

THE BSHR ANNUAL LECTURE 7 FEBRUARY 2022

Report of the BSHR Annual lecture 2022

by Dr Arpan K Banerjee Chair Int Soc Hist Rad (ISHRAD) Trustee BSHR

Due to Covid restrictions this year's annual lecture was delivered virtually on February 7, 2022 by Dr Michael Jackson, a consultant paediatric radiologist at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, Edinburgh, and incoming chair of the BSHR. The Title of the lecture was 'The Art of Radiology: Celebrating 50 years of CT and 50,000 years of projection-based images'. For a full report of the lecture by Dr Arpan K Banerjee (Chair Int Soc Hist Rad (ISHRAD) Trustee BSHR) [Click here](#)

Dr Jackson has had a lifelong interest in art and how art and its images interface with images produced in medical imaging and has recently published a book on this theme.

The talk opened with a dramatic set of images of hands one of which had been subject to radiation damage a salutary reminder that radiology was initially a dangerous enterprise. It was interesting to be shown one of the earliest cave paintings of a hand which had remarkably similar appearances to an X-ray of a hand produced thousands of years later by Röntgen.

A physiognotype was illustrated, a device which enabled the production of 3-D photosculptures using some of the principles of the CT scanner. This instrument of course became obsolete as with the development of the CT scan in 1971 by Hounsfield and subsequent technological improvements 3-D reconstructions have become commonplace in the last 20 years.

A picture of early Egyptian art reminded us that painters painted with different perspectives. In Egyptian pictures the head and the feet had a lateral profile whereas the chest and eyes are seen from the frontal view.

Artists and their paintings were used to illustrate aspects of perspective which of course is also important in radiological analysis of images. In the chest x-ray the projection of the image determines the size of the structures portrayed. Historically artists were greatly interested in perspective and illustrations of Durer's work were used to demonstrate this.

Early Renaissance anatomy illustrations from Vesalius and other artists displayed the human body using the technique of ecorche to illustrate the different layers of the body and many examples of the human musculature were displayed in this format including several of the Christian saint and martyr St Sebastian with the piercing arrows. Examples

of Saint Bartholomew being flayed were also used to illustrate this. Today of course the CT scan with MIP and volume rendering can demonstrate different layers of the body including the skeleton, the muscles and the vasculature without the need for dissections.

The talk also covered the relationship between Imaging and its use or depiction in modern media. Examples of films incorporating x-ray themes with characters being able to see through their and other peoples bodies were illustrated with particular reference to the film about Superman 'Man of Steel' as well as The Avengers movies and of course the robots in Transformers.

The talk was beautifully illustrated with numerous examples of paintings and images from a variety of historical sources which illustrated the interface between images as art and more recent medical imaging inspired new art were also presented for our delectation. Of particular interest was the analysis of the old ideas on old paintings from a more modern radiological perspective. The talk was a gallimaufry of interesting images and provided a penetrating insight into the interface between ideas on art and the subject of radiology where images are used by doctors to make diagnoses of illness in humans.