

A Tribute to Frederic Wood-Jones

by

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Frederic Wood Jones (1879-1954)

**Man's foot is all his own it is unlike any other foot.
It is the most distinctive human part of the whole of his
anatomical makeup.**

**It is a human specialization and whether
he be proud of it or not, it is his hall-mark
and so long as Man has been Man
and so long as he remains Man
it is by his feet that he will be known
from all other members of the animal kingdom.**

**It is his feet that confer upon him his only real
distinction and provide his only valid claim to
human status.**

So goes what is perhaps the most eloquent tribute ever written about the human foot. As students in the surgical class of **Dr. Henri Duvries** in 1960, we would often hear our professor refer to Frederic Wood Jones as, "Not only a master anatomist and illustrator, but a magnificent writer!". He was right on all counts, Wood Jones career speaks of a

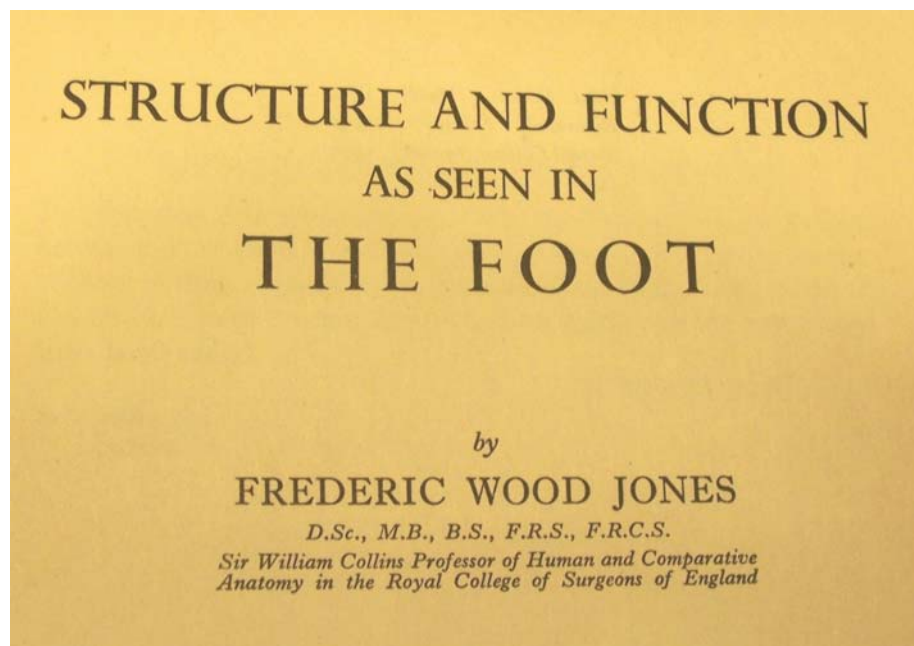
modern day Renaissance Man, a man who was a physician, anatomist, embryologist, antropologist, naturalist, archeologist, researcher, curator, teacher, public speaker, writer and illustrator. In the true sense of a Renaissance Man, he was outstanding in all of the professions that he practiced.

Wood Jones was born in London, England on January 23, 1879. As a school boy he showed great enthusiasm for natural history. In 1897 he entered the London Hospital Medical college. He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1904, however, he found the practice of medicine “cramped and small” when compared to biology. Under the influence of Sir Arthur Keith, an anatomist and professor of great standing, he shifted his interest to anatomy and natural history.

Wood Jones professional career expanded five decades during which time he was a professor of anatomy and antropology in universities and medical schools in London, Colos-Keeling Islands, Egypt, Hawaii, Australia and China. He was a prolific writer whose works include: “**The Principles of Anatomy as Seen in the Hand**” (1910), “**Corrals and Atolls**” (1910), “**The Mamals of South Australia**” published in three volumes (1923-25), “**Unscientific Essays**” (1924), “**The Matrix of the Mind**” (1929), “**Man’s Place Among the Mamals**” (1929), “**Love and Living**” (1939). “**Structure and Function as seen in Foot**” (1944). He even had time to write a children’s book of verse, “**Sea Birds Simplified**” (1934).

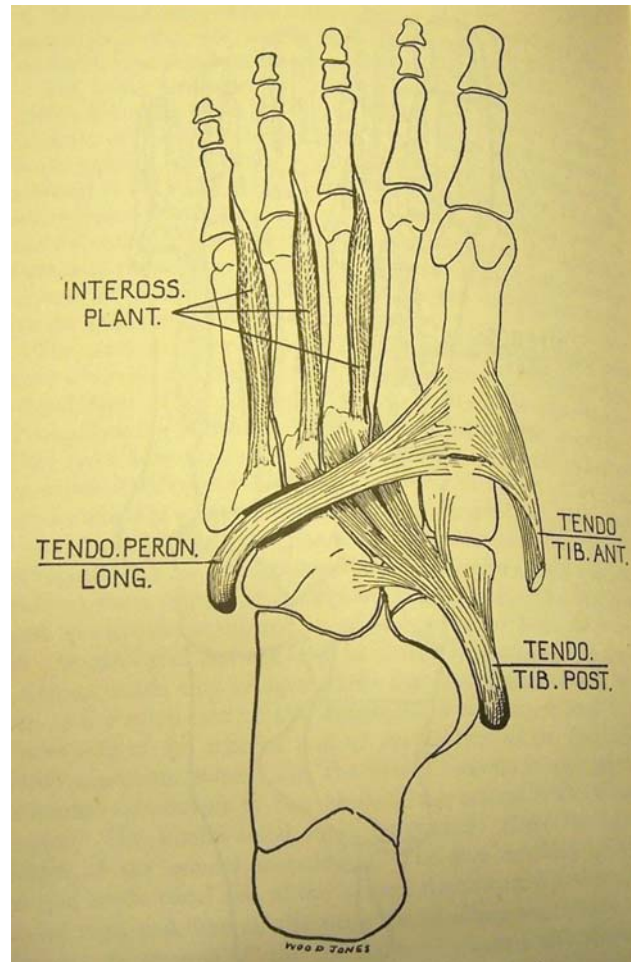
Wood Jones’ reputation as a teacher and public speaker is legendary. His ability to explain his subject matter well was perhaps his greatest gift. “He never considered an anatomical structure in isolation from its function in the living animal”.

As podiatric medical students we learned about Wood Jones not only from Dr. DuVries, but also through his classic book, “**Structure and Function as Seen in the Foot**”.



It is arguably the best anatomical book ever written about the human foot. The book is well structured, beautifully illustrated and contains the beautiful lyrical prose that is so evident in the “Man’s foot is all his own ...” passage quoted above.

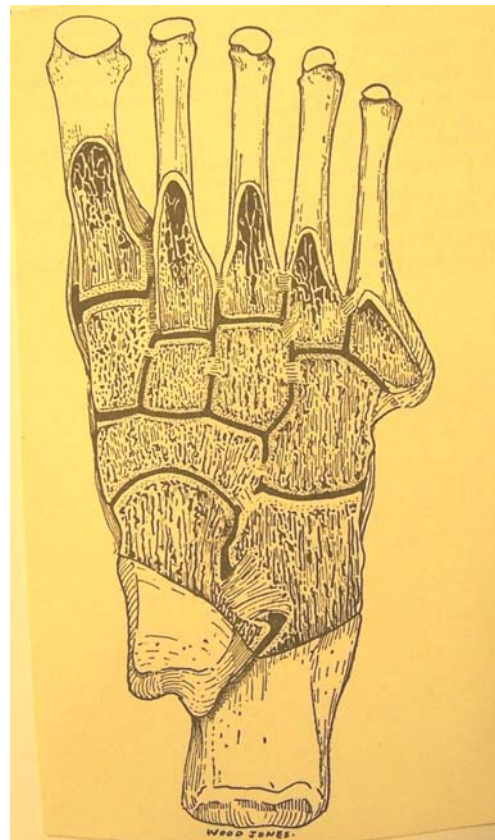
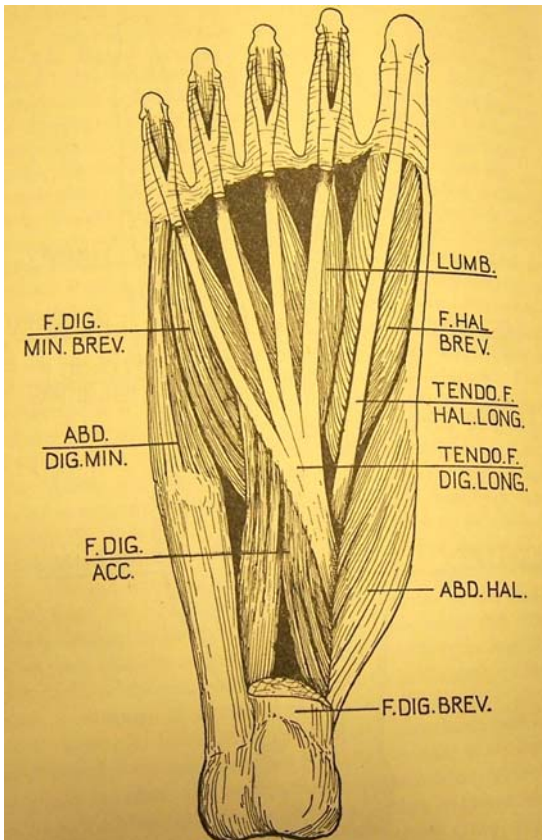
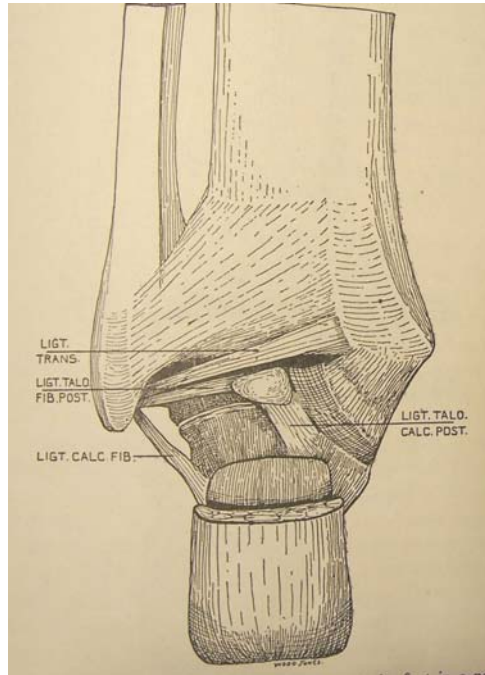
In my particular case, what really attracted me to his work was his simple, yet elegant, pen and ink illustrations. With a few strokes of his pen, Wood Jones could show the essence of an anatomical structure, as can be seen in the illustration below:



Take a close look, the drawing is so simple yet there is so much information packed in this illustration. Could you get a clearer picture of the Tibialis Posterior as it attaches to the bones of the foot? It was his understanding of how anatomical structures function and their relationship to one another, as well as his ability to illustrate the fundamentals of an anatomical structure in a clear, precise and simple manner that made him such a powerful teacher.

As a podiatric medical student and budding medical illustrator, I would spend a great deal of time admiring and studying his drawings and learning from them. I treasure my copy of **“Structure and Function as Seen in the Foot”**.

Here are a few Wood Jones illustrations for you to enjoy:



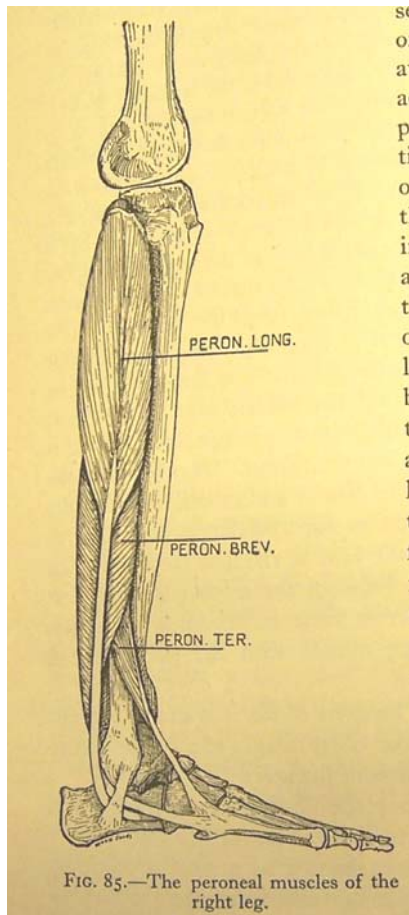
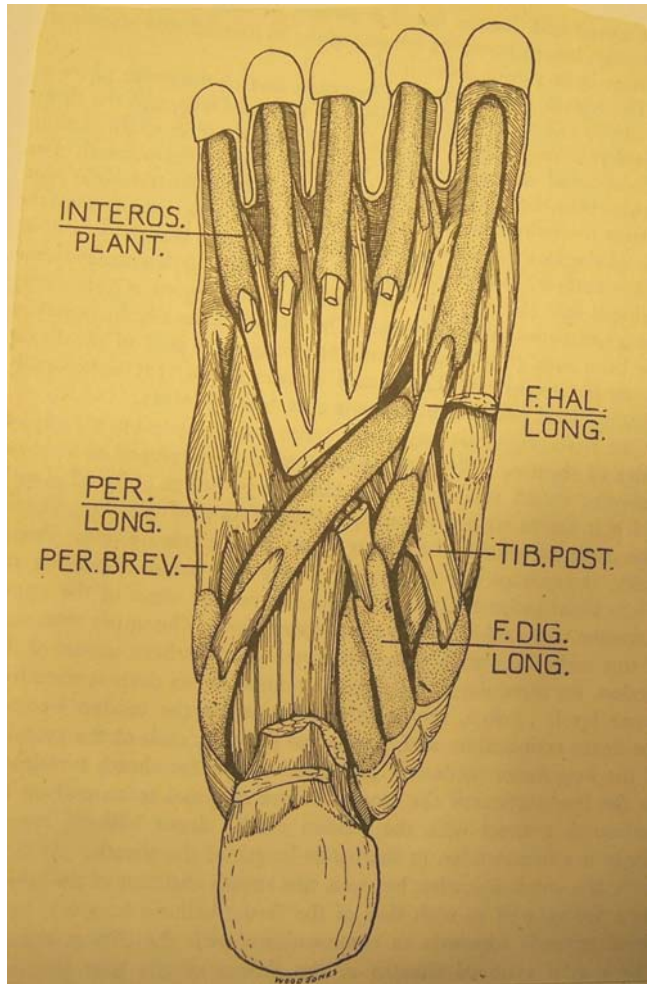


FIG. 85.—The peroneal muscles of the right leg.

Bibliography:

Duvries, Henri: Personal communication 1960

M. MacCallum “Jones, Frederic Wood (1879-1954)”, Australia Dictionary Of Biography 2006 Australian National University.

****A Note to the Reader:***

Dear Reader, I am really enjoying writing and illustrating the articles that appear in this section of ***The Art of Surgery Web Site***. I would very much appreciate a feed back from you. Let me know if you like the articles and do make suggestions for future articles. To show you my appreciation for the time that you have taken to read the articles and write a comment, I want to send you a complimentary copy of Wood Jones’ ***“Man’s foot is all its own”*** illustrated with one of my osteology drawings . The print (see the Art Gallery) is ready for framing and it will make a great addition to your office. Just email me at:

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Please make sure to include your address

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