

Letter to the Editor

In a recent article by Yaffe and Zissin [1], it is stated the "bulbourethral groups of Cowper's glands were first described at the end of the 17th century by W. Cowper." This is not correct according to Major [2], even though they bear his name today. William Cowper, the English surgeon and anatomist, described the glands in 1702 [3], but it was Mery who first discovered and described them in 1684 [2].

Also, according to Major [2], Cowper published *Anatomy of Humane Bodies* in 1698. However, the appearance of this book led Godfrey Bidloo, the great Dutch anatomist, to call Cowper a "highwayman." Bidloo accused Cowper of publishing a pirated edition of his (Bidloo's) *Anatomia Corporis Humani*. Two hundred years later Dr. Hewitt of the Royal College of Surgeons discovered that, on the frontispiece of *Anatomy of Humane Bodies*, a circle of thin paper bearing Cowper's name had

been pasted over Bidloo's name and over the title *Anatomia Corporis Humani* in Dutch. This discovery confirmed Bidloo's contention that Cowper's book was a work of scientific piracy [2].

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References

1. Yaffe D, Zissin R: Cowper's glands duct: Radiographic findings. *Urol Radiol* 13:123-125, 1991
2. Major RH: *Classic Descriptions of Disease with Biographical Sketches of the Authors*, 3rd ed. Springfield: Charles C Thomas, 1965, p 339
3. Cowper W: Two new glands near the prostate glands, with their excretory ducts, lately discover'd. *Philos Trans Coll London* 3:194, 1705

Erratum

Urologic Radiology 13:123-125

Cowper's Glands Duct: Radiographic Findings D. Jaffe and R. Zissin

Some errors were detected in the reference list of this article. The entire, corrected reference section is printed below.

References

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3. Moskowitz PS, Newton NA, Lebowitz RL: Retention cysts of Cowper's duct. *Radiology* 120:377-380, 1976
4. Brock WA, Kaplan GW: Lesions of Cowper's glands in children. *J Urol* 122:121-123, 1979
5. Maizels M, Stephens FD, King LR, Firlit CF: Cowper's syringocele: A classification of dilatations of Cowper's gland duct based upon clinical characteristics of 8 boys. *J Urol* 129:111-114, 1983
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8. Abrams HJ, Joshi DP, Neier CR: Intrauterine urinary retention and electrolyte imbalance secondary to Cowper's gland cyst. *J Urol* 95:565-567, 1966