

Louis Jacob Joseph Muskens

(1872–1937)

Gyula (Julius) Donáth

(1849–1944)

Muskens and Donáth were key figures in the founding of the ILAE and of *Epilepsia*.



Muskens was born in Nijmegen, studied medicine in Utrecht and trained partly in New York and in London under Hughlings Jackson and Gowers. Epilepsy was his major interest and his magnum opus was *Epilepsy: Comparative Pathogenesis, Symptoms and Treatment* (1923). Although brought up in an environment where neurology and psychiatry were frequently merged, he believed in their separation and had a poor opinion of psychiatry, which he thought should focus on social issues whilst neurology was the 'organ specialty'. He had an abrasive personality and, indeed, his undiplomatic approach caused the city council to terminate his docentship at the Municipal University of Amsterdam. Muskens was, however, devoted to epilepsy and it was in large part his unflagging activity that resulted in the creation of the ILAE and that nudged it back to life again after the Great War.



Donáth was born in 1849 in Baja, Hungary. He attended the University of Vienna and received his doctorate at the University of Innsbruck. In the war of 1877–78 between Russia and Turkey, he acted as head surgeon on the Turkish side. In 1881 he assisted in Westphal's clinic for nervous diseases, and in the laboratory of Helmholtz, Du Bois–Reymond and Virchow. He obtained a consultant's post in 1893 in the neurology outpatient department at the communal hospital of St Rochus, in Budapest. Donáth was editor of the Hungarian monthly medical journal *Klinikai Füzetek* and of *Epilepsia*. In 1903 he was awarded the Craig Colony Prize by the state of New York.