**From the Editor**

**Historical overview of orthodontic education**

*From the beginning up through the 21st century: Part I*

By Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MED, EdD, PhD, Editor in Chief

Orthodontics dates back to 1000 BC. Profitch et al. (2007) stated: “Crowded, irregular, and protruding teeth have been a problem for some individuals since antiquity, and attempts to correct this disorder go back at least to 1000 BC. Primitive orthodontic appliances ... have been found in both Greek and Etruscan materials. Historians from the American Association of Orthodontists indicated that people in prehistoric times wanted straight teeth (American Association of Orthodontists). Mummified ancients have been found by archaeologists with crude metal bands wrapped around individual teeth. Hippocrates and Aristotle (400-500 BC) both considered ways to fix various dental conditions and straighten teeth.

In the Golden Age of Greek history the Etruscans (precursors of the Romans) buried their dead with dental devices that prevented collapse of teeth and maintained space for the dentition (Wahl, 2006). According to Wahl (2006), while excavating in a Roman tomb in Egypt, an archeologist found a mummy who had a number of teeth bound with a gold wire; this was considered to be the first documented orthodontic ligature wire. Aurelius Cornelius Celsus first recorded the treatment of teeth by finger pressure at the time of Christ. Despite all this evidence, significant events in orthodontics did not occur until the 1700s.

Background of orthodontic education from 1728-1900

In 1728, Pierre Fauchard (1690-1761) from the beginning up through the 21st century: Part I
published “The Surgeon Dentist” in which he devoted an entire chapter on straightening teeth, and in 1753 the French dentist Joachim Bourdet published “The Dentist’s Art” that also had a chapter on moving teeth. These books are considered to be the first important references to orthodontics. In 1841, Lafayette created the term orthodontia (Wahl, 2006).

The first dental school in the United States was the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in Baltimore, M.D., in 1828 (Asbell, 1988, p. 215). According to Asbell, “Irregularity of the teeth had been recognized by surgeon-dentists early in the nineteenth century” (p. 141). During this century, treatment of misaligned teeth was perfunctory; dental practitioners realized that orthodontics was originally included within the field of prosthetic dentistry. In the 1850s, several practicing dentists realized that orthodontics

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