

History of Radiology Session
UKRC Radiology Conference 2015
30 June, Liverpool.

Reviewed by Dr Arpan K Banerjee, Chairman British Society for the History of Radiology

This year's annual congress was held in Liverpool and again the British Society for the History of Radiology organised a successful session of talks attended by a wide range of delegates.

Opening the session was an interesting paper by Bland et al from the City University in London in collaboration with the London Archaeology museum. Traditionally the Moores coding system has been used to assess maxillary and mandibular development which are macroscopic visual methods.

The recent Crossrail project in London enabled the assessment of a number of children's dental specimens to be analysed from the Paddington street burial ground (1771-1853) and the authors used dental panoramic and apical radiography to supplement the traditional analysis. They concluded from their results that radiographic assessments could provide a more accurate assessment of age although the numbers were small and further assessment is probably needed in this area.

The next talk delivered by Prof Adrian Thomas was about Charles Thurston Holland of Liverpool-1896 and beyond. Holland was a Liverpool man who like many of the early pioneers started off as a general practitioner who ended up as a leading light in UK and world radiology. He collaborated with the famous orthopaedic surgeon from Liverpool Sir Robert Jones and worked at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary. Many of his early cases were presented and it is interesting to note his comments about poor clinical examinations being conducted by medical students and young doctors – sentiments which echo around modern radiology departments a century later! Holland became internationally well known following the organisation of the first international congress of radiology of which he was elected president in 1925.

Francis Duck delivered an interesting talk on the early years of radiology in Bath. James Gifford delivered a lecture on the new photography on 7Feb1896 at the Bath Photographic Society. A Bath instrument maker John Rudge carried out the first radiograph of a patient in the Royal United Hospital in March 1896. It took a further 5 years to fund a X-ray service which just goes to confirm that service development was slow all those years ago and not a new phenomenon! Patience and persistence win the day in the end.

The next talk delivered by Dr S Patil celebrated the life of Charles Dotter, the father of interventional radiology. A professor by the age of 32, Dotter worked at Oregon U.S.A, wrote 300 papers and is credited with doing the first peripheral angioplasty. He was a polymath with a wide range of interests including flying, mountain climbing, photography and classical music and was nominated for the Nobel Prize.

The final talk delivered by Dr Arpan K Banerjee was on 'Vesalius, Radiology and Art'. Dec 31 2014 was the quincentenary of the birth of the world's

greatest anatomist and author of one of the greatest medical books ever written 'De Humanis Corporis Fabrica' published in 1543. Anatomy has always been the basis of radiology and illustrations from the book along with the recently published annotated version to celebrate the quincentenary were presented and the relationship of these images to modern imaging techniques were shown with particular emphasis on new works of art generated by diagnostic imaging techniques which illustrated how art, anatomy and diagnostic imaging were all intertwined and had gone round in a full circle.

In addition to the lecture session the Society as usual hosted a stand themed around Charles Thurston Holland the Liverpool pioneer. The exhibits and old books and journals proved popular with delegates and the society thanks Dr Adrian Thomas and others who helped on the stand for their contribution.