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SOURCES FOR PRESERVATION IN HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARIES

by Guest Editor,

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This bibliographical essay is based, in part, on a search of the MEDLINE (1966-1990), HISTLINE (1970-1990), and LISA (1969-1990) databases. The purpose of the searches was to compile materials written on preservation/conservation specifically in health science libraries. Also included are a few worthwhile sources not exclusive to health science libraries. This is not purported to be a comprehensive bibliography but rather to serve as sound representation of recent publications. In order to gain a sense of what is happening in the rapidly evolving field of preservation, a survey of the literature is instructive. Themes and trends emerge making it possible for one to discern what is applicable to their own situation. Though it is inevitably mentioned in some of the following literature, there is no attempt made to address the subject of disaster planning.

The literature is abounding in (at times redundant) descriptions of surveys, deacidification processes, alkaline paper news, and reports of the danger of brittle books with the subsequent potential for loss of information. The diversity of the subject matter discloses the intricacy of what must be understood-- besides managing the problematic materials from the past, the future must be prepared for by implementing preventative techniques, dealing with materials at risk, creating safe environments, lobbying for acid-free publishing, and so on. In reviewing the recent literature it is evident that the major issues are the preservation of materials in original format, microfilming, publishing on alkaline paper, mass deacidification processes, and cooperative projects. These are not listed in order of importance which would be futile.

Clearly, much of what we read pertaining to general collections is applicable to special collections. While much of the literature refers to general collections, there is certainly a body of material that focuses on health sciences libraries. As Barbara Paulson mentions, some

problems are as unique as a collection's attributes making generalizations elusive even amongst comparable libraries ("Preservation decision-making in a medical historical library").

A number of topics are addressed in last summer's *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* which devoted a large part of the issue to preservation concerns specifically in health science libraries. The result, entitled "Symposium: Preservation of the Biomedical Literature," is an invaluable complementary grouping of articles authored by experts. This publication stands alone as a primer for this topic. The first article ("Our silent enemy: ashes in our libraries") chronicles the last century of scientific publishing on acidic paper. Lois and Selma DeBailey, professors of Scientific Communication, synopsise the necessity of saving the record which documents both scientific process and progress. Most importantly, they discuss the value of the myriad articles and journals in light of posterity. In her article, ("Preservation of the biomedical literature: an overview") Margaret Byrnes describes the past (microfilming was instituted as early as 1937), present, and future of preservation activities at the National Library of Medicine. She also discusses the "National Preservation Plan for the Biomedical Literature" as well as providing a review of the national and international situation. Brett A. Kirkpatrick ("Preservation activities and needs in U.S. biomedical libraries: a status report") summarizes the methodology and findings of a national survey funded by the National Library of Medicine in 1987. The use of computer systems to facilitate the survey of over three hundred libraries is also described. Daniel T. Richards and Lucretia W. McClure ("Selection for preservation: considerations for the health sciences") draw a parallel between collection development policy and preservation decisions. The article discusses scientific literature in terms of the scholarly record, makes the distinction between primary and secondary level material, and remarks on the relevance of the visual record in biomedicine. The need for collaborative efforts amongst institutions is stressed. An appendix reprints the "National Library of Medicine priorities for preservation microfilming." Barbara A. Paulson ("Developing a preservation policy and procedure statement for the health sciences library") gives the history of the Columbia University's

Augustus C. Long Health Science Library preservation policy. The policy and procedures document is appended to Paulson's article.

A prevailing issue concerns the value of restoring an object, whether it be a monograph, artwork, or other artifact, in its original format. This was the topic of a session at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference of the American Library Association Annual Conference, June 1990. In this seminar, the comparison was made between microfilming (saving only "intellectual" data) and the restoration of the whole artifact. Reference was made to Barclay Ogden's "On the preservation of books and documents in original form" which is available free-of-charge from the Commission of Preservation and Access (1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 313, Washington, DC 20036). Ogden discusses the advantages of retaining materials in their original format. He distinguishes between artifactual and non-artifactual items (which supposedly can be microfilmed without any loss of information) while proposing strategies to cope with these tough decisions. He especially recommends preventative maintenance such as a controlled environment and protective housings in order to minimize the expense of saving artifacts. This discussion is also related to the fact that libraries often handle formats that are not necessarily books or journals, but also include such disparate things as photographs, computer discs, medical instruments, and faxes which present atypical preservation problems.

Another free report from the Commission on Preservation and Access is the "Directory: Information sources on scientific research related to the preservation of books, paper, and adhesives." The need for "verified documentation" on research pertaining to paper, adhesives, books, and mold was identified by preservation specialists. This directory describes the research of organizations involved in these kinds of studies. Included are: Laboratories and Organizations, Indexes, Abstracts, and Databases, and Publications and Newsletters. A 1989 report entitled "Preservation Research at the Library of Congress: Recent Progress and Future Trends" is appended to the directory. This report synthesizes deacidification experiments conducted at the Library of Congress.

A primary document, often cited and quoted elsewhere, is Preservation of the Biomedical Literature: A Plan for the National Library of Medicine (Betsy Humphreys et al). The NLM has analyzed circumstances particular to health science libraries; they have articulated problems as well as approaches to resolution. Although this report is focused on the NLM, its scope is national. Incorporated in the report is a background paper from 1984 which gives purpose statements and strategies. The NLM condition survey is described along with the methodology for examining non-monograph items such as bound and unbound manuscripts, audio and video tape cassettes, and various kinds of film. Also of interest, is

Appendix 4 which reports measurements of indoor pollutants. The plan proposes twenty-four recommendations. One such recommendation is to "initiate and participate in cooperative programs for the preservation of the biomedical literature". The Preservation Needs Assessment of U.S. Health Sciences Libraries comes out of this goal.

The frequently cited Yale Survey includes telling data on the books housed at the medical library (Walker, Gay et al. "The Yale Survey: A Large-Scale Study of Book Deterioration in the Yale University Library"). This data highlights the significant difference in the percentage of brittle books, pH levels, and other factors in biomedical collections as opposed to the general collection. The books in the medical library collection are in much better condition.

Journals proliferate in the sciences; journals lend themselves to microfilming--they tend not to have the artifactual mystique of the monograph (although monographs are often appropriately filmed as well). Coordinated projects on a national level concentrate mainly on the microfilming of comprehensive collections although there are provisions for conserving items with artifactual value. Libraries are often requested to help to achieve the goal of thoroughness by supplying lacking numbers of journals or missing pages of monographs. The National Library of Medicine provides information on microfilming pertaining to the National Preservation Program for the Biomedical Literature projects. Their guidelines are based on those of the RLG Cooperative Preservation Microfilming Project which are found in the RLG Preservation Manual. An extremely useful general text on microfilming is Nancy Gwinn's *Preservation Microfilming: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists*. There are also standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) associated with operational procedures and quality control in microfilming as well as the proper storage of film.

Case studies are informative and can help prevent the proverbial reinvention of the wheel. Every situation is unique, yet something can be learned from even the most singular situation. June Glaser's article, ("Magic Preservation: Conservation and Preservation of a Dental Library's Research Archival Collection") recounts the funding of a preservation project for the Eastman Dental Center's rare books and special collections. This is a concise description of a successful venture made possible by a state funded grant. Another example is Bentley Glass's study ("The preservation of historical materials in genetics") which is particularly fascinating because it deals with materials which are twentieth-century yet have historical significance. The Genetics Society of America facilitated the establishment of an archive in the history of genetics. This article illustrates that a first step to preservation can be simply to prevent scientists from discarding documentation. Coming directly out of this project were several publications using

primary sources--relatively recent, yet forgotten--which elucidate the history of genetics.

It is worth notice that there are a few articles to be found in the biomedical journals themselves thus making their constituencies aware of the difficulties involved with preserving the primary materials that readers may take for granted. Two timely examples are A.W. Hafner and W.P. Whitely's "The crisis facing printed medical literature. Acid paper" and C. Marwick's "Will this page still exist sometime in the future when you want to read about deteriorating paper in medical journals, other scientific literature?" These articles explain the acid paper crisis and pose alternatives such as microfilming. Along the same lines is an article that appeared in the journal, *Scholarly Publishing* by Charles R. Kalina which recounts the efforts made at the NLM in exhorting the use of acid-free paper in publishing.

For general reference, a reliable and clearly illustrated manual for conservation techniques is Jane Greenfield's work which provides simple instructions for housings and repairs (*Books: Their Care and Repair*). Two periodicals already remarked upon in the Watermark, but worth mentioning again, are the *Abbey Newsletter* and *CAN (Conservation Administration News)*.

Upon reviewing the literature pertaining to this subject one begins to comprehend where all the pieces fit, for example, how the programs administered from the National Library of Medicine relate to other libraries in the nation. This knowledge is indispensable when making decisions which expend limited resources.

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NOTES

1. In this article the term preservation will refer to administrative aspects and the field as a whole; conservation will refer to techniques and procedures used in treatments. In the literature, the two terms are often used interchangeably although they are occasionally defined.
2. Authors and titles are provided in the text of this essay. See the bibliography for full citations.
3. Since the articles and books on this subject contain references and oftentimes extensive bibliographies, one can develop one's reading list exponentially.
4. This topic will appear in a future issue of *The Watermark*. Two recent works on disaster are: Genovese, Robert, Trish Taylor, and Edward White. *Disaster preparedness manual*. University of Arizona, College of Law Library, Preservation Committee. Buffalo, N.Y.: W.S. Hein, 1989 and England, Claire and Karen Evans. *Disaster management for libraries: planning and process*. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1988.
5. The "Preservation Needs Assessment of U.S. Health Sciences Libraries" published by the Greater Northeastern Regional Medical Library Program, New York Academy of Medicine was a result of this survey.
6. This report is well-summarized in the M. Byrnes "Overview" article mentioned above.
7. In fact one of the more manifest differences of the biomedical sciences from the humanities, which relates to preservation, is that approximately 1/4 of manuscripts submitted to U.S. science journals are rejected as opposed to 3/4 of those in the arts. (Debaeky citing Meadows, A.J. *Communication in science*. London: Butterworths, 1974.) It should be kept in mind though, that the publication of the investigation and findings in a journal is the usual way of disseminating one's research in science.

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From time to time, library collections are assaulted by external forces. Whether the adversary is flood, acid paper, humans or other animals there is always cause for concern. The following is a case study on a potentially harmful invasion of insects in a book storage area.

The Library Annex of the Yale Medical Library was the storage facility for books and journals published during the years 1900-1920. The area is a bi-level room located in the sub-basement of a building across the street from the Medical Library. Materials were requested by patrons at the circulation desk and paged daily. After the expansion of the Medical Library was completed in June, 1990, the books and journals were to be moved into the newly constructed open stack areas which would eliminate the need for this off-site storage area.

There had been a few isolated sightings of silverfish in the Annex for about six months and it was feared that there was an infestation of the area. Because these scaly insects are nocturnal it was difficult to know what their intermittent daytime appearances signified. An infestation would be highly undesirable because silverfish eat the glue in book covers and the starch and gelatin sizing in the paper. Silverfish thrive in damp places and there had been a small flood due to leaky pipes about a year and a half before. Humidity levels were checked and judged acceptable shortly after this mini-disaster.

Books and journals were visually inspected, at random, for signs of either live insects or damage which is evident by the lacy pattern of eaten-away paper. No damage was found although the occasional silverfish was still seen by staff members. Because silverfish are so ravenous the lack of obvious damage was a good sign. Methods of dealing with a possible infestation were investigated. Current wisdom suggests that fumigation is unsafe and is therefore not recommended for books. The alternate non-toxic solution is to freeze the books to kill pests that might be hiding within.(1)

In order to better evaluate the extent of the problem, traps were set to capture the pests. It was assumed that if the traps were teeming with insects then there was an infestation, if not, then the problem was minimal.

Each trap consists of a Pyrex Crystallizing Dish, 70 x 50 mm, and ordinary wheat flour. A paste is made from flour and water and smeared on the outside of the dish. The paste acts as a lure and also gives the hapless insect a foothold. It is important to use this high-sided glassware as opposed to the more shallow petri dish because the latter would allow the insect to escape. More dry flour is poured in the interior of the dish. The beauty of these simple traps is that they are absolutely non-poisonous, can be used over and over, and are relatively inexpensive (the dishes cost about \$3.50 each). In addition, the prey is captured alive which makes identifi-

cation easier. A dozen traps were placed on both levels of the room, in corners and especially in the locations that were affected by the flood.

The traps were left undisturbed for about five weeks. They were checked at two weeks, and then again at three weeks. During this entire time period four silverfish were caught. It was concluded that the area was not infested. Unexpectedly, the traps had snared quite a few members of another representative of the insect kingdom--a small brown multi-legged creature which we were unable to identify. Fortunately, the entomologist at the local natural history museum who takes an interest in such dramas readily named the creatures, *gibbium psyllodes*, also known as storehouse beetles. He also assured us that these particular bugs are not interested in books or paper, but in animal fur. This made good sense because the Annex was located beneath an animal care facility. Apparently the bugs migrated down to snack on the wheat flour.

While it is true that silverfish reproduce prolifically and rapidly it was concluded that their presence in the Annex was not enough of a problem to embark on an expensive and labor intensive freezing project. It is important to note that areas should not be humid. In the event of a flood it is imperative to monitor and regain control of the environment.

Another facet to this story is the enthusiasm that our specimens generated. The entomologist was quite excited to behold the catch alive and well in the non-lethal traps. He hadn't seen this particular species in a decade and wanted to breed them for his collection. With pleasure, we handed the beetles over. We'd like to acknowledge Dr. Charles Remington (Professor of Biology and Forest Entomology and Museology, and Curator of Entomology at the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University) who designed the bug trap and identified the critters.

Janice Braun, August 1990

(1) Nesheim, Kenneth. "The Yale Non-toxic Method of Eradicating Book-eating Insects by Deep-freezing." *Restaurator* 6(1984):147-64.

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UCLA, received one of two National Library of Medicine

Preservation Contracts. The contract (which is still underway) is allowing us to microfilm and box an extremely valuable collection of Persian and Arabic medical manuscripts which date from the 12th century to the 19th century. The two collections consist of 268 bound manuscript volumes totalling 42,524 openings or foliations. As of this writing, the project is proceeding smoothly and, with a no-cost extension requested and granted, our completion date is 1 March 1991.

Projects of this kind are always a learning process. As would be expected, we learned a great deal about our material and how to prepare it to make it readable on microfilm. We also learned a general lesson from which anyone may profit. Summarized, this lesson is: every project has a start-up time and this should be formally recognized and factored into the work schedule. Failure to reflect this in the work schedule almost immediately puts the project off schedule.

In retrospect this is quite obvious. During the proposal writing when we designed the project, and sketched the plan and schedule of work, we underestimated the true start-up time for the project. In fact this crucial start-up time was not seriously taken into consideration when the work schedules were established. At the very least, the first month of the project should have been officially designated as start-up preparation time. The schedule for filming would then have reflected this and our projected 80,000 manuscript pages (or 42,524 foliations) would have been divided up amongst eleven months instead of twelve. As it turned out, more than a month was required to establish a smooth, on-going routine between the Library and the Filming Unit.

Naturally the amount of set-up time required is specific to each project and to the material being filmed. It turned out that our material and the targets were quite complicated. Any thought that we would start "hot" soon vanished. Some steps, such as hiring a student literate in Arabic and/or Persian, simply required time to find the appropriate person (which we did, after about a month and a half). When the proposal was written, our consultant was in England and although we discussed the broad outlines of the project transcontinentally, we did not discuss preparation of the manuscripts in detail until the contract was awarded. We found, upon discussion with our consultant, that it was essential that every manuscript be foliated before filming. This meant numbering every "opening" (two facing pages) in every manuscript. This we did with existing staff until the student assistant was hired. Additionally we discovered that western filming techniques and western microfilm readers (the machines) and Near Eastern manuscripts (which read right to left) are almost inimical to one another. Our consultant informed us that to be readable and usable, manuscript openings or foliations (usually two facing pages) had to be filmed in one frame or exposure as opposed to one page at a time and that the entire manuscript could be

filmed one of two ways: backwards or sideways. If the backwards filming option is adopted, then the positive film will be read while (technically) in the rewind mode on our machines. The image then moves from left to right and the correct pages about, thus reading the way the physical manuscript reads. We opted to turn the manuscripts on their side and microfilm so the text is perpendicular to the film perforations. The positive film moves vertically with the image (a foliation) moving up the screen. Although obviously this is not the way the physical manuscript would be read, it allows for easy and logical reading and transitions.

Appropriate targets had to be developed that adequately described the manuscripts and their parts. Part of what made the project possible was the existence of an extensive printed catalog for each collection. The author and title target information for each manuscript was taken from these catalogs. In addition almost every manuscript had writing on one or more edges of the text block, the spine, and the boards. Appropriate targets had to be developed to identify these various parts on the film. Since the Filming Unit traditionally created the camera ready targets, initially, we supplied them with copy (title and instructional) for the targets and they were to create the appropriate targets in the right font. It became evident, upon the return of the first large batch of film (20 manuscripts), that these complex targets had caused real problems; there were typographical errors, transcription errors, and diacritical errors on the targets; the correct order was not maintained. To solve this problem, we assumed responsibility for the creation of the targets and provided them with camera-ready copy in the proper sequence for each manuscript. Fortunately, we have access to a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer with a sizeable array of resident fonts. We were able to create targets into 24 point and we painstakingly added the essential diacritical marks. These steps and procedures took almost three months to sort out.

So we learned proposal writing is one process and doing the project is quite another. The proposal is but a broad outline and the real details of the project are worked out, and the real procedures are created during the first months after the granting of the contract. The true scope of the project is revealed as material is prepared, as the targets are created, and as the first reels of finished film are reviewed.

EX LIBRIS EX LIBRIS EX LIBRIS

by Mary H. Teloh

Thank you to everyone who submitted news items for this issue. The response was terrific! All news is welcome. Send to: Mary Teloh, Special Collections, Vanderbilt Medical Center Library, Nashville, TN 37232. Phone: (615)322-0008 FAX: (615)343-6454

IN THE NEWS

The Edward G. Miner Library of the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry has published *An Annotated Catalog of the Miner Yellow Fever Collection*, compiled by Christopher Hoolihan.

Edwina Walls has edited *Contributions to Arkansas Medical History*.

Barbara Rootenberg, National Security Chairperson, ABAA, sends this report: The solution to numerous cases of library thefts has been solved with the indictment of Stephen Blumberg, alias Matt McGue.

Found in Blumberg's home in Ottumwa, Iowa, were over 30,000 books and manuscripts that had been removed from about 140 university and college libraries. The dollar value may never be known, but estimates have ranged from \$25 to \$50 million. In addition to the books and manuscripts, the F.B.I. has suggested that with antiques and art, the total may amount to as much as \$100 million?

The ABAA is pleased to have been a part of the identification and appraisal of the books. We also want to commend the F.B.I. for their cooperation and work leading to the prosecution of Blumberg, the Security Committee of ACRL RBMS for its active role in matters relating to stolen books, and OCLC for sending staff members and equipment (at its own expense) to develop the database for the stolen items.

The ABAA Security Committee is in the process of developing a stolen book register on computer. We urge the libraries to appoint a Security Officer as recommended in the RBMS Theft Guidelines. Until our register is complete we will continue to report stolen books through our "pink sheets." The distribution of "pink sheets" has resulted in a number of recoveries.

Vickie Steele, representing the University of Southern California, was asked by the FBI to travel to Omaha and look over the material stolen by Stephen Blumberg. She kept a special watch for works in medicine or science, but saw none. Apparently Stephen hadn't visited any of us---yet.

EXHIBIT NOTES

From Christopher Hoolihan, Edward G. Miner Library, comes the announcement that an exhibit entitled "Not Just Skin Deep: Anatomical Illustration 1500-1800 from the Collection of the Edward G. Miner Library" will be on display in the prints and drawings gallery of the Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, N.Y., from October through December 1990. Mounted from the Miner Library's rare book collection, the exhibit includes works by Mondino dei Luzzi, Berengario da Carpi, Dryander, Estienne, Vesalius, Casserio, Aselli, Bidloo, Gautier d'Agoty, Albinus, Scarpa and other major figures in anatomical literature.

At the National Library of Medicine there are two current exhibits of interest: 1) "Emergence of Experimental Embryology in the United States" and 2) "To Your Health: An Exhibition of Posters for

Contemporary Public Health Issues." Single copies of pamphlets for both are available by writing: Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894.

Katherine McDonnell, Director of the Indiana Medical History Museum, writes that her institution has a current exhibit entitled "Lifting the Veil of Secrecy: The Public Response to AIDS in Historical Perspective." The exhibit compares the AIDS public education campaign to early twentieth century efforts to control venereal diseases. As with AIDS, the medical profession could offer no reliable cures for those diseases.

The museum's exhibit contains posters and educational materials from the first half of the twentieth century, as well as AIDS-related materials. It also has some of the early remedies (including patent medicines) used to treat venereal disease. The exhibit will be on display through December 30, 1990.

The New York Academy of Medicine's Ann Pasquale reports that the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York is sponsoring New York Archives Week, 1-7 October 1990, during which the Medical Archivists Section will mount an exhibit of archival materials documenting patient experience over time. This exhibit will open on 1 October at the New York Academy of Medicine and will continue on display throughout the Fall. The activities of New York Archives Week are made possible in part through the support of the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York Academy of Sciences.

RECOMMENDED READING

"The sexual politics of illness in turn of the century libraries" by Rosalee McReynolds appeared in *Libraries & Culture* 25(Spring, 1990). Susan Alon, Washington University, spotted this article on sexual stereotyping of women librarians and commensurate model of low pay and neurasthenia.

Elizabeth B. White, Houston Academy of Medicine, alerts us to the two new bibliographies produced by the Archives and Library Information Center (ALIC) of NARA. One contains 228 citations on disaster planning, the other has 148 citations on administering preservation programs in archives. The July issue of their newsletter, *ALIC Notes*, lists the Technical Information Papers they have written and which they distribute through NTIS. The most recent TIPS discusses standards for the creation, access and long term storage of electronic records.

QUERIES

Does anyone know the fate of Karl Sudhoff's Paracelsus collection mentioned by Dr. Siegerist in 1941? There are many rumors but nothing factual as to whether it was lost in the bombings of WWII. (Susan Alon, Washington University)

Is your collection listed in DIRLINE? The History of Medicine subfile, which is available from NLM's MEDLARS system, contains identifying and descriptive information about participating institutions

for the use of scholars and researchers in medical history. For information on how to submit and for a printed copy of the 1990 version of the online file, contact: Elizabeth Tunis, Reference Librarian, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20852.

Has anyone a copy for donation, trade, or sale of volume four of the *Medical Library and Historical Journal* published in five volumes between 1903 and 1907 by the Association of Medical Librarians? (Christopher Hoolihan, Edward G. Miner Library)

Would you check your copies of the second edition of Hunter's *Natural History of the Human Teeth*, 1778. We have two copies: one has the words, "The Second Edition" printed on the title page; the other does not. What am I dealing with here? (Glen Jenkins, Cleveland Health Sciences Library)

GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS

The Indiana Medical History Museum recently received a \$2,500 Indiana Heritage Research Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council and the Indiana Historical Society. The museum will use the grant to catalog and conserve its late-nineteenth century medical library. Last year the museum received an Indiana Heritage Grant to catalog a portion of its large medical artifact collection.

By a Letter of Intent in July 1990, George A. Seib, M.D. established an endowment of major significance for the Rare Books Division of the Washington University School of Medicine Library. Called the Dr. George A. Seib Fund it will be used to acquire and conserve rare and outstanding materials on anatomy and physiology. Established in honor of Dr. Seib's longtime mentor and friend, Dr. Robert J. Terry, Professor of Anatomy 1899-1941, (whose extensive and well-documented anthropometric skeleton collections continue to be used at the Smithsonian), the endowed fund will strengthen the already representative collections of early anatomies and folio atlases of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Glen Jenkins writes that she has been elected President of the Handerson Medical History Society for next year. Glen also is Book Exhibit Co-ordinator for AAHM next May. Good luck, Glen!

Judith Overmier is Chair-elect of the Special Collections and Archives Round Table of the Oklahoma Library Association. She was also elected Secretary-Treasurer of ALA's Library History Round Table.

NOTABLE ACQUISITION

Thomas A. Horrocks of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia reports that his library has received the books of the late Joseph T. Freeman, of Philadelphia, a noted gerontologist and historian of gerontology. His library, consisting of over 400 titles from the 16th to the 20th centuries, is one of the largest collections of its kind in the United States. It was donated to the Historical Collections of the Library by Mrs. Joseph T. Freeman.

Another outstanding collection received by the College is William H. Helfand's collection of 10,000 medical bookplates (including the bookplate collection of the late Samuel X. Radbill, which Bill acquired a few years ago).

The Fordham Health Sciences Library, Wright State University School of Medicine, has received the deed of gift for the Dorothy Brower Collection of Medical Illustrations. Ms. Brower, a student of Max Brodel at Johns Hopkins Medical Center, was a lifelong resident of Dayton, Ohio.

Phil Teigen writes of these unusual materials added to the NLM collections: 1) *Grida per la Netzza della Citta*, a broadside printed in Milan, September 10, 1630, at the height of a plague epidemic. The broadside contains 14 directives dealing with hygiene, including the removal of garbage to the city limits and the selling of only fresh fruit and produce. The penalties for not following the directives are also listed and include fines, corporal punishment and prison. 2) Francisco de Leiva y Aguilar's *Decission de la Duda, en que se Pregunta...* published in Cordova in 1633, is possibly the earliest scientific investigation of urine for the first signs of pregnancy. Leiva y Aguilar, Spanish physician and Jesuit, was asked by the Duke of Arcos to settle a dispute as to whether or not pregnancy could be determined based only on changes in urine. After detailed examination of the urine, Leiva y Aguilar concluded that the test, while significant, should be used with other procedures. 3) *Der Vrouwen Natuere Ende Complexie* (Antwerp, c. 1520-1530) is an extremely rare and early book on midwifery. It is profusely illustrated with woodcuts depicting the birth process from conception to newborn. It also includes information on such subjects as artificial insemination and how to recognize pregnancy.

The Clendening History of Medicine Library has added *The Mattiolo Woodblocks*, Stamperia, Verona, 1989. It is a limited edition portfolio with an essay by Sandra Raphael. A pocket at the end of the publication contains nine prints taken from the original Mattioli woodblocks and printed by hand by Ian Mortimer. Also acquired was [Frederick A. Towers?] *The Great Lesson on the Indian Famine; with appendix; containing letters from Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Cotton, Miss Florence Nightingale, &c.* By a journalist. London, Paris and New York: Cassell, Petter & Calpin, 1877. Susan B. Case writes that the latter item is a nice addition to their collection of Ms. Nightingale's published letters.

Two substantial acquisitions in Cleveland are reported by Glen Jenkins: 1) the archives of Mt. Sinai Medical Center's L.D. Beaumont Memorial Research Laboratories, Goldblatt Unit, which document renin research and the long collaboration between Harry Goldblatt, M.D. and Erwin Haas, Ph.D. and 2) the papers of Charles L. Hudson, M.D. former president of AMA, who developed the physician's assistant program and worked for the improvement of primary care.

The Edward G. Miner Library of the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry has recently received the papers of John Romano, M.D. Dr. Romano was the founding chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Rochester, and an influential figure in American psychiatry and in the development of medical and psychiatric education. The Romano papers span the period 1928-1989. The collection includes extensive files of personal and professional correspondence; the minutes, reports & memoranda of the University committees on which he served; records of the Dept. of Psychiatry (1946-1971); nearly fifty years of clinical rounds; and a large collection of personal and historical prints and photographs.

METAMORPHOSIS

Nancy Whitten Zinn triumphantly reports that "Special Collections, The Library, University of California, San Francisco, will open in the new building on September 12, 1990. We will occupy the top floor with magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean and north to the Golden Gate Bridge. Our address and telephone will remain the same. We look forward to welcoming all of you who will attend MLA's annual meeting here next year!"

The Clendening Library has completed its renovation of the second floor of the History of Medicine Library, and Susan B. Case writes that her department has officially moved in. The 7,000 square foot area now houses book and museum item storage areas, a new work space for staff, a small auditorium (100 seats) with wonderful audiovisual equipment and the University of Kansas Medical Center Archives. The renovation project involved asbestos abatement, plumbing demolition, and installation of a Halon System, an environmental control system, and a security system.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Susan Rishworth has accepted the History Librarian position at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Gayle Porter, a recent graduate of the library school at Brigham Young, and Marcia Meldrum, a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY-Stony Brook, are working in NLM's modern manuscripts collection as part of a Summer student employment program.

Sander L. Gilman, Goldwin Smith Professor of Humane Studies at Cornell University and Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell Medical College will spend the 1990-91 academic year in HMD as visiting scholar. He will work on a book about the relationship between the development of psychoanalysis and discussions of the racial biology in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. December 15, 1990 is the deadline for applications for visiting scholar during the 1991-92 academic year.

Kevin Crawford has been appointed Reference Assistant in the Historical Collections at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Kevin holds a MA in history

from King's College (London) and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in history from Temple University.

The New York Academy of Medicine Library invites applications for two positions in the Special Collections Department. Send letter of application, copy of vitae, and names of three references by October 15, 1990 to: Anne Pascarelli, Acting Librarian, New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, New York, New York 10029. EEO/AE

Head, Special Collections: Manage all activities of a prestigious historical medicine collection, including supervision of two professional librarians. Specific responsibilities include provision of information services to a sophisticated clientele, and participation in collection development and management, exhibit research and preparation, preservation activities, fund raising, grant preparation and library planning. Will also coordinate Friends group activities and oversee department-related special events. A Master's degree in ancient or European history, classics or library science, undergraduate work in classics or European history, and working knowledge of Latin and one modern European language are required. Work experience or extensive research in related library setting also is required. Familiarity with bibliographic standards for rare materials, related work experience, and experience in and positive attitude towards working in an increasingly automated environment are desirable. Salary: \$31,000 minimum.

Cataloger, Special Collections: Perform original and copy cataloging for rare books and other materials in the history of the health sciences, using the NLM and LC schemes, NLM online databases, MeSH, OCLC, and RLIN. A Master's degree in Library Science, two years' work experience in rare book librarianship, and experience with automated cataloging systems are required. Salary: \$26,000 minimum.

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PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES OF EMIL OFFENBACHER

by Bruce J. Ramer

Emil Offenbacher, one of the leading experts and dealers in the world of antiquarian books died in Vermont, 16 August 1990, of cancer. He was 81 and was active in business until the end. He had issued his catalogue in the late winter, as usual, and even made a trip to California in February.

I got to know him fairly well during recent years and last saw him for about an hour and a half in June, when he knew he was getting progressively worse but never let on how serious the cancer was. I owe him a great deal for the encouragement he gave me, and I know he did the same for other collectors, librarians and dealers. He was extremely generous with his time and was a storehouse of knowledge.

I first met Emil at the suggestion of my brother, who said that this man was the expert to consult if I were considering collecting seriously. I went out to see him at his apartment in Kew Gardens, New York (in the countryside setting of a section of the borough of Queens, about 30 minutes by taxi from the center of Manhattan) on 11 June 1981. I know the date because I still have the bill for the book he sold me---Voltaire, *Elemens de la philosophie de Neuton*, 1738. I expected to stay a half hour maximum, but he kept me for about three hours, and showed me his entire bibliography collection. It was an unforgettable experience. On the ride back to Manhattan, I changed my mind about continuing my 10 years of collecting and decided I liked the idea of trying the book business.

Offenbacher, this great expert on science and medicine (especially the earliest books) and most other rare books, had started his career at age 16 working for an uncle who was a bookseller in Germany. In 1933 he established his business and then had to move it to Paris during the Nazi rise. He had a shop near the Madeleine and became very well known. He issued two important catalogues there on alchemy and occult books, subjects on which he was an authority.

In 1941 he left France because of the Nazi occupation and came to America. He established Emil Offenbacher, Inc. in Manhattan on Fifth Avenue before moving the business to his home in Kew Gardens. As everyone who knew him well can attest, Emil kept his style of business from the time he established it until the end, keeping the highest professional standards. He published one catalogue a year. The bibliographical details and descriptions were legendary, admired by collectors, librarians, and booksellers. He helped to develop some of the most important collections...too many to list here. Collectors such as Duveen (who asked Offenbacher to help write his bibliography), Edelstein, Dibner, every great science and medical collector of this period, along with countless institutions, relied on his taste and expertise to help develop their collections.

With his passing an era comes to an end, as he is probably the last of the great emigrant booksellers. He is survived by his wife, Anne, his children, Claude Offenbacher and Florence Keller, his brothers, Eric and Erwin, his sister Deborah and 4 grandsons. A memorial service was held for Emil Offenbacher at the Grolier Club on September 23.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Much of the work of ALHHS is done by committee, as it should be. Two of the chief roles of the President are to appoint members to them and to ensure that the membership's diversity of interest, knowledge, and talent is represented in their make-up. A third task is to ensure that the processes of the Association function efficiently so that the work of the committees will bear fruit.

Within the terms of our constitution, we have two types of committees, standing and ad hoc. The first are appointed yearly to carry out specific constitutional charges. The second are one-time committees which are appointed to take up a single matter and, having done that, are then dissolved. With one exception they are listed below. The one exception, the Ad Hoc Publications Committee, is a special case which I will discuss in the next issue of *The Watermark*.

This year there is an unusually large number of committees because in addition to the two standing committees (Nominating and Program), I have appointed three ad hoc ones to take up several important issues, namely, our growth, our name, and professional recognition. All this activity is a good sign, indicating that the Association is growing, active, and responding to changes and opportunities around it.

Here are the Committees for 1990-1991:

Nominating Committee

Tom Horrocks (Chair), Barry Wiedenkiller, Edwina Walls

Program Committee

Inci Bowman (Chair), Glen Jenkins, Katherine McDonell

Ad Hoc Committee on Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman (Chair), Susan Alon, Sheila Shaftel

Ad Hoc Committee on Awards

Barbara Irwin (Chair), Lucretia McClure, Joanne Phillips, Barbara Rootenberg

Ad Hoc Committee on the Association's Name

Ed Morman (Chair), Edwin Glaser, Barbara Niss, Mary Teloh

Although I try to meet and get to know every ALHHS member, I may overlook some who are interested in serving on a committee. Should that be the case, I would welcome a note or a call about a particular interest any of you have.

Phil Teigen

ALHHS President

History of Medicine Division

National Library of Medicine

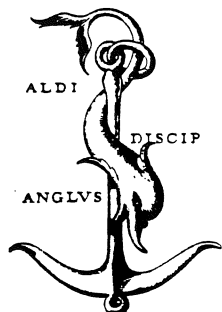
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elections notices, membership lists, etc. One purpose of seeking a permanent home for these papers is that it also provides an occasion to more systematically collect papers relating to the Association.

Several matters, such as ownership of the papers, access, and the sum of money that the Association would provide each year for supplies and processing, would require negotiation.

Institutions interested in becoming the repository for these papers should write or call Philip M. Teigen at the same address and phone numbers as listed in the preceding article.

The Watermark is issued quarterly to members of this Association and subscribers. ALHSS officers are President: Phil Teigen, Deputy Chief of the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, 20894; Secretary-Treasurer: Elizabeth Borst White, History of Medicine Librarian, Houston Academy of Medicine/Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas, 77030; Editor, Judith Overmier, School of Library and Information Studies, 401 West Brooks, Room 123, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Submission deadlines: May 30, August 29, November 30, February 28.

A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE ALHHS ARCHIVES

The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences is looking for a permanent home for its archives and therefore seeks expressions of interest from institutions capable of providing such a place.

The archives of the Association presently comprise two Hollinger boxes in good order. Specifically, the archives consists of correspondence, a complete run of *The Watermark*, and miscellaneous documents such as

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