

THE ROOTS OF INTERNATIONAL DERMATOLOGY: A historical tabulation
*compiled under the auspices of the European Society for the History of Dermatology
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A number of extensive treatises on the history of our discipline are available in various languages: English, French, German, Spanish, to name but a few. The interested reader may turn to the end of this text for specific references and also for the websites of the American History of Dermatology Society (HDS), the French History of Dermatology Society (SFHD) which includes some reference to the European Society, and to the Austrian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ÖDGV). We did not intend to present here a concise text just because enough is on the market. We wanted to create something new which is not available to the reader and gives information at a glance.

The following tabulations of important personalities, books, chairs, journals, societies, congresses and (dermato)pathologists constitutes a personal selection based on the expertise of the above authors. Originally intended to be included in chapter one (history) of the forthcoming 6th edition of Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine, shortage of space precluded its detailed inclusion and limited access only via websites. The presentation of the "Millennium Book on European Dermatology" presents therefore a welcome opportunity to have these tables printed. An extraordinary amount of work went into it notwithstanding some differences in personal interpretation or even errors which may have crept in and for which the authors apologize.

Various aspects have to be considered if roots are to be dug out. Most importantly, definitions and terms to be considered play a role. Let us give a few examples. (i) relating to personalities of authors. Treatises on skin diseases do exist from the *cinquecento* when there was no dermatology in our sense at all. In the enlightenment period, preferential dealing with skin started and authors such as J Astruc, C-a Lorry, J Plenck should be called proto-dermatologists. Only after R Willan; V Chiarugi, and JL Alibert we may speak of "dermatologists", the name of the specialty still not recognized officially. (ii) Books: The oldest texts constitute parts of other, more extensive texts, i.e. they do not appear as separate volumes. Moreover, "book" in the sense of old, means rather "chapter" in our days. (iii) Chairs: what is a chair: an appointed person teaching in a university or a systematized institution. In the present sense, and following Italian historians, we consider Vincenzo Chiarugi, appointed as honorary (i.e. non-salaried) lecturer exactly 200 years ago on 10 August 1802, as first to hold a chair for skin diseases (and finally, in 1815) becoming professor. The first to run a school in dermatology was JL Alibert, entrusted with the directorship in Saint-Louis on 27 November 2001, effective one week later 4 December 2001. The first to be appointed professor for skin diseases and at the same time made head of a university department of dermatology was Ferdinand Hebra 18 December 1849, for syphilis, Carl Ludwig Sigmund on 4 March 1849 also in Vienna. in Vienna. (iv) Journals: in the first years, journals were just a forum for reference of articles and books printed elsewhere of which a review was printed. Only over the decades it became customary, later mandatory, to write so called "original" articles. Peer review is of course a much later achievement not to speak of ranking of journals. (v) Societies: urban societies were first, e.g. the New York Dermatological Society is older than any other national society; the Berlin Dermatological Society is older than any other German society. Further, some societies were exclusive and carried, e.g. an anti-Semitic bias (exclusion of Jews), others, for instance the Austrian were criticized to have only Jews and Christian-Socialist members etc. (vi) Congresses: since 1889 and the first international congress in Paris, such meetings were held regularly with long periods of interruption due to war times. At this point of time there is an overabundance of meetings, and still growing. By now, also the EADV is staging one regular and one "spring" meeting. So we have international congresses, SID/JSID/ESDR meetings, 2 + 2 Academy Meetings (European and American), national meetings, regional meetings, and so forth. Too many, no doubt. (vii) Dermatopathologists: Interestingly, the term is semantically old and was coined by the Englishman H S Jackson in 1792, a far cry however from what we understand today under this semantic term. Also interestingly, Albert Reder-Schellmann (1825-1904), later professor and chairman

of a department of dermatology at the then Military Medical Academy in Vienna (today the Institute for the History of Medicine at Vienna University) was the first to be appointed “docent” for dermatopathology, in 1859, at Hebra’s department, earlier even then the term “dermatology” was used for this purpose in Vienna or elsewhere. Up to then the words “skin diseases”, *malattie della pelle*, *Hautkrankheiten*, *maladies de la peau*, were employed. Dermatopathology was and is a part of pathology. Only due to the facility of making biopsies (the word created by Ernest Besnier in Paris in 1879) and by the visibility of skin symptoms, dermatologists became the one and only specialists to read their own pathology slides with the microscope. *This is an indispensable achievement and we must fight to uphold it as essential part of our specialty.*

All of the above facets must be considered when a historical perspective is applied, plus innumerable differences in academic ranking, administrative regulations, government policies and division into specialties. For instance, dermatology and venereology are considered one specialty in many but not in all countries. The same holds for gynaecology and obstetrics, or held for psychiatry and neurology. Two hundred years ago, Chiarugi was appointed for skin and mental diseases, i.e. the “combination” differed from what it is today and the fragmentation of the whole of medicine is going on, favoured by some, fought by others. All this makes a listing very difficult and we ask the reader to keep in mind these facets when browsing through the material below. Especially it holds for the point to start off and the point to end, time wise, our tabulations. Finally it may be stressed, that dermatology is rooted in Europe, but North America followed suit with a time lag which became reversed in the second half of the 20th century. We were in front in the earlier periods and now we are rather behind. Enough stamina to catch up.

Table I
HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT “DERMATO-VENEROLOGISTS”

(born before mid-19th century)

name & life dates	time & title of treatise	achievements
Daniel Turner 1667-1740	a treatise of diseases incident to the skin London 1714	first case reports of skin diseases
Jean Astruc 1684-1766	de morbis venereis Paris 1736	first textbook of venereal diseases
Charles-Annaeus Lorry 1726-1783	tractatus de morbis cutaneis Paris 1777	first called skin an organ
Joseph Plenck 1735-1807	doctrina de morbis cutaneis Vienna 1776	first to conceive the idea of listing diseases by primary lesions
Robert Willan 1757-1812	description and treatment of cutaneous diseases, London 1798	London 1798 first fascicle of first text-book; illustrated c. copper plates
Vincenzio Charugi 1759-1820	saggio teorico-pratico sulle malattie cutanee.. Florence 1799	first who carried an academic appointment in 1802
Jean-Louis Alibert 1768-1837	description des maladies de la peau ... Paris 1806	atlas; head of the first school in dermatology
Laurent-Théodore Bielt 1781-1840	see Cazenave	published by his pupils Cazenave and Schedel
Pierre Rayer 1793-1867	traité théorique et pratique des maladies e la peau, Paris 1826	first attempt to relate skin diseases to certain states of pathology
Pierre-Louis-Alphée Cazenave 1795-1877	abrégé pratique des maladies de la peau Paris 1828 (with HE Schedel)	teachings of their master LT Bielt
Henry Dagget Bulkley 1804-1872	New York 1837	first teaching in USA 1837
Erasmus Wilson 1809-1884	atlas and textbook London 1842 (book), 1855 (atlas)	first great dermatologist in Britain after Willan
Noah Worcester 1812-1847	diseases of the skin Philadelphia, Boston & Cincinnati 1845	first textbook in USA died age 36
Ferdinand Hebra 1816-1880	system and textbook of skin diseases Vienna 1845, 1860	system of skin diseases based on pathology
James Clark White 1833-1916	Boston 1871	first chair in USA
Moriz Kaposi 1837-1902	many de novo descriptions, textbook and atlas Vienna 1881, 1891	2 nd French edition of 1891, first syncretic text of French & German schools
Radcliffe Crocker 1845-1909	Textbook London 1888	most outstanding of the “big five” in Britain
Louis Adolphus Duhring 1845-1913	textbook and atlas Philadelphia 1876, 1877	first great American dermatologist with international fame

Table II

FIRST DERMATOLOGICAL BOOKS

authors	language	place of issue
Girolamo Mercuriale 1530-1606	Latin	Venice 1572
Samuel Hafenreffer 1587-1660	Latin	Tübingen 1630
Daniel Turner 1667-1740	English	London 1714
Jean Astruc 1684-1766	Latin	Paris 1734
Joseph Plenck 1735-1807	Latin	Vienna 1776
Charles-Annaeus Lorry 1726-1783	Latin	Paris 1777
Robert Willan 1757-1812	English	London 1798
Vincenzio Chiarugi 1759-1820	Italian	Florence 1799
Jean Louis Alibert 1768-1837	French	Paris 1806
Pierre-François-Olive Rayer 1793-1867	French	Paris 1826

Table III

FIRST CHAIRS*) IN “DERMATO-VENEROLOGY”

Chairholder	location of chair	appointment for
Vincenzo Chiarugi 1802/1815	Florence (University of Pisa)	Skin diseases
(Jean-Louis Alibert 1821)	(Paris)	(Botanics)
Carl Ludwig Sigmund 1849	Vienna	Syphilis
Ferdinand Hebra 1849	Vienna	Skin diseases
Joseph Lindwurm 1860	Munich	Dermatology
Albert Reder-Schellmann 1865	Vienna (Military Medical School)	Dermatology

*) „chair“ means that the person entrusted with teaching had academic rank (docent, professor)

Table IV

FIRST DERMATO-VENEROLOGICAL JOURNALS*

title of journal	place and time	character of journal
Syphilidologie Archiv für Syphilis & Hautkrankheiten Syphilidologie	Leipzig 1839-45, thereafter Berlin after 1846 Erlangen 1858-1860 (in German)	review of other authors' articles prevail
Annales des maladies de la peau	Paris 1844 –1851/52 (in French)	pemphigus foliaceus and lupus ery- thematosus published in its pages
J of Cutaneous Medicine	London 1867-1870	first in the English language
American J of Syphilography and Dermatology	New York 1870-1874	first American journal
Giornale Italiano delle malattie veneree e malattie della pelle (today skin diseases range before venereal)	1866 – today (in Italian)	oldest journal still published
Annales de dermatologie et de syphili- graphie	1869 (Nov. 1868) – today (in French)	title unchanged since inception
Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis; today: Archives of Derm Research	1869 –today (originally in German, today in English)	for some years in the 1870ies it was called “Vierteljahresschrift”=Quarterly
J of cutaneous and venereal diseases (various titles) 1919: Archives of Derm.	1870 – today	oldest remaining journal from across the Atlantic
British Journal of Dermatology	1888 – today	venerology is a separate field in the UK

*) see Parish LC: Arch Dermatol 1967; 96:77-88

Table V

FIRST DERMATO-VENEROLOGICAL SOCIETIES

name	year of foundation *)	type of society
New York Dermatological Society	1869	urban (metropolitan) society oldest of any type
American Dermatological Association	1876	oldest national society
Russian Society of Syphilology and Dermatology	1885 9 August St. Petersburg	oldest European society
Società Italiana di Dermatologia e Sifilografia	1885 18 September Perugia	second-oldest European society
Deutsche Dermatologische Gesellschaft	1888	incorporated in Prague, then Austro-Hungarian Empire-
Société Française de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie	1889	on occasion of the upcoming First World Congress 1889
Österreichische (Wiener) Dermatologische Gesellschaft	1890	name-change when the "national" (German) society became Nazi 1933
Dutch Dermatological Society	1896	Chanfleury van Ysselstein, Mendes da Costa among the first great figures
Danish Dermatological Society	1899	founder Alexander Haslund
Japanese Dermatological Association	1901	preparatory meeting in December 1900, founder: Keizo Dohi
Société Belge de Dermatologie et Syphiligraphie	1901	founder: Dubois-Havenith

*) interpretation of foundation dates is tricky: some societies count preparatory meetings as such, others only the official date of incorporation by the authorities. Moreover, national laws in some countries require previous official registration before any meeting can be held.

Table VI

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

venue	year	president
Paris	1889	Alfred Hardy
Vienna	1892	Moriz Kaposi
London	1896	Jonathan Hutchinson
Paris	1900	Ernest Besnier
Berlin	1904	Edmund Lesser
New York	1907	James C White
Rome	1912	Tommaso de' Amicis
Copenhagen	1930	C Rasch
Budapest	1935	Lajos Nékám
London	1952	Sir Archibald Gray

*) after London 1952, international congresses were held at regular five-year intervals in Stockholm, WashingtonDC, Munich, Padua-Venice, Mexico City, Tokyo, Berlin, New York City, Sidney, Paris. The next will take place in 2007 in Buenos Aires and thereafter the intervals will be only FOUR years.

Table VII

EARLY DERMATOPATHOLOGISTS

name & life dates	time of print	achievements
Henry Seguin Jackson 1750?-1816	1792	coined the term <i>dermato-pathologia</i>
Gilbert Breschet 1784-1845	1835	demanded tissue investigations
Julius Rosenbaum 1807-1874	1839	compiled <i>first</i> dermatopath. textbook
Carl Wedl 1815-1891	*	devoted to <i>microscopic</i> pathology
Gustav Simon 1810-1857	1848	<i>second</i> textbook
Salomon Stricker 1834-1898	*	first experimental pathologist professor
Heinrich Auspitz 1835-1886	1880	coined " <i>acantholysis, acanthosis</i> "
Paul Gerson Unna 1850-1929	1894	first comprehensive textbook
Ernest Besnier 1831-1909	1885	coined the term „ <i>biospié</i> "
Jean Darier 1856-1938	*	great clinician and pathologist
Achille Civatte 1877-1956	re-discoverer of acantholysis	great clinician and pathologist

* complex achievements, pioneers in dermatopathology

The following references are recommended for general information on the history of dermatology

- Crissey JT, Parish LC: The dermatology and syphilology of the nineteenth century. Preaeger, New York 1981.
 Crissey JT, Parish LC, Holubar K: An Historical Atlas of Dermatology and Dermatologists. Parthenon, Park Ridge NJ, out late in 2001.
 Beerman H, Lazarus GS: The tradition of excellence. Philadelphia, Beerman & Lazarus, 1986.
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 Scholz A: Geschichte der Dermatologie in Deutschland. Springer, Berlin-Heidelberg, 1999. (in German)
 Sierra Valentí X: Cien años de dermatologia 1900-2000. Biblioteca Aula Medica, Madrid, 2001. (in Spanish)
 Holubar K, Wallach D: Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in general medicine (DIGM) mcGRAW hill, New York, 5th edition 1997, chapter 2, 5-7.

Furthermore the websites of

the (American) History of Dermatology Society (HDS) <http://www.dermato.med.br/hds>
 the Société Française d'Histoire de la Dermatologie (SFHD) <http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/sfhd/>
 and of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Dermatologie und Venerologie www.oegdv.at
 are recommended to be looked into.

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