Sketches of Otohistory

A Series of Articles Originally Published in Audiology
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Editors
Joseph E. Hawkins
Jochen Schacht

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Preface

The ‘Sketches of Otohistory’ were first published in 12 installments in the journal *Audiology and Neurotology* between 2004 and 2006. They outline the 19th-century emergence of aural surgery from professional neglect and disrepute to the essential, scientifically based, medical and surgical specialty of otolaryngology. The sketches are in no way intended as a full-fledged ‘history of otology’: that was written and published a century and more ago by Adam Politzer in the two volumes of his indispensable *Geschichte der Ohrenheilkunde*. Rather, they are vignettes concerned with particularly important individual contributors, their lives and their work, as well as with otological conditions that have emerged as important entities in today’s research and practice, such as noise trauma, drug-induced hearing loss and presbyacusis. A history of otology in traditional medicines rounds the picture.

The articles in this collection follow the original publications with minor editorial changes and corrections, and are supplemented with a special tribute to Joseph Hawkins.

*Jochen Schacht*, Ann Arbor, Mich., USA