

The BAUS Virtual Museum

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By the time you read this article, the BAUS Virtual Museum for the History of Urology will be live on the BAUS website (www.baus.org.uk). For the past three years, History of Urology posters have been presented at the BAUS annual meeting. These sessions have been hugely popular with interest in the history of urology keenly expressed by all those attending, particularly trainees.

The American Urological Association (AUA) and European Association of Urology (EAU) both have very active history of urology sections and a few keen historians are in the process of establishing a History of Urology Section within BAUS. At present, this committee includes Mr Peter Thompson (Chairman), Mr Mark Feneley, Mr Dominic Hodgson, Mr Seshadri Sriprasad and myself.

The AUA also has the very fine William Didusch Museum (www.urologichistory.museum). BAUS unfortunately does not have the physical space to house a museum so the BAUS Virtual Museum has been created.

The museum is evolving and at present contains six rooms.

- The Famous Urologists Room tells the stories of some of the people who have had a major influence on the history of urology.
- The Instrument Room, where you can read about how urological instruments have developed and view some in the Instrument Cabinet and some urology instrument collections from departments around the country.
- The Diseases and Procedures Room, where you can learn about the history of the operations you do and the diseases you see.
- The History of BAUS Room contains extracts from the official History of BAUS book by John Blandy and JP Williams.
- The Living Witness Room contains brief biographies and sound clips of interviews with some of our older urological colleagues. It includes an interview with Prof John Blandy, who sadly died earlier this year. If it hadn't been for the effort and forethought

of Peter Thompson and Dominic Hodgson, this insight into his life would have been lost forever.

- The final room is a Library.

Urology News has kindly arranged for some aspects of the museum to be shown in a series of small history of urology articles, hopefully to whet your appetite and entice you into the museum!

Do you know, for example, what the Fagot technique is? Can you describe how to take out a bladder stone like the Ancient Greeks? Would you like to know what the instrument at the bottom of the page is?

Go on, guess – the answer is below if you can't.

Please visit the museum, look around the rooms and learn about the history of urology. I will continue to add to the museum, but I would welcome any suggestions about what else you would like to see displayed or discussed.

Finally, if you would like to know which famous urologist drove around in this fantastic little car, I will tell you in the next edition of *Urology News* (or you could visit the museum!)



The instrument is a Maisonneuve urethrotome, an electronic sound, invented by Sir Henry Thompson. A sound is passed into the bladder to feel and hear (hence the name) for the tap-tapping of bladder stones, and this one amplifies that noise.

Answer: