
Preface

“Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.”

(attributed to William Butler Yeats [1865–1939])

We would like to think that it was fortuitous “meeting of the minds.” One of us (L.D.L.) had been planning a volume on the history of depictions of the *fetus in utero* and certain concepts of fetal physiology. The other (L.P.R.) had been thinking about a similar work on the evolution of ideas concerning the placenta. In a chance encounter, we discovered one another’s interests and decided to explore a collaboration. Our goal in the preparation of this volume was to provide a permanent archive of some of the most beautiful drawings ever made of the gravid uterus with fetus and placenta, which could serve future generations of investigators, educators, and students of reproduction.

For each author whose work is depicted in this volume, in almost every instance we have used the first edition or first illustrated edition. In our commentary, we have endeavored to place each volume and illustration in historical perspective, noting the significance of that image, but also giving some background on the life and work of the author. Insofar as possible, we also have included accurate citation to relevant bibliographic references. For most of the works cited, we have included additional references of relevance for the reader who may wish to explore these in greater depth.

As academic, basic science investigators, we suffer no illusions about the significance of our personal contributions to the study of the biology of gestation. Rather, we have simply extended the work of our predecessors, standing on the shoulders of the true “giants” of this field. These include many cited in this volume, and in addition, Howard Bernhart Adelman (1898–1988), Emmanuel Ciprian Amoroso (1901–1982), Francis Maitland Balfour (1851–1882), George Washington Corner (1889–1981), Sir John Hammond (1889–1964), Franklin Paine Mall (1862–1917), Samuel Robert Means Reynolds (1903–1982), Elizabeth Mapelsden Ramsey (1906–1993), George Linus Streeter (1873–1948), and numerous others.

Several individuals were of great assistance in preparing this work. Especially important was Dominic Budicin of Riverside, CA, who worked with us to photograph with precision the plates from the works depicted. James Ponder, Loma Linda University Office of Public Relations, also contributed by photographing for us the illustrations of Jenty (1757) and Snip (1793).

For Lawrence P. Reynolds, I owe a debt of gratitude to many. My high school biology teacher, Mr. David Conatser, who helped light the fire, and my mentors, Drs. Charles Weems, Stephen Ford, and Calvin Ferrell, who fanned the flames. Enduring gratitude to Dr. Robert Melampy (deceased) who began my journey down this road by exhorting me to read the “older” literature, including Joseph Needham’s *Chemical Embryology* (1931). Thanks to Dr. Joseph Gall—his beautiful compendium *Views of the Cell: A Pictorial History* (Bethesda, MD: The American Society for Cell Biology, 1996) inspired the format for this volume. My parents and my father- and mother-in-law (both deceased), whose encouragement was unflagging and

whose support played no small part in my education. Undying love and gratitude to my wonderful wife, Kay, who supported all these efforts with understanding and patience.

For Lawrence D. Longo, I also am in debt to many dedicated teachers and mentors. In particular, I have learned much of value from my lovely remarkable wife Betty Jeanne and from each of my four wonderful children: April Celeste, Lawrence Anthony, Elisabeth Lynn, and Camilla Giselle. For both L.P.R. and myself, we thank Jimin Suh, administrative assistant to L.D.L., who was invaluable in the preparation of the manuscript.

Lastly, each of us believes that we owe a special debt of gratitude to our colleague and coauthor, each of whom served as mentor for the other in exploring this fascinating facet of biology and science.

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Wombs with a View

Illustrations of the Gravid Uterus from the Renaissance
through the Nineteenth Century

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