophthalmic technicians. The tape is duplicated and distributed on request to high school counselors at an annual cost of $15,000. The committee recommended continuing the program for another year.

It was recommended that COA's, COT's, and COMT's would be given ribbons indicating that they are certified at the next annual meeting.

The "Strategic Plan" for this committee was reviewed to make sure that established goals were being met.

Annual Education Program Committee

Committee members: MD-7, OMP-2, Home Office-1

Statistics revealed that the total number of registrants for the 1992 meeting had decreased, but that both the number of courses offered and the hours taken by individual registrants had increased. The committee reviewed a survey of last year's attendees and responded to complaints with positive suggestions. Educating the educators (in the fashion of the Academy and ARVO) was considered.

The brochure for the annual meeting was reviewed. Cost savings from the deletion of the full programs of related organizations was suggested. After much discussion, the benefits of this service to the certified OMP was explained.

A free paper session may become a pilot project for the 94 meeting. The small poster session will continue. JCAHPO will continue their policy of sending monitors to certain JCAHPO course.

Finance Committee Meeting.

Committee members: MD-7, OMP-4, Home Office-2

The Finance Committee reviewed home office compliance with the budget for 1993 to date. For the first seven months of fiscal year 92-93, revenues were $1.4 million of a projected $1.9 million, and expenses were $.95 million of $1.6 million projected.

All monetary transactions are performed by the home office. The treasurer has a supervisory responsibility, and is informed of transactions on a monthly basis.

It was noted that $8,000 per month, which is in excess of their actual mortgage requirement, is being paid on the their building mortgage. $16,500 was generated from the sale of certification pins. JCAHPO employee compensation was discussed.

JCAHPO maintains Convention Protection Insurance on their meetings and Business Interruption Insurance on their home office operations.
Long Range Planning Committee

Committee members: MD-10, OMP-4, Home Office-1

This committee reported on key objectives and strategies for the long term growth of JCAHPO. These objectives and strategies are the result of a prior JCAHPO long range planning session with a planning facilitator. These long range plans include maintaining an active interchange with related organizations and exploring potential increases in the number of organizations belonging to JCAHPO.

Marketing of JCAHPO certification was discussed. Discussion was held on conducting a survey using “Outcome Research” techniques to determine the value of OMPs in ophthalmology practices.

5/1/93
Item Writing

Six Item Writing sessions were held during the course of the three day meeting. Commissioners were asked to participate in at least one of these sessions. The OPS representatives attended and participated in one session.

The pool of questions for JCAHPO exams consists of over 2,000 items which are categorized by level (COA, COT, etc), and rated by difficulty. The Item Writing sessions are designed to review items constructed at previous meetings, and to construct new items for future exams.

The psychometrician identifies areas for which new items are required. A separate 8 1/2x11 form is prepared for each item request with level and subject areas furnished. A reference library was available. Small groups of physicians and OMPs jointly constructed questions with input from the JCAHPO psychometrician. Interaction between physicians and OMPs varied between groups. The session attended by the OPS representatives was divided into two rooms. In one room, the small groups interacted freely, constructing items as a joint effort. In the other room, item writers worked independently with little interaction. Raw questions from these groups are then reviewed, edited, and inserted into the exam pool by a group with equal physician and OMP representation.

Meeting of the Full Joint Commission.

Action items are generated at the committee level, reviewed and possibly modified by the Executive Committee, and discussed and voted on by the Full Commission. All actions of the Full Commission are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

At the conclusion of all committee meetings, the Full Commission met to consider the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Some Action Items from committees were modified by the Executive Committee before presentation to the Full Commission. All such changes were explained, and ample opportunity for discussion provided.

All items presented to the Full Commission were approved after appropriate discussion according to parliamentary procedure.
KOTA be or Kota be not

In my recent travels to Asia I fell upon a secret society of ophthalmic photographers and technicians in South Korea. Numbering 62 in all, they represent the very best in ophthalmic photography in Korea, however no one had ever heard from them before. After some convincing, the Korean Ophthalmic Technicians Association (KOTA) will attend the OPS mid year meeting in June 1994 in Toronto, Canada (the meeting is called ICOP ’94). Just imagine finding out that 62 ophthalmic photographers exist in an organized group and no one had ever heard from them!

Ben Szirth

Singapore Ophthalmic Photographers Society (SOPS)

Last April while giving a series of lectures sponsored by Nikon, Inc. in Singapore on ophthalmic photography, I was approached by a group of local ophthalmologists. They asked me to help them organize an Ophthalmic Photographers Society for Singapore and South East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Taiwan). Three months later SOPS has become a reality and although small in number it is strong in spirit. They too will join us in Toronto, Canada next June for the ICOP ’94 meeting.

Ben Szirth

International Conference on Ophthalmic Photography (ICOP ’94)

The Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society (OPS) had their first International meeting in Rome, Italy in 1986. Master minded by Marlene Fishman and Don Wong, they shared a dream with many of us that one day we could have all ophthalmic photographers of the world gather together under one umbrella that was called ICOP. Of course the meeting is sponsored by the OPS and supported by many ophthalmic and film manufacturers along with our sister Societies. Joining the OPS in Toronto, Canada this June 1994 will be:

- British Ophthalmic Photographer’s Association
- Japanese Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society
- Korean Ophthalmic Technician Association
- Singapore Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society

Congratulations to Don Wong, we are witness to the birth of your dream.

Ben Szirth

Japanese Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society Ten Year Anniversary Meeting

As the rays of the rising sun kiss the New England sky, I find myself once again in the jet stream that will take me back to my second home. A row familiar set of sounds, the roar of the jet engines and the flight attendant’s voice on the PA system informing us that the Chicago radar system was down, indicated to me that all is well and this should be a smooth trip. Looking around me I make certain that the plane is free of OPS Eye spies and reach for my CD player and what I call air snacks. Since the first of the 3 legs of this 23 hour journey only represents 2 hours and 30 minutes, I do my bills...yes, that time of the month, I call it poor man’s syndrome (PMS). I get moody, depressed and very irritable.

The next leg brings me to Los Angeles LAX airport, I always wondered why LAX is called LA “X”, I understand LA but “X”? Ped X-ing, X-mas...oh well one of those things us foreigners will never understand. By now 9 hours have passed traveling before setting course for the Land of the Rising Sun. To reach Japan I use Singapore Airlines, my favorite airline in the world. I call the air steward Angels of the sky (I never do my bills on Singapore Airlines). The LAX to Tokyo (only 11 hours away) leg will be used to prepare my presentation. Once at the International airport in Tokyo (called Narita), I will take the limousine bus to my hotel, that will give me 2 hours to sleep before I meet my friend, Sadao Kanagami.

The purpose of this trip to Japan was to attend the Japanese Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society (JOPS) annual meeting (it is the equivalent to the OPS’s annual meeting) held in Tokyo, Japan. The JOPS celebrated this year its 10th year anniversary. The Society, along with it’s Journal (Japanese Journal of Ophthalmic Photography) was founded by its President, Mr. Sadao Kanagami, FOPS. The one day meeting took place at the Showa University and was attended by 70 delegates from Japan, Korea and the USA. The meeting was followed by a reception held on the top floor of the University reception hall and was followed by the usual nijikai (second party) nearby in a cozy restaurant.

The successful day program was as follows:

- Fluorescein Angiography of the Anterior segment using a new system of photo slit lamp - Mr. Katsuhiro Fukui
- Experience of the new Photo Slit Lamp 900 BQ from Haag-Streit AG - Mr. Sadao Kanagami, FOPS
- Printing methods of fluorescein angiography using litho film and a light-box - Mr. Nobuo Sekido
- The pathology of ophthalmic texture I - Dr. Kazuki Kigasawa
- Ophthalmic Imaging around the world - Ben Szirth, PAV, PhD
- Special Symposium on Electronic Filing Systems - Panel pres.

Congratulations to the Japanese Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society for another great meeting and special thanks go to Mr. Sadao Kanagami for 10 years of hard work in bringing the JOPS to where it stands today.

Ben Szirth

printed on recycled paper
A Kwannon. continued from page 4

A year later, the first Nikon camera was introduced and the break up between Nikon and Canon was eminent. Seiki Kagaku started to manufacture its own lenses (Serenar lenses) and by 1948 was able to cut permanently its ties with Nippon Kagaku.

But why was the name Kwannon changed to Canon? During 1929, four men from the city of Yokohama wanted to disseminate Kwannonism among the people and erected a statue in honor of the Buddhist deity of mercy named Ofuna Kwannon. The contour of the statue was finished in 1934 and many Japanese protested to Seiki Kagaku Company for naming the 35 mm camera after the Buddhist deity of mercy. The following year Uchida and the others studied how they could change the Kwannon name without changing its phonetics. In September 1935 Canon Hanso became the official name and appeared for the first time in the October issue Asahi Camera. Meanwhile with the Sino-Japanese incident and the events of World War II statue of Ofuna Kwannon was left unfinished. It was not until April of 1960 that the statue (at a cost of over 40 million yen) could stand tall on a cliff overlooking the City.

The end of our story takes us to Japan three months later. While on an Asian tour I stopped in Kanagawa prefecture and visited the Nikon plant in Yokohama City. Knowing my interest in Japanese Temples (for Buddhism) and Shrines (for Shintoism) and having 47 minutes to spare, Mr. Saito took me to visit the statue and Temple that often had admired on top of a hill facing the train station. The name of the statue: Ofuna Kwannon. In the background, only minutes away from the Kwannon statue, we can see one of Nikons plants where ophthalmic cameras continue to be born.

Bernard C. Szirth
June 1993

EYESPY

Eyespy East had the opportunity to speak with Chika Kanagami, newest ophthalmic photographer at the Kyorin University School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology in Tokyo where she says "its an OK job, but difficult to kill time". Her time is better spent looking for Mr. Right - could be kind of tough inasmuch as the minimum requirements are that he be rich, never married, handsome, athletic, multilingual and world travelled. Oh sure, how about a few extras for Eyespy while you're at it? Word of advice, Chika - don't give up your day job...

Rhonda Curtis has been busy keeping her head above water these days, and we don't mean with the exhausting demands of producing the Educational Program for Chicago. 47 feet of floodwaters (with a bare 5 feet below the flood walls to spare) is making everyone feel soggy. Rhonda says she's not too worried yet, but if it rains anymore she's going to start pairing off in two's and head for the ark...

Eyespy's not accusing Paul Montague of being a major Jefferson Starship addict or anything, but during the recent Mid-Year meeting in Miami, he kidnapped an entire class to commandeer front row seats for a concert in the park. After playing hooky from class all day, enduring heat stroke, and almost missing the 5:30 deadline for the evening educational program, they reluctantly returned as promised. Too bad the Starship didn't appear until 7:00. Boy, these comprehensive courses are tough!

I guess it was too dry in Madison (humidity factor 90+) for Pat Saine and his family, so they loaded up the family wagon and headed for Washington DC to frolic in its heat wave. The Saine kids, Beth and Julie, wanted to see where the president spends his time. Happy Meals for everyone? Meanwhile, Pat's in the Hall of Presidents, furiously taking down notes...

What are the two hottest spots in Philadelphia? According to OPS members... China Royale (on Walnut near 7th) serves some mighty fine oriental cuisine. Besides being a regular spot for the BOC when they're in town (we want to know why the management always puts them in the corner of the basement), it was the site of the first meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter of the OPS. Jamie Nichols (Chapter President), Tim Bennet (Chapter Vice-President), and Anne Carpenter (Chapter Secretary and Treasurer) presided over the dinner meeting which included OPS members Terry Tomer, Bill Nyberg, Tim Steffins (accompanied by his fiancée, Anne Delia), and Pat Saine.

For Philly night spots, the OPS favors Zanzibar Blue on 11th. Jamie Nichol celebrated Denise Cunningham’s successful completion of her COPRA examination there recently. And our roving reporter caught Bill Nyberg, Jamie Nichol, and Pat Saine taking turns at the microphone belting out, "Bye Bye Blackbird" with vocalist Juanita Holiday.

Haven't you always wanted to become involved in the OPS?

The OPS is looking for energetic, motivated members who wish to become more involved in the OPS as Committee Chairs. Please contact Pat Saine, President (608) 836-9706, if you are interested.
Digital Imaging and Certification

With the recent rise in popularity of digital imaging for retinal angiography, some OPS members have begun to question if and when this technology will become part of the CRA program. Some people predict that eventually, digital imaging will completely replace the use of film for fluorescein angiography. Of course none of us has a crystal ball; and with health care costs in the national spotlight, sales of digital imaging systems may slow down. This makes it difficult to predict when digital angiography will become a widespread standard in ophthalmic imaging.

"So when will digital imaging be included on the CRA exam? And why can't I use digital hard copy in my CRA portfolio?" These are typical of questions being posed to the Board of Certification. They are good questions. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers.

The BOC is looking at this complex situation carefully. Before we can include digital angiography on the CRA examination, we must first determine the extent to which the "average" angiographer is involved with digital imaging. Any change in examination content is driven by something called a job task analysis. It is the responsibility of the BOC to periodically review the "Professional Qualifications" of a CRA. A job task analysis is vital in establishing the validity of a certification program in accordance with NOCA guidelines. NOCA is the National Organization for Competency Assurance, of which we are a member. A job task analysis is meant to assure that a certification program keeps up with changing technology or standards within the profession - such as digital imaging. If digital imaging was included now, it would have to be weighted in proportion to its involvement in retinal angiography. Without a job task analysis it could only pass a very small portion of the exam.

It is important that adequate education be in place before a new subject is introduced to the CRA exam. Appropriate education in digital imaging must be available to all photographers. This is necessary to assure that qualified applicants are not disadvantaged simply because they lack access to a digital system. For example, many angiographers don't have a darkroom in their workplace, yet are still able to achieve certification. The access to education in darkroom techniques through local adult education classes, community colleges, art school, ophthalmic photography courses, etc. enables them to complete this requirement for certification.

The most common question from CRA applicants about digital imaging concerns the portfolio requirements. The CRA portfolio committee does not accept digital hard copy of fluorescein angiograms in place of the traditional photographic prints. While digital prints may demonstrate an applicant's ability to shoot quality angiograms, they do not demonstrate their darkroom skills. Darkroom skills are still an essential part of the professional qualifications of a CRA. Together with the darkroom portion of the practical examination, the portfolio prints demonstrate an applicant's ability to produce quality angiographic prints. A quick look at the Professional Opportunities in a few issues of this newsletter would confirm that darkroom skills are desired by many employers.

These are exciting and changing times in ophthalmic imaging. It is important that the Board of Certification keep pace with any changes in the standards of our profession. Time will define digital imaging technology's place in ophthalmic photography. As this occurs, it will also define how this technology should be integrated into the CRA program. For the time being, those of us already involved in digital imaging can consider ourselves fortunate. We have some valuable skills over and above what is currently required to become a Certified Retinal Angiographer.

If you have any comments or concerns about this or any other certification issue please contact a member of the Board of Certification.

Timothy J. Bennett, C.O.P.R.A.
Board of Certification.
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- Alain Rousseau - Chairman
- Pierre Turcott, MD - Program Chairman
- Tuition to be established.
- Call for papers: mailed in September.
- Deadline for papers: January 15, 1994
- For more information contact:
  Alain Rousseau, CM, MD, FRCS
  Dept. of Ophthalmology, CHUL
  2705 boul. Laurier, SAINTE-FOY
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New Addresses

Lawrence M. Merin RBP, AIMI
Instructor in Ophthalmology
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 West Markham, Mail Slot 523
Little Rock, AR 72205
Phone: (501) 686-5822
FAX: (501) 686-7037

Bernard C. Szirth
General Chairman, ICOP '94
P.O. Box 909
Methuen, MA 01844
Tel/FAX (508) 975-5509

OPHTHALMIC PHOTOGRAPHERS' SOCIETY

Colleen Eardley Mulder
Grand Rapids Ophthalmology
750 East Beltline, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

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