

**TRADUCCIÓN PÚBLICA -----**

**SWORN TRANSLATION -----**

**Argentine Academy of Surgery -----**

**About us -----**

**HISTORY -----**

**Origins of the Argentine Academy of Surgery** [Academia Argentina de Cirugía] -----

To learn about the origins of the **Argentine Academy of Surgery** it is necessary to know the historical circumstances around its foundation. In 1910 Argentina celebrated its first centennial and was experiencing a period of great wealth and stability. Jean Huret, a French traveler and author of a book about Argentina published in Paris in 1911 was wondering how it was possible that Argentinians were not all millionaires. He based his argument on the revenue volume resulting from annual exports and any eventual -although already foreseeable- future exports. Buenos Aires used to be a thriving and cosmopolitan city welcoming immigrants from all around the world. It boasted the largest tramway network in the world, a large telephone network had been installed since 1901, and all the public and private buildings that nowadays attract tourists had already been built. A type of architecture that reflected the economic power and the European nostalgia that had taken over from the simple and sober colonial architecture. The electric light had replaced the gas lights, and Buenos Aires city inhabitants, the “porteños”, boasted that night illumination overshadowed that of Paris. -----

Despite that level of modernity, Argentina did not have a scientific society gathering surgeons, or a publication specifically devoted to surgery. However, 21 hospitals had been built between 1890 and 1910, and the city already had 1,200,000 inhabitants and around

500 physicians who practiced surgical procedures of a varied complexity. Briefly, both the historical circumstances and the professional situation were ripe for the creation of the society of surgery. -----

In 1911, a group of surgeons, convened by Daniel Cranwell, started to meet at the latter's domicile, located in the same city block the Argentine Medical Association has its seat at present. Although there are no records of what was discussed at their meetings, Meeting Minute number 1 of the so called "Society of Surgery of Buenos Aires" clearly states that the aims of the society were to "build bonds and leverage the immense material the surgeons in the country had at their disposal". Both the bylaws of the society and the bulletins of publications faithfully reproduced those of the Paris Surgery Society. The latter had been founded in 1793, after the Revolution eliminated the Royal Academy of Surgery. In 1935 the Paris Surgery Society became the National Academy of Surgery. Likewise, the Society of Surgery of Buenos Aires became the **Argentine Academy of Surgery** in 1939, and due to political reasons, it would go back to Society of Surgery of Buenos Aires in 1954. In that year, a governmental decree established that the Academy should eliminate 50% of its members. To prevent that, the Academy became again the Society of Surgery of Buenos Aires, and finally in 1960 it recovered its status as **Argentine Academy of Surgery**. -----

From 1911 until the present, all communications submitted to the Academy and its corresponding discussions have been kept on record: during its first years, a Meeting Minutes Book was kept, then Bulletins were used and at present the Argentine Journal of Surgery (Revista Argentina de Cirugía) is published. Being the only loyal and privileged witness to more than 100 years of

Argentine surgery, the Academy continues to fulfill its mission: to disseminate the knowledge of the most recent advancements in the surgical field in Argentina. -----

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