

Newsletter of

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The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

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## Volunteers in Special Collections

by Glen Jenkins

Museums in the United States have a tradition of using volunteers to supplement their activities. It is commonplace to see docents guiding tours, volunteer clerks at gift shops, women's committees raising funds, and behind-the-scenes volunteers assisting with exhibits, mailings and routine cataloging. Retired professionals frequently return to museums to engage in research or assist in identification of materials. At a recent American Association of Museums session on "Volunteers: An Investment with Returns," volunteers were recognized as helpful not only for their contributions of service and time, but indirectly for their contributions to public relations — recruitment of new members, loyalty and enthusiasm for the institution, and as a source for new volunteers.

In a period of cut-backs in staff, budgets and acquisitions, the question must be asked, is there a place for volunteers in special collections? The Historical Division of the Cleveland Health Sciences Library has employed volunteers for several years on a limited basis. Volunteers in rare books and archives have assisted in such tasks as processing archives, describing and researching books for duplicate book sales, treating leather bindings and appraisal. They have come from a variety of backgrounds, including an engineer from Eastman Kodak, a high school senior interested in a career in rare books, wives of physicians, and a woman road surveyor for the state of Washington. Out of this experience, the following guidelines were developed which may be of interest to those now considering the use of volunteers.

1. Do not undertake a program for volunteers unless you are prepared to devote a fair portion of your day to oversee the work. Professional decisions must be made by the person in charge and not by the volunteer. It is important to recognize how many volunteers can be managed effectively.

2. There is little reward for either the volunteer or the institution if the volunteer does not

honor a commitment to attend regularly and for a minimum amount of time (at least six months, preferably a year). It is important to be able to count on them and for them to be a working part of the organization.

3. Know the interests and capabilities of your volunteers. If a volunteer does not like to work with his hands, for example, do not assign him to the treatment of leather bindings. For some, typing presents physical difficulties; for others, typing represents "routine" work which they volunteer to avoid. It is possible to persuade them of the value of this type of activity, but it is more satisfactory to place them in something which may be routine to you, but educational for them. One such activity might be recording dealer's prices for the collections. Reading catalogs can be entertaining and enlightening for the volunteer and helpful to the librarian.

4. It is important to stress the proper handling of materials and the basic concepts of preservation. Inform the volunteer of the smoking rules and other restrictions at the outset. For those with access to personal papers, impress them with the necessity of confidentiality.

5. Finally, remember to express appreciation for the work they do. The volunteer gives freely and cheerfully of time and energy. Formal programs often include banquets and the presentation of pins at the end of the year. In smaller settings a warmer exchange can take place. A dedicated volunteer can be an invaluable asset to your library and a joy to the staff. One such person has worked in the Historical Division one day per week for the last five years. During this time she has assisted in the processing of at least eight major manuscript collections, the arrangement of pictures, and with book and collection evaluation. She attends all of the events and supports acquisition through her membership in the Friends. In such a case, can one ever really say "thank you" enough?

# AN AFTERTHOUGHT ON INTERNES, GRADUATE STUDENTS, WORK-STUDY HELP, ETC., etc.....

Ms. Jenkins' salient observations on the care and nurture of volunteers apply with equal force to students. Now and then one hears a colleague remark apologetically that such-and-such a piece of scut-work ought to be relegated to student help, if only it were available, so that the professional could get on with the important stuff. Sometimes one also hears the professional complain that his student or clerical help is unreliable: uninterested, not conscientious, perhaps not putting in the required time, even found playing cards in stacks or asleep in the 800's.

It has always seemed to this writer that libraries, like workplaces of all sorts — households even — are run on a judicious mixture of scut-work and imagination, and that some of each is to be found, on an unpredictable basis, at all levels. (One remembers, for example, a cleaning-girl of unpromising appearance and severely limited conversation, who nevertheless had a dead eye for 16th-century pamphlets misfiled in the general stack. Or a student from Ghana, to whom English was audibly a second language, but who read crabbed 19th-century script much faster and more accurately than his once-condescending supervisor.) Similarly, chores like dressing the leather of old books, filing catalog cards, or even reading shelves, should not be entirely relinquished to the Indians by the chiefs, lest they forget.

Summer internes and graduate students constitute a labor-resource and an educational obligation simultaneously. Their work should contain some creative and some routine elements: to an extent, they should learn to use the basic tools of bibliographic or historical research; they should be taken to visit at least some of the notable libraries, museums and other cultural institutions of the area, not as ordinary visitors, but as persons privileged to look behind the scenes. In return, they may remember, when themselves — or some of them — absent-minded professorial greybeards, that all that glitters is not gold, they have an obligation toward their own generation of neophytes, and the scholar must sometimes do his own research.

Sometimes a creative and sympathetic approach yields recruits to the profession; usually it produces a satisfying interchange between both senior and junior partners; always, I think, it benefits the institution.

- Editor

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# WOMEN PHYSICIANS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, or, IF EVERYONE'S GRANDFATHER WAS A DENTIST, THEN EVERYONE'S GRANDMOTHER WAS A PHYSICIAN . . . . by Sandra L. Chaff

We were struck with Aletha Kowitz and Christine Dolan's article in the April issue of The Watermark. Subtitled "...Everyone's Grandfather Was a Dentist", the article called to mind the many times staff in the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine has mused upon what seems to be the ever-increasing number of telephone calls, letters, and visits from people who have just discovered, in the course of their genealogical searching, a skeleton in the family closet — more of a surprise than they might have anticipated when the skeleton turns out to belong to their grandmother's or great-aunt's medical school days.

With often the sketchiest information (or tortuous explanations of who these relatives were in the schema of things familial), genealogical searchers and researchers have come to the Archives to discover more about the daring women in their family who practiced (and they assume studied) medicine in the 19th century. These searchers come to the Medical College of Pennsylvania because this school, previously known as the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, was the first medical school regularly organized for the education of women to be physicians. Founded in 1850 as the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, it was the precursor of a proliferation of 19th-century women's medical schools which, as the 20th century dawned, were either being absorbed by male or coeducational medical schools or closing their doors for good — one by one — until by the 1920's, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania was the only extant women's medical school in the country.

In order to respond to these requests for biographical information, we review our holdings in four broad collections.

1. The reprint file and monograph collection contains over 5,000 published items on women physicians. The foundation for this collection is the more than 4,000 items acquired for citation in Women in Medicine: A Bibliography of the Literature on Women Physicians.

2. After we have checked the Bibliography and its unpublished supplement for published materials, we turn to the alumnae files (if the physician attended the Woman's Medical College). If she has no folder in this file, there is still a chance that information on her may be found in the faculty minutes — especially in the 19th century when the faculty minutes were very complete with pertinent correspondence and other collateral materials attached to the minutes themselves.

Searching the faculty minutes, however, is a task the researcher must undertake herself. In one case the circumstances were such that we did look in the faculty minutes for the researcher in order to discover the status of a particular student whose descendant felt quite sure had graduated from the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, even though she was not listed in our records as an alumna. The faculty minutes for the period (1850's) very neatly detailed this woman's failure to be "duly elected" to the ranks of graduate (it seems more black balls were cast by faculty members against her election than white balls in her favor). This sort of news is not of the nature we enjoy relating to an excited descendant, all of which has nothing to do with why we no longer search faculty minutes for researchers, but rather exemplifies how useful these minutes can be in gleaning information on specific women physicians.

3. If the woman physician has had nothing published about her and is not an alumna of the College, we are somewhat less likely to turn up biographical information at this point. We have collections of materials on women physicians who were not Woman's Medical College (WMC) graduates but not nearly enough to track down all the thousands of women physicians who have practiced in the United States. The American Medical Women's Association historical collection, given to the College in the 1940's, is expected to yield an abundance of information on non-WMC women physicians. That collection is scheduled to be arranged, catalogued, and indexed within the next year.

4. A final collection which we search for visual reference to specific women physicians or medical women's events is the photograph collection. Over 2,500 photographs, dating from an early daguerreotype (1855) to contemporary 8x10 glossies, provide exciting visual "evidence" for many researchers.

It is actually very unusual for materials in the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine to yield no information whatsoever on a particular woman physician. Researchers may write, telephone, or visit the Archives Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Limited reference service is available as is photocopying service, and prints and slides may be ordered from photographs in the collections.

## Books & articles of note...

### CATALOG OF THE BERNARD BECKER COLLECTION IN OPHTHALMOLOGY AT THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE LIBRARY

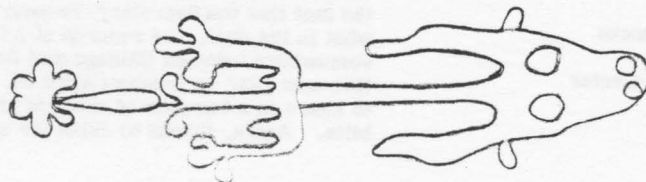
As one would expect, there is not much at fault here. Dr. Brodman's library is to be congratulated on the acquisition of a good, specialized collection and on publishing a detailed, workman-like record of it. The page layout is attractive and the provision of microfiche images of the title-pages is interesting and useful. The latter innovation has been applied at least once before with an exhibition catalogue of Victorian bindings and will be a good example to follow in all serious bibliography if one cannot afford the lavish illustrative treatment of, say, the Mellon alchemy catalogues.

However, there would be little pleasure in reviewing books if one could not quib a few quibbles over the best of them. What bothers me most (and not much) is the arbitrary division into rare and "non-rare", the latter being a regrettable term anyway. The fact that the collection is so divided on the shelves may make a divided catalogue a little more useful at home, but less so for the rest of us. Is Panum (1858) really less rare or costly, for example, than an English edition of Beer (1828) and does it deserve less careful treatment?

Working out the collation formulas must have been a character-building exercise for someone, but it is doubtful whether those recording 19th century books at least will be much used. And I for one would gladly have traded the Provenance index for a simple subject listing in which I could have looked up "Ophthalmoscopy", for example.

The collection itself was a personal library and there is interest in the inclusion of books not immediately recognized as ophthalmological. Overall it is not as strong as might have been expected. To find an incomplete Wardrop and only two editions of Scarpa is a little surprising but, as announced, this is only the basic catalogue. The collection will continue to grow and we can look forward to supplements as the gaps are filled and the boundaries extended.

-- G. S. T. Cavanagh





# THE EVAN BEDFORD LIBRARY OF CARDIOLOGY; CATALOGUE OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND JOURNALS

The purpose of this catalogue (London, Royal College of Physicians, 1977; xi, 245 p.) is to record the gift of his historical collection by the late D. Evan Bedford, one of the original editors of the British Heart Journal and wartime custodian of the cardiovascular health of Winston Churchill. Its purpose is not to serve as a definitive bibliography of the history of cardiology, but the quality of the collection is high enough to carry it some way in that direction. Librarian Leonard Payne's editing is skilful and sympathetic and deserves more prominent billing than it gets in the volume. The production is as handsome as one can hope for in inflationary times. A few textual economies such as the omission of detailed notes of books not of cardiological interest (there is a half-page analysis of Major's Classic Descriptions of Disease) might have allowed for better treatment of the illustrations which look anemic on the text paper. But the end result is admirable and valuable. The sections of particular interest to Dr. Bedford himself, such as "The Pulse" (79 items) and "Angina Pectoris" (80 items) are models of catalogue raisonnée.

It should perhaps be recorded that the College's decision to keep the Bedford Library intact rendered duplicate a number of important and useful books in the College Library, and that these were bought by Duke University Medical Center Library.

-- G. S. T. Cavanagh

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## ALHHS doings...

### New members...

Mrs. Elizabeth White  
History of Medicine Librarian  
Houston Academy of Medicine -- Texas  
Medical Center Library  
Houston, Texas, 77030

Dr. Malvin E. Ring  
216 East Main Street  
Batavia, New York, 14020

Charles A. Isetts  
Head, History of the Health Sciences  
Library and Museum  
University of Cincinnati Medical Center  
231 Bethesda Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267

We regret to record the sudden death, on June 16, 1979, of Dr. Wilhelm Moll, Director of the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia Medical Center at Charlottesville, and Executive Director of its Health Sciences Communications Center.

Dr. Moll earned his bachelor's degree at Denison University in 1943, and his doctorate in jurisprudence in 1945 at the University of Chicago Law School. His first library position was at the University of Indiana at Bloomington (1956-1960); he then went to the University of Kentucky at Lexington; in 1962 he came to the University of Virginia. The Wilhelm Moll Memorial Medical History Fund has been established at the Claude Moore Library.

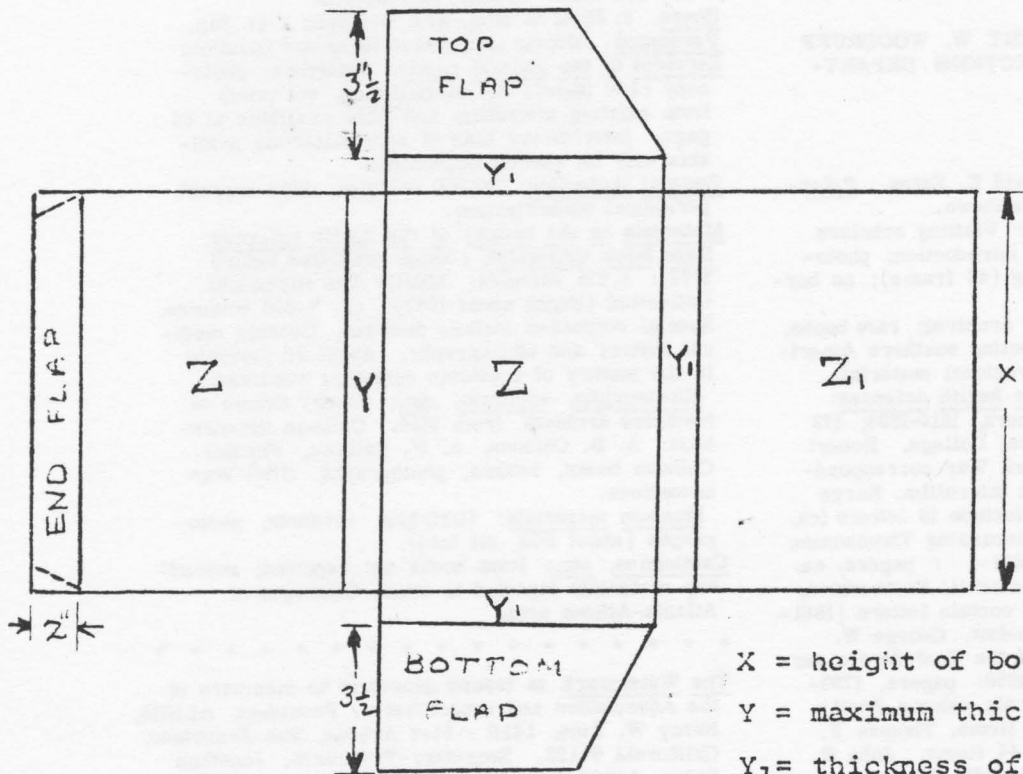
Members of ALHHS will recall his interesting piece in The Watermark of April, 1978: "Travelling in Europe - 1977." More recently, he co-authored with George Moore an essay on "Changing Practices and Disease Patterns at the University of Virginia Hospital since 1907" (Bulletin of the History of Medicine 52: 571-578, Winter, 1978).

## PITTSBURGH IN MAY

On Wednesday, May 2, 1979, some 17 members of ALHHS, and several guests, including Dr. Genevieve Miller, President of AAHM, met in Oakland for a day of bookbinding, botany, librarianship and business. Olivia Primanis-Cherin and, later, Jean Gunner demonstrated hand bookbinding techniques; Ms. Gunner, at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, also showed slides and examples of her exquisite work. An elegant lunch at the Scaife Gallery - where many of us later returned for a few moments' quiet among fine photographs and early American silver - preceded an absorbing visit to the Hunt, and a demonstration by Bernadette Callery, its librarian, of its medico-botanical contents, many of them exhibited for our perusal. And Janet Kubinec, the indefatigable organizer of this meeting, showed us through the Falk's Historical Collections, and gave us a chance to kick off our shoes and do a little business.

Under the leadership of our Secretary-Treasurer, John Erlen, certain ALHHS problems were discussed, as: 1) elections (this summer we must nominate a President and two members of the Steering Committee); The Watermark (the Editor is willing to continue in that post but not indefinitely, and she needs news and ideas); and the fact that the Secretary-Treasurer is working somewhat in the dark, the records of ALHHS having been lost somewhere between Chicago and Dallas. He also noted that next year in Boston (April 30, 1980) we are invited to share in a bus tour of medical archives and memorabilia. Again, thanks to Janet for a very good day!

## THE A.P.S. STORAGE FOLDER



$X$  = height of book +  $1/8$ "

$Y$  = maximum thickness of book +  $3/32$ "

$Y_1$  = thickness of book +  $1/16$ "

$Z$  = width of book at widest part +  $1/8$ "

$Z_1$  = width of book +  $1/16$ "

The A.P.S. folder is made of a neutral, buffered folder stock (such as the Permaman handled by the Hollinger Corporation); the light weight stock, 10 mil, is rigid enough to support a volume up to  $3/8$ " thick, the heavier weight, 20 mil, will support a volume (or pamphlet or set of leaves) up to 3" thick. For example, the A.P.S. now uses these folders to store contemporary typescripts on  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ " paper.

To make the folders, only the folder stock, equipment consisting of a mat knife, calipers, ruler and square, and ample working surface are needed. A pair of sharp scissors can be substituted for the mat knife if necessary. The most important requirement is careful measurement according to the formula shown with the diagram; the fractional additions are allowances for the thickness of the stock as the case folds over on itself.

The folder was designed by Willman Spawn, conservator at the American Philosophical Society Library, in 1957 for the temporary storage of disbound pamphlets.

## Directory of libraries in the history of the health sciences...

### Selected entries

EMORY UNIVERSITY. ROBERT W. WOODRUFF  
LIBRARY. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPART-  
MENT.

Atlanta, Georgia, 30322  
404-377-2411, ext. 7688

Hours: 9-6 Mon.-Sat.

Chief, Special Collection: David E. Estes. Refer-  
ence Archivist: Linda M. Matthews.

Services to the general public: Visiting scholars  
given access, with letter of introduction; photo-  
copy (7¢ page); microfilming (4¢ frame); no bor-  
rowing or interlibrary loan.

General collection: University archives; rare books,  
historical manuscripts; collecting southern Ameri-  
cana, Civil War, local and regional material.

Materials in the history of the health sciences:

Robert Battey, 1828-1895; papers, 1810-1894, 173  
items, esp. re Atlanta Medical College. Robert  
Donnell Bone, 1832-1892: Civil War correspond-  
ence, 1861-1863; 60 items on microfilm. Burge  
Family: papers, 1832-1895, include 19 letters (ca.  
1837-1843) from physicians discussing Thomsonian  
practice. Hal M. Davison, 1891- : papers, ca.  
1911-1958, 15 linear feet. Lucius H. Featherston,  
1814-1886: papers, 1836-1913, contain letters (1861-  
1865) of Featherston's son-in-law, George W.  
Peddy (d. 1913), a surgeon in the Confederate ser-  
vice. Tomlinson Fort, 1787-1859: papers, 1795-  
1882, some of which concern his volume Fort's  
Medical Practice (1849), 196 items. Thomas F.  
Furman: papers, 1827-1840, 44 items. John R.  
Little, 1832-1902: diary, 1861-1863, 85 pages on  
microfilm. Robert Watkins Lovett, 1818-1912:  
papers, 1787-1916; 206 items. Alexander Means,  
1801-1883: papers, 1830-1880, 2 ms. boxes. Ed-  
ward Lloyd Sanders, 1829-1902: papers, ca. 1787-  
1905; 48 items. Samuel David Sanders, 1824- :  
Civil War letters, 1861-1867; 59 items on micro-  
film. Anderson M. Scruggs, : papers,  
chiefly literary, 9 boxes. Samuel Hollingsworth  
Stout, 1822-1903: papers, as Confederate hospi-  
tal administrator, 1861-1865; ca. 500 pieces, 1  
reel. Alfred Abraham Weinstein, 1908-1964: papers,  
ca. 1940-1964, re his book Barbed Wire Surgeon  
and experiences in WW-II prison camp, 5 ms.  
boxes and 11 vols. David Read Evans Winn, 1831-  
1863; 60 items. Ocmulgee Hospital, Macon, Ga.  
(Confederate): record books, 1862-1865, 2 vols.  
Simon Baruch, 1840-1921: papers, 1860-1869, 2  
vols. Frances Bradley, 1862-1949: papers, 1893-  
1950, 3 boxes. Theodore Turner Fogle, 1834-1864:  
papers, 1851-1865, 200 items.

Catalogues, etc.: Collection reported to NUC and  
NUCMC, as catalogued.

EMORY UNIVERSITY. A. W. CALHOUN MEDICAL  
LIBRARY. Founded 1923

Woodruff Memorial Building, Atlanta, Georgia,  
30322.

404-329-5813 TWX: 810-751-8512

Hours: 8:30-12 M Mon.-Fri. 9-6 Sat.; 1-11 Sun.

Personnel: Address inquiries to Reference Division.

Services to the general public: Reference; photo-  
copy (10¢ page); no microfilming, but prints  
from existing microfilm and fiche available at 5¢  
page. Interlibrary loan of rare materials avail-  
able only on special occasions.

General collection: 110,000 volumes; 1920 current  
periodical subscriptions.

Materials in the history of the health sciences:

Rare Book Collection (books published before  
1870): 1,215 volumes. Myrtle Tye Historical  
Collection (begun about 1937): ca. 3,000 volumes.  
Special emphases include diabetes, Georgia medi-  
cal history and bibliography. About 20 journals  
in the history of medicine currently received.

Manuscripts, archives, etc.: Emory School of  
Medicine archives from 1854. Calhoun memora-  
bilias: A. B. Calhoun, A. W. Calhoun, Phynizy  
Calhoun books, letters, photographs, Civil War  
mementoes.

Museum materials: Portraits, artifacts, photo-  
graphs (about 200, all told).

Catalogues, etc.: Rare books not reported; second-  
ary materials reported to Union Catalogue of  
Atlanta-Athens area.

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hocken Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144.

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