



Newsletter of

The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Volume VII, Numbers 3 & 4, Winter, 1983-84 and Spring, 1984

Constitution and By-laws

revisited

Our first issue, long ago in 1976, contained our Constitution and By-laws, and listed 29 members. Now, at nearly 90 members, two-thirds of us have never seen our first identity statement, and the rest have forgotten it. Wherefore, herewith.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to serve the professional interests of librarians, archivists, and other specialists actively engaged in the librarianship of the history of the health sciences by promoting an exchange of information and by improving standards of service.

Its aims may be achieved in the following ways:

- a. by identifying and making contact with persons similarly engaged,
- b. by providing opportunities to hold meetings on appropriate occasions,
- c. by issuing a newsletter and such other materials as may seem appropriate to the Association's interests, and
- d. by cooperating with other similar organizations in projects of mutual concern.

II. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Voting membership shall be limited to persons actively engaged in the librarianship of the history of the health sciences. (Members shall be encouraged to belong to other groups with related interests, such as the American Association for the History of Medicine, the Medical Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries and its Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the Special Libraries Association, etc.) Possession of a degree in library science or possession of a similar title shall not be required for membership.
- B. Nonvoting memberships, including subscription to the newsletter and invitations to meetings shall be open to persons interested in the concerns of the Association, such as professional and amateur historians; physicians, dentists, veterinarians,

arians, nurses, and other health professionals; booksellers; private collectors; and publishers.

- C. Dues, including subscription to the newsletter, shall be \$10 per year for voting members and \$15 per year for nonvoting members.

III. ORGANIZATION

The Association shall discourage the growth of an elaborate internal structure or of any considerable social or ceremonial emphasis. Rather, it shall strongly encourage active participation by all of its members in its efforts toward the achievement of its primary goals. To this end, internal structure shall be kept to a minimum.

A. Steering Committee

The principal authority of the Association shall reside in an elected Steering Committee consisting of six persons. The Committee shall include three officers: President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor of the Newsletter, who shall be chosen for 2-year terms in such fashion that all three officers will not be replaced simultaneously, from the members of the Steering Committee; and of three persons elected from the voting membership-at-large, who shall also serve for 2 years each, except as voted into the three offices above. All six candidates shall be nominated by the Steering Committee, which shall submit the nominations to the voting membership with a call for additional nominations. After an appropriate period, the nominations shall be declared closed. The revised slate of nominees will be offered to the voting membership, who shall vote by mail, sending unsigned ballots in signed envelopes to the President, who shall retain the envelopes, sending ballots to the Secretary-Treasurer to be recorded. The President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority, the others by a simple plurality.

B. President

The President shall not be eligible to succeed herself/himself immediately, although she/he

may be nominated and elected after an intervening term. The President shall act as the Executive Officer of the Association with respect to any projects, publications, cooperative ventures, and so on, with the prior consultation and approval of the Steering Committee, and shall take the initiative in arranging for meetings by appointing a Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee. The President shall call for nominations, receive ballots, and report the results, as confirmed by the Secretary-Treasurer, to the Steering Committee and thereupon to the membership.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the correspondence and records of the Association, recording votes and decisions, and shall receive dues and pay the Association's bills, submitting a statement of the accounts to the Steering Committee every 6 months. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take note of changes of addresses, reporting these to the Editor for publication, and shall take the initiative in inviting eligible persons to become members.

D. Editor of the Newsletter

The Editor shall edit and produce the Newsletter, with the assistance of such other persons as he/she shall deem appropriate, such as Regional Editors, regular columnists, and so on, if such be thought advisable by the Steering Committee. The Editor shall send the Newsletter accounts to the Secretary-Treasurer and shall accept instructions from the Secretary-Treasurer as to the financial commitments the Association can afford with respect to the Newsletter.

IV. ACTIVITIES

A. Newsletter

The primary means of communication of the Association shall be its newsletter, which shall appear at stated intervals, as established by the Steering Committee. It shall contain professional news as deemed appropriate by the Editor and shall carry regular columns on topics of continuing importance, with special articles as requested. A column of letters is to be open to the members - voting and nonvoting - as are the newsletter's other departments, subject to the Editor's approval.

B. Other publications

As opportunity offers, and upon the approval of the members, the Association may publish or sponsor or endorse materials considered of importance to its members. All such projects shall have the endorsement of the Steering Committee before submission to the voting members.

C. Special projects

The Association may establish such internal projects, under ad hoc committees if necessary, as it considers appropriate to its objectives and may combine, upon approval of its members, with other similar societies in projects of mutual benefit.

V. AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended and the organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members, by mail or at a meeting, on a resolution set before it by a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee.



Thoughts on tailormade indexes and search protocols

Many of us in this specialized field administer collections still more highly specialized, as, for example, the historic bibliography of a medical specialty; practitioners of our locality; a therapeutic sect; military or naval medicine of a certain conflict or country. Whatever the specialty of our collection, we are expected as librarians or archivists to have it at our fingertips. No formal training in this little corner of scholarship may be available - and if such exists, like as not we will not have pursued it - but instant experts we must be all the same.

A convenient shortcut to competence, if not expertise, may be found in the compilation of indexes uniquely applicable to our circumstances. For example, practitioners of one's locality may be assembled into a ready-reference tool by photocopying lists of medical societies, city or county directory entries under Physicians, or whatever, licensee-registers, indexes to obituary-scrapbooks, county or city history chapters under Professions, indexes to biographies of local medical bigwigs, graduates of the medical school. (If no such indexes exist in some of these categories, perhaps a work-student or a volunteer may be enticed to make them.) Whether help is to be had or not, the work may well prove so rewarding as to deserve one's own attention. Telephone service will be expedited; visitors can be turned loose on the index-notebook to do much of their own searching; and perhaps best of all, the librarian may sit a little easier under the mantle of instant expertise.

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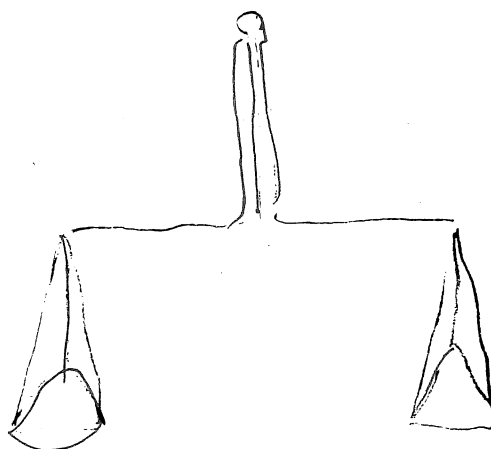
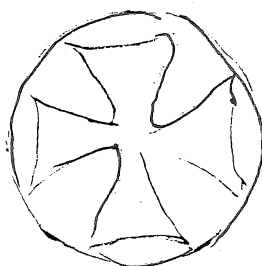
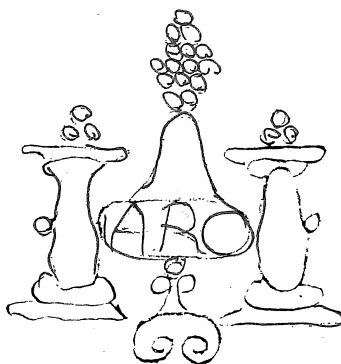
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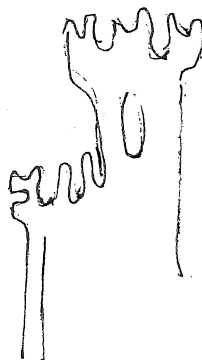
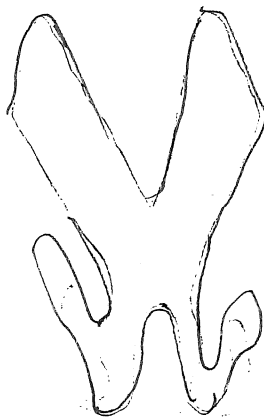
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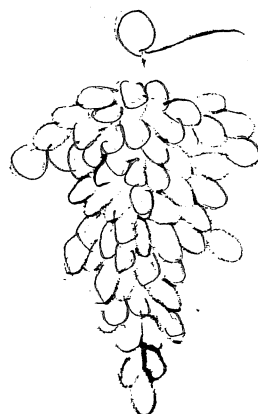
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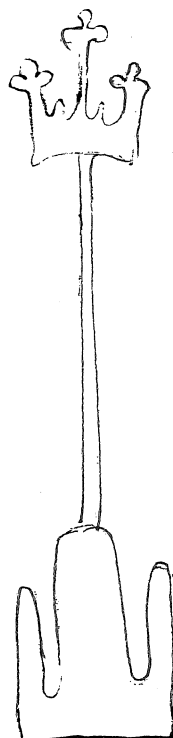
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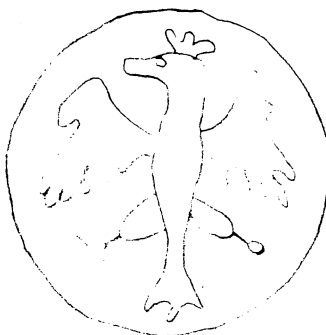
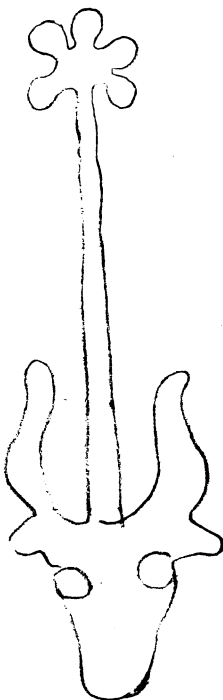
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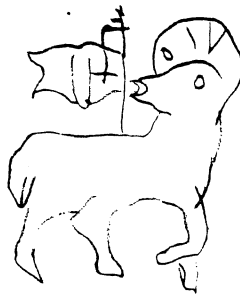


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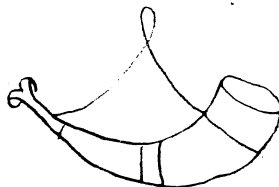
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MLA - Denver

MAY 29, 1984 Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colo.

12: 30 - 2: 30 P.M. Luncheon meeting.

John Parascandola, "The History of
American Pharmacology: oppertunities
and resources

James J. Kopp, "History of Medicine
Activities at NLM."

Business session will include election of officers.
Nominees are: Dorothy Whitcomb, Secretary/Treas-
urer, 1984-86; Janet Kubinec, Program Chair 1985;
Mary Ann Hoffman, Candidate for MLA Nominating
Committee, 1984. Nominations will be received
for: Chair-elect, 1986-87 Program chair (Cin-
cinnati, Ohio).

Meetings:

ALHHS - San Francisco

MAY 2, 1984. The Library, University of California,
San Francisco, Rare Book Room

8: 30 A.M. Registration, Coffee.

9: 00 A.M. Administration of Photographic Collections
Identification
Organization
Conservation
Access

Karen Lewis, Archival Consultant/Visual
Collections Specialist. Curatorial Asso-
ciate for Visual Collections, Harvard
University Archives, 1977-81

12: 00 Noon Prints and Photographs at NLM
John Parascandola, Director, History of
Medicine Division, NLM (Prepared in
collaboration with Lucinda Keister)
Brief Business Meeting

1: 00 P.M. Lunch

Registration fee: \$10.00, including lunch. Make
checks payable to Nancy W. Zinn, and return to her
at

Local Arrangements Committee, ALHHS
The Library, University of California
San Francisco, CA 94143

(Nancy may be reached by telephone at 415-
666-2334, Monday through Friday, 8 - 3: 30)



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