



NEWSLETTER OF

THE ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIANS IN THE HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Volume IX, No. 2, Fall, 1985

An alchemic approach to ephemera and artifacts: turning dross into gold

By Nancy McCall

Etymologically speaking, ephemera and artifacts have a long history of broad and elusive connotation. While there are many types of ephemera from a species of May fly to a printed broadside, all are linked by a common quality: their transitory and temporal nature. "Artifact", by definition alone (i.e., any object made by human work), connotes an infinite number of possible sizes and shapes. In archival and manuscript usage the concept of ephemera encompasses printed materials -- pamphlets, announcements, menus, etc. that are of some relevance to a repository's holdings. The archival concept of artifacts includes any three dimensional objects which are of relevance to a repository's holdings. Determining the relevance and value of artifacts and ephemera is, therefore, a responsibility that entails considerable astuteness and sound judgment on the part of the archivist and manuscript curator.

Another complexity for the archivist and manuscript curator is that ephemera and artifacts are of constantly changing value. The item that today is incidental and not ostensibly significant can overnight change fundamentally in character, assuming elevated intellectual importance and enormously increased fiscal value. The archivist and manuscript curator must always be on the alert for the obscure treasure of not only yesteryear, but also the immediate present and even the near future. They are hampered, however, by the nature of the material. Since the ephemera and artifact sections of record groups and manuscript collections are amorphous and at the same time complexly varied, these are usually poorly inventoried and poorly described. For generations archives and manuscript repositories have had little control over ephemera and artifact holdings. Despite improvements in modern inventorying processes through computerized systems, the perennial problems with ephemera and artifacts persist. This is largely because the physical and intellectual control over ephemera and artifacts demands such a high degree of individual judgment.

The object of this paper is to discuss the large scale management of institutional ephemera and artifacts at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Before proceeding, I must, however, explain the role of the Medical Archives in this task at the Medical Institutions. The Medical Institutions comprise four basic divisions: the Hospital, the School of Medicine, the School of Hygiene and Public Health, and the School of Nursing. Shortly after its establishment in 1978 as the official repository for the historic records of the Medical Institutions, the Medical Archives was given the additional responsibility of managing the fine arts collection of the Medical Institutions. Since this collection contains hundreds of items of painting, sculpture and commemorative plaques with a total valuation exceeding \$2.5 million, our concept of artifacts and ephemera was greatly enlarged to say the least. Gradually the Medical Archives staff and administrators of the Medical Institutions formulated policies regarding the retention of artifacts and ephemera. Without such limitations, we feared that the Archives in no time would become engulfed in heaps of ephemera and artifacts that had no bearing to the history of the Medical Institutions.

Before proceeding further, I feel that it would be helpful to present a brief overview of the fiscal and administrative philosophies of the Medical Institutions, since our 'so-called' policies regarding ephemera and artifacts emanate largely from institutional philosophies. The Medical Institutions are private and non-profit, and are responsible for raising annual operating funds through fees, research grants and private endowments. Individual departments are, therefore, encouraged to generate much of their annual funding through outside gifts and grants. The Medical Archives is no exception to this long-established Hopkins tradition. Money earning as well as cost savings are very much a day to day concern. Our annual budget represents a carefully measured balance between institutional funding (which has, indeed, been generous) and outside support. The Medical Archives, in common with other departments, has

a dual mission. On one hand the Medical Archives is expected to compete favorably for grants and outside funding; on the other hand the Medical Archives is expected to perform useful services to the Institutions as a whole, to help earn our keep. In this institutional setting, the Medical Archives has necessarily adopted a rather pragmatic philosophy toward the management of ephemera and artifacts. Our primary and overall objective is to put ephemeral and artifacts to practical use. In this paper I shall, therefore, concentrate on describing some of the numerous schemes we have employed in our attempts to utilize our ephemera and artifacts.

As an archivist who shares responsibility for the management of large-scale institutional holdings of ephemera and artifacts, I find myself, in desperate and fanciful moments, drawn to thoughts of alchemy, the pseudo-science that swept Europe during the Middle Ages and the Sixteenth Century. It seems to me that the theoretical basis of alchemy, i.e., the pursuit of the transmutation of baser metals into gold, and the search for the alkahest (the universal solvent) and the panacea, has much in common with the Medical Archives' theories regarding the management of ephemera and artifacts. The archivists at the Medical Archives, as alchemists, are charged with missions that entail miraculous change. We are increasingly urged to put artifacts and ephemera to demonstrative practical use and thus, to transform dross into gold. While baser metals and various impure substances constitute alchemic dross, ephemera and artifacts can be considered archival dross. In an archival hierarchy of values, ephemera and artifacts are considered the less substantial part of record groups. Especially in this age of record volume increases and shortage of archival storage space, the maintenance of ephemera and artifacts within archival record groups requires considerably more justification than mere respect des fonds. At the Medical Archives we are focusing more and more upon the intrinsic value of ephemera and artifacts.

The first step in an alchemic approach was to determine some idea of the nature and extent of the ephemera and artifacts in the various collections on hand. We then began to inventory the fine arts collection, archival record groups and manuscript collections to glean some overview of our ephemera and artifact holdings. In attempting to establish intellectual and physical control, we followed a specific set of procedures: locating, inventorying and appraising. We then set to work on establishing guidelines for disposal of non-essential ephemera and artifacts. To date, our guidelines include provisions for sales, donations and trades.

While we have been able to work out some very successful plans, we also have had our share of schemes that have foundered, and we continue to have a full agenda of unfinished business. The purpose of this paper is, therefore, to share our experiences, good and bad, so

that the reader may benefit from our gains and at the same time avoid our pitfalls. I shall begin on an upbeat note and discuss those schemes in which we have turned our archival dross into various forms of gold, from legal tender to political advantage to intellectual significance.

Magic Formulas

Building Cash Reserves

Our first successful scheme was to sell duplicate institutional ephemera and those printed materials which were extraneous to the history of the Medical Institutions. Thus we could start to build a cash reserve account for the Medical Archives. Having completed a two-year project in which we processed and arranged the early records of the Medical Institutions, we began to note a steady consistency in the boxes of ephemera that were appearing at the end of record groups. There was a preponderance of offprints by early faculty and staff of the Medical Institutions. Systematically culling duplicate offprints from the ephemera sections of record groups, we amassed a considerable cache of materials. Our next step was to list titles and check these against Garrison and Morton's Medical Bibliography and Lee Ash's Serial Publications Containing Medical Classics, the sine qua non for medical classics. To our pleasant surprise we found we had culled a collection of duplicate books and offprints which were of considerable historical significance. We next checked into the sale values of these materials. I went through the AB Weekly's annual history of medicine issues for the names and addresses of antiquarian book-dealers specializing in history of medicine and wrote to about twenty of them requesting catalogs. Checking catalog listings were able to determine the approximate value of our culled duplicates. We then put together listings of duplicates to offer for sale and circulated these to six dealers. Realizing that we did not have sufficient staff to manage an item-by-item sale, we decided to sell the duplicates in one lot. Quite naturally we made our sale with the dealer who made the best offer, and have had a happy association with him ever since. While the success of our duplicate sales scheme owes much to the serendipity of having culled such a rich trove of printed matter, it owes even more to the weeks and months of assiduous effort on the part of our staff. Our chances for success were also greatly enhanced by a strong network of support from helpful and canny administrators to resourceful spouses and friendly colleagues at other repositories.

Stockpiling Political Gold

Another successful scheme has been having fine arts and manuscripts collections professionally appraised. For a period of nearly four years we have been working with Sotheby's to inventory and appraise our fine arts and manu-

script collections. In this process we have found artifacts and ephemera of extraordinary value. To give some examples: a painting that Johns Hopkins purchased in 1847 for \$150 has just been appraised at \$450,000; a small oriental rug (approx. 7' x 5') which we found in a box with a manuscript collection has been appraised at \$50,000.

The appraisal effort has been quite useful politically for the Medical Archives. We find that the administrators of the Medical Institutions appreciate knowing not only the relative worth of institutional treasures, but also appreciate knowing that these are being well maintained (i.e., secured, insured and cataloged).

Drawing Exhibit Revenues and Publication Royalties

Another 'magic formula' for successful schemes in managing ephemera and artifacts has been to highlight the rare and unusual through exhibits and publications. This heightens interest and appreciation for the objects themselves as well as for the work of the Medical Archives. To give some examples: the Bigelow bust; the Christus Consolator.

Intellectual Transmutation

The last and by no means least important of our successful schemes has been intellectual transmutation. We make a concerted attempt to link significant ephemera and artifacts to appropriate fields of scholarship. We try to inform scholars and repositories of ephemera and artifacts in our holdings that would be of special interest to them. To give some examples: The Gilman Preliminary Medical Survey; Planned Parenthood ephemera in the Meyer papers.

Foundering Schemes

While it is, indeed, gratifying to be able to gloat a bit over our several successes, it is, nevertheless, humbling to recall our numerous mired-down schemes and downright overwhelming to consider the problems we are currently facing. Our major problems in managing ephemera and artifacts seem to fall into two broad categories: (1) having to accept materials that have little intrinsic value, but which have exaggerated significance in the eyes of a donor; (2) having to find storage and exhibition space for objects of improbable size and shape. This includes everything from academic regalia, hoods and gowns, to clinical equipment such as operating tables and iron lungs!

Having a clearly defined collecting policy has not been a blanket protection against pressure to accept Hopkins-related materials of little or no value. We are forced from time to time to sacrifice our archival values for the sake of the Institutions' public relations. Out of fear of offending devoted alumni and wealthy

donors we have been asked to accept some rather useless materials that even the cleverest alchemist/archivist cannot transmute into value. Being part of a large academic institution, the Medical Archives is the regular recipient of such things as alumni diplomas and academic certificates, little of which is of any intrinsic value. Disposal, however, is simply out of the question.

Storage of diplomas is a constant problem because they are usually framed and consequently do not fit easily into our compact shelving units. We have at intervals held large-scale unframing sessions for diplomas and other framed materials (and, believe it or not, have managed to sell the frames), but cannot keep up with the regular flow of framed material that comes our way. While unframing is terribly time-consuming, it is also a rather hazardous procedure for staff and materials alike. We cannot seem to generate any momentum for maintaining routine for regular unframing. On the whole, we seem to be blocked when it comes to setting up a successful scheme for dealing with framed objects. Our imaginative powers are simply stifled. This is perhaps because the framed object problem is so pervasive and so unrelenting that we can never get enough distance to achieve some perspective. Our *laissez faire* policy regarding acceptance of Hopkins-related ephemera and artifacts also places a great strain upon our housekeeping efforts. In order to achieve neatness and tidiness, as all good housekeepers know, every object must have its designated, well-ordered place. In the Medical Archives we wage a daily struggle with the accessioning of improbable artifacts. We work very hard to maintain a modicum of neatness in our stacks and reading area. We do have storage areas here and there where we have placed some of our larger and more outlandish pieces of artifact. However, there has been a great spillover in our staff office which has become not only very congested, but is taking on an increasingly bizarre appearance with oil paintings, water colors, marble busts, silver trophies, stuffed animals, etc.!

While the Medical Archives has become the repository for institutional ephemera and artifacts, we have come to expect the most improbable sorts of inanimate objects and also are finding that we have now become the repository of animate beings as well. My reference is not to fungal flora and insects, but to living people that are being sent to us for soothing and stroking, and yes, helping with their memoirs. Somehow the word has gotten out that we not only house manuscripts, but we also help to produce them. Alack and alas, this new extension of our staff responsibilities comes under the auspices of "useful services" to the Institutions. In all fairness I must add that we have, in fact, had numerous rewarding experiences in helping to edit manuscripts. These range from acquiring significant new historical information to acquiring important historical papers to purely enjoyable personal interchange.

Responsible Disposal of Hazardous Ephemera and Artifacts

In drawing toward conclusion, I do not want to leave the false impression that we in the Medical Archives do not ever get rid of anything. It is important to mention that we have undertaken a number of large-scale disposal projects. Being part of a large and diverse medical center, we have, perhaps, come into contact with more hazardous materials than most archivists and manuscript curators. However, archivists and manuscript curators at any repository should always be on the alert for hazardous materials. The alchemist/archivist, as any other responsible scientist, must make every effort to see that hazardous materials are disposed of properly.

Conclusion

Assessment of Hopkins Alchemic Approach

In concluding, it is possible to surmise that the schemes that have been successful for use should work equally well at other repositories of similar size and scope. Being part of an institution which places great emphasis on teamwork has very much shaped our underlying philosophy toward managing ephemera and artifacts. Through focusing upon the intrinsic value of our ephemera and artifacts, we are able to provide a number of useful services to the Institutions as a whole while at the same time fulfilling our archival mission to preserve, maintain and make accessible our holdings:

1. We have helped in our small way to shore up the Institutions' financial assets from sales of duplicates to appraisals of artifacts and manuscripts;
2. We have helped to enhance the Institutions' image through public relations;
3. We have helped to enhance the reputation of the Medical Institutions as a center of academic scholarship.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EDITORIAL NOTE:

The Watermark is published quarterly for members of this Association and subscribers. EDITOR: Lisabeth M. Holloway, 58 W. Tulpehocken Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144 (work phone, MMF, 215-629-0300, ext. 215). PRESIDENT: Nancy G. Bruce, Health Sciences Library 223-H, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (phone 919-962-0700). SECRETARY-TREASURER: Janet K. Sutton, c/o HQ, V Corps, Surgeon, APO, NY 09079. Please note change of address. Janet is eager to continue active service to ALHHS from Germany, and we hope you will not hesitate to correspond with her on ALHHS matters. As you know, US postage rates obtain for APO addresses.

Conservation news

compiled by Deborah Woolverton

The Preservation of Library Materials Section of the American Library Association is preparing guidelines for preservation photocopying. The final version is expected to be presented to the PLMS Executive Committee at the upcoming ALA Midwinter Meeting. (Abbey Newsletter, 1985, 9, no. 5)

The Baltimore Area Conservation Group has issued its 1984 Conservation Bibliography. The bibliography covers material, published in 1984, which relates to the conservation of library and archival materials and works of art on paper, including photographs. The bibliography is available on request for the cost of photocopying. Please contact: Deborah Woolverton, President, Baltimore Area Conservation Group, c/o Library, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, 1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

The National Preservation Program Office (NPPO) at the Library of Congress has produced the first issue of its National Preservation News (No. 1 July 1985). The NPPO will disseminate information about the Library of Congress preservation program and provide assistance and information for the library community in order to facilitate local, regional, and national preservation efforts. The NPPO will provide a variety of programs including: a preservation reference service; audio-visual loan program; liaison with professional committees; cooperative preservation microfilming; and intern education program.

The National Preservation News will highlight news of cooperative preservation projects and report on preservation activities at the Library of Congress. It is available free of charge to interested institutions. For more information contact: The Library of Congress, National Preservation Program Office, LM G07, Washington, DC 20540. Telephone: (202) 287-1840. Carolyn Clark Morrow, Editor; Merrily A. Smith, Contributing Editor. (Deckled Edge, 1985, 5, no. 3)

The Baltimore Area Conservation Group, along with a number of local institutions, is co-sponsoring a day-long conference entitled PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSERVATION: AN OVERVIEW on Saturday, November 23, 1985 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Meyerhoff Auditorium of the Baltimore Museum of Art. The conference will cover the highlights in the history of photographic processes, photographic preservation and conservation technique, research directions, and curatorial issues involved in the conservation of photographs. The speakers will include Debbie Hess Norris, Photographic Conservator, M. Susan Barger, Materials and Photographic Scientist, and Constance McCabe, Photographic Conserv-

ator, as well as a panel of local curators. The registration fee is \$10.00. For more information write Daria Phair, 3217 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218 by November 1, 1985.

The Historical Division of the Cleveland Health Sciences Library is offering the book-binding skills of its master bookbinder, Jan Sobota, on a contract basis, as his work-load permits. For more information, telephone Mrs. Glen Jenkins, Rare Book Librarian, at (216)368-3649. (*Iatros*, Sept. 1985)

The Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association will commence publication of a new journal devoted to practice and research in special collections librarianship in January, 1986. Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship will offer information on acquisition and collection development of special collections; security, access and use of special collections; conservation; cataloging of special materials; computer applications; fund raising, donor relations and Friends groups; publications; exhibits; and historical development of various special collections. Ann S. Gwyn, Assistant Library Director for Special Collections at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of the Johns Hopkins University will serve as the journal's editor. The subscription rate is \$20.00 per year if ordered prior to January 1, 1986. To subscribe write: Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship, Association of College and Research Libraries/American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

The Society of American Archivists' publication, Archives and Manuscripts: Exhibits (1980) by Gail Farr Casterline, provides a comprehensive introduction to exhibition production and installation. Its chapters include: planning and development; conservation; design and technique; program coordination; and administrative considerations. The appendices list sources for technical information, suppliers, and sample report and loan forms. Finally, a fairly extensive bibliography offers references to more technical and in-depth information.

|||||||

Deborah adds that she has designs for book cradles, elevators, and display stands available on request. These may be of assistance in exhibiting rare and fragile materials without damage.

We are grateful to Deborah for undertaking her column on conservation, the first edition of which appears above. This is a topic on which we have long sought regular contributions. She has also supplied the following note, with commentary.

Russian Public Health Posters in the

Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of
the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

by Nancy McCall, Assistant Archivist

The staff of the Archives has found 38 Russian public health posters (circa 1922-1929) in the recently acquired personal papers of W. Horsley Gantt, M.D. Dr. Gantt (1893-1980), a longtime member of the Johns Hopkins medical faculty, was chief medical officer of the Petrograd unit of the American Relief Administration from 1922-1923. Gantt returned to Russia to study with Pavlov from 1925 to 1929. During his years in Russia, Gantt began an active study of the history of Russian medicine. While there he collected many primary source materials including statistical studies, prints, posters and photographs. In 1937, Gantt published Russian Medicine (Paul B. Hoeber) which is now considered one of the primary chapters in the field of geomedicine. This book is actually illustrated with some of the posters, prints and photographs that he had collected in Russia.

The public health posters that Dr. Gantt acquired are of special historical value since they are representative of the graphic storytelling style of Russian poster art following the Revolution. These posters were intended to instruct a poorly educated and semi-literate public on improved methods in health care. The poster themes include prevention of trachoma, tuberculosis, smallpox, syphilis, alcoholism and improved methods of childbirth, child care and personal hygiene. The posters exemplify the vibrant color and bold, clear design of the Russian graphic art tradition. The artists and printers have not yet been identified.

Now that conservation work has been completed, the posters are being translated and catalogued. They will be accessible to researchers in August, 1986 at the completion of the W. Horsley Gantt processing project. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported a preliminary inventory of the posters and a grant from the National Library of Medicine (G08 LM04263) has supported the conservation and cataloguing of the posters.

Condition and Conservation Treatment

by Joanna H. Mankowski

When the Paper Conservation Department of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University, received the collection, the 38 Russian posters were in very poor condition. Rolled up in one massive bundle, the individual posters were more or less consolidated. Executed by a color lithographic technique, the posters were printed on clay-coated paper of high lignin content. The paper was extremely brittle and highly discolored. Considerable

damage had occurred to the posters from exposure to excessive moisture and subsequent fungal attack. Depending on the location of posters within the roll, there were large areas of loss in the top right corners, left side edges, in the mid-sections, and along the bottom edges of the posters.

Briefly, treatment procedures consisted of unrolling and separating the mass of posters; identifying loose fragments where possible; dry cleaning using soft Japanese brushes; wet cleaning using water containing methyl cellulose; deacidification using either a solution of calcium hydroxide in water or Wei To Solution # 2, depending on the size of the poster; sizing with a 0.5% methyl cellulose solution; flattening between felts or in a press; and preliminary mending using cellulose acetate in preparation for leafcasting of large areas of loss. The leafcasting technique, which fills in large areas of loss by drawing a solution of paper pulp through the areas of loss by vacuum pressure, was carried out at the Conservation Laboratory of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, under the direction of Franklin Mowry. The pulp was made in-house at the Folger and consisted of a mixture of three parts 100% linen and one part "Ingres" paper. After drying and final flattening, all of the posters were encapsulated in ICI Melinex 516 brand polyester film on a Minter/Melosh ultrasonic welder at the Johns Hopkins University.

Photodocumentation of the collection of posters was carried out both before and after treatment. Photographs, slides, and the detailed conservation report are available for consultation at the Paper Conservation Department of the Eisenhower Library of the Johns Hopkins University.

THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

AS PUBLISHER by Patrick Sim, Librarian

As a tradition in promoting the cultural and historical aspects of anesthesiology, the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology has undertaken numerous publishing projects related to the history of anesthesiology over the years. Its Board of Trustees believes that in the present day atmosphere of commercialism, works relating to the cultural and historical aspects of anesthesiology would hardly attract the interest of medical publishers. By sponsoring such works, the Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum believe that it will assume a similar role of the university press by publishing quality works related to the heritage of anesthesiology.

The latest such project by the Wood Library-Museum is the publication of Dr. David M. Little's Classical Anesthesia Files. This work is a collection of essays on the history of anesthesiology written by the late David M. Little, Jr., M.D., of Hartford, Connecticut.

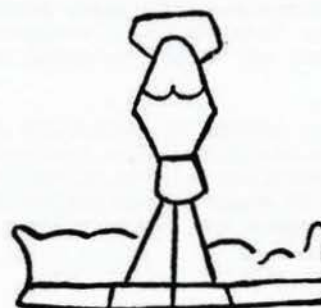
For a quarter century, Dr. Little entertained his readers of the "Classical File" in the Survey of Anesthesiology with his bimonthly column on interesting topics related to anesthesiology. Without exception his commentaries were accompanied by the reprinting of "classical papers" spanning a time period from the dawn of anesthesia to the present day. The present volume was assembled by the trustees of the Wood Library-Museum under the editorial direction of Dr. C. R. Stephen. The book includes all of Dr. Little's essays from the original "Classical File." Although most of the classical papers were abridged as a way to keep the book in a reasonable size, full bibliographic citations in it will enable the reader to further pursue their source.

Other works in the history of anesthesiology in which the Wood Library-Museum has played a significant publication role are: W.D.A. Smith's Under the Influence: The History of Nitrous Oxide Oxygen Anaesthesia (1982); W.S. Sykes' Essays on the First Hundred Years of Anaesthesia, Volumes I, II (1982 reprint edition) and III (edited by Richard H. Ellis, 1982).

Another important function of the Wood Library-Museum is the publishing of early classical anesthesia works in facsimile. Among these works are: John Snow's On the Inhalation of Ether (London, 1847); James Robinson's A Treatise on the Inhalation of the Vapour of Ether (London, 1847); and John Snow's other famous work, On Chloroform and Other Anaesthetics (London, 1858).

In addition, in the past 15 years, the Wood Library-Museum has published annual single-topic classical papers in its series of Reprints on the History of Anesthesiology which is an anthology of landmark papers encompassing 15 topics in the evolution of anesthesiology. The latest of these topics deals with the uptake and distribution of inhalation anesthetics.

For more information please write to the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, 515 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068.



ENGLISH MEDICAL HISTORY LIBRARIES

Toured June 2 - 9, 1985

Compiled from notes by Dorothy Whitcomb
and Lisabeth M. Holloway

Eight medical librarians, of whom all but two belong to ALHHS, attended Nicholas Dewey's study tour. They were: Mary G. Adams (Columbia Health Sciences Library), Mary Claire Britt, Nancy G. Bruce, Lisabeth M. Holloway, Janet Kubinec, Ruth Marcolina (Health Sciences Library, SUNY), Caroline S. Morris, and Dorothy Whitcomb. Flight arrangements were made individually; the group was accommodated at the Hotel Montague (just around the corner from the British Museum); dinners and evenings were generally free. By the end of the week, the Underground was no longer mysterious, and each of us had established favorite eating and shopping places, and seen a few of the sights of London.

On Monday, by special arrangement, the group spent much of the day at the Wellcome Medical Library, where head librarian Eric Freeman began by discussing general collecting policy, current automation (OCLC), and reader services. An absorbing tour followed, among the Western Manuscripts; the Americana Collection, with remarkable rarities from non-British and pre-Revolutionary British America; Orientalia; Contemporary Archives; Conservation; and Prints and Drawings. At a sumptuous buffet lunch, we were able to ask questions of the department heads, and had the privilege of meeting Leslie Morton.

Tuesday took us to Cambridge by train, for a rapid walking tour including the Botanic Garden, the Fitzwilliam Museum, a pause at the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, King's College Chapel and Trinity College Library, where Wren's fine high old room, reached through modern undergraduate stacks, contains rarities back to the 8th century. Next to Gonville and Caius, Harvey's college, where the Library is tucked behind an unmarked door off a small circular staircase, and the librarian in charge kindly exhibited some of her treasures and answered questions.

By Wednesday the English summer (75 Fahrenheit maximum) had broken. Our working day began at the Victoria & Albert Science Museum, with its exhibit commemorating Pasteur and rabies vaccine, then up to the Wellcome Museum's galleries, one for the layman on the lower floor, with life-size and miniature dioramas, and the upper floor housing Wellcome's very rich collections of medical objects, instruments and memorabilia from both exotic and familiar periods and places. This was instructive both for content and manner of display. Lunch was taken, as they say in England, at the V & A cafeteria across the street, and there was a little time

to see perhaps one gallery and pay a flying visit to the bookstore. Next we went by Tube to Lincoln's Inn Fields, to the Royal College of Surgeons, where we were allowed to see and touch a Hunterian case-book, a volume of Kipling letters with sketches by Burne-Jones, and a thin-paper first of *De motu cordis*.

On Thursday, in a steady light rain, we trundled off to Oxford by rail. At the old Bodleian we had an explanatory lecture by Michael Turner, Sub-Librarian with responsibilities in conservation, and were given a glimpse of the infinite resources of this ancient repository. Many of its rarest books came in on copyright deposit, and have stayed in their places ever since, in virtually mint condition. Then we went on to Merton College Library, perhaps the oldest library in the British Isles, and certainly a friendly place. After lunch at Balliol talking shop with Evelyn Heaton, librarian of the Science Library, we scattered to visit local bookshops, the Science Museum, and other places, and then to 13 Norham Gardens, the Oslers' home, now occupied by a professor who has cluttered the place with computer wires, no doubt to the mingled horror and fascination of the shade of Sir William. The working day ended with tea at the Wellcome Oxford unit, visiting with the young scholars resident here.

The Friday schedule eased up a bit, requiring us to splash only round the corner to the British Library for a start. Here in a seminar room conceded as frigid (haunted?) by our intrepid English hosts, we heard more of the problems of the huge British libraries -- "stratified" collections superimposed upon their predecessors, overwhelming space problems whose solutions may be found a few years hence in the new building slowly being constructed from the depths of a railroad yard; prospects for automation. Peter Murray Jones, whom some of us had met in Durham, N.C., a few weeks before, had laid out some of the medical manuscripts of the collection for our enjoyment.

From here we went to lunch at the Royal Society of Medicine, in its charming modern dining-room, and heard and saw its library in transition to new quarters. Next nearby to the Royal College of Nursing, in a new building, with small, pleasant reading-rooms culminating in the Florence Nightingale collection. Lastly to the Royal College of Physicians, to look at its architectural exhibit comparing its old and new buildings, and at its tremendous portrait collection.

Saturday was free until a genial farewell dinner with the Deweys at a Bloomsbury spaghetti restaurant. On Sunday we began to disperse, one to Europe, one to Greece, one to Scotland, and the others home by degrees, cameras, tape-recorders, notebooks and suitcases full of pictures, information, and souvenirs, tangible and intangible.

MEMBERSAddress change

Nicholas Dewey
4 Sandwich Street
London WC1H 9PL, U.K.

Name changes

Nancy R. Hensel is now
Nancy L. Rucker
History of Medicine Librarian
Mayo Medical Library
Plummer Building
Rochester, MN 55905

Laurena L. Hayes is now
Laurena L. Hyslop
9 Lexington Square
Euclid, OH 44143

Janet Kubinec is now
Janet K. Sutton
c/o HQ, V Corps, Surgeon
APO, NY 09097
(See Editorial note, p. 8)

New Members

Thomas A. Horrocks
Curator, Historical Collections, Library,
College of Physicians of Philadelphia
19 South 22nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Ms. Janet Quilter
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
32 Gisborne Street
East Melbourne 3002
Victoria, Australia

New Subscriber

Serials Department
Health Sciences Library
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8N 3Z5

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Ex libris

by Glen Jenkins, et al.

[Our last issue was substantially reduced (owing to a shortage of paper) and some valuable and interesting material was omitted. We have inserted it here among current entries. -Ed.]

MAIN ENTRIES

On June 10, 1985, President Giamatti and Dean Rosenberg announced the largest single gift ever given to the **Yale Medical School**. Betsey Cushing Whitney and her family have given \$8 million to renovate and construct a major addition to the Yale Medical Library. The Library

will be renamed the Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, honoring Mrs. Whitney's father and her husband.

For the Historical Library, this magnificent gift will provide a room in which scholars may use the great collections left to Yale by Cushing, Fulton and Klebs, and others. Construction is expected to begin in the coming spring and to be completed in 1988.

The Rodnan Rare Book Room in the Maurice and Laura Falk Library of the Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, was dedicated on September 12, 1985, in memory of Gerald P. Rodnan, M.D. (1927-1983). Principally concerned with the subject of gout, "in its ancient humanistic conception as well as its clinical and biochemical history," the collection comprises some 750 volumes. Dr. Rodnan's last purchase is thought to be the greatest rarity: the original Latin edition of Sydenham's Tract on Gout and Dropsy (1683).

On October 4, 1985, nearly 200 book collectors, book dealers, and librarians from around the world visited UCLA and the Biomedical Library in conjunction with XIV Congress of the International Association of Bibliophiles. Usually this group meets in world capitals; this was its first meeting in California. One week was spent in Los Angeles; the second in San Francisco.

Texas medical journals: a computerized index in progress. Inci Bowman reports from Moody Medical Library at UTMB, Galveston, that she is involved in the production of an index to early medical journals published in Texas before 1920. Containing approximately 7,000 citations, the index will provide access by author, journal title, date and subject, and also by keyword, to a body of literature largely overlooked by the Index Catalogue and Index Medicus of SGO. Journals in medicine and public health are included, but not those in pharmacology, dentistry, or homeopathy. NLM, Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center, and the Texas Medical Association Library at Austin are co-operating in the project. The computer used is an IBM Personal (XT), with a database management program PFS:File by Software Publishing Corporation.

Philip Weimerskirch at the Burndy Library in Connecticut has produced a special exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of Pasteur's use of rabies vaccine. The Burndy has an outstanding collection of Pasteur material, including his laboratory notes and many books from his library. Phil has recently published several articles: "Naturalists and the beginning of lithography in America," in Proceedings of a Symposium, "From Linnaeus to Darwin," Society for the History of Natural History, Special Publications no. 3, 1985; "Scientists' libraries: a handlist of printed sources," Annals of Science, v. 40, p. 317-189, 1983; and, soon to be published, co-authored with Ellen Wells, "A catalog of scientists' and physicians' libraries."

Also at the Burndy Library, on October 19, was held a meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section, History of Science Society, on "Historical Perspectives on Medicine in America in the 19th and 20th Centuries," with addresses on pharmacology by John Parascandola, on the teaching of obstetrics by Bert Hansen, and on medical definition of sex in the Surgeon General's Catalogue by Diana Long Hall.

NEWS NOTES

Lee Perry writes from Vancouver, B.C. that the Woodward Library has recently mounted a display on Infant Feeding Devices. Most of these were the gift of Miss Alice Wright, a former nurse, who has been an avid collector for many years. The oldest item on display is an Egyptian feeding pot (ca. 300 B.C.); other items include early American pap warmers, ceramic pewter, and glass feeding bottles and cups, teat or pap spoons, breast pumps, and feeding nipples.

The Fraunces Tavern Museum in New York City has opened an exhibit on health sciences in the 18th century. We are happy to note that many of our member institutions contributed materials to their display. The exhibit opened in October and will run into 1986.

Antiquarian Bookman, September 30, 1985 reported the sale at Sotheby's of the Marcus and Elizabeth Crahan Collection of Books on Food, Drink, and Related Subjects at a most impressive total. Congratulations to our member Elizabeth Crahan.

The Historical Division of the Cleveland Health Sciences Library is participating in the Pre-Clerkship Patient-Based Program for first-year medical students from Case Western Reserve. Each class (of about 10), with their preceptors, spends one session in the Historical Division, beginning with class in the Library, and continuing after lunch at the Dittrick Museum, with a visit to the rare book room and a look at some of the treasures. Favorite medical-student book? Charles Knowlton's The Fruits of Philosophy, or the Private Companion of Adult People! It is hoped that this introduction to medical history will encourage students to choose a history of medicine option during their flex time.

Barbara Williams of Hahnemann University in Philadelphia reports a historical symposium held September 21, 1985 at the Public School Administration Building, Allentown, Pa., to commemorate the Allentown Academy, 1835-1843, founded by Constantine Hering as the world's first school of homoeopathic medicine.

Much of medico-historical Philadelphia has been occupied this fall with exhibits and programs related to the Ars Medica: Art, Medicine and the Human Condition show at the Philadelphia Art Museum. This exhibition of some 140 prints, drawings and photographs, ranging over five

centuries, was organized by Diane R. Karp, of the Museum staff, and includes recent additions to the original SmithKline Beckman collection. Among those contributing to the many symposia and lectures offered was ALHHS member William H. Helfand, collector of ars medica, who collaborated in a multi-media performance on October 6 entitled The American Medicine Show. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibit is available from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Box 7646, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

UCLA has obtained Vincenzo Chiarugi's Della Pazzia in genere, e in specie (Florence, Carlieri, 1793). First edition, four copies known to exist. Chiarugi was the first in Europe to abandon chains and fetters in a mental hospital, according to Garrison-Morton, and encouraged hospital attendants to practice kindness toward patients.

Also newly acquired at UCLA the Panckoucke Dictionnaire des sciences medicales pare une société de medecines et de chirurgiens (Paris, 1812-1822; 60 v.). Many of the articles in this encyclopedia were written by major figures of the day, such as Cuvier, Delpech, Gall, Itard, Laennec, Larrey, and Pinel, and can be found nowhere else.

From UCSF comes news of a broadside, 74x80 cm., "Abregé de l'anatomie des principales parties du corps humaine -- piece tres util et necessaire au public" (Paris, chez Hubert Jallot, 1683) -- a handsome work designed to present male and female anatomy to the public, with flaps which lift to show organs in layers beneath.

The Historical Division, Cleveland Health Sciences Library recently received the archives of Woman's General Hospital, which closed December, 1984. These records include annual reports, minutes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, histories and much more. In addition to manuscripts, there are many portrait and hospital photographs, together with three oil portraits, two of which are women physicians.

According to Doris Thibodeau, the Institute for the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins has recently purchased a collection of 350 books from Kohler-Coombs documenting the health of towns in England in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Topics covered include public health, sewage, water supplies, the duties of the Relieving Officer, a four-volume set on the poor, with discussions about those who cannot work, those who can, and those who won't.

Aletha Kowitz reports that the Bureau of Library Services of the American Dental Association has been designated as the repository for the archives of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, the American Association of Women Dentists, the American Academy of the

History of Dentistry and the Odontographic Society of Chicago. This last group will celebrate its centennial in 1987 and its history committee is in the process of writing a centennial history.

HONORS

Jan Sobota, Conservator at the Cleveland Health Sciences Library, received Special Mention for his design bindings at the annual May show of the Cleveland Museum of Art. The design bindings were on The Old Timer and The Crusaders.

Congratulations to Aletha Kowitz, who received the Award of Merit of the Odontographic Society of Chicago on April 1, 1985.

RECOMMENDED READING

Harvey Green from Rochester's Strong Museum has written a delightful and informative book describing, among other things, home health care, motherhood, and the effect of fashion on women's health in the 19th century: The Light of the Home: an intimate view of the lives of women in Victorian America (New York, Pantheon Books, 1983). It is amply illustrated with artifacts from the Strong Museum. ISBN 0-394-52746-1, \$18.95.

Rare Books & Manuscripts in the history of Medicine & the Sciences

BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED



Send for our latest catalogue
Jeremy Norman & Co., Inc.
442 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102
(415) 781-6402

(212) 772-8211
(212) 772-6212

CABLE: EXPERIMENT, N.Y.

BRUCE J. RAMER
EXPERIMENTA
OLD AND RARE BOOKS

VISITS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

401 EAST 80th STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

OLD and RARE
MEDICINE and SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
NATURAL HISTORY
SCIENTIFIC VOYAGES and TRAVELS
HISTORY of MEDICINE and SCIENCE