

A History of Plastic Surgery

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With 407 Figures

 Springer

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of Plastic Surgeons.

They are holding *Anatomiae Universae* by Mascagni published in Pisa in 1823, one of only three existing copies. *Courtesy of C. de L. Flaminio Farnesi, Pisa*

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of Gustavo Sanvenero-Rosselli (1897–1974) the first Italian plastic surgeon of the modern age, pioneer of European Plastic Surgery and passionate bibliophile.

Gustavo Sanvenero-Rosselli was born in Savona in 1897. After training in ear, nose and throat surgery he went to Paris in 1927 to work with Lemaitre and Ferris Smith, who had a special interest in facial clefts. When



the unit known as the “Padiglione dei Mutilati del Viso” opened in Milan he was appointed as its first director in 1929. This was the first hospital devoted solely to plastic surgery in Italy and became a National referral centre. It was visited by many foreign surgeons including Johannes Esser who, with Sanvenero, planned to open an International Centre for Injuries of the Face in Florence. The start of World War II put an end to their plan.

Sanvenero was a Member of the Editorial board of *La Revue de Chirurgie Plastique* in Belgium from 1931. This subsequently became *Revue de Chirurgie Structrice*. In 1939 he founded the Italian *Plastica Chirurgica* which disappeared during the war. He was one of the founding members of the Italian Society of Plastic Surgery in 1934 and of the International Confederation of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (IPRAS) in Sweden in 1955. He organized a large number of congresses including the Third Congress of the European Society in 1938 in Milan. In 1966 he was the President of the Fourth International Congress of the IPRAS in Rome. His contributions to plastic surgery were many, particularly in the field of facial clefts, and he wrote many articles and two books.

He started collecting rare books in the 1930s when there were many on the market and little demand. His library competes with that of his friend Jerome P. Webster at Columbia University in New York. When he brought his first Tagliacozzi he did not dare tell his family since the price was that of an apartment in Milan!

He died in 1974 aged 77. His memory is preserved by the Foundation established by his nephew Riccardo Mazzola. It houses an extended library and organizes seminars and live surgical courses.

Foreword

Dear Readers,

You have in your hands a work that should become a milestone of our understanding of medical history. In this Professor Paolo Santoni-Rugiu and Mr Philip Sykes trace the development of plastic surgery and much of medicine in general, over three millennia. With his extensive knowledge of clinical plastic surgery, no one could be better placed than the senior author to gather this valuable material from historical documents. As well as using the great historical libraries of Italy, the authors were able to refer to the many books in the Sanvenero-Rosselli Foundation in Milan. This library contains a unique collection of ancient and rare surgical texts and original manuscripts which were acquired over many years by the late Professor Sanvenero-Rosselli. His nephew, Professor Riccardo Mazzola has added to the collection and is now its curator.

They have also gathered material from The Gillies' Archive at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, UK where Major Gillies, later to become Sir Harold, and his team treated the wounded from World War I and performed over 15,000 reconstructive operations on badly injured servicemen. The libraries of the British Association of Plastic Surgery and of the Royal College of Surgeons in London have also kindly opened their doors to the authors.

The book is cleverly organised in three groups of chapters: The Basis of Plastic Surgery (Chapters 1–6), Reconstructive Surgery of Various Organs (Chapters 7–11) and

Cosmetic Surgery (Chapters 12–15). The first section deals with anatomy and the healing of wounds, discusses old and new plastic surgical procedures, and outlines the history of anaesthesia. The second covers the methods used from ancient times to reconstruct various areas of the body and is the most extensive. The last section discusses the history of cosmetic surgery and the origin of present day procedures.

The pages ring with the names of giants of the medical sciences such as Hippocrates, Leonardo da Vinci, William Harvey and Iginio Tansini, to say nothing of plastic surgeons from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

We plastic surgeons can be justifiably proud of our heritage. The book reveals the breadth of our speciality, covering as it does conditions of the whole body and many basic areas such as wound healing and surgical techniques as well as the ever popular topic of cosmetic surgery. New procedures are being introduced all the time, yet, incredible though it may seem, there are some that have been in use for thousands of years. This book deserves a place in every plastic surgeon's library as it teaches that all medical skill is based on the intuition, dedication and hard work of previous generations. It will enlighten and inform every reader.

Sirpa Asko-Seljavaara, MD

Former Professor of Plastic Surgery
at Helsinki University
Member of the Finnish Parliament

Preface

Why write a book about the history of plastic surgery? The publishers asked the same question and it is difficult to give a simple answer. Mountain climbers accept that the challenge is sufficient to make the effort worthwhile. There is personal satisfaction while travelling and euphoria at the end. This book has been such a journey.

There are several excellent short accounts of the history of plastic surgery in general and specific areas of the speciality in particular but the fact that a book had not appeared recently was an incentive.

In truth these were not the main reasons why the senior author embarked on this task during his early retirement. There was no one point when the decision to write a book was taken. The idea developed gradually while preparing papers on historical topics using the resources in the Sanvenero-Rosselli foundation in Milan, sometimes in cooperation with its curator Dr Riccardo Mazzola. The Italian influence on nasal reconstruction is exceptional and this is where the historical interest began.

Reading old and sometimes obscure works frequently served to confirm that very little is new and opportunities have been missed in the past. The old literature was fascinating and so the exploration continued.

A study of early anatomy followed and then moved to cleft lip and palate. One topic led to another and gradually the beginnings of a book emerged. Some knowledge of the important basic works made progress easier. This is possibly why the book is not written chronologically as one might expect. It begins with the basics, proceeds to the reconstruction surgery of different areas and ends with the origins of cosmetic surgery.

A similar approach was chosen to Antony Wallace in his excellent book published in 1984 and it seemed a good idea to follow his lead. The giants of the early days made advances in many fields so inevitably their names recur in several chapters. This does at least serve to emphasize their importance.

The book does not aim to be a work of any great scholarship but more a personal interpretation of the different events which contributed to the birth of the speciality. The numerous illustrations please the publishers, perhaps because they encourage sales. We feel that they and the footnotes will add some interest but they are not intended to make this a coffee table text.

Our speciality has become increasingly sophisticated in recent times. This answered the problem about where to stop. One could fill a whole book with the developments of the last 25 years alone and this has been resisted. For better or for worse we have drawn the line around the advent of microsurgery although unavoidably some mention is made about the beginnings of this new era. Where the origins of plastic surgery lie is a matter of opinion and we have purposely chosen a title commencing with the indefinite article together with a suitably vague historical time span!

We have not attempted to be comprehensive and have omitted some specialized clinical areas which plastic surgeons share with other disciplines. Burns, maxillo-facial and cranio-facial surgery together with hand surgery have been left out even though they developed from the same basic origins.

Because of their historical importance some priority has been given to topics which are now rarities. Nasal reconstruction, for example, has been allocated a whole chapter because of its contribution to the development of plastic surgery principles. This and other ideas, largely dating from the Renaissance, receive a good deal of attention and we hope that different nationalities will not feel left out. There have been many significant contributions from the rest of Europe, Asia and the Americas. We trust we have done them justice.

As amateur historians our reference list will not bear close scrutiny by an experienced academic especially where very old books are concerned. This deficiency will be obvious to those who are familiar with the scholarly

works of authors like Tom Patterson. His translations of the Zeis Index and his own work on the literature from 1864 to 1920 are masterly and have been very valuable to us. This is also true of the historical works of Frank McDowell.

We have tried to be accurate and take full responsibility for the inevitable errors which have crept in. Citing very rare old books is hazardous for all but the expert. Different editions frequently exist as do pirated copies. Some authors published different books on similar topics within a short period. We have attempted to choose the most appropriate work but where books and papers by the same author have equal merit we have attempted to include them all.

The senior author started this book in English about ten years ago and despite revisions of the text by the co-author the result did not make easy reading. The book was re-written in Italian and then translated by experts. It is interesting to note that each chapter became shorter, sometimes by as many as five pages. We hope it is also easier to digest.

The authors' friendship extends back 30 years to microsurgical training in Melbourne. It has continued pro-

fessionally and socially over the years in Italy and the UK. When serious illness overtook the senior author his recovery and convalescence allowed time for both of us to enjoy each other's company and to work on the book. This was no hardship and our friends and family were very tolerant of the hours we spent working together.

Another reason helped us decide to continue with the project. In the last decade traditional plastic surgery has changed. Many operations that were exclusively performed by a plastic surgeon are now carried out by other specialists who have learnt the techniques. Plastic surgeons have also combined with other disciplines to provide a comprehensive service in specialized clinical areas. There are now *super specialists* in all the areas that once combined to form plastic surgery. Like general surgery, plastic surgery as we knew it, no longer exists. This progress is inevitable and necessary. By recalling the past we hope this book will provide present and future plastic surgeons some knowledge of the origins of our speciality.

Paolo Santoni-Rugiu and Philip Sykes

Keswick, Cumbria

October 2006

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We wish to acknowledge the help and encouragement we have received from many people. Above all this book would not have been possible without access to the Library of the Sanvenero-Rosselli Foundation in Milan and we are indebted to Riccardo Mazzola for his permission and assistance in using all the facilities in that institution. His help was invaluable and the constructive criticism he offered from the onset kept us on the right path. The secretary of the foundation, Danila Beatrice, provided unstinting help during our visits to Milan and but for her assistance we would have been lost amongst the bookshelves.

Sirpa Asko-Seljavaara has written the foreword and given sound advice and encouragement. We thank her sincerely.

Brian Morgan shared his knowledge and made available material from the Antony Wallace Archive of the British Association of Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgeons. Andrew Bamji, Curator of the Gillies Archive at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, supplied illustrations and a wealth of entertaining information about the origins of plastic surgery during the First World War.

Lisa Chang and Shona Dryburgh did an expert job translating the text from the Italian. Colette Derrick helped assemble and type the reference list.

We are also indebted to our colleagues Ron Pigott, Grazia Salimbeni, Hamish Laing, Alessandro Massei and Daniele Gandini who have all been helpful in different ways. Ravin Thatte of Mumbai helped interpret various Sanskrit texts and Raju Usgaocar of Goa searched them out for us. We thank them sincerely.

For technical support we are particularly grateful to Leopoldo Nicotra, who miraculously extracted high definition illustrations from old slides and photographs. Others who gave their help are Roberto Zuchelli, David Mart, Pablo Patanè, Rosanna Prato, Michael Connick, Maggie Climie and the photographic department at Morrison Hospital, Swansea. Gabriele Schröder and Ellen Blasig at the publishers have always been ready to give advice when problems arose.

Finally, several institutions have provided information or allowed us to use material from their collections and we are particularly grateful to the University of Padua, the Museum of Piacenza, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Worshipful Company of Barber Surgeons in London.

Last but not least we express our gratitude to our families. The project has taken several years, involved many trips abroad and taken hours incarcerated at the computer keyboard. They have always given uncomplaining support.

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