



The paper chase

by William K. Beatty

Nutritionally speaking, an individual can become what he or she eats, but historically speaking, a personality and a career can often be fleshed out with papers. "Papers" is almost a portmanteau word, but for our purpose it may be defined as letters, drafts of articles, speeches, chapters, and books, newspaper clippings, financial records, diaries, laboratory notes, wills, institutional and governmental reports, and all the rest of those large and small pieces of paper, separate or formed into a body, that are the record of the individual's activities. In recent years this poor word has even been stretched to cover tapes, recordings, slides, and other audiovisual remnants.

How do you find, for example, the papers of Joseph F. Doakes, for many years professor of biochemistry at good old Egregious Medical School? Divining rods are hard to find these days -- perhaps they were all tossed into the Northwest Passage -- but there are at least two frequently productive substitutes.

The first of these is the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections which the Library of Congress began in 1959. The first volume (published in 1962) covers the cards made by the Library in 1959-1961 and contains descriptions of nearly 7,300 collections in about 400 repositories in the U.S. The emphasis is on large collections, but small ones, if they contain important items, are also listed. Collections consisting entirely of photocopies or transcripts of originals are usually not listed unless the copies were made in several repositories or the originals are in repositories not open to outsiders.

A typical entry will give an individual's or institution's name and dates, the inclusive dates for the papers, an approximate size of the collection (number of items, volumes, linear feet, boxes), where it is located, a career or subject designation, a concise description of the materials, the name of the donor (and often the date of the donation); subject headings, and code number. For example, reported in the 1959-1961 volume are the Papers (1864-1931) of Charles Karsner Mills (1845-

1931), a neurologist, which were donated to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by Mrs. Andrew Weisenberg. This collection of approximately 4000 items contains scrapbooks of Mills' correspondence, lectures, programs, et al., information on the treatment of insanity, and reports of institutional work. The entry for Charlton Gilmore Holland, psychiatrist and archaeologist, gives similar information, as well as the fact that the collection includes a Tagalog translation of Poe's "The Raven."

The subject index to this volume has over a page of medical entries (Medical Care; History, Sources; and a variety of geographical locations). There are also name and repository indexes.

After this first volume, the series was placed on an annual basis. Cumulated indexes have been produced to cover 1959-62, 1963-66, 1967-69, and 1970-74. Beginning with 1975, LC will produce quinquennial indexes.

The most recent volume, 14th in the series, reports 2,110 collections in 127 repositories. Forty of these repositories in the 1976 volume (published in 1977) are new to the project, so it is still growing at a healthy rate. The NUCMC, which has now listed over 37,600 collections in 990 repositories, is well worth examination and use.

The second paper-chaser's tool is the system of records and the program of the Survey of Sources for the History of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology housed at the Library of the American Philosophical Society, 105 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19106. The Survey, supported by a variety of grants, serves as a clearinghouse of information and as a motivator. It also produces a Survey of Sources Newsletter on an irregular basis, with the fifth issue (May 1977) being the most recent. This gives news items of the Survey's activities and plans, reports related programs, describes collections, and lists their locations.

The Survey has interpreted its subject area rather broadly, particularly in the earlier years when specialization had not reached the degree it has today. The staff is most helpful in responding to specific inquiries and in suggesting possibilities for further information and materials. If you are interested in an individual or institution within the Survey's purview, it will be well worth your while to get in touch with them.

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Some American medical-biographical compendia

by Estelle Brodman

Author	Title	Date of Publication	Period covered	Notes
Thacher, Jas.	American medical biography. Boston, Richardson & Lord, etc. 2 v.	1828	From colonization to date of publication	Alphabetical, with supplement, also alphabetical. Contains portraits and sketch of history of medicine. No table of contents.
Williams, Stephen West	American medical biography. Greenfield, Merriam.	1845	Physicians who died after publication of Thacher	Alphabetical. No table of contents.
Kelly, H. A. & Burrage, W.L.	Cyclopedia of American medical biography. Phila., Saunders. 2 v.	1912	Deceased physicians and surgeons, 1610-1910	Alphabetical; covers U.S. & Canada; "upwards of 1,200 entries." This ed. by Kelly alone.
	American medical biographies. Baltimore, Norman, Remington Co.	1920	Continues preceding to 1919; some deletions	Alphabetical; 1,948 entries.
	Dictionary of American medical biography. New York, Appleton.	1928	Brings preceding to 1927 with some deletions.	Alphabetical; 2,049 entries.
Stone, R. French	Biography of eminent American physicians and surgeons. Indianapolis, Carlon.	1894	Last half of 19th century; supplement to Kelly.	Index of portraits, biographies, and geographical coverage; supplement not alphabetical; essay on history of medicine in America and medical education
Watson, I. A.	Physicians and surgeons of America. Concord, N.H., Republican Press Association	1896	Men then living	No arrangement; portraits, biographies, and locality index; 1,029 names, with alphabetical index
Atkinson, Wm. B.	Physicians and surgeons of U. S. Philadelphia.	1878	19th century	Haphazard, but with good name, locality, and subject index. Strong in genealogy. 2625 entries.
	Biographical dictionary of contemporary American physicians & surgeons. Phila., D. G. Brinton	1880	2d ed. of preceding	About 80 entries added or corrected.
Cleave, E.	Biographical cyclopaedia of homeopathic physicians and surgeons. Phila.	1873	American homeopaths, living and dead	Strongly pro-homeopathic; 700-odd entries.

Once over lightly...

ALHHS doings...

BALLOT Voting members of the Association will find in this envelope the ballot carrying the slate of officers and Steering Committee members presented in the last issue. (Please note the editorial change reported on page 4 of this issue.) No identifying marks are to be placed on the ballot -- except your choices, of course! -- but the envelope should carry a return address, and should be sent to L. M. Holloway, 58 W. Tulpehocken Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19144. Envelopes will be checked off against the membership list; ballots will be officially counted independently. Please return your ballots within two weeks of receipt.

The ASSOCIATION MEETING at Madison, Wisconsin, prior to the AAHM annual meeting, devoted itself primarily to photograph collections and their management, and bookbinding standards for rare materials. Speakers were George A. Talbot and Jim Dast, respectively. Robin Overmier, who with Helen Crawford was chiefly responsible for the meeting, describes herself modestly as a "minor divertissement" in between. Helen, to whom the Association owes a vote of thanks for this and other kindnesses, arranged a Chinese restaurant-dinner afterwards. Members then proceeded to Jim Dast's house for an informal evening of beer, books, and bookbinding. Reports have it that the day was informative, friendly and very agreeable.

SEATTLE ALHHS did not meet in Seattle as a separate entity, but of course many members attended the History of Medicine Luncheon at MLA on June 15, Robin Overmier presiding. Estelle Brodman delivered the address: "The Role of Medical Librarians as Medical Historians." Her excellent talk stimulated discussion at the "sharing sessions" next day, tending to confirm the suspicion that we may not be taking our responsibilities in this regard as seriously as we might. Among those commenting on research experiences of their own were Frank Gyorgyey and Dave Kronick, who remarked that good take-off points for such research present themselves spontaneously to all of us in our daily work.

Classification-schemes also came under review -- round-table comparisons found no two alike, some libraries even using varying

schemes in different areas of the same collection. The Group, incidentally, exercised its privilege of nominating to the Nominating Committee. The candidate is Charles Sargent (MLA members please note).

FUTURE MEETINGS Planning for 1978 meetings necessarily awaits the election of a Chairman. One suggestion (from Ruth Mann) proposes discussion on educational needs of librarians in our specialty. We might consider more formalized efforts toward mutual self-help. Informal autobiographies -- reverent and irreverent -- might be entertaining and instructive.

New members...

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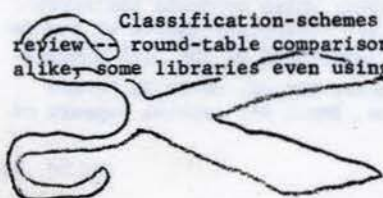
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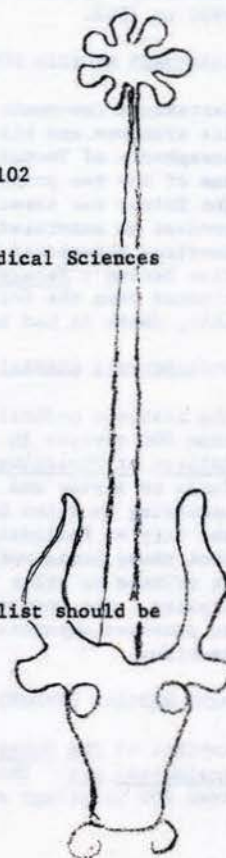
*Nonvoting members

NOTE: Errata in last year's list should be corrected to the following:

Mrs. Ellen G. Gartrell
E. Louisa Worthington



Send us your favorite watermarks



News & announcements...

Members and friends are urged to send announcements and news items for this column.

THE BAKKEN MUSEUM OF ELECTRICITY IN LIFE has recently opened a complex containing some 6,000 volumes and 400 original instruments in a Tudor-style mansion on Lake Calhoun, Minneapolis. Gail Duke, Librarian/Registrar, writes: "The rare book collection is heavily concentrated in the areas of electrotherapy and electrophysiology. However, there are auxiliary collections in such topics as early electricity, neurology, neuroanatomy, neurosurgery, cardiology, magnetism, magnetotherapy (powder of sympathy), animal magnetism, phrenology, experimental psychology, and theories of ESP. The electrotherapy/electrodiagnosis collection includes diathermy, physical medicine, radiology, EKG, EEG, electrosleep, cardiac stimulation -- in short, electricity as it was used medically through history, beginning with electroichthiotherapy (treatment by electric fish)!"

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY in Baltimore has recently acquired a collection of approximately 5,000 pamphlets and ephemera relating to birth control from the library of Marie Stopes, the noted English author and prominent figure in the world birth control movement. According to Katharine Richards, Historical Librarian, the material contains Marie Stopes' signature and/or manuscript annotations and dates from approximately 1900 to 1958.

HAHNEMANN MEDICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY, Philadelphia, has recently undertaken a two-month reorganization and inventory of its archives and historic collections, including the scrapbooks of Thomas Lindsley Bradford, 1847-1918, one of the two principal historians of homeopathy. The Editor was especially pleased to discover in the process an annotated set of biographical indexes to American homeopaths as far as 1912 or so. Constantine Hering's Paracelsus Collection has been reclaimed from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, where it had been on deposit for 20 years.

PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL closed its doors at the end of June, 1977. The historic medical library has been transferred, some 400 cartons in number, to the Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, along with funds to survey and inventory the 5,000-7,000 books. According to Ellen Gartrell, the agreement between the City of Philadelphia and the College stipulates that those books not retained by the College are to be offered to other Philadelphia-area research libraries. The hospital's archives have been added to previous deposits at the Philadelphia Municipal Archives.

MAYO MEDICAL LIBRARY, Rochester Minnesota, played host during August to the exhibit of The Urban & Schwarzenberg Collection of Anatomical Art. This extraordinary display of over 100 paintings and drawings since 1896 has

also been on view in Detroit and Augusta, Georgia; in 1978 it will be seen in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER has doubled space allotments for the History of Medicine, both in reading areas and staff work space. Phil Weimerskirch reminds us also that a number of catalogs have recently appeared of libraries in the history of the health sciences. We hope to persuade him to discuss these in some depth in the next issue.

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY at College Station, opening its medical school this fall, has included a mandatory course on medical ethics and the history of medicine. James Polk Morris, III, Ph.D., is working with Virginia Algermissen, head of the medical sciences library, to develop a supporting collection, chiefly in secondary works, to supplement the teaching program.

DUKE UNIVERSITY has acquired a number of classics in the neurosciences though funds given in memory of Dr. Irwin A. Brody. G. S. T. Cavanagh remarks also on the 90th birthday of Sir Geoffrey Keynes, and quotes the New York Times piece on his mischievous suggestions for a Grolier Club exhibit on "Books as Troublemakers": The Economic Consequences of the Peace, by his older brother John Maynard Keynes; The Origin of Species, by his wife's grandfather, and Harvey's De Motu Cordis, the last regarded by him as a troublemaker because "it doomed researchers to the drudgery of the experimental method."

Editorial note...

Volume I, No. 1 of this newsletter appeared modestly without editorial identification. We are now able to report that it owed its being to Robin Overmier, and especially its good looks. Regretfully, in anticipation of educational commitments, added to her duties as Chairman of MLA's History of Medicine Group, Robin has had to give up her Watermark labors. The Association is much obligated to her, and hopes that she will in time be able to return to the editorship.

The Editor pro tem (Lisabeth Holloway) and the Regional Editors (Jon Erlen, Robin Overmier, Nancy Zinn, Doris Thibodeaux and Frank Gyorgyey) would like to hear from every member at least once a year. We need news, opinions, letters, suggestions, and criticisms. And especially articles.

This issue has been reproduced by xerography (for reasons of economy) from typewritten copy, on (watermarked) Permalife acid-free paper (80-lb. "Olde White"); the logo was developed at the University of Minnesota print shop, which produced the first issue; the sketches are watermarks chosen at random from Sotheby's 1845 Typography of the 15th Century.

We are indebted to Neale Watson, of Neale Watson Academic Publications, Inc., for partial support of this issue.

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The kitchen table...

Confessions of an amateur exhibit-mounter

by Lisabeth M. Holloway

Few things are more alarming than being told you have to put up an exhibit by Friday. Especially if you have trouble drawing a straight line. (Professional-calibre talent in design, layout, mounting, lettering and the other exhibit arts is not hard to come by in any city with art schools, but it usually likes to be paid.)

But any city with museums, libraries, window-dressers, stationers, art-supply stores and hobby-shops, is not without resources for the amateur prepared to spend shoe-leather and her husband's patience in self-improvement. Philadelphia in the Bicentennial year was full of new ideas, while a number of tried-and-true old ones were welcome in their absence. The pegboard, faithful friend of all librarians, with its forest of strings running to a wilderness of captions, was not seen. Less limp red construction paper was about, and the faint-gray Xeroxed title-page was generally missing from the exhibit-case. Relatively speaking.

Design. According to professionals, amateurs almost always clutter their exhibits. Space and simplicity rest the viewer's eye and invite his mind, but where they cannot be had, unity of topic, subtlety and harmony of color, and variety of texture may occasionally suffice instead. A series of dim engravings and faded photographs was enlivened by a succession of narrow mountings around each piece, combining vivid velveteens or satins, tiny all-over cotton prints (or the early American gift-wrap papers which mimic them) and gilt papers in Victorian hues. For background, one can get (at lumberyards or paneling-shops) pieces of soft composition-board which can be painted and repainted to the mood of the moment, or covered in soft shades of felt and burlap. (If colors do not blend themselves spontaneously in the mind, one can always study color-schemes of painters, perhaps those of the period of one's exhibit. Winter landscape-tones, or Japanese watercolors suit old leathers and papers, I think.)

Mountings. Small objects sit nicely in or on plastic photocubes, either clear or lined in color; interesting lucite display shapes can be bought cheaply at rock-fanciers' shops. Things can be stuck on the soft composition-board afore-mentioned with double-stick mounting tape (get the kind cushioned with foam) and a couple of small nails tacked in beneath for insurance. (Patsy Gerstner, in her invaluable workshop at Cleveland a couple of years back, pointed out that the heads of heavy dress-makers' pins can be nipped off with a wire-cutter

Every now and then everybody has to do something he knows nothing about. No time or money to call in the professional; no amount of wriggling gets one off the hook; it's either sink or swim. We venture the gleanings of such an experience a few years ago, in the hope that it will encourage others to put their amateur efforts on the line. In the spirit of Heloise....

after being lightly pounded in, leaving the support almost invisible. Instruments can be tied on with nylon fishing-line, secured behind the panel. As Dr. Gerstner reminds us, it is well to have constant recourse to the spirit-level, to keep things straight.

Plastic-box picture-frames of the Dax sort, or their cheaper cousins, provide instant mountings for photographs, signs, facsimiles, whatever, with very little need for glue or pins. They can be stood on easels or wire bookstands, or bought with their own easels. They reflect overhead lights; one may want to try non-reflecting glass, now quite cheap, in standard photo frames, especially for book-pages or signs. The useful clear Mylar tape sold by Talas will hold book-pages open without damage.

Mats and backing. Textured paper is sold in art-supply stores for watercolors and such; it is also suitable for mats and signs, especially when it can be found in the off-whites considerate of faded complexions of old papers. One such, "Aquabee," comes padded in a series of buffs, greyed blues and browns, in various sizes from 9x12" up. This can even be used in a friendly Xerox machine, to reproduce old documents for the showcase.

Lettering and sign-making. If one aspires to a fine italic hand, and practices patiently, the Osmir-oid and Pelikan fountain-pens with their various nibs will give hours of pleasure and pay off in titles. Edged felt-tip pens are also useful, though usually far too large. (They can, perhaps, be cut down.) If one's hand is unsteady, for whatever reason, one may do better with ready-made pressure-sensitive lettering. This comes in two kinds. Vinyl letters, to be bought at stationers' in sizes from 1/4" to 2" and more, in black, gold, red, white, yellow, etc., can be taken off and replaced, in event of error, with a sharp knife. Transfer lettering, especially the dry kind, comes in a great variety of type-faces (the captions for this issue are done in Times Roman Bold, and pretty sloppily too), and can also be scrapped off if misplaced. One manufacturer, Chartpak, also sells sheets or rolls of colored transparent overlay, with or without adhesive.

None of this, of course, is altogether without cost, though usually of the petty-cash variety. Some of your materials will last through several exhibits. Staff-members sometimes display unexpected talents at making and mounting exhibits. Try to plan ahead, so that you will not be pushed at the last minute, and to give yourself time to ponder color-schemes and collect new ideas.

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Editorial comment...

by Ferenc Gyorgyey

Dr. George Rosen, Professor of the History of Medicine at Yale University, died while travelling through England. George Rosen was planning to give the keynote address and participate in a symposium on "Medicine and Industrialization in History" in Scotland.

Professor Rosen was born in 1910, received his B.S. at the College of the City of New York, and obtained the M.D. degree in Berlin, where he studied with Paul Diepgen, the well-known medical historian. Dr. Rosen was active first in the practice of medicine and later in the field of public health. He served in the Second World War and upon his return he acquired a Ph.D. in Political Science, as well as an M.P.H. degree. Most of his publications (ten books and some two hundred articles) are in the field of the history of medicine. In 1969 he became Professor of the History of Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University. In the course of his versatile career he was the editor of the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, and together with his wife, Dr. Beate Rosen, edited the Ciba Symposia when it was still devoted to the history of medicine. He also edited other journals, received countless medals, awards, and was a Fielding H. Garrison, Benjamin Rush, Richard H. Shryock, and Samuel C. Harvey lecturer. He was President of the American Association for the History of Medicine, President of the International Academy of Medicine and of the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

There will be obituaries written about Dr. George Rosen, and librarians in the history of the health sciences will doubtless read more complete articles. The writer of these lines had something else in mind for the readers of The Watermark be-

sides the mourning of a great medical historian. George Rosen was a historical librarian's dream. He was a friendly, warm human being, with interests so wide-ranging that there was almost no limit to them. He could be called one of the greatest resources the Yale Medical Historical Library has ever had. We should divide the immense loss into two parts: the personal grief for a wonderful human being and the professional loss of the library's most knowledgeable sage.

Since George Rosen was a connoisseur of literature, art, sociology and several related fields, he was the most reliable source when everybody and everything else had failed. Without even stopping for a minute to think, he was able to tell the approximate date of publication of an article on a non-medical, non-historical subject in a periodical completely outside our narrower field, so that the staff often ran in wonder to the Union List of Serials to ascertain that it really existed.

George Rosen was exceptional in the scope of his interests and knowledge. There are others in out libraries, members of the faculty, graduate students, research fellows, etc., whom we see every morning or every month perhaps, to whom we can turn for information. And I feel we should. This advice may be old hat to readers of The Watermark, but it may prove useful to newcomers in the field.

Do not forget the human resources! Garrison-Morton is fine, Castiglioni is a classic, so are the works of Singer and Sigerist. But invaluable sources of knowledge, holders of differing viewpoints, and persons learned in varying approaches to problems are among us, and can be consulted. A little civilized conversation will show us who our human resources are, and what their specialties may be.

The reader seeks answers, but these are not always to be found in books. We must draw on the experts, and they are usually willing to share their knowledge through the diplomatic intermediary: the historical librarian.

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