

Horus and the ACVO

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In the late 1960's, when the "Founding Fathers" (aka, the ACVO Organizing Committee) were finalizing their application to the AVMA for ACVO recognition, I volunteered to develop an appropriate logo and seal. And why not? My mentor and chairman, Paul Henkind, MD, PhD, was an ophthalmology history/mythology buff. Without hesitation Paul enthusiastically recommended Horus, the falcon god of ancient Egypt. Researching Horus led me to photos of the magnificent statue of Horus at Edfu . (Which I actually visited in 1995!)



Horus's image was to become the centerpiece of our seal. Also in my research, I encountered the phrase '...that light shall prevail over darkness....', which in turn became our motto for the ACVO.



“....that light shall prevail over darkness.”

An artist friend of mine, Joan O'Leary, subsequently devised our seal which featured a silhouette of Horus superimposed on the dark side of an Egyptian pyramid symbolizing the conquest of Horus over darkness.



Along with this, Chester Nicodemus, a friend of Dr. Milt Wyman's and an internationally acclaimed potter specializing in small clay birds, created a sculpture of Horus at Edfu to serve as a token of appreciation to the outgoing ACVO president.



Original clay sculpture of Horus by Chester Nicodemus. Photo courtesy of Dr. Milt Wyman.

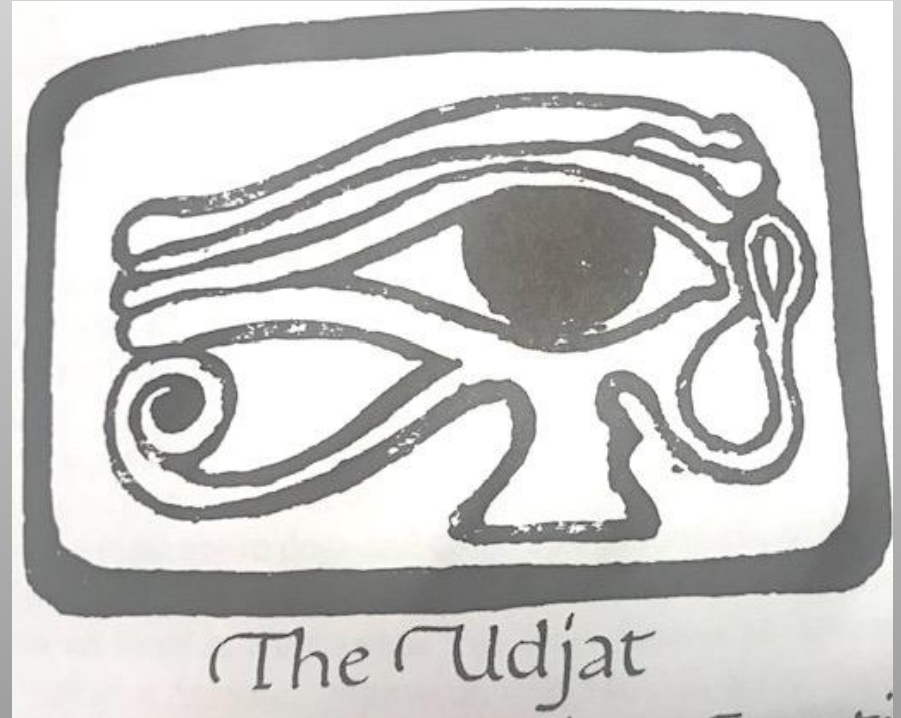


This tradition perseveres yet today, although with the passing of Mr. Nicodemus in 1990 an alternate source for Horus had to be found.

Dr. Pennie Cooley, who had been a resident of Milt's and thus familiar with the saga of Horus the statuette, had a neighbor (Ross Matteson) who created, in particular, bronze sculptures of falcons. And of course, he complied with a request to apply his talent toward creating our current statuette.



However, in 2013, with modern logistics making the original seal unsuitable for appropriate reproduction, an updated version was devised replacing the statuette of Horus within the pyramid with the ancient eye of Horus (The Udjat).



A very perceptive change, indeed, that has led to our current logo with the eye of Horus within the pyramid and prevailing over the field of darkness.



“...that light shall prevail over darkness.”

The motto has remained
unchanged.

Dr. Roy Bellhorn
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