

# WATERMARK

Newsletter of

The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Volume VIII, No. 1, Summer, 1984

## Ex Libris

compiled by Glen Jenkins

At the San Francisco meeting in May, it was agreed that there ought to be more membership participation in producing the Watermark [see below, under "ALHHS in San Francisco. I. Minutes"]. With this in mind, letters were sent to several members inviting them to contribute news from their institutions, such as staff changes, new acquisitions, coming events, queries, or anything else which would be of interest to our readers. If this is successful, new solicitations will be made for the next issue. But please note, your news is welcome any time, so don't wait until your name comes up.

### New acquisitions

**Dorothy Whitcomb** (William S. Middleton Library, Wisconsin) writes that they have added several vaccination items this year, and that she is building a teratology collection with the help of a local patron who has a world-class slide collection of teratology illustrations in early books (1500-1900).

**Edwina Walls** (University of Arkansas Medical Center Library) found support for her collections from the Medical Education Foundation for Arkansas, and was able to add 14 classics to the History of Medicine Collection, together with the microfilm collection of Austin's Early American Medical Imprints, 1668-1820. Included among the new accessions is Morgagni's De Sedibus et Causis Morborum (1765).

From the Medical Center Library, Vanderbilt University, **Mary Teloh** reports the addition of a very rare herbal by William Turner, A New Herball: Wherein are conteyned the names of herbes in Greke, Latin, Englysh, Dutch, Frenche . . . gathered and made by William Turner (London, S. Mierdman, 1551-1562).

And **Victoria Steele** brings good news from the U.C.L.A. Biomedical Library, History and Special Collections. Purchases of several exceedingly rare volumes were made during 1983 through the Franklin E. Murphy Endowment Fund, including Fracastoro's Syphilis, sive Morbus Gallicus (1530), Berengario da Carpa's Tractatus de Fractura Calve, sive

Cranei (1518), an incunabulum, Breviarum Practice Medicinæ by Arnaldus de Villanova (1485) and Volcher Coiter's Externarum et Internarum Principium Humani Corporis Partium Tabulae (1573). Incidentally, these rarities are lovingly described by Victoria in the U.C.L.A. Librarian (v.37, no. 2, February, 1984).

And while we're on the subject of collection development, have you read "Collection development policies and practices in medical school rare book libraries" by **Judith Overmier** and **Mary H. Mueller** (Bull. Med. Libr. Assoc. 72(2), April, 1984). This could be an interesting topic for our next ALHHS meeting.

### Members recommend

**Hanff, Peter E.:** "The Story of the Berkeley Library Theft" (Coll. & Res. Libr. News, v.45, no.6, June, 1984). Also, in the same issue, "Library Theft Prevention" by the same author.

**Horowitz, Michael** and **Jack Collins:** "A Census of copies of the First Edition of Andreas Vesalius' De Humani Corporis Fabrica (1543) with a Note on the Recently Discovered Variant Issue" (Journal of the Hist. Med. and Allied Sci., v.39, April, 1984). Was your copy counted? One of the U.C.L.A. copies was missed.

**Leavitt, Judy:** Women and Health in America. University of Wisconsin Press, 1984. "Printed badly but full of good stuff." - D.W.

From the History of Science Society Newsletter 12(3):36, 1983, **Janet Kubinec** thoughtfully sends us an announcement of objects available for exhibit from the Division of Medical Sciences of the Smithsonian. Loan items include x-ray equipment, cardiology instruments and equipment, dental equipment of all types, surgical instruments, and diagnostic equipment. Exhibit spaces must be properly secured. Inquire of Division of Medical Sciences, MAH 5000, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

A kind friend, whose name we know not, having lost the envelope, has sent a photocopy of a page or two from "Photocopying without (Much) Damage," by

**Anthony J. Amodeo** in College and Research Libraries News 44(10):365 ff., November 1983, with further information and commentary on prospects in this area of anxiety.

**Richard A. Glenner**, DDS, has sent us a copy of his The Dental Office, a Pictorial History, (Missoula, Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., c1984; \$9.95). This agreeably presented collection of old engravings, photographs of offices old, new and reconstructed, illustrations from advertisements and catalogs, with extensive text, seems to have been designed for the dental waiting-room, rather than the library shelf, having no index or bibliography, but should be of use in both places.

### Available by writing

**Antonie Wouter Voors, M.D., M.P.H., D.P.H.:** Biographical Sketch and a Bibliography of His Work. Published by L.S.U. History of Medicine Club and the Department of Medical Bibliography. Dr. Voors was a renowned expert in medical statistics, trace metal toxicity, and cardiovascular disease. Copies of this 25-page memorial booklet are available from the Louisiana State University Alumni Office.

Illustrative Bibliography of Types of Accessible, Useful Source Materials Concerning History of Nutrition. A special exhibit prepared by Vanderbilt's History of Nutrition Collection for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology meeting, St. Louis, April 1-6, 1984. For copies of this exhibition catalog, write to **Mary Teloh**, Special Collections, Vanderbilt Medical Center Library, Nashville, TN 37232.

The ClioPedic Items, Bulletin of the Center for the History of Foot Care and Footwear, vol. 1, no. 1, Spring, 1984. For a copy of this first periodical in the history of chiropody/podiatry, address **Lisabeth M. Holloway**, Director, CHFCFW, Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine, Eighth at Race, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

The Otto Hirschfeld Memorial Collection: A Short-Title Catalogue of Pre-20th Century Medical Books in the collection of the Medical School, University of Queensland. Early and important Australian medical literature is also included in the collection scope. For copies, at no cost, write **Frances Flynn**, Principal Librarian, Health Sciences Libraries, Medical School, Herston Road, Herston, QLD., Australia, 4006.

### News notes

**Dr. Frederick B. Wagner, Jr.**, Grace Revere Osler Emeritus Professor of Surgery, has been appointed University Historian of Thomas Jefferson University. His first assignment is to oversee the publication of a comprehensive history of the University. He has recently completed an edition of 650 letters of Lady Osler, through the courtesy of the Osler Library of McGill University, to be published under the title, "The Twilight Years of Lady Osler." He will be sharing the Library's Special Collections Room with **Sam A. Davis**.

Ohio institutions with medical history collections have joined together to form the **Ohio Network of Medical History Collections**. Members share accessions lists, expertise, information and problems. A workshop on exhibit construction was held in April at the Howard Dittrick Museum, Cleveland.

### Available soon

**Dorothy Whitcomb's** bibliography of immunology, covering 3,480 items owned by the Middleton Library up to 1980. After five years' preparation, it will be available in photocopy format shortly.

### The calendar

**University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.** The Third Annual History of Medicine Associates Membership Meeting will be held November 1, 1984, at Trapnall Hall in Little Rock. The speaker will be **Dr. W. David Baird**, author of Medical Education in Arkansas, 1879-1978, published for the UAMS Centennial.

**Cleveland Health Sciences Library, Historical Division** announces the second annual Anton and Rose Zverina Lecture, November 5, 1984. **John Parascandola**, Director, History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine, will speak on the historical collections of the Library and the Cleveland connection.

**Robert E. Skinner**, Dept. of Medical Bibliography, Louisiana State University Medical Center Library, will address the **South Central Regional MLA** in October on "The Compleat Librarian: the Career of William Dosite Postell, Sr.," a topic he has brought before readers of the Watermark VII(2), Fall, 1983). Postell, a recognized authority on Southern medical history, and former president of the Medical Library Association, was Librarian at both Louisiana State University and Tulane medical libraries.

**University of Texas Health Science Center Special Collection Department** (San Antonio) is planning a series of films, lectures and discussions on the "History of the Health Sciences in the Twentieth Century." The symposium will be held this fall. For further information, contact **Joyce Ray**, Archivist and Curator.

**U.C.L.A. Biomedical Library.** Dates are set for the 1984-1985 "Programs in Medical Classics," a series of lectures in medical history designed to enhance an appreciation of the links between famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. The first meeting will take place on October 9, 1984.

### Thoughts & Queries

Has anyone out there ever heard of **Athens Medical College** (sometimes called **Pendleton Medical College**)? It was supposed to have existed in Ohio in 1847, possibly eclectic. Write **Glen Jenkins** if you have any evidence.

What conservation projects and progress have been made by Watermark readers? **Dorothy Whitcomb**, **Victoria Steele**, and **Cory Oysler** (University of Cincinnati) have prepared disaster manuals. Cleveland

Health Sciences Library has remodeled its conservation facility and awaits the arrival of a new conservator. Let us know what you are doing.

How many of us are using microcomputers? What kind of hard- and software are we using? What special tasks of interest to the ALHHS are being performed? This should eventually blossom into a symposium for the Watermark. (To start the discussion, we note that with this issue, Watermark text is being set in Wordstar on a ZORBA portable computer, and run off on a JUKI 6100 printer (complete with devils), using a Madeleine 10-pitch proportional-space daisy-wheel. The result is reduced by xerography to 80% of original size, cut and pasted, interspersing headings mostly hand-set in transfer-lettering (Artec Mini-Graphics #112), similarly reduced to 80%, sometimes twice, if we make ourself clear. The resultant hodge-podge is printed by xerography on our usual 80-lb off-white, acid-free stock. Pace Gutenberg.)

## ALHHS at San Francisco:

### I. Minutes

The meeting was called to order by ALHHS President Doris Thibodeau on May 1, 1984 in the Rare Book Room of the Library, University of California at San Francisco. The Secretary-Treasurer, John Erlen, noted that the minutes of the 1983 meeting had appeared in the summer issue of the Watermark. The minutes were approved as published. John Erlen reported that the treasury held \$901.72.

The Association expressed its appreciation to Nancy Zinn for hosting the meeting.

As ALHHS has become virtually a cost-recovery organization, the question of continuing to collect dues was raised. Janet Kubinec suggested that we collect dues only once in two years. After discussion by several members, a motion was made, seconded and passed to continue annual collection of dues of \$10.

Nancy Zinn noted the need for a microfiche catalog of Austin's Early American Medical Imprints. John Parascandola responded that NLM's retrospective conversion project would probably meet this need.

John Erlen suggested expanding the scope of the Watermark with the possibility of soliciting articles. Considerable opposition was voiced to this proposal. Several other plans were proposed to encourage submission of material to the Watermark, though none was officially adopted. After Lisabeth Holloway had restated the policy under which this newsletter has operated, the value of a publications committee to solicit news for the Watermark was discussed. A motion to create such a committee was unanimously passed, and Nancy Bruce, the new President, was asked to organize this committee by regions, and to appoint a representative from each region.

Nancy Bruce asked what topic should be addressed at next year's annual meeting, to be held at Duke University, and Janet Kubinec asked for similar suggestions for MLA's History Section, to meet in New

York next year. The consensus was that members favored touring the collections in both locations.

Mary Claire Britt thanked ALHHS for handling the mailing for this year's MLA program to be held in Denver in June.

The meeting was adjourned, and immediately followed by an excellent buffet luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

John Erlen, Secretary-Treasurer

## II. Karen Lewis on Administration of photographic collections

The meeting at San Francisco began with a three-hour condensation by Karen Lewis of her workshop for librarians and archivists charged with the care of old photographic images -- a workshop which normally includes a "hands-on" practice session, plus a considerably longer lecture period. While our editorial pen took notes as fast as we could make it go, we would not -- and should not -- venture to reconstruct Ms. Lewis's very useful talk in enough detail to make it really helpful to those ALHHS members who were not fortunate enough to hear her.

Her discussion began with the history of photographic processes: the daguerreotype, the collodion wet-plate, the tin-type, the gelatin dry-plate, nitro cellulose film in rolls and sheets, cellulose acetate film, and color films, with their approximate dates of introduction and period of use. Appraisal criteria for an image should include content and its importance, technical expertise of the photographer, and some attention to aesthetics, within the scientific context.

After a quick glance at accessioning procedure, Ms. Lewis dealt at length with questions of storage. Professional conservation costs, she said, run \$60 to \$75 an hour, so it is wisest to spend one's usually limited wherewithal on supplies at the collection level. For color storage, she suggested consideration of a frost-free refrigerator. Silica gel packets were recommended to lower humidity in non-controlled environments; buffered paper cannot be used, it now appears, to wrap albumen prints, since magnesium and calcium carbonates will attack the emulsion: a new non-buffered acid-free paper can be obtained. To stamp ownership on the back of photographs, stamp-pads, impregnated with LC's manuscript-marking ink, are available free from LC's Chief, Preservation Office, Research Services, Washington, D.C., 20540.

Advice was given on safe exhibit techniques; with the general recommendation to avoid displaying originals if possible, but if displayed, never for long.

As for use-restrictions, for protection of patient-rights, for example, the curator may of course make decisions and enforce them.

Copyright was touched on, and we were asked

to publish the following rule: "Everything produced before 1910 is now free, but if copyright has been renewed, the item may be protected till the year 2000."

Ms. Lewis recommended several works: Beaumont Newhall's The History of Photography, 5th ed., (New York Graphic Society, 1982); Elizabeth Betz's "Rules for Cataloging Graphic Materials: Preliminary Draft," (write LC, Prints & Photographs Div., Washington, DC 20540); Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs, by Robert Weinstein and Larry Booth (Nashville, AASLH, 1977). Her own Manual for the Visual Collections in the Harvard University Archives (Harvard University Library, 1981; \$6) outlines procedures for description and handling; shows sample forms; and includes bibliography and a list of suppliers.

### III. John Parascandola on Prints and photographs at NLM

John prefaced his discussion by inviting ALHHS members and friends to visit NLM's Prints and Photographs in their new quarters. Based on Betz's recommendations in the Manual mentioned above, a 5-year program is under way to reorganize the graphic collections.

His main topic concerned the video disc pilot project undertaken at the National Library, in parallel with a similar project at LC, with the object of reducing handling of originals and increasing availability of pictorial material. On the experimental disc have been placed a thousand items, comprising the illustrative content of three books, including Vesalius, portraits of sixteen individuals, and a sampling -- presumably -- on two subjects: the history of surgery and the history of psychiatry. The quality of the image, he said, "will be something a little better than a Xerox, but usually not a publishable image, not showing a deep level of detail."

The video-disc will be issued with its own computer-produced catalog, giving access to a desired item by number. The disc may be played on a SONY or Pioneer interactive player, or a non-interactive disc-player.

Before we get too far over our head into this fascinating application of the new technology -- and mis-report Dr. Parascandola, as we may already have done -- let us hasten to say that he has promised the Watermark a paper on this subject for its next issue. We look forward to it with interest.

### MLA HHS at Denver

The History of the Health Sciences Section met for luncheon on Tuesday, May 29, 1984, at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. Mary Claire Britt, Section Chair, presided at a short business meeting prior to the program.

Robin Overmier and Janet Kubinec reported on the 1984 Section Council meetings. Robin resigned her position as Section Council Representative for the 1985 meeting. Old Business for the Section included a status report on the By-laws and a report from the Ad Hoc Statistics Committee by Janet Kubinec.

New business for the Section included a discussion of preliminary plans for the 1985 meeting.

Election of officers was the next order of business. They are as follows:

1. Billie Broaddus will serve as Section Chair for 1986 and 1987.
2. Janet Kubinec will serve as our Section Council Representative for 1985.
3. Edwina Walls will serve as Section Council Representative Alternate for 1985.
4. Dorothy Whitcomb will be the Section's Secretary for 1985 and 1986.
5. Lucretia McClure will be our Section's nominee for the 1985 MLA Nominating Committee.
6. Billie Broaddus will serve as Program Chair for 1986.

Officers retaining their positions are:

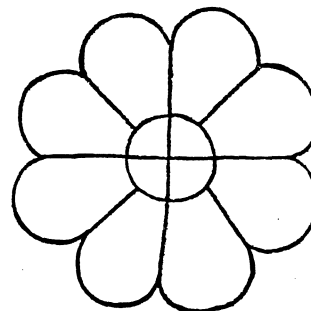
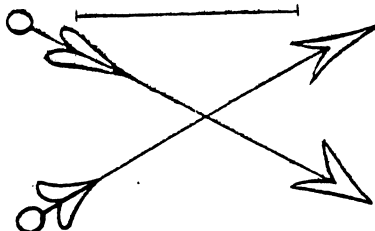
1. Mary Claire Britt as Section Chair for 1984 and 1985.
2. Janet Kubinec as 1985 Program Chair.
3. Dorothy Whitcomb as 1984 nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee.

Following the election of officers, Mary Claire Britt expressed appreciation to Lucretia McClure for her hard work as 1984 Program Chair.

The program was entitled "NLM Interfaces with HHS" and consisted of two speakers. Dr. John Parascandola, Chief of HMD at NLM, spoke on "The History of American Pharmacology: Opportunities and Resources." Jim Kopp, Editor of the Bibliography of the History of Medicine, spoke on "History of Medicine Activities at NLM." The full text of the program is available from the audiotape which was made of the History of the Health Sciences Section meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Claire Britt, Section Chair



## Letter from the President

As a relatively new member of ALHHS, only four years, it is quite an experience to be the president this year. Since ALHHS will meet in Chapel Hill in 1985, I regard this as a work-horse position. In the past several months, I have been deeply impressed by how much occurs behind the scenes in this organization. I will depend on the membership at large to communicate ideas, projects, and needs which this office should address. A heartening number of you have already done so, with the following results:

1. A new committee on publications is being formed. The duties of the committee will be to assist the editor in gathering regional news, and to solicit or write substantive lead articles for the Watermark. Glen Jenkins, of Cleveland, Ohio, has accepted the chairmanship of this committee, and she and I will be writing to members around the country to invite them to serve on the committee. If you have a strong urge to gather news and write articles, consider volunteering. The precise charge and the list of members appointed will be published in the next issue of the Watermark.

2. Several members expressed interest in presenting papers at the AAHM as part of a session on "Resources Awaiting a Researcher." Robin Price presented an excellent paper on a case book in the Wellcome's collection which will be of great interest to researchers. As president, I wrote to Todd Savitt, program chair for the 1985 AAHM, and asked about the possibility of organizing a paper session on this topic. Now it's up to you, the librarians and collections managers of these resources, to submit abstracts by November 1, 1984. His address is:

Todd L. Savitt, PhD  
Humanities Program  
School of Medicine  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27834

Abstracts should be typed on a single page, approximately 300 words in length. They should be submitted as an original with 5 copies.

3. Next year's meeting of ALHHS will focus on unique local resources in the Chapel Hill area. So far the program includes descriptive tours of the North Carolina Collection and the Southern Historical Collection, two extremely strong collections of southern history. The North Carolina Collection collects comprehensively everything published by or about North Carolina and North Carolinians. The Southern Historical Collection of manuscripts is an exceptionally rich resource for southern history. I have had occasion to examine physicians' case-books, among other manuscript materials relevant to the history of the health sciences. More news will be forthcoming on next year's program.

Several people have mentioned plans to drive to Chapel Hill, and want to arrange a dinner on the Tuesday evening preceding the meeting. It was also suggested that the business meeting might well be scheduled for Tuesday evening. This might interfere with travel plans for others. I need to know how

realistic and desirable such an idea is, and whether I should plan a dinner with or without a business meeting for Tuesday. If no outcry is raised, we'll have the business meeting on Wednesday as usual.

4. A suggestion has been received that ALHHS should appoint an ad hoc committee to gather genre terms for the history of the health sciences, and submit these to the ACRL for its next edition of terms to be considered in cataloging. This seems to me to be an excellent project for our organization. More news will be forthcoming.

5. Many of us have access to electronic mail services. This new form of communication is very fast and very inexpensive. We need to investigate how many of us have access to these and to publish our systems and addresses in the Watermark. I have applied for a CLASS OnType-II identification number, and will publish this in the next issue along with my schedule for checking the system for messages. If others of you use this system (or another), please let me know.

Each of these issues and projects is the direct result of your communications, and I do welcome them. Please continue to relay to me those projects you think we might undertake, and committees we might develop. I very much look forward to seeing you all at next year's meeting in Chapel Hill.

## New members

**Apology!** Our last issue contained a list of our members, with the astonishing omission of

John Parascandola  
Chief, History of Medicine Division  
National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20209

We are glad to see that he does not hold it against us.

Welcome to those who have since joined the Association:

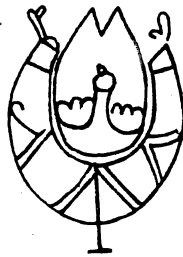
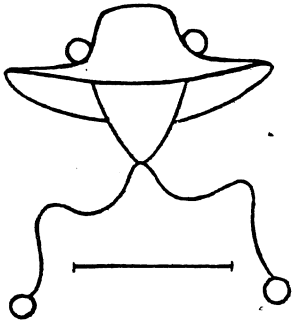
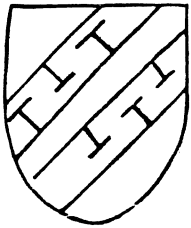
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