

Explanatory remarks by the principal authors (K.H., S.F.F., G.P.)

This book has been prepared within the frame-work of an inter-academy project Iconography in Medicine, of the Austrian and Croatian Academies of Sciences.

A previous volume, entitled *Skin in Water Colours*, by the same principal authors appeared at Blackwells, Berlin-Vienna, 2003.

The following gallery of pictures (drawings, gouaches, prints), is a random, but close to complete selection, taken from the files of the Vienna Institute where the images are kept since they were donated by the (then 1st) Department of Ophthalmology, University of Vienna, mainly in the mid-seventies of the 20th century.

The individual pictures were originally entered into the departmental collections during the 19th century, the oldest dated 1782. Numbers were arbitrary and consist, at times, of letters and numbers. No retrograde identification of the date is possible unless the painters had done so. Most but not all were made by physicians and sent to the department or to Vienna from abroad, for diagnostic and/or therapeutic suggestions or for illustrating the patients' history. Few pictures had letters enclosed, which did not however contain specific information except relations to traumas.

For the above reasons we do not include text fragments from such letters or facsimilia (gothic, at times badly legible or illegible hand written texts, in old flowery German). Some of the pictures have previously been published, e.g., prints of GJ Beer in his late 18th and early 19th century book editions, others, individually, e.g., in the bicentennial volume of the Vienna Institute in 1985. No comparable comprehensive edition, as is this one, has ever been undertaken.

Our intention simply was, to present hand made illustrations from up to 200 years ago and have various medical specialists, ophthalmologists in the first place, give their immediate impressions.

We want to emphasize how the eye, the hand, and the brain of a talented physician can prove dexterity and talent in several fields. GJ Beer is a master example because he was an eminent eye surgeon, clinician, and painter. Much like Carl von Rzehaczek our hero from skin paintings as presented in our last book (*Skin in Water Colours*) who demonstrated his own skill, first, as a painter for Hebra, thereafter as a professor of surgery and head of department at the University of Graz, Austria, and as a sculptor once he had retired from his professorial position.

The sequence of pictures in the book is arbitrary and made so as to provide some of the spectacular paintings to several colleagues equally.

The individual size of the drawings, water colors, gouaches, varied from slightly bigger than natural size of an eye or a pupilla to 35 times 25 cm. Reproduction format was adjusted for practical (and cost) reasons.

Spelling (English/American) and style of English of the individual authors was left unchanged.

Devoted to the Memory of (Dr.) Max Wolf (1892–1990) and his wife Margareta Langer-Wolf (1902–2002), Vienna and New York City.

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