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Dr. Henry R. (Harry) Lew is a recently retired Ophthalmic surgeon with more than 40 years' experience. He was trained at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital (1975-1977), where Professor Gerard Crock was his principal mentor; was Senior Registrar in Ophthalmology at Leeds General Infirmary UK (1978-1979) where he did Retinal and Paediatric Fellowships; took over from Professor Crock as Visiting Senior Surgeon, Repatriation General Hospital (or Veterans' Hospital), Heidelberg (late 1979-2007), and was also a Visiting Surgeon at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (1980-1984).

The Repatriation Hospital offered Dr. Lew a unique experience at that time because all veterans had to go there for free treatment, which made the hospital the second largest and perhaps the last bastion in Melbourne for the highly skilled general ophthalmologist. Specialist hospitals at that time were already encouraging super-specialisation within the profession. Whilst at the Repat. Dr. Lew performed his own cataract, corneal, vitreo-retinal and oculoplastic and lacrimal surgery to a highly innovative standard. However his disadvantage was that colleagues at specialist hospitals never took Repat. doctors seriously.

Dr. Lew was one of the first surgeons in Melbourne to implant posterior chamber intraocular lenses, modifying the Crock vitrectomy machine into an infusion/aspiration cataract machine, which made the necessary eventual transition to phacoemulsification surgery nearly a decade later effortless.

Dr. Lew was also the first person in Victoria to do manual small incision cataract surgery circa 1989, advocating for its use in third world surgery. The Hollows Foundation, as a curiosity, was not interested in it at that time, but now it has become the most widely performed procedure in the third world.

Dr. Lew presented the first and nowadays probably still the last case of an ocular tumour cured by immunotherapy in Australia, at the RANZCO Annual General Conference of 1984. This case was published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Ophthalmology in 1985, together with two other interesting oculoplastic procedures, the second of which was presented anew at the Oxford

Congress in 2016, by Dr. Naresh Joshi, one of the United Kingdom's best known oculo-plastic surgeons, who described it as a 'well-kept secret'.

But it is in the area of the management of glaucoma, where Dr. Lew feels he has made his greatest contributions.

His drainage procedure of a combined trabeculectomy/cyclodialysis, which utilised the suprachoroidal space, yielded excellent results, but he found it hard to convince local colleagues to do it. There is more interest now, he believes, because Xalatan, the greatest pressure lowering drug ever on its introduction circa 1995, utilises the suprachoroidal space, and Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery, or MIGS, the current craze in glaucoma surgery, lowers pressure best, when the stent is placed into the suprachoroidal space. Dr. Lew's procedure was finally written up in the Journal of Glaucoma in January 2015 with an up to 25 year follow up; in the European Ophthalmology Times in May 2015; and was interestingly listed by the internet site MDX Linx Ophthalmology as the first mentioned of twenty chosen best papers from 64 ophthalmic journals worldwide for January 2015. Prior to its acceptance by the Journal of Glaucoma the editorial staff expressed concerns that the results were too good and that Dr. Lew hadn't explained when he did this procedure and when he did what everybody else does. He had to explain that he started doing this procedure under fascinating circumstances in 1979, with the following modifications - Healon retained in the anterior chamber of the eye after circa 1985 - 5FU after 1989 - and two continuous conjunctival sutures rather than one from 1992 onwards; that he never did anything else; and furthermore he was required to supply additional extremely detailed statistics, in order to get the paper finally accepted.

Dr. Lew was also an advocate for laser iridotomy in the lateral and inferior quadrants of the iris, where the iris is thinnest with most crypts, hence requiring least laser energy, from circa 1987 onwards, but there were no takers until the rest of the world finally came aboard circa 2011. The argument till then was that this iridotomy placement would cause more double vision from an exposed second pupil. This is actually incorrect; recent studies have proved that it actually causes much less diplopia because light which would normally do that is cut off by the nose and brow.

Dr Lew regards his greatest surgical achievement to be that of a fascinating juvenile uveitic glaucoma case where unique surgery produced an amazing result for a young woman being operated on each eye for the third time. This was a Scheie's procedure with Healon retained and augmented with 5FU, which Dr. Lew believes no-one else in the world has ever had, and which has controlled the patient's pressure off drops for 19 years, after having had two previous procedures, which still required continuous, multiple eye drops treatment during

**the 15 years prior to that. This case will hopefully be published in an international peer review journal shortly. It has been presented at both ANZGIG and Victorian Alumni meetings in recent years. Dr Lew wonders whether such corneal sparing surgery could one day be an alternative to last resort tube surgery.**

**Dr. Lew presented a paper at ANZGIG, circa 1998-9, describing recovery of a patient's visual field following profound pressure lowering surgery by combined trabeculectomy/cyclodialysis only to be ridiculed for not having serviced his field machine often enough; but presented it again in Istanbul in 2001 to a much better reception, when a South American Professor of glaucoma defended him against the many sceptics. This type of recovery is now the basis behind much of the cutting edge research that Professor Jonathan Crowston is currently conducting at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.**

## **Major Ophthalmic Presentations and Publications.**

**1** Henry R Lew: 'You too can measure visual acuity' – An introduction to refraction and clinical optics - Australian Family Physician, Vol. 12, No. 3. March 1983.

**2** Henry R Lew & Colin L. Sheppard: 'Variations in Management of Adnexal Tumours' – Presented RANZCO Annual General Conference 1984 – Published Australian and New Zealand Journal of Ophthalmology, June 1985.

### Abstract

Three interesting cases in which unconventional treatment has been very successful are presented. The first was a fibrous histiocytoma of the conjunctiva which recurred twice after apparently complete surgical excision, but which responded to immunotherapy using dinitrochlorobenzene. The second was a squamous cell carcinoma of the lower eyelid treated by total surgical excision of the lid; the wound was allowed to heal by granulation with an excellent cosmetic result. The third was a squamous cell carcinoma of the limbus treated by lamellar excision with the Crock Contact-lens Corneal Cutter; the wound was allowed to granulate, and in so doing, caused negligible astigmatism. The first patient survived ten years with no recurrence finally succumbing to a cardiovascular event; the second patient survived 30 years with no recurrence and the third patient has survived even longer with no recurrence.

The first two cases were presented again at the RANZCO Victorian Branch Scientific Meeting 2017.

**3** Henry R. Lew: 'Movie on Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis' – 18 minutes – Department of Surgery, University of Melbourne, 1990. This was shown at a Queensland Branch Scientific Meeting circa 1990-91.

**4** Henry R Lew: 'Suture Repair of Involitional Entropion' – Published Australian and New Zealand Journal of Ophthalmology, August 1995.

**5** Henry R Lew & David Mullin: 'Surgeon: Leave Healon in chamber for safer trabeculectomy' – Ocular Surgery News, June 2001.

**6** Henry R Lew: Presentation – Recovery of Glaucomatous Visual Field in a Patient Treated with Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis Surgery with Retained Healon and Enhanced with 5FU – XIII Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology June 2001, Istanbul, Turkey.

Abstract

Purpose: To show that profound pressure lowering glaucoma surgery may be associated with an improvement of visual field.

Methods: Eight visual fields are presented. These cover a six year period from September 1990 to December 1996. They are free of the effects of poor patient reliability, media opacity and pupil miosis. Two are pre-operative and six are post-operative. The first four are Central 24-2 Full Threshold and the next four Fastpac. The fields are analysed as two series of four. The last field in the first series is compared to the first field in the second series, which enables some extrapolation in viewing the eight fields as a whole.

Results: The fields show considerable improvement throughout the first series, which satisfy all necessary criteria. The second series allows confirmation that gains made in the first series are sustained.

Conclusions: There are some patients in whom glaucomatous visual field loss can be reversed with profound pressure lowering surgery. Perhaps such surgery should be first line treatment in patients with visual field defects.

**7** Henry R Lew: New ‘Movie on Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis and Case Report of Visual Field recovery following this procedure’ – 37 minutes – Presented with Prof. A.C. Molteno RANZCO Annual Conference 2003.

**8** Henry R Lew: Factory Culture not for Henry Lew – Vic Doc (Magazine of the Australian Medical Association (Victoria) Limited – July 2006.

**9** Simon E Skalicky & Henry R Lew: Surgical Outcomes of Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis for Glaucoma – Original Study with patient results collected over a 25 year period – Journal of Glaucoma – January 2015. This paper was interestingly chosen by internet site MDX Linx Ophthalmology as the first mentioned of twenty chosen best papers from 64 ophthalmic journals worldwide for January 2015.

**10** Henry R Lew: ‘Movie on Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery for an extremely hard nucleus’ – 8 minutes - Presented RANZCO Victorian Branch Scientific Meeting 2015. This procedure was performed and filmed during the 1990s at which time the Ozil had not been perfected and the nucleus was deemed too hard for the then currently available phacoemulsification machines.

**11** Simon E Skalicky & Henry R Lew: Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis for Glaucoma – Ophthalmology Times Europe – May 2015.

**12** Henry R Lew & Simon E Skalicky: ‘Invited Commentary’ titled ‘Surgical Outcomes of Combined Trabeculectomy/Cyclodialysis for Glaucoma’ in response to ‘Letter to the Editor’ titled ‘Trabeculectomy Augmented with Cyclodialysis: A Surgical Option for Refractory Glaucomas’ by Shikha Gupta & Viney Gupta – Journal of Glaucoma – July 2016.

**13** Nathan M Kerr, Henry R Lew & Simon E Skalicky: ‘Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty Reduces Intraocular Pressure Peak in Response to the Water Drinking Test – Journal of Glaucoma – September

2016. This paper had its origins in a Surgical Audit Dr Lew performed in 2010 as part of his Continuing Professional Development requirements. It was also presented at the RANZCO Annual Conference 2015, where it was one of six papers chosen to compete for the Crock-Parr Prize.

**14** Henry R Lew: RANZCO Annual Conference 2016. Course (90 minutes) – Art and Ophthalmology: ‘Imaging the World & the Undisguised Brushstroke Line: A Journey where Visual Processing & Art Mutually Intersect’!

Abstract

The aim of this highly original single author presentation is to revolutionise the manner in which all audience members, (eye professionals included), think about and perceive their own vision. This aim will be illuminated by introducing numerous illustrative examples, which clearly identify and demonstrate how an understanding of the neurophysiological engineering of human vision can be applied to the examination of paintings; and how in so doing, these principles can aid in the identification of “sleepers”, which are “unrecognised paintings by significant artists”, which have escaped the supposedly attentive eyes of renowned, professional experts such as art academics, art dealers and auction house specialists.

A similar half hour presentation had been delivered earlier to the RANZCO Victorian Branch Scientific Meeting 2016.

**In his spare time Dr. Lew has also authored a number of largely non-ophthalmic books: “Horace Brodzky (1987)” – “In Search of Derwent Lees (1996)” – “The Five Walking Sticks (2000)” – “The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful To Tell (2008)”, “Lion Hearts (2012)” and “Smitten by Catherine (2016)”. Another book “Imaging the World” expected to be available in early 2018 is the odd man out. It is based on a course (as mentioned above) which Dr Lew conducted at the RANZCO Annual General Conference in 2016.**

**“Horace Brodzky (1987)” introduced one of Australia’s earliest significant modernist painters back to Australia. Brodzky is of the same vintage as Picasso and Modigliani, painted in a style not remarkably different from the latter, and exhibited with both of them in London in 1914. He numbered amongst his closest friends and associates such artistic luminaries as Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Jacob Epstein, David Bomberg, Mark Gertler, C.R.W. Nevinson, Isaac Rosenberg, Jules Pascin and Walt Kuhn, just to mention the tip of the iceberg. This book was a great success. It was featured on TV on the 7.30 Report, The Dinny O’Hearn Book Program, and Clive Robertson’s News Program; received good reviews in most major newspapers and magazines in all states; and was the catalyst for a touring Commonwealth Government funded exhibition as part of Australia’s Bicentenary Celebrations of 1988.**

**“In Search of Derwent Lees (1996)” introduced another highly significant early Australian modernist artist, a contemporary of Brodzky’s, back to Australia. Lees suffered from Schizophrenia. This book received good reviews in several newspapers throughout Australia; was featured on TV in Postcards and the Bert Newton Show; and was the catalyst for a touring exhibition curated by David Thomas, a former Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, which travelled**

from Adelaide to Melbourne to Sydney to Brisbane in 1997. This exhibition received patronage from such notables as Sir Edward Woodward, Archbishop Ian George, Health Minister Michael Wooldridge, Dame Leonie Kramer and Archbishop Peter Hollingsworth. As a consequence the book raised in excess of \$110,000 for Sane Australia (formerly Schizophrenia Australia), and was used worldwide by the international American drug company, Eli Lilly, to promote "Zyprexa," their new, and subsequently highly successful drug for the treatment of Schizophrenia, following its release in 1998.

**"The Five Walking Sticks (2000),"** the story of Australia's first great investigative journalist, Maurice Brodzky, received great press reviews in several major newspapers throughout Australia. Interestingly, the Age newspaper, despite the book having a chapter outlining its early history, refused to review it for two years. When they finally did so in 2002 it was their pick of the week. Here are some reviews:

**"Completing the reading of your book is like being at the end of a journey and having the book allows one to remember every step of the way. I am going to re-read it. It is a brilliant work, a new way of writing a biography. Similar to a doppelganger; Brodzky as an apparition or shadow or double of yourself; a phantom extension of your will, you the author submerged in his artistic identity. Quite intriguing! Sometimes I did not know who was writing the book, you or he. What a treasure to have in my library."**

Laurel Hessing (New York playwright, author of "The Golden Bear.")

**"Lew's ease as a storyteller has animated Brodzky's life into the foreground of Melbourne's history. A memorable read."**

Christopher Bantick (The Canberra Times)

**"The rich, venal, high high-minded world of Melbourne's zenith brought back to life."**

Professor Peter Pierce (The Bulletin)

**"Meticulously researched and seamlessly integrated. A ripper read."**

Diane Carlyle (The Australian)

**I greatly enjoyed reading "The Five Walking Sticks." Yours was a bold experiment to use the first person. It is largely successful and I can see how it helped you get inside Brodzky's character and motivations, capturing his romantic and idealistic inclinations. In my view you have got closer to the historical truth than most thesis-writers could.**

Michael Cannon. (Australian historian and writer, author of "The Land Boomers.")

In 2012, Michael Smith, a former editor of 'The Age', nominated and inducted Maurice Brodzky into the Victorian Press Club's Inaugural Hall of Fame. He did not know about 'The Five Walking Sticks', but based his nomination on Michael Cannon's book 'The Land Boomers'. After reading 'The Five Walking Sticks'

Michael Smith now says he believes Brodzky was the most important journalist working in Australia during the nineteenth century. Brodzky singlehandedly fought for such issues as the right for women to vote, for equal rights for Australian aboriginals, for Asian immigration and for help for the poor and downtrodden. When you read some of his articles you feel they were written in the 1990s not the 1890s. Michael Smith now thinks that 'The Five Walking Sticks' should be the iconic Melbourne book for tourists to buy when they visit the city. He is trying to interest a publisher in producing a highly illustrated version of the book to fill this need.

**"The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful To Tell (2008)"** by Rafael Rajzner and Henry R. Lew is an English re-write of Rafael Rajzner's Holocaust memoir with some additions. Rajzner's memoir, one of the earliest memoirs written after the war, was originally published in a small Yiddish edition in Melbourne in 1948 and then virtually disappeared into oblivion after Rajzner's death in 1953. When the book re-appeared in English in 2008 it created an immediate sensation. Prior to its printing it was already the subject of a five page article in the 'Weekend Australian Magazine'; it was being serialised for the Radio National program 'First Person' by Christopher Williams, who found the book as powerful as the work of Primo Levi; and it was planned to make it the subject of the now much shown and praised telemovie 'The Sleeping Book' by director Tracey Spring, which was first aired on the ABC TV program "Compass" in October 2008 and again on "The Best of Compass" a year later. After the book was printed it was featured on Radio National's Breakfast program and ABC TV's 7.30 Report for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009. It now carries an endorsement by **Sir Martin Gilbert**, the UK's best known World War II historian, stating **"it deserves to receive the widest possible circulation and publicity"** and is found in the libraries of every major Holocaust museum in the world. In 2012 a Polish translation published by the Emmanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw was launched in Bialystok as part of the seventieth anniversary commemoration ceremonies for the destruction of the ghetto.

**"Lion Hearts (2012)"** is a quasi-sequel to 'The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful To Tell'. It has been lauded by such interesting personalities as Sir Michael Holroyd, Professor Suzanne Rutland, Professor Hugh Taylor, former Justice Ronald Merkel QC, George Golvan QC, well-known businessman and Holocaust survivor Nathan Werdiger and such prominent book reviewers as Christopher Bantick and Steven Carroll. Many readers have contacted the author to say they couldn't put it down. Krzysztof Godlewski who translated 'The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful To Tell' from English into Polish formerly expressed a desire to perhaps do the same for 'Lion Hearts' but nothing has happened as yet. For interest I include some comments by Sir Michael Holroyd, Professor Suzanne Rutland, Dr. Katrina Watson, Christopher Bantick and Nathan Werdiger.

**"Many men and women in the later stages of their lives contemplate writing autobiographies or family memoirs for their children. Not many actually do so and very few take on such thorough research or discover such dramatic stories as Henry R. Lew has done. His Lion Hearts is**

structured like a series of connected chapter-carriages, full of refugees and asylum seekers, and the sounds of exhilaration and sadness, which travels through a history of the twentieth century. Though centred on the author's family, the story embraces us all and deserves a wide readership.”

Sir Michael Holroyd  
(Chairman of the Society of Authors, 1973–83  
President of the English branch of PEN, 1985-88  
President of the Royal Society of Literature from 2003-08).

“Lion Hearts chronicles the survival story of Henry Lew’s father Lonek, who migrated to Melbourne after the war, having escaped from Bialystok to the east with his wife Genia. The book consists of a series of vignettes relating to the key personalities in Lonek’s life – and thus also in Henry’s life – which gradually build up a powerful picture of life in pre-war Poland, of events during the Holocaust and of the historical background which has moulded post-war Melbourne Jewry. The book is an important work, substantially researched, and written with great empathy. It makes for compelling reading, highlighting European antisemitism, the Jewish refugee and survival story, and the resilience of human nature in rebuilding lives after devastating experiences.”

Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM  
(Professor of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,  
University of Sydney.)

“When ophthalmologist Dr. Henry (Harry) Lew’s father Lonek died he found it too painful to write an obituary. “Lion Hearts” is his attempt to rectify that omission but achieves much more: an obituary for a generation of Polish Jews, Holocaust survivors who became the basis of a European community in Melbourne in the late 1940s.”

Dr. Katrina Watson.

“An exceptional book about extraordinary people living in extraordinary times; my only regret on completing it is that I have not met any of them personally.”

Christopher Bantick.

“I want to tell you to keep writing till the day you die and to continue writing about the Holocaust, because nobody quite writes about it the way you do. My wife brought me “Lion Hearts” yesterday. I was already reading three books simultaneously, a chapter at a time; and I thought I could do it for four, so I read the first chapter of “Lion Hearts.” I immediately put the other three books aside and read yours in 24 hours. I want to tell you that as a child survivor of Auschwitz you taught me things about the Holocaust I never knew; for someone who has been in business in Melbourne since 1949, you taught me things about the Melbourne Jewish community I never knew before; and when I read the chapter that describes your visit to Treblinka the tears ran down my cheeks like waterfalls and drenched my shirt.”

Nathan Werdiger.  
(Businessman, Philanthropist and Holocaust survivor)



**“Smitten by Catherine (2016)”** is the first book ever written about the amazingly fascinating life of Catherine Rachel Mendes da Costa (1678-1756), the first ever female Jewish painter in recorded history, the first ever English born Jewish artist, male or female, in recorded history, and only the third ever English born female artist in recorded history after Mary Beale (born 1633) and Susannah-Penelope Rosse (born circa 1650). This is a true story which no fiction writer could ever even begin to hope to imagine. Who would believe that the first female Jewish painter in recorded history was born in the Royal Palace in London and that the Queen of England, Catherine de Braganza, the wife of King Charles II, was her God-mother? Other personalities who appear in the pages of this story include such fascinating names as Michaelangelo, Sofanisba Anguissola, Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Donna Gracia Nasi Mendes, Suleiman the Magnificent, Oliver Cromwell, Sir Robert Walpole, the first British Prime Minister, Sir John Churchill, the first Duke of Malborough, and Voltaire to mention just a few.