

John L. Kiser M.D.

**7765 Killarney
Wichita, KS 67206**

1-316-634-0363

MEMORIES OF KAREL ABSOLON

Karel Absolon is an inspiration to me.

Twenty years ago I became aware of Karel Absolon's Biography of Theodore Billroth. As a student of medical history I ranked it with the Osler biography and other outstanding works literary efforts. I obtained the first volume. Karl sent me the second and third volumes in manuscript form. I became aware of the difficulty which he had had in getting this outstanding work published. He visited us in Wichita and lectured at a dinner meeting of our historical society.

I was aware of his research in Europe—finding Billroth memorabilia, and the statues preserved through the ravages of WWII.

I have visited Karel's home twice in Washington. The first time the level of his commitment to the Billroth project and his collection of manuscripts was the highlight.

It was with hesitancy that I visited him the second time because I had such fond memories and I had concerns about the success of the Billroth book which I felt had not received the reception it deserved from the medical community. Karel met the difficulty in publishing his book by becoming a desk top publisher. Karel had templates of many books which he could place in an automated copying system at night and awaken with the books printed in the morning. He could print a few copies of copies as he needed them. He had not only solved his own publishing problem he was a publisher for others.

My acquaintance with Karel has been rewarded with lasting memories.

John L.Kiser M.D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John L. Kiser M.D.", written in dark ink.