

Bower House Publications

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Tel: +44(0)1323 521555 | Fax: +44(0)1323 521666

ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET No 1

TITLE	Contact Lenses: The Story
ISBN	978-0-9558981-0-5
PRICE	£75.00 HB
AUTHOR	Timothy J Bowden
PUBLISHER	Bower House Publications
PUBLICATION DATE	23rd April 2009
CATEGORY	HBX, MQR, MBX
SPECIFICATIONS	HB, sewn, 246x 171mm, 800 pages, illustrated with over 250 pictures
WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK?	Those interested in history and development of contact lenses

"It was done". That was how Michael Bay summed up all the work he put into the invention of what became known as the stabilised soft lens moulding technique. This technique, making viable the concept of disposable contact lenses was to change the whole world of contact lens manufacturing and contact lens wearing for ever.

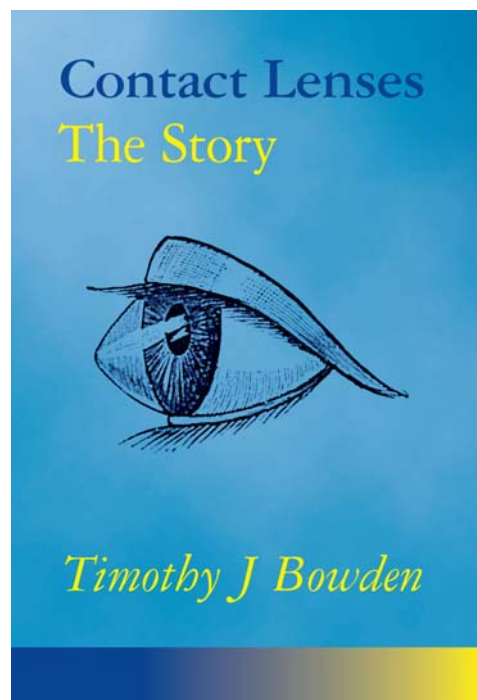
If it really was as simple and as straightforward as that the book could end here and save us all a lot of time. It would also be to miss out on a wonderful adventure of personal determination, courage and perseverance of a small select band of men seeking their individual holy grails.

This history ranges over almost 500 years and is based on past historical works, scientific papers and journal articles. The author has also had the pleasure of over 100 personal and a further 100-plus phone or email interviews with many of the people that actually made the history, or their families, spanning twenty-four countries.

The initial concept of the book was to look at the history of the disposable lens. It soon became apparent that this could not be done without looking at the soft lenses that had come before. Likewise, the impact of soft lenses only makes sense when compared to the hard lenses that had gone before, and of course before that there were the scleral lenses in both glass and plastic. Having gone this far, just who had the initial idea of placing bits of glass in the eyes to correct vision anyway?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Bowden became interested in contact lenses over thirty years ago when a friend co-opted his astigmatic eyes as a contact lens case study. He has worn a variety of different types of lenses and specialised in contact lens fitting ever since. He is a visiting lecturer in the Contact Lens department at City and Islington College London and a practical contact lens examiner for ABDO. In 1983 he and his optometrist wife Lis opened their first independent practice in Gravesend followed by another in Herne Bay Kent. At present they run their own practice in Gillingham, Kent. The research for this book has spawned the Contact Lens Collection at the BOA museum in London, co-founded with Andrew Gasson, which is the only actively administered specialist contact lens collection open to the public in the world. It also spawned a project to erect commemorative plaques to honour contact lens pioneers both in the UK and elsewhere. He has held a variety of posts within UK optical professional organisations and has researched and written various articles on contact lens history and also the habits and opinions of contact lens wearers.



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