

THE WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Association of Librarians in the History of the
Health Sciences

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WHAT IS ALHHS?

by Elizabeth Borst White

The answers that an individual will receive when asking about our organization can be as varied as the number of individuals answering. We are librarians; we are administrators; we are physicians, book dealers, conservators, archivists, professors, and curators. We are all individuals who have some interest in historical, health sciences collections and, in the course of one day, many of us juggle several of the roles listed above.

There are now 117 members of ALHHS. In this article, laden with personal interpretation, I will present a few statements about who these 117 individuals are and what they say about themselves. To analyze the membership, I used four segments of the annual dues statements. For those of you who mail only a check, I prepared a statement (if I know you well enough) or telephoned to verify some of the facts. This analysis has been extracted from just what you, as members, have said about yourselves.

The first segment surveyed was that of job title. What are we called by the institutions employing us? Over half of our members' titles (57%) directly refer to the administrative or curatorial aspects of their jobs. Fifty members were classified as librarians or had a title indicating their status as head, chief, or director of historical collections. Whether their jobs are in cataloging (2 members), technical services (5), reference (3), nursing (1), collection development (1) or "special/ historical collections" (38), most of our members are designated librarians within their institutions. Two other job titles -- archivist (5 members) and curator (12) -- are used with some frequency by our members who are directly responsible for the access or development of historical collections.

Another portion of our membership is the book dealers (24 members, 20.5%), individuals very interested in the development of historical collections, in historical publishing and trends, and in maintaining an alliance of many individuals with medical history interests. Some of the book dealers are self employed, while others balance this job with another profession.

Other members of ALHHS are administrators for medical libraries (9 members, 7.6%), conservators (2 members), health policy administrator, dentist, physicians, and professors. Seven members list their jobs as "retired."

While looking at this list, I keep asking questions, without answers, about our members. Only TWO catalogers? Who is preparing the bibliographic descriptions for our collections? Does

someone with the job title Head of Technical Services AND Chief of Computer Systems have any minutes in the day to breathe, much less enjoy their job responsibilities for the historical collections?

Location, the next item tallied from the membership form, showed that 107 members are located in 27 states, 2 in the District of Columbia, 3 in Canada, 2 in Australia, and 3 in London, England. The states with the most members are New York (20), California (10), Pennsylvania (9), Maryland (8), and Tennessee (6). While this analysis gives some information about our members, I think it also raises more questions, without answers. Twenty three states have no representatives -- Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming. Most of these states have medical schools, all have medical or historical societies. Are there no medical history collections in these areas? Are there no individuals assigned to develop or preserve medical or nursing collections in these states?

Why are there only three representatives from Canada? Are there others who might be interested in joining if they were told about the Association? The Watermark is a wonderful way to learn about historical resources and reference tools, to develop contacts with experts in the field, and to share information. Perhaps there should be a prize from the ALHHS Steering Committee for innovative ideas on how to reach potential members.

The next portion of the membership form which was studied listed the other organizations to which ALHHS members belong. Many members did not choose to include this information, but those who did most often listed four or more organizations. As expected, given the origins of ALHHS, the American Association for the History of Medicine was mentioned most often (44 times). The Medical Library Association (35), the American Library Association (17), regional library (14) and regional archive associations (14) were the next most popular organizations noted on the forms. In all nineteen organizations were listed as being of interest to our members. These included the Bibliographical Society of American (4), American Osler Society (7), Association of Academic Health Science Library Directors (4), American Institute for the History of Pharmacy (2), Special Libraries Association (10), Society of American Archivists (11), and the Medical Museums Association (5). Several history of nursing societies, book dealers' associations and regional historical societies were also mentioned.

Because so many individuals did not include all other memberships on the forms, only a few conclusions can be drawn from this information. We seem to prefer memberships in many

organization. Our multiple roles, balancing administration of collection, with public access, with preservation, with technical processing, required a network with contacts in many specialized areas. Are there some roles not now filled by other organizations into which ALHHS should move? Are there programs or seminars which ALHHS should develop to help our members?

The last area of the membership form to be examined was the brief description of our jobs. As with information requested about memberships, many individuals did not include this information. The two most frequently mentioned clusters of activities involved "caring for book collections" and "supervising/managing/administering" a department of library. Where do we learn to administer and supervise? No management associations were included by members on the membership forms. Where do we learn how to manage our historical resources? Are there unique ethical, economic, or cultural issues which could be addressed by ALHHS to improve these skills?

In addition to those two clusters of activities, members mentioned five other types of collections or programs with which they are involved. Responsibility for archives or manuscripts was mentioned by 25 members. Artifacts and museums were mentioned by 14 members, photographs by 6, oral history programs by 4, and stamps by 2 members. Listing these facts led to many more questions. If 25 members mention responsibility for archives and manuscripts, why did only 11 members list an affiliation with the Society of American Archivists? Are they unaware of the SAA educational programs and the developing Roundtable for Science, Technology and Health Care?

The questions could go on and on. To find answers, I hope that each of you will take the few minutes required to completely answer each question on your 1989 membership form. This form and request for dues will be mailed in the next couple weeks. The Steering Committee, Publications Committee, and the Secretary-Treasurer would like to know more about our members, to receive suggestions for articles or programs, and to hear your comments about this Association. Please help by answering each of the questions on the 1989 membership form.

GARRISON AND MORTON SERIALS TRANSFER PROJECT

by Joan Echtenkamp

The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library recently completed a project which may intrigue the readers of The Watermark. The following narrative presents an outline of the project from its beginnings to patron reaction upon its completion.

The Historical Collections in The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library of the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center have been growing exponentially since the inception of the program area in 1982. In the interest of determining just how rich in materials concerning the history of the health sciences the Library's general collections were, a project was launched to survey the Library's journal holdings in conjunction with the fourth edition of A Medical Bibliography (Garrison and Morton): An Annotated Check-List of Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine edited by Leslie T. Morton (Aldershot, Hampshire: Gower; Lexington, Mass.: Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Lexington Books), 1983. It was decided at the outset of the project that journals owned by the Library that were thus identified as containing historically, and in some cases monetarily, valuable resource materials would be transferred into the locked cases in the Wilhelm Moll Rare Book and Medical History Room. This additional security measure would insure their continued presence in the Library and availability for future scholarship.

The tactical logistics involved in initiating and carrying out a project of this magnitude were discussed and agreed upon, for the most part, before the project actually began. This strategic planning, coupled with a firm belief in the worthiness of the mission, was essential to completion of the project. The Historical Collections' staff at The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library is small (one professional and one student assistant) and the responsibilities associated with this program area are many and diverse. It was necessary to be willing to ungrudgingly commit the staff time and energy needed for the proposed project. Library Administration was completely in favor of instituting this self-study and preserving extant historical resources, however, which aided in the project's implementation and follow through.

The steps involved in systematically carrying out the project were as follow:

- A) All serials entries were identified in the fourth edition of Garrison and Morton and the relevant pages flagged.
- B) Photocopies were made of these pages and each serial entry was cut out.
- C) The resulting slips of paper were alphabetized by title of the journal cited and taped onto sheets of paper to create a working list of serials entries for the fourth edition of Garrison and Morton. This strategy was based on that followed by Lee Ash in Serial Publications Containing Medical Classics: An Index to Citations in Garrison/Morton (3d Edition, 1970), (Bethany, CT: The Antiquarium,) 1979.
- D) The Library's journal holdings were examined using the working list compiled to determine which Garrison and Morton citations were owned. Each article found was examined to determine both its physical condition and the accuracy of the Garrison and Morton entry; this latter determination would be used to produce a list of errata for the fourth edition, a step which had

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not been anticipated in project preplanning.

E) The bound journal volumes containing a particular classic article or articles were marked for transfer into the Moll Rare Book Room; a color-coded marking system was utilized.

F) Once such checking and designation were completed for the Library's entire serials holdings, the marked volumes were physically moved to the locked cases in the Rare Book Room.

G) Copies of a master list of volumes which had been transferred were placed in the serial stacks, by the Kardex, in the Moll Rare Book Room, and in all departments responsible for providing public services support. Eye-catching signs were also designed to alert patrons to the location shift of historically significant journals.

H) The volumes which had been transferred were marked "RARE" and an added entry was made for the number of classic articles contained within each volume.

I) Two separate lists of Garrison and Morton citations were compiled: one was for use in-house to aid in determining which citations are already owned by the Library and one list is for use as a guide in determining future acquisitions. The latter list has been distributed to rare book dealers as well as vendors with whom the Library conducts business.

J) The list of errata compiled as a result of the Garrison and Morton serials project was disseminated to interested institutions and colleagues and will be included as corrigenda in the fifth edition of Garrison and Morton.

K) A final list, providing full titles for the abbreviations used in the fourth edition of Garrison and Morton as well as those found in Lee Ash's index to serials citations found in the third edition of GM, was compiled to facilitate searching and locating entries as no such reference tool is yet available. This step, similar to the compilation of errata, was not envisioned in the strategic planning prior to beginning the project. This key to GM journal title abbreviations is available upon request from the Historical Collections Librarian at The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library.

An initial concern when embarking on the Garrison and Morton journal project was that, although the Library felt that the transfer of historically significant journal volumes was beneficial as a security and preservation measure, patrons might question having their access to certain journals limited. This has not been a problem thus far. Patrons have, for the most part, been very understanding when it is explained to them that the journal volume which contains the article they are seeking has been transferred to the Moll Rare Book Room for safekeeping.

The Historical Collections staff handles patron photocopy requests from rare materials, including journal articles. Patrons, as a rule, understand the limitations placed on access and self-photocopying when the restrictions are placed in the context of preserving historical resource materials. They also feel more comfortable with the photocopying constraints when it is explained to them that a record is kept which documents the number of items a classic article is copied, thus further protecting the original and safeguarding it for future scholarship. The Historical Collections staff, for the same reason, also reserves the right to refuse a photocopy request if a particular article is too fragile and would be endangered by the process. The Historical Collections staff has been willing to work with classes whose required reading falls within the purview of rare materials, and to whom the limited access to such resources may be burdensome. Another potential

source of tension between access and security that has been identified and is being resolved involves the very small number of recent (post-1970) journals, around a dozen, which contain classic articles and which were consequently transferred into the Rare Book Room; the Library's Collection Development Librarian assists Historical Collections in looking for second copies of these few journals so that a copy may be preserved indefinitely in the locked cases of the Moll Room, but a copy may also be available for ease of patron use in the general stacks.

The number of volumes involved in the transfer of journals containing classic articles in the history of the health sciences to the Wilhelm Moll Rare Book and Medical History Room was approximately 2200. As was mentioned at the start of this article, the magnitude of this project was astounding given the limited human resources. The results, however, have been well worth the effort involved and The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library may rest secure in the knowledge that its historical treasures are safe for future generations of scholars.

CONSTITUTION REVISION

Dear Members,

At the last annual meeting, it was agreed that our ALHHS constitution which has served us so well for nearly fifteen years was in need of revision. To this end, a Constitution Committee was appointed and shortly thereafter, convened to consider what changes should be made. Members of the Committee are Dorothy Whitcomb, Inci Bowman and Lucretia McClure, Chair. What they have produced for your consideration is the thoughtful and thorough document which follows this letter.

The Constitution Committee requests that all members of the Association read these revisions critically, examining them for inconsistencies and flaws. They would welcome direct communication from you before our annual meeting so that they might incorporate your suggestions into the revisions before it is presented for discussion.

The voting procedures will be as follows: 1) Presentation of the proposed revisions to all members in the Fall/Winter 1988 Watermark; 2) Discussion and incorporation of corrections at the annual meeting, Birmingham; 3) Immediately following the annual meeting ballots with revised constitution will be sent to all voting members for approval.

Anticipating approval of the concept of President-elect, nominations for Steering Committee this year will be for one two year member and one member who will agree to serve as President-elect. If this position is not approved, then that member's term will end in the usual two years.

My sincere thanks to Lucretia, Dorothy and Inci for expediting these revisions. Please give these revisions your serious consideration so that this new constitution will serve us as well and as long as the first.

Happy New Year!

Glen Jenkins, President

ALHHS

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Article I. Name

The name of this Association shall be the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences.

Article II. Purpose

This Association is established exclusively for educational purposes 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 the exchange of information and by improving standards of service.

Article III. Objectives

To accomplish these ends, this Association is committed to the following:

- a. to identify and make contact with persons similarly engaged;
- b. to provide opportunities to hold meetings on appropriate occasions;
- c. to issue a newsletter and such other materials as may seem appropriate;
- d. to cooperate with other similar organizations in projects of mutual concern.
- e. to provide opportunities for educational and professional growth programs.

Article IV. Membership

Any person interested in the history of the health sciences may become a member of the Association by complying with the provisions of the Bylaws.

Article V. Meetings

Meetings shall be held as provided in the Bylaws.

Article VI. Officers and Elections

Section 1.

Elected officers shall consist of such officers as provided in the Bylaws, who shall be nominated and elected as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2.

Appointed officers shall be such officers as provided in the Bylaws, who shall be appointed as provided in the Bylaws.

Article VII. Amendments to the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended or rescinded as provided in the Bylaws.

Bylaws

Article I. Members

Section 1. Classes

A. The membership of this Association shall consist of two classes: voting members and nonvoting members.

B. Voting members shall be limited to persons who have professional responsibilities for library and archives collections and services in the history of the health sciences.

C. Nonvoting membership shall be open to persons interested in the concerns of the Association, such as professional and amateur historians, physicians, dentists, nurses, and other health professionals, booksellers, private collectors, publishers, etc.

Section 2. Rights and Privileges

Only voting members are eligible to hold elective office.

Section 3. Dues

Dues shall be set by the Steering Committee and approved by majority vote in a mail ballot submitted to the membership nine weeks before the Annual Meeting. Annual dues shall be payable on presentation of an invoice included with the Annual Meeting notice.

Section 4. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 5. A quorum of twenty percent of the voting members shall be required in order to transact the Association's business.

Section 6. Suspension and Reinstatement

If dues are unpaid two months after the renewal date, the dues shall be considered to be in arrears and the member shall be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership.

Article III. Elected Officers

Section 1. Election and Terms of Office

A. Elected officers of the Association shall be President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, two members-at-large, and Editor of the Watermark.

B. Elected officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting and serve until the close of the Annual Meeting at the end of their terms of office.

C. The Presidential Term shall be two years. The President shall be elected in even years. A past president must wait two years from the completion of a presidential term of office before being eligible to serve as President-Elect.

D. The President-Elect shall be elected the second year of the presidential term and assume to office of President at the close of the Annual Meeting following one year as President-Elect.

E. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve a term of two years. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected in odd years. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms as Secretary/Treasurer.

F. The Editor shall serve a term of three years.

G. The Members-at-large shall serve terms of two years, one being elected each year.

Section 2. Vacancies

A. A vacancy arising in the office of President shall be filled by the President-Elect, who shall serve out the unexpired term of the President and continue as President for the full term as elected.

B. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant during the year when there is no president-Elect, a President shall be chosen by the Steering Committee from among its members. This President shall serve until an elected President assumes office after the next election.

C. All other vacancies shall be filled by the Steering Committee.

Section 3. The President

The President shall act as Executive Officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Steering Committee. The President shall serve as ex officio member of all Committees.

Section 4. The President-Elect

The President-Elect shall perform the duties and exercise the functions of the President during the President's absence or inability to act.

Section 5. The 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. A statement of accounts shall be submitted to the Steering Committee prior to the Annual Meeting and before January 1 of the following year.

Article IV. Appointed Officers

The President shall appoint an auditor prior to the Annual Meeting. The auditor shall review the Treasurer's account books and report to the Association at the Annual Meeting.

Article V. Nominations and Elections

The Nominating Committee shall prepare annually a slate of nominees for each office whose incumbent is completing a term of office. The slate shall be submitted to the membership nine weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. If the slate contains a single name for an office, the ballot shall provide for write-in nominations.

Article VI. Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

A. The Steering Committee shall consist of all elective officers of the Association and shall conduct the business of the Association between regular membership meetings.

B. Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Program Committee and the Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint a chairman of each Standing Committee.

C. The Program Committee shall be responsible for planning the Annual Meeting program.

D. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall recommend two members to serve on the Steering Committee to the Steering Committee for its approval. No member may serve on the Nominating Committee two consecutive years.

Section 2. Other Committees

The President shall appoint such other committees as are necessary with the advice and consent of the Steering Committee.

Article VII. Amendment and Dissolution

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association may be amended and the Association may be dissolved by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the members, by mail ballot or at a meeting, on a resolution approved by two thirds vote of the Steering Committee.

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by Katharine E.S. Donahue

I will, as Glenn Jenkins did, send out forms to various members soliciting information about what's going on in your library or archives. However, if you have news, information, or items of interest to share, send them along to me. Or if time creeps up on you (which often happens), do not hesitate to telephone me. Kathy Donahue, History & Special Collections, Louise Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, 10833 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90024. (213) 825-6940.

Everybody is interested in news from members and besides its always nice to appear in print. So, to be specific, we all want to know about:

1. New acquisitions (gifts, purchases, treasures found in the general collection, archival collections recently transferred)
2. New projects, exhibits, grants, professional activities
3. Calendar events
4. Staff changes and job openings
5. Recommended reading
6. Queries? (help with obstinate reference questions, locations of elusive titles, etc.)

Items for the next issue of The Watermark should reach me by 28 February 1989.

MAIN ENTRIES

Doris Thibodeau has left Las Cruces, New Mexico and moved to Asheville, North Carolina. Her new address is 50 A Foxfire Dr., Asheville, North Carolina 28803. Glenn Jenkins thinks she would like to hear from friends and colleagues. Also moved are: Elsalyn Palmisano-Drucker, 446 Monmouth Rd., West Long Branch, NJ 07764 and Caroline S. Morris, 1553 Schiavello Drive, Swarthmore, PA 19081.

From College & Research Library News: Audrey Denna Kinnsella has been appointed rare books cataloger in the Countway Library, Harvard University.

Jain Fletcher has been appointed cataloger in the Louise Darling Biomedical Library. Twenty percent of her time will be spent cataloging rare books for the History & Special Collections Division.

ANALYTICS

The Continuing Education Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ACRL/ALA) has been officially renamed The Education and Professional Development Committee. Chairman Barbara Paulson says the new Committee name reflects a change in focus and responsibility. The Committee will now be more involved in and interested in the

education of rare book and manuscript librarians as well as their continuing education. In the past the Committee has been primarily responsible for organizing the seminars which take place at the annual pre-conference.

The 1989 Rare Books and Manuscripts Section conference will be held in Cambridge, England 6-9 September 1989. There will be no seminars, only plenary sessions on the British and Continental book trade. Barbara relates that there will be field trips to book dealers' establishments and to libraries, as well as other frothy excursions. In the absence of seminar planning, the Committee will take this next year to examine and prepare for its new expanded role.

Kathy Donahue, in anticipation of acquiring more manuscript material, attended the Western Archives Institute which was held at UCLA from 1-12 August 1988. Twenty-four participants from 8 states and Mexico gathered for the intensive two-week program.

As part of UCLA's campus-wide celebration of the Bicentennial of the French Revolution, the lecture series, Programs in Medical Classics, will be devoted to "Medicine in the Era of the French Revolution." The History and Special Collections Division is planning a series of exhibits using materials from the collection which will compliment the lecture series.

Columbia University Board of Trustees has established a support group called the Associates of the Health Sciences Library. Barbara Paulson sent a copy of the attractive membership brochure to Ex Libris. Anyone wishing to receive a copy or more information about establishing a friends group may call Barbara at (212) 305-7931.

The construction project which will expand and restore the Yale Medical Library has commenced and is progressing at a rapid rate. There will be a new reference room which will create an arc on the existing Y-shaped structure, and the stacks and substacks will be widened. The Historical Library will benefit from this tremendous undertaking by the addition of a new workroom and more stack area.

Janice Braun, Yale Medical Historical Library, relates that the Historical Library Portrait File is still available. The index, which includes 7000 images in the collection, can be obtained for \$12.50 from the Medical Historical Library, 333 Cedar St., New Haven, CT 06511.

Dr. Ramunas Kondratas, Smithsonian Institution, was the first speaker of the 1988-89 "UCLA Programs in Medical Classics," a lecture series sponsored by the Medical History Division and the Biomedical Library at UCLA. This entire year is devoted to "Medicine in the Era of the French Revolution" and celebrates the bicentennial of the French Revolution. Dr. Kondratas spoke on "Public Health in Paris: the Views of Johann Peter and Joseph Frank." At an afternoon colloquium for students and faculty, Dr. Kondratas discussed the use of artifacts in teaching and researching medical history. He discussed history in the museum context and the importance of exhibits in interpreting history.

H. Brenda Sutton, Reader Services Librarian, sends this news for the Wellcome Institute Library. Dr. Roy Porter, author of the recent book Mind-Forg'd Manacles, is on a visiting fellowship from the Wellcome Institute to UCLA. Dr. Porter is the William Andrews Clark Professor of the Year; he is an authority on the social history of medicine, particularly the 18th

century. Additionally, by the end of 1989 the Wellcome Institute Library will have moved into temporary accommodations in Euston Road for a period of 1-2 years while the Wellcome Building is refurbished. They hope to be able to continue service to readers during this time.

Joan Krizack is a Research Fellow in the Research Fellowship Program for the Study of Modern Archives which is administered by the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. She is attempting to "develop a conceptual framework with which to understand health care records." She will participate as Fellow next year as well.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Friends of the Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine presented the Library with its 500,000th volume. Florie Berger reports that the book, Thomas Sydenham's Methodus Currandi Febres. (London: Crook, 1666) is a first edition of his first work. A nice addition to the collection indeed.

Joan Krizack of the Abraham Pollen Archives and Rare Book Library, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, reports acquiring two works of interest on the eye: George Chandler's Treatise on the diseases of the eye, and their remedies (London, 1780) and Eduard ritter van Jaxthal Jaeger's Beitrag zur pathologie des Auges (Wien, 1870). Jaeger's work is illustrated with 73 superb chromolithographic plates.

According to Janice Braun, Assistant Historical Librarian, Yale Medical Historical Library has added a letter to their manuscript holdings. It was written by Charles Hooker who was a Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at the Medical Institution of Yale College from 1838-1863 and was also Dean of the School of Medicine for the latter decade. The letter, which is dated July 1, 1851, is addressed to L.R. Welles, the Warden of the Connecticut State Prison at Wethersfield. Professor Hooker cites (in a most euphemistic manner) statutes which allow "for an occasional supply of our wants," that is cadavers for dissection.

As reported in the news, McGill University has acquired 22,500 medical theses prepared in France in the 19th century. The theses will be housed in the Osler Library of the History of Medicine.

QUERIES

Offering: UCLA History & Special Collection has discovered a cache of a nicely produced publication (paper with paper wrappers, 27 p.) titled Don Carlos of Spain, a Medical Portrait by Charles Donald O'Malley (Los Angeles, 1969). It is free for the writing and until our supply runs out. Write to: History & Special Collections, Louise Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, 10833 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.

RECOMMENDED READING

Janice Braun, Yale Medical Historical Library, suggests the following: Doctors by Sherwin B. Nuland M.D., the Chairman of the Yale Medical Library Associates, was recently published by Knopf. Appropriately subtitled The Biography of Medicine this is history as told through the mechanism of biography which has the distinct advantage of transforming a potentially tedious recitation of names and dates

into the intrigue of the individual personality. The introduction emphasizes the influence that the resources and atmosphere of the Historical Library had on Dr. Nuland's practice as scholar and historian.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section/ACRL has published two new thesauri for special collections. Binding terms: thesaurus for use in rare book and special collections cataloguing describes the physical properties of the book's binding. Provenance evidence considers provenance in its broadest sense. Both monographs provide standard terms for description of physical characteristics which may be used in MARC field 755.

DATABASES

ISTC (Incunable Short Title Catalogue) is a database of books and other material printed from movable type during the 15th century. It contains 22,000 records and the North American records are derived from Goff's Incunabula in American Libraries (3rd census). Reports updating the database are welcomed by the editors, Lotte Hellinga and John Goldfinch, at the British Library. The database is available now to all BLAISE-LINE subscribers, and should be available soon on a North American on-line system.

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ARCHIVES ANNOUNCING

In the last issue of the American Archivist (Winter/Spring 1988) in "Commentary" following Lawrence Dowler's article, "The role of use in defining archival practice and principles...", Anne R. Kenney suggests that archivist should "plug into" the "academic grapevine" to make potential users aware of the holdings available to them. Why not, she asks, let historians know of new archives and manuscript collections by announcing their availability in journals read by historians.

It occurred to Glen that members of ALHHS have a perfect vehicle to utilize this approach. New holdings among our libraries could be described in the Newsletter of the American Association for the History of Medicine from time to time thus alerting persons most in need of such news.

A short readable paragraph announcing a new important accession could be sent to the editor, Genevieve Miller, for use when needed. Information should include name of collection, size, scope, subject area and other attributes of interest, language if other than English, and, of course, the name of the repository, address and telephone number.

CALENDAR

6 February 1989 - Regina Morantz-Sanchez, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles. History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, Univer-

sity of Virginia. "The Spiritual Power of Maternity: Reflections on the Historical Legacy of Women Physicians." 5:00 p.m, Wilhelm Moll Rare Book and Medical History Room.

OPEN POSITIONS

Special Collections Librarian

To direct the activities of the Reynolds Historical Library and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. Duties and responsibilities include: planning major exhibits utilizing the resources of the Museum and the Reynolds Library; arranging and participating in an ongoing series of seminars and lectures based on these resources; planning and participating in fund raising activities to help support these units; developing creative ways of utilizing the resources within these collections; writing and publishing the Reynolds Library Associates Newsletter; and planning outreach programs to publicize these collections. Supervises one professional librarian and a support staff. Qualifications: ALA-MLS, two years experience in medical library. Send letter, resume, and three letters of reference to Virginia Algermissen, Director, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, UAB Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294. UAB is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

Assistant Librarian, Special Collections

Responsible for cataloging, archival processing, and reference service. Qualifications: ALA-MLS, two years experience in medical library. Reports to Head of Special Collections. Send letter, resume, and three letters of reference to Virginia Algermissen, Director, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, UAB Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294. UAB is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

A CURIOUS TALE

by Lucretia McClure

A review of Charles E. Rosenberg's book, The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849 and 1866, appeared in the February 18, 1988 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. It was a thorough and favorable review, the writer describing it as an "outstanding" book. But something about the review puzzled me for the author had written a book with this title in 1962. Was this a new edition? No indication was given in the review. The date was simply given as 1987. Out of curiosity I called the office of the New England Journal of Medicine book review editor. His assistant was surprised at my question. "Yes, of course new or revised editions were noted in the reviews," he said. He had not thought this a revised work and indicated the reviewer was an expert and long-time reviewer for the journal who would surely have commented if such were the case. He suggested that I call the publisher, the University of Chicago Press. Here again I encountered surprise and a response that no one in the office knew whether or not this was a revised work.

Finally, I went to the source, Dr. Rosenberg, who explained that it was a reissue of the 1962 publication with an afterword. Since this addition is only a few pages, I find it hard

to believe that an experienced reviewer could overlook the clearly printed 1962 copyright date.

Five months later the book was reviewed in the July 8 issue of JAMA. This reviewer cites it as a second edition, calling Rosenberg's work "dramatic and entertaining--at times even gripping." He points out, as did the earlier reviewer, the parallels between the problems of the 19th century cholera epidemic and today's AIDS epidemic. It is a timely reason for reissuing the book. And it is also interesting to note that both reviewers are from the Harvard Medical School.

I wonder how many individuals and libraries bought the book on the strength of the review in the New England Journal of Medicine, usually a reliable source. Caveat emptor!



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CONSERVATION NEWS

by Janice Braun

Permanent Paper--The Library Journal of April 15, 1988 reports on the creation of the National Library of Medicine's Board of Regents Permanent Paper Task Force. In part, the Task Force is charged with informing medical publishers about the availability and economic feasibility of using acid-free paper that fulfills the requirements of the American National Stan-

dards Institute in their products. **Microfilms on SERLINE**--We are already seeing the rise of microfilming as a mode to preserve deteriorating materials. This practice is going to become even more prevalent especially with projects funded by grant money. In order to prevent duplication of filming, the NLM has input on the SERLINE database, 70,000 medical serial titles that they have filmed or intend to film. Within the next year, titles filmed in previous projects will also be entered into the database. They recommend that other institutions check SERLINE before deciding to film a title. **National Survey**--The New York Academy of Medicine has sent the NLM's Preservation Needs Assessment which will be used in the formation of the National Library of Medicine's National Preservation Program for Biomedical Literature. The survey is comprehensive and includes a section based upon the RLG Conspectus which surveys collection strengths and policies. Although time consuming, the survey is very worthwhile from a local point of view, in addition to its primary purpose as a tool to establish a national program.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORTS

"Conserving and Preserving Materials in Nonbook Formats," the Thirtieth Allerton Institute sponsored by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was held November 6-9, 1988 in Champaign, Illinois. More than 130 persons attended representing libraries, archives, museums, conservators, vendors, and students.

The purposes of the excellent program were 1) to identify issues and problems related to the preservation of nonbook materials; 2) to examine different methods and techniques used in the care and preservation of these materials; 3) to provide perspectives on research activities and future trends in nonbook preservation; 4) to indicate the role of vendors and suppliers in the preservation process; and 5) to suggest ways of utilizing strategic planning in the preservation process.

The pre-publication price of the Proceedings was \$20.00. Copies may be ordered from: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 410 David Kinley Hall, 1407 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801. By **Mary Ann Hoffman**

During the week of June 20-24 there was offered at Columbia University's Rare Book School the course **"Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship."** The course was taught by John Parker (University of Minnesota) and Daniel Traister (University of Pennsylvania). During an intense period of lectures, discussion and study, the following topics were covered: (1) Definition and purpose of rare book collections--the determinants of rarity; criteria for identifying rarities in a general collection; the commitment to security. (2) Collection development--start from where you are and ascertain your strengths and build on them; learning the processes of acquisitions--the rare book market and its practices; building a reference collection to serve the unit. (3) Technical processing--describing individual books and collections; elementary book repair techniques; conservation and planning for growth. (4)

Relating the rare book collection to the various clienteles and to the public; preparation of exhibits; friends of the library groups and other fund raising activities.

Students stayed in on-campus housing facilities at Columbia and could arrive ahead of time or stay beyond their course in either the East Campus hotel or the East Campus dormitory. The tuition for the course was \$425.00, but it is an intensive course and a worth while investment. By **Samuel A. Davis**

The **Society for Health and Human Values** is a broad based association of over six hundred health care practitioners, academic scholars, and ministers committed to promoting the teaching of and research into the various aspects of the medical humanities. This society held its annual meeting in Chicago, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges, the weekend of November 10-13. Over two hundred physicians, nurses, allied health personnel, ministers, and academicians gathered to present papers on and discuss a wide range of topics in the disciplines of biomedical ethics, literature and medicine, and the history of medicine. The four papers on the history of medicine represented a broad spectrum of historical scholarship, and the Society's executive committee proclaimed its intention to provide even more space on future programs for historical research.

The first historical paper was presented by Todd Savitt, Ph.D., from the Department of Medical Humanities, East Carolina University School of Medicine. Savitt examined in depth the circumstances surrounding James Herrick's original 1910 case report on sickle cell anemia, focusing on the patient in this case and how he had traveled from Grenada in the Caribbean to Chicago to attend dental school. Particular attention was placed on the emergence of medical and dental education opportunities for Blacks in early 20th century America.

Following Savitt's fascinating account, Cynthia Pitcock, Ph.D., from the University of Arkansas Medical Schools' Division of Medical Humanities presented a different part of the medical career of William Beaumont than the typical coverage of his pioneering work in digestive physiology. Pitcock focused on Beaumont's 1846 trial on malpractice charges in St. Louis. This story pointed out both the struggle for professionalization in pre-Civil War American medicine and the legal interpretation of medical malpractice during this era.


Steven Martin, M.D., from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, provided some new insights into the social history of chiropractic in 20th century American in his paper. Martin discussed the impact of religious and cultural trends in American history which lead a sizeable minority of the public to reject traditional scientific medicine and turn to alternative forms of health care, such as chiropractic. This talk lead to lengthy discussions among the speaker and his audience both during and following the historical sessions.

The final paper was presented by Mary Winkler, Ph.D., from the Institute for Medical Humanities, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. She discussed the use of history of art in the teaching of anatomy to medical students, focusing on the drawings in Vesalius's *De Fabrica* and what they convey to us on the connection between artists and anatomists in 16th century Europe.

The Society for Health and Human Values appears to be eager to foster a close association with members in the AAHM. It may behoove members of the ALHHS to become involved with the Society and promote this liaison, thus further increasing the role of history of medicine within the broad scope of the medical humanities. Anyone interested in more information about the Society and/or the recent annual meeting please write to Jonathon Erlen, Ph.D. at: 200 Scaife Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.

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ALHHS SLATE

The Nominating Committee, ALHHS, Chris Hoolihan, Dorothy Whitcomb, Lilli Sentz, Chair, has submitted the following nominations:

Elizabeth Borst White - Secretary-Treasurer

Barbara A. Paulson - Steering Committee Member (two years)

Philip M. Teigen - Steering Committee Member / President Elect

ALHHS PROGRAM in Birmingham
Wednesday, April 27

9:00 Meet at Reynolds Library for coffee

9:30 Slide presentation and exhibit of Vesalius Collection

10:30 Speaker: Jim Goodrich

11:30 Take van to faculty dining room for lunch

12:00 Lunch

ALHHS SPONSORED SESSION AT AAHM

Patient Records and Historical Research: Prospects and Problems

A major issue involved in documenting twentieth-century medicine is the use of patient records in historical research. This lunch session will attempt to address the various issues relating to the access to and use of these records by historians. A panel consisting of two historians and two archivists will address this most important issue from two different viewpoints. Each panelist will deliver an informal paper (limited to 12 minutes) and then the floor will be opened up for discussion. The historians on the panel will be expected to speak on the value of patient records to their own research and what role these records will play in future studies of twentieth-century medicine. The archivists will speak about the records under their care and the problems involved in making these records accessible to historians, such as legal and donor restrictions and confidentiality. This session should be of interest to both the historian and the librarian, because the issues involved with the access of these records will grow in importance as research in the history of twentieth-century medicine expands.

Panelists: Terry A. Bragg, Archivist, McLean Hospital, Massachusetts; Joel Howell, M.D., Ph.D., University of Michigan Medical Center; Nancy McCall, Archivist, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD; Jack D. Pressman, Ph.D., Professor, University of California, San Francisco, and organizer & Moderator: Thomas A. Horrocks, M.A., M.S.L.S., Associate Librarian for Historical Collections, College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

The Watermark is issued quarterly to members of this Association and subscribers. ALHHS officers are: President Glen Pierce Jenkins, Historical Division, Cleveland Health Sciences Library, 11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Borst White, History of Medicine Librarian, Houston Academy of Medicine/Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX 77030 (713)-797-1230. Steering Committee members: Mary Claire Cowen, Mary Teloh, Deborah Woolverton. Editor Judith Overmier, Owen H. Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, Bio-Medical Library, Diehl Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612)-626-6881. Dues: \$10.00 to Elizabeth Borst White. Publication Deadlines: May 30, August 29, November 30, February 28.