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KOM OMBO, EGYPT

Michael Migliori, MD, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at RI Hospital, and Chair of RIMS Public Laws Committee, accessed the RIMJ archives from the Temple of Kom Ombo, where a wall carving (far right) is thought to be the earliest known depiction of surgical instruments.

The Eye of Horus (below) is an ancient symbol of healing and rejuvenation, thought to be the origin of the ‘℞’ used in medical prescriptions, although it is also believed that ‘℞’ may derive from the Latin *recipe* which means ‘to take’.

The Temple of Kom Ombo is dedicated to the falcon god Horus and the crocodile god Sobek, and sits on the east bank of the Nile River north of Aswan.

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