

## BIOGRAPHY

# Louis-Hubert Farabeuf: The Deaf French Anatomist

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Figure 1. Photograph of Louis Hubert Farabeuf

Louis Hubert Farabeuf (Fig. 1) was born in Bannost (Sein-et-Marne) on May 6th 1841 and died in Beton-Bazoches (Aisne) in August 1910.<sup>1</sup> He was Professor and Director of the Anatomical Department of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris until 1878.<sup>2</sup> In 1879, he founded the School of Practical Studies in Paris, which contributed to anatomical studies.<sup>3</sup> Farabeuf designed many surgical procedures. His manual of operatory surgery was published in 1893 and was well known. He described the triangle that is named after him and described it in his *Précis de manuel opératoire*, published in 1872. This triangle (Farabeuf's triangle) is formed by the internal jugular vein, common facial vein and hypoglossal nerve (Fig. 2). The jugulodigastric node can usually be found within the

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1- Guarner, 1982: 505-8.

2- Guivarc'h (b), 2005: 45-57.

3- Guivarc'h (a), 2005: 920-5.

borders of this surgical triangle. In 1878, Farabeuf was named Head of Anatomical Studies a position that had been occupied by such great names as Dupuytren, Beclard, Curvillier, Breschet, Denonvilliers, and Sappey.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 2. Farabeuf's triangle on the left side of a male cadaver

In 1864, Farabeuf became an intern in Paris and the same year, developed severe otitis media, which left him deaf. He later trained with Professor Verneuil, the surgeon and author of *Chirurgie réparatrice* published in 1877.<sup>5</sup> Farabeuf also published a manual on amputations published in 1881.

In 1872, Farabeuf was named prosector of anatomy, which sparked his life-long study of anatomy.<sup>6</sup> Later in 1873, Farabeuf applied for Assistant Professor of Anatomy, with a thesis titled Of 'The Epidermis and Epithelia'. However, this position was given to the future neuroanatomist Duval. However, in 1876, Farabeuf's thesis 'The Serosal System' propelled him to the position of Assistant Professor of Descriptive Anatomy.<sup>7</sup> A year later, in 1877, Farabeuf was elected member of the French Surgical Society.<sup>8</sup> Although he did not operate, he did design and perfect a great number of surgical procedures.<sup>9</sup>

Farabeuf was a firm believer in human dissection for the study of anatomy and perfected his art. He stated "to dissect badly is to show clumsiness and predicts a bad surgeon."<sup>10</sup> He also stated "if the dead were as repugnant as live human beings, I would have never been able to study anatomy."<sup>11</sup>

In 1876, he published a complete analysis accompanied by a total plan of reform as a measure towards the teaching of anatomy in *Progres Medical*. Sappey, Farabeuf's predecessor had allowed student dissection at random times and only students who wanted to dissect did so. Farabeuf designed the new anatomy building including the lecture halls, the dissection tables, the lighting and created a detailed plan of the manner by which all students must go about their dissections.<sup>12</sup>

Farabeuf was chronically ill and suffered from tinnitus, iritis, and arthralgias. Such problems resulted in his resignation in 1902.<sup>13</sup> Eight years later, Farabeuf died on August 13, 1910. Farabeuf lives on eponymously by the triangle he described.

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- 8- Guivarc'h (a), 2005: 920-5.
- 9- Faure, 1968: 5-11.
- 10- Guarner, 1982: 505-8.
- 11- Ibid
- 12- Ibid
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