



## Update

John Menzies Campbell's strong transatlantic connections come into sharp focus in this issue. It was when he was a postgraduate student in Toronto that his interest in the history of dentistry was first aroused, as Dr Malvin E. Ring notes in his [personal reminiscence](#) of the man whom he describes as one of the world's greatest dental historians. Dr Ring, the well known author of "Dentistry – an Illustrated History", corresponded steadily with Menzies Campbell between 1968 and 1973, and reproduces some of the letters here. The article illustrates the value of our web site, for Dr Ring originally contacted us after coming across the electronic version of this newsletter. We welcome the addition of an American dimension to our publication. Dr Ring, who edited the *Bulletin of the History of Dentistry* (now *Journal*) for more than 20 years, is Professor Emeritus of Dental History and Literature at the School of Dental Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo. As he mentions in a letter to the editor at the end of this issue, he was also a friend of Ronald A. Cohen's and greatly appreciated the obituary by Professor Khursheed F. Moos in our last issue.

\* \* \*

"Teeth drawn, Transplanted, Cleaned, with perfect safety" – this advertisement by an Edinburgh dentist in the 1790s was not so unusual, at a time when every dentist required a good stock of sound, non-carious human teeth. [In this issue](#) Dr Henry W. Noble looks at the remarkable history of the tooth-recycling.

\* \* \*

Several members of the HDRG have become regular attenders at the excellent and enormously varied series of "[Library Conversations](#)" at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on Wednesday mornings. In recent weeks three members of the Group have also led conversations: Dr Rufus Ross on Doc Holliday, wild West dentist; Dr Henry Noble, on tooth transplantation; and Stuart Taylor on what he termed "bumpology" -- the history of phrenology, including the part played by its most prominent Scottish practitioners.

\* \* \*

Jiggers and baffies, which feature in this issue, are not obscure and alarming dental instruments of a bygone age but were essential parts of the armoury of a golfer in the 1920s, when hickory-shafted clubs used to be carried in bags without hoods. It was then that the Western Dental Golf Club was founded, and one of its leading members for many years was Albert Grimson, a practitioner in the East end of Glasgow who in the 1970s compiled an album about the history of the club. A.R. Whitelaw, who has been taking a close look at the album, [writes](#) about this unusual and still-flourishing club, whose trophies include an Odontological Rose Bowl.

\* \* \*

Pollock halls of residence in Edinburgh proved an admirable choice of venue for the 2002 autumn conference of the Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry. Papers on Petrus Camper by Dr M. J. Trenouth and on W. D. Miller by Sir David Mason threw light upon powerful research work in the past. Dr Paul Geissler whetted everyone's appetite for a most enjoyable visit to the Menzies Campbell collection in the Royal College of Surgeons to which Professor Khursheed F. Moos appended a most interesting description of some of the skulls in the Pathology Museum, demonstrating cranio-facial anomalies. Dr A. S. Hargreaves looked forward to the posthumous publication of Christine Hillam's work on dentistry in Europe in the 1790s which David Hillam has successfully steered through the publishers. Dinner on the Saturday evening was in the magnificent surroundings of St Leonard's Hall, which in an earlier existence had stimulated Ronald Searle's cartoons of St Trinian's. Dr Henry Noble handed over the office of chairman to Professor Stanley Gelbier and Rosemarie Khan retired as secretary to be replaced by Roxanne Fea. Perfect weather added the finishing touch to a most enjoyable weekend.

\* \* \*

A history of dentistry in Nigeria is in the making. Since most of the first dentists were trained in the UK, information about their careers is being sought from the BDA. Dr Henry Noble, who taught dental students in Ghana for two years in the 1970s, has been able to supply some details. As he wrote to Roxanne Fea, curator of the BDA Museum, "There seem to have been quite a number of dentists who, following qualification in the period around the First World War, ventured forth to West Africa and remained there until just before or after the Second World War." He has provided details of a number of them, including Quintin Stewart, who qualified in Edinburgh in 1913; and also information about several other Scots who were in the West African Medical Service. The subject would make an interesting article for a future edition of the Newsletter.

\* \* \*

Wanted: articles, news, and comments for future newsletters, plus suggestions for future HDRG meetings. So let's hear from you!

\* \* \* \* \*