



EDITORIAL

More than Just a Jubilee

It becomes more than an anniversary when an educational institution in Optometry can celebrate, in the same year, a 60th *and* a 75th anniversary. It becomes an historical event in which all those associated with that institution can take pride, from those first visionary founders to all those others who, over the years, have guided that institution to its high level of achievement and respect.

It is a matter of great professional pride and personal joy to congratulate the School of Optometry, University of Montreal, on this double anniversary: the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1910, and the 60th anniversary of its affiliation with the University of Montreal in 1925.

The School became the first Optometry school in the British Commonwealth to become associated with a University. In fact, only two other Optometry schools have a longer term of association with a university — Ohio State (1914) and Berkeley (1922). Indeed, it should also be pointed out that only four other institutions have a longer continuous existence: Illinois College (founded in 1872); Massachusetts, now the New England College of

Optometry (founded in 1894); Los Angeles College (founded in 1904) and the Northampton Polyclinic, now the City University in London, England (founded in 1908).

Although as an affiliated institution, the School had financial and administrative autonomy, without public funding it was not always an easy task to progress as it did. When it became a fully integrated School, it lost its autonomy. But when control passed to the University what little the School might have given up in academic, financial and administrative matters, it gained in status in the academic and optometric worlds.

All optometrists in Canada, whether they be graduates of Montreal or not, owe it to themselves to be aware of all aspects of our optometric heritage. The School of Optometry, University of Montreal, forms a large part of that heritage. Its accompanying history, written by retiring Director Dr. Claude Beaulne, will not only inform many of our readers, but should also fortify our faith and pride in our profession.

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Introducing Dr. Daniel Forthomme, New Director of the School of Optometry, University of Montreal

Born in Belgium, Daniel Forthomme exhibited an early interest in optics. As a youth, he explored photography and its techniques. It was this interest which led him to l'Institut Optique de Bruxelles (Institut d'Optique Raymond Thibault), from which he was graduated in 1960.

It was here that the foundations of his career in Optometry were first established and, for this new exploration, he chose Canada, obtaining his L.Sc.O. from the School of Optometry, University of Montreal in 1963. He has remained with the School ever since, eventually becoming Director of the Laboratory of Physiological Optics and responsible for the School's Contact Lens program. He has continued to apply his photographic skills in biomicroscopic segment photography.

In 1973, he received his M.Sc. and, in 1981, his Ph.D. in Pathology from the University's Faculty of Medicine. Returning full-time to the School of Optometry in 1980, he was appointed Director of

their Contact Lens Program, a role which included responsibility for both theory and clinical work.

Dr. Forthomme was also appointed as a Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry (F.A.A.O.) in 1968 and has served in several senior capacities in l'Ordre des Optométristes du Québec (OOQ) until 1981 when he chose to concentrate his administrative energies in the School programs.

As a representative of the School, Dr. Forthomme has been a frequent participant at meetings of the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) since 1982. He is also continuing his personal research on the effects of the Atrial Natriuretic Factor (ANF) in collaboration with his former thesis advisor, Dr. Marc Cantin, at the Montreal Institute of Clinical Research (Institut de Recherches cliniques de Montréal).

Dr. Forthomme and his wife, Anne-Marie, have two children: Yves, 9 and Eric, 15.