

Dear Holger, friends, ladies and gentlemen

During the excellent congress in Oslo, so perfectly organized by Jarl Buneas, Holger asked me to tell you a little bit about the development of the European Academy in relation to my professional life.

I am very happy that he invited me to come to this wonderful meeting and I am glad to see old friends again.

I was born in the East of Germany now Poland, passed school, studied a semester of medicine at the University in Breslau 1944 and was drafted to the navy at 17 years of age the same year.

May 45 I was discharged as a POW at the Danish border. I had a uniform, a pair of shoes, underwear and 20 Marks. I could not go back to my home since the Russians were there and I did not know to whom I should go. I loitered around on trains etc. hoping to find my parents. I finally found them.

With their help I was able to continue to study medicine at the University Würzburg.

Life was miserable because the city and the environment had been 80 % destroyed by air raids.

1950 I passed the university medical examination and went to Essen. During the first year as an intern by pure luck somebody gave me a list of the approved internships and Residencies in the USA. I applied and was accepted as a resident at the University hospital Ann Arbor, Michigan for ORL. The training program demanded a lot of us daily hard work and every second day night calls. In addition we had instruction courses during the week until 10 pm. The salary was 125 \$ a month. Because I wanted to bring

my fiancée to the USA I had to save approximately 1000 \$. To gain enough money I accepted an additional night call during the week and lived on 20 \$ a month for food.

After my time in Ann Arbor I went to the University Columbus, Ohio where they offered special head and neck surgery training from the cancer memorial hospital in New York. Another staff man taught basic facial plastic surgery and Trent Smith was my teacher for Rhinoplasties.

I went with him to the Ohio State Penitentiary (6000 inmates) with occasional riots to learn more about rhinoplasties. Multiple Murders served as operating nurses.

During my time in Columbus, Ohio Maurice Cottle gave a course of his technique in rhinoplasties and I helped him. His concept was functional surgery without too much attention to aesthetic corrections. Imagine I had to give alcohol infusions to make the patients drowsy during the operation.

Later in the year Trent Smith had arranged with Dr. Goldman to allow me to take his course in New York 1955 in the Mount Sinai Hospital. He had a totally different approach operating noses which impressed me much more.

For historical correctness it must be said that Dr. Cottle moved to Europe as the first American teaching Rhinoplasties in Leyden in the Netherlands. Followed by courses of him at the University Erlangen with Prof. Maseng. Other meetings in Europe followed. This stimulated the foundation of the Rhinology Society in the world.

October 1955 I passed the ORL Board examination in Chicago. Gene Tardy was the assistant in the clinic who selected the cases for my examination.

The family decided that we should return to Germany and I found an employment in a ENT clinic in the city hospital of Krefeld. My chief was interested in rhinoplasties and offered me options to promote facial plastic surgery in German ENT.

The first society for esthetical medicine was founded in Düsseldorf 1955/56 by a Dermatologist of the university. Other colleges and I realized however, that it needed more surgical specialists to stimulate interest in plastic surgery in Germany. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für plastische und Wiederherstellungschirurgie was founded and open to all surgical fields. For decades there was no specialty for general plastic surgery since it was a subdivision of general surgery. Only a few years ago general plastic surgery became an independent specialty.

During the 60/~~70~~<sup>th</sup> a group of maxillo facial surgeons and all general surgeons walked away from the "Deutsche Gesellschaft" and founded the society of German plastic surgeons strongly relying on the support of the British and American colleagues.

This started the same quarrel in Germany equal to what we have seen in the US and the UK. In the early 60 th the general plastic surgeons asked Dr. Converse who worked at the University Bellevue Hospital and in the Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York as an ORL specialist to become a member of the academy of general plastic surgery in the US. Maybe they used him as ~~big leave~~ and excuse to demonstrate their "co-operation" with ENT. It meant

however, that general plastic surgeons operated in the eye and ear infirmary in New York. I am not so sure that the same privileges were offered to ORL facial plastic surgeons in their hospitals.

To counterbalance the situation J. Conley and many facial plastic surgeons in the US, decided to found the American Academy of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. I became a member as soon as possible and participated for years at their post graduate courses and conferences. It might not be known, that years later after the foundation of our Academy, Dr. Jack Anderson read an article in a Miami Newspaper by the secretary of the American General plastic Academy in which he wrote a, why do you want to buy skimmed milk, if you get the whole milk from the specialist. Jack Anderson went to court for malicious discredit of the facial plastic surgeons and the Academy. The High Court in Washington decided and consequently he won the case. The general plastic surgeons had to pay 2 Million \$ for disparagement to the American facial plastic Academy.

I left Krefeld 1959 and opened an office in Essen with 4 beds in a small hospital. Due to the local circumstances I had to administer my own endotracheal anaesthesia while operating with a nurse. In complicated cases a friend helped me.

In the early 60<sup>th</sup> I found better hospital conditions and I opened a department for facial plastic surgery and ORL with 45 beds in Essen.

In Essen 700 000 inhabitants, the health department appointed me as consultant for all children with head and neck malformations.

All the time I was very glad to have such a wonderful contact with my American and Canadian friends.

During these years the director of the University ORL Clinic at the Virchow Hospital in Berlin and the chairman of the university hospital in Bonn gave me contracts as consultant for facial plastic surgery in their clinics. This opened the door for a scientific association with the faculty in Bonn and I had to combine my work with both clinics in Essen and in Bonn for decades.

Having watched the development in the US from Germany, I felt the need to be necessary to start a similar institution in Germany first and then in Europe. I talked to Dr. Conley and other friends asking if they would be willing to contribute their knowledge and expertise in a German course to German and European students.

They all agreed to help. In Germany I looked for someone who would be interested and with his clinic able to start the first course.

I found in Prof Wullstein a highly interested and motivated partner. He had a brand new great University hospital in Würzburg. Immediately I gave him the addresses of the people I had talked in the USA and he visited them all. Enthusiastically he returned to Würzburg and started first course in the 60ties with Dr. Conley, Farnior, Dickinson, Wright and others, not to name them all.

I had also contacted people in Europe and Prof. Denecke from Germany and Rudi Meyer from Switzerland joined the faculty. During this and all the future courses in 2 years intervals, until Prof Kley's death, who had continued the courses after Prof. Wullstein's retirement, I helped. Since they were so well known

in Europe and the world they gave me the chance to meet a lot of specialists from Europe and the world.

Like a travelling **salesman** I gave up my position in Essen because I was elected to become the head of a new clinic for general plastic surgery and ENT at the new Florence Nightingale Hospital in Düsseldorf 1971. Since I had become a general plastic surgeon also, I trained assistants from general surgery, maxillo facial surgery and ORL. A few of my assistants came from the Netherlands. Their friends invited me to surgical demonstrations in esthetic surgery. This way I met Gilbert Nolst-Trenité.

In late 60 ties I saw the need to obtain a UK medical licence to allow me to work in London. Being successful I was the first German to become a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, Sect. Laryngology in London. ~~10~~ years prior the Schengen Agreement. During conventions I met Toni Bull 1972/3. It was agreed, that he should come to our house once a month on Sunday and Monday we would go to the operating theatre in my hospital in Düsseldorf. Due to my UK licence I did the same and flew to London and we operated in the London clinic the Cromwell and Wellington Hospital. In the evening we talk shop and discovered having the same ideas that Europe needed an Academy followed the American example.

This started a cordial friendship until today with Tony. Due to our good relations with the American Academy members we asked them for advice and help to start an academy in Europe. This help was given and we could start to search colleagues in Europe interested in facial plastic surgery.

It was easier than we thought and with the help in the UK, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Austria, Finland, *Greece*, Scandinavian Countries, Germany and American Academy Members the European Academy was founded in 1977 in London, ten years prior to the EU.

To avoid medical political problems we started first as the Joseph Society with English as the official language. Later the name was changed to the present. According to the bylaws the annual Congress of the Academy had to be held every year in another country in Europe.

The post graduate courses in the States and Canada were so stimulating that we decided to follow their example.

We found enough energetic and interested young facial plastic surgeons, heads of departments of universities and in private practice in Europe relying on the help of our American and Canadian friends also, to help we started these courses also.

They became very well known in Europe and the rest of the world.

It would take too long to name them who contributed so much in Europe, but I am willing to give details afterwards.

When I learned that the American Academy started a fellowship program with an examination to certify the expertness in facial plastic surgery I flew to United States and inquired how the examination was done. With books and detailed information I returned and gave the books as a start and told everything to our board members. The European fellowship program was born.

I am so glad that everything is under way here and our first fellows did very well at the examination July 2013 in London.

The European Academy has also become a member of the facial plastic societies in the world. Our academy belongs also now to the European board for certification in facial plastic surgery. And I am so proud and grateful to tell, that meanwhile a <sup>Claus-</sup>~~Walter~~-Award for scientific excellence is given every year.

Nevertheless we need stronger support.

1982 I felt compelled to resign my position in Düsseldorf because I would not accept the hospital administration to deny help for my clinic inspite the fact that I was successful.

At 55 years of age, I left Germany and started in <sup>a</sup> private clinic in Switzerland as a plastic surgeon and ENT specialist. As so often in my life I became a consultant again for facial plastic surgery in several German hospitals and opened additional private offices in Munich and Düsseldorf. Still continuing at the University in Bonn. I also helped Toni Bull with his courses in London.

Due to my conections to the American Academy I was included in the fellowship program and American and Canadian fellows came for years to my clinic in Switzerland.

You can imagine that I was glad not to be forgotten. Richard Holt invited me as a visiting Prof. to the San Antonio Medical School in Texas for years.

Feeling bored without a little work for the European Academy Helmut Jung and I and with the help of our ladies started winter-meetings in Laax-Flims – Switzerland and Arlberg- Austria for the European Academy. Every two years in sequence we had a week



of lectures skiing, culture<sup>e</sup> and social events. On my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday 2007 after 20 years Helmut Jung and I gave the organization into other hands hoping they would continue.

With great joy I see Prof. Farsil Apardyn from Turkey. He and his colleagues have joined the European Academy and<sup>are</sup> contributing so much. I think they deserve a special applause.

Closing I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Academy for their help to me working for the European Academy during decades. I wish further success and hope that the acorn which Toni Bull, others and I have planted will be a growing tree with lots of branches and leafs now and in the future.

I would like to thank you for patience to listen.