HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN NEW JERSEY

Special Collections at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey Libraries

By Lois R. Densky-Wolff
Archivist/Librarian
UMDNJ-Special Collections

Barbara S. Irwin, past-president of ALHHS, wrote a comprehensive history describing the genesis of Special Collections at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). As former Managing Librarian of the department, Barbara published an article in New Jersey Medicine, the house organ for the Medical Society of New Jersey. The article, which follows below, discusses the background surrounding the Collections' establishment in 1912 and its subsequent development up to the year 1992.

"The Legacy of New Jersey Physician Book Collectors" was written in conjunction with a very successful program on medical book collecting presented at the May 1992 meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. ALHHS member, W. Bruce Fye, M.D., was the keynote speaker at that program. The article was not only conceived as a history of the collection, but as a vehicle for outreach. It was published in the hope that New Jersey physicians would appreciate the Special Collections' significance to the state and continue the tradition of donating books and other materials, as well as making endowment contributions. This hope was realized in a very significant way.

Seven years after the article was published, the department has experienced many changes and continued growth. Most notably was Barbara's retirement in June 1996, and an expansion and renovation of Special Collections due to the generosity of two significant donors. In 1995, two events occurred which permitted the University Libraries to consider, and eventually implement, a badly needed expansion and renovation of Special Collections. Storage space was at such a premium that books were piled everywhere in the department; we had run out of room!

In May 1995, discussions ensued with William D. Sharpe, M.D., for a significant contribution to renovate and refurbish Special Collections’ History of Medicine Room, an all-in-one reference and shelving area for the varied book collections, and the medical history office. Dr. Sharpe appreciated the department’s space dilemma and, at the same time, he and his family wished to memorialize a beloved aunt. He got his wish and so did we.

During December of that year, the UMDNJ-Champions, a university fundraising organization, announced that the University Archives was selected as a project to honor Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., M.D. The occasion was Dr. Bergen’s 25th anniversary as president of UMDNJ. The Archives, renamed the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr. M.D. University Archives, was established and developed during his tenure (1971-1998). The Champions’ gift provided the funds to expand the department. The gift would create a separate Archives office and work space, and furnish it.

As anyone knows who has planned and implemented an architectural project, it is a long and tedious process. UMDNJ-Special Collections’ renovation and expansion came to a successful conclusion in the fall of 1997. The department closed for six weeks during construction and reopened for business on October 14. Limited reference service continued to be provided during the construction phase while the collections were stored off-site. The project doubled shelving capacity and will permit the continued expansion of our holdings. Funds from Dr. Sharpe’s gift that were not utilized for the project will
be dedicated to antiquarian book purchases and preservation of the book collections.

A reception celebrating the completed renovation was held on March 25, 1998, to dedicate the Barbara Manisty Peck History of Medicine Room and the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr. M.D. University Archives. The reception, program, and tour of the new facilities permitted University Libraries to publicly thank the donors who made this long-awaited transformation possible. Slightly more than a year later, it is still a great pleasure to walk into the upgraded department.

Now for a fascinating look at how UMDNJ’s Special Collections reached the point where it needed to expand, I invite you to read “The Legacy of New Jersey Physician Book Collectors” by Barbara S. Irwin. The article will also describe the many resources collected by the department and made available to researchers.

The Legacy of New Jersey Physician Book Collectors

By Barbara S. Irwin
Retired Managing Librarian
UMDNJ-Special Collections

The first successful attempt to create a medical library in New Jersey took place on November 18, 1905, when a group of physicians met at the Newark Public Library. (1) Dr. Charles J. Kipp (1838-1911), founder of the city’s first eye and ear clinic at Saint Michael’s Hospital in 1870, was elected president (Figure 1). The group was encouraged by the director of the Newark Public Library, John Cotton Dana (1856-1929), who had come to Newark from Colorado where he successfully organized a medical collection in the Denver Public Library. (2) Mr. Dana not only offered moral support, but he provided an alcove for the collection in the new Newark Public Library at 5 Washington Street.

The Medical Library Association of Newark (MLAN) was incorporated on April 19, 1906. The public library provided financial assistance for staff and $100 for the purchase of medical periodicals. In the first year, the library grew to 43 periodicals and over 750 volumes. The New York Academy of Medicine contributed 53 volumes and another 445 volumes from the estate of Dr. P.V.P. Hewett, a recently deceased MLAN member. MLAN had 130 “subscribers” and 21 new members who paid annual dues of $3. The only problem was that no one was using the collection.

To stimulate use, MLAN issued a catalogue during its second year and mailed it to members. (3) There were 26 subject categories in the 16-page pamphlet.

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Over the next few years, the collection increased as did efforts to encourage researchers. In 1913, an article in a local popular magazine advised the general public that they were welcome to consult the books “primarily for the use of the physicians of the city.” (4) In the same issue, Mr. Dana praised the work of Dr. Frank W. Pinneo (1866-1937) who enlisted the “cooperation of many of the foremost medical men in the vicinity” in founding and building the collection. (5)

In the meantime, the Academy of Medicine of Northern New Jersey was organized at a meeting in the public library on February 25, 1911. The Academy established dual goals: “the investigation and promotion of the science and art of medicine, and the maintenance of a public medical library.” A distinguished physician, Dr. Edward J. III (1854-1942) was elected president; Dr. III was a former president of the Essex County Medical Society and of the Medical Society of New Jersey (Figure 2). (6)

A great deal of Academy attention over the next nine years focused on finding a headquarters and establishing a library despite the existence of the collection at the public library. As the prospect of permanent headquarters grew closer, Dr. William Disbrow (1861-1922), executive librarian since 1912, presented his extensive collections of books, pictures, and medical artifacts to the Academy in 1919. The donation was accepted with enthusiasm by the Academy Council that promptly passed a resolution establishing a museum in his name. (7) Other gifts continued to flow into the Academy. When a brownstone at 91 Lincoln Park in Newark was purchased in 1920, a sizable collection had accumulated and the goal of an Academy library was possible at last. To support the library, the Council created a Library Fund in 1922 and solicited contributions. (8)

A major donation to the library came in 1924 from Dr. Edward J. III: his collection of books and prints on “ancient medicine.” (9) Other major gifts were received from Dr. James F. Condon, Dr. Edgar Cardwell, Princeton University Library, and the defunct Essex County College of Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Earl LeRoy Wood (1894-1982) established the Barkhorn Memorial Fund for books on otolaryngology.

As the Academy gradually assumed a more important role for physicians throughout the state, use of the library increased, and it became the major resource for medical literature. In order to reflect this statewide influence, the Academy of Medicine of Northern New Jersey changed its name in 1953 to the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey (AMNJ).

Progress, nevertheless, brought a new set of problems, chiefly centered on the fact that AMNJ again had outgrown its headquarters. AMNJ moved to Bloomfield in 1956 where it remained until 1973 when administrative offices were moved to Union for six years and then to Lawrenceville. A different future, however, was in store for the Academy library that was created and maintained by seven librarians: Mildred V. Naylor, Harold M. Goettel, S.M. Hamill, Jerome Rauch, James Green, Jacqueline Picciano, and Rosary Gilheany.

In 1961, the future University of Medicine and Dentistry (UMDNJ)-Smith Library was founded in the Jersey City Medical Center as a component of the Seton Hall College of Medicine (SHCM). Following the state’s purchase of the college in 1965 and the subsequent move to a Newark campus in 1971, AMNJ merged its collection with the future university, the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (CMDNJ). Dr. Morris H. Saffron (1905-1993), chairman of the Academy’s Library Committee, convinced committee members to turn the collection over to CMDNJ rather than sell it. In order not to “play favorites,” he also arranged for the Academy’s museum collection to be given to the Rutgers Medical School, now UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; the archives of the Academy were donated to the New Jersey Historical Society. (10)

The reasons behind the Academy’s decision to relinquish the library its members had worked so many years to build have been described as follows: “In the period before World War II, there were close to 50,000 volumes on the Academy’s shelves.... But as time rolled on in the post-war period, it became increasingly apparent that with the demand for more com-
The Academy’s library was donated to UMDNJ in 1978 and named “The Morris H. Saffron Collection of Books on Historical Medicine” to honor its library chairman. Dr. Saffron (right) is shown discussing one of the rare books with Philip Rosenstein, then college library director. © UMDNJ-Smith Library, Special Collections, Newark.

Complete facilities and more rapid communication the Academy no longer was in a financial position to provide these services efficiently or to sustain the rising cost of books and periodicals. After many years of anguish, during which successive administrations struggled with the deteriorating situation, the Trustees finally decided to merge their holdings.” (11)

Thus, AMNJ’s journal and book collections were absorbed into the college library soon to occupy a spacious new building, the George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences. AMNJ’s rare and 19th-century books provided the foundation for Special Collections. In 1978, the Academy formally named this resource the Morris H. Saffron Collection of Books on Historical Medicine (Figure 3).

Under the leadership of the college’s library director, Philip Rosenstein (now University Librarian Emeritus), Special Collections was given a home in a handsomely furnished room, lined with custom-made mahogany shelving, located on a balcony overlooking the main reference collection. Gertrude Annan, former librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, was hired as a consultant for the organizing and cataloguing of the collection. To publicize the availability of the collection to the scholarly community at large, a catalogue, The Morris H. Saffron Collection, was issued in 1980 of 528 books dating from 1513 with a special section for medical Americana. A grant from the UMDNJ-Foundation provided funds for organizing the collection, archival storage of materials, and publication of the catalogue.

Over the intervening years, the University Library has expanded all its collections to better serve faculty, students, physicians, and the medical community of the state. A statewide network of libraries, the UMDNJ-University Libraries System was created in 1983. The libraries are linked via computers to make it possible for researchers in a UMDNJ library or from their homes or offices to search a vast union catalogue and locate journal articles. At the same time as the University Libraries’ technological structure was being developed, attention also was given to the expansion of historical collections.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE COLLECTION

The Saffron catalogue provides access to rare books inherited from the Academy such as Hans von Gersdorff’s Feldbuch der Wundartzney (1540 edition); Bartholomew Eustachius’ Anatomy Tables (1728 edition); and Bernard Albinus’ De Ossibus Corporis (1746 edition). There also are books by other great physicians such as Harvey, Pare, Morgagni, and Paracelsus. Many physicians also donated materials: Dr. Arthur Bernstein donated the Aaron Parsonnet Cardiology Collection, 150 volumes in the early history of cardiology. A facsimile collection was started with another donation; at present it consists of 100 titles, mainly from the “Classics in Medicine” series.

In 1990, Dr. Saffron, UMDNJ Professor Emeritus of the History of Medicine, donated $50,000 to the UMDNJ Foundation to create two endowments: $25,000 for a medical history program at the New Jersey Medical School, and $25,000 for a book endowment for the purchase of extraordinary works or rare books. Contributions and proceeds from the sale of nonmedical materials and duplicates are being added to the book endowment.

Over the past five years, an annual donation from AMNJ has made it possible to purchase such items as 19th and early 20th-century medical directories for the state, medical classics, reference books, and New Jersey materials. Academy funds have enabled the library to acquire almost 100 titles related to New Jersey medical history, 120 old and rare medical books, and three manuscript collections. The latter includes the papers of Lewis Johnson, M.D. (1704-1773), a Perth Amboy physician.

Special Collections has expanded beyond the concept as originally conceived in response to increasing
requests for information from researchers. New Jersey Medical History Manuscript Collection contains books, pamphlets, trade catalogues, and ephemera, many of which originated in the Academy’s library. Hospital histories, histories of county medical societies, biographies, and works by New Jersey physicians also are in this collection. Vertical files are maintained of newspaper clippings about New Jersey medical topics, health-related subjects, and prominent individuals. Also, there is information on women physicians including materials gathered for an original staff project, “Pioneer Women Physicians of New Jersey.”

New Jersey Medical History Manuscript Collection contains primary source material. This collection began with donations from Dr. Samuel Berg (1898-1990). Dr. Berg contributed Dr. Harrison S. Martland’s (1883-1954) personal scrapbooks documenting his research and correspondence related to radium poisoning, occupational medicine, and the “punch-drunk” syndrome. Dr. Berg also donated a collection of historical photographs of Newark City Hospital/Martland Medical Center (1886-1957). Dr. Sylvia Becker donated the papers of her mother, Dr. Rita Finkler (1888-1968), the state’s first endocrinologist. Organization records include the Monmouth County Medical Society (1901-1949), Hudson County Medical Club (1921-1989), and the New Jersey Association for Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (1903-1985).

To serve researchers’ requests for illustrations and photographs, three new sources were created: New Jersey Illustration Index, of portraits and medical-related subjects in published works; New Jersey Photograph Archive of original works; and History of Medicine Print Collection.

In 1986, a History of Osteopathy Collection was established at the Library of the UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM), Stratford, by Robert Thompson, Ed.D., SOM faculty member.

The University Archives is a part of Special Collections. The Archives includes the official records of permanent value of senior officers of UMDNJ and university publications. Transcripts of interviews with UMDNJ administrators, faculty, and staff are collected in an ongoing oral history project.

In order to ensure that the collections are protected for years to come, over the past six years the Smith Library has been awarded three preservation grants. The first provided an in-depth conservation evaluation of the library’s environmental conditions conducted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) of Massachusetts; this grant was partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. A second grant was awarded by the New Jersey State Library for the preservation of the Berg Collection of photographs of Newark City Hospital/Martland Medical Center by NEDCC. The third grant, also awarded by the New Jersey State Library, was for the removal of Dr. Martland’s original papers from deteriorating scrapbooks in which they were glued to archival storage containers. Concomitantly, the library funds the services of a paper conservator consultant who spends one or two days a month making repairs on books and documents.

University Librarian Victor A. Basile stated: “The significance of the Academy’s gift increases in importance each year as fewer early medical books are available. Through the Saffron Collection the library is able to expose students to original works written by the great physicians about whom they read in the course of their studies. The students are able to appreciate more fully the accumulation of knowledge and the proud traditions they have chosen to carry forward. I encourage physicians to continue supporting the historical resources by donating antiquarian medical books, personal and organizational papers, and
contribution to the Saffron book endowment.”

SUMMARY

For 70 years New Jersey physicians generously gave books from their personal libraries to create a medical library in the state. Today, the old and rare medical books they collected are available to new generations of physicians and scholars in the history of medicine collection at UMDNJ Smith Library.

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A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey: A Project of the Medical History Society of New Jersey

By Frank F. Katz
Medical History Society of New Jersey

A survey of independent historical societies and select state and academic libraries in New Jersey has uncovered a wealth of archives and artifacts in medical history of interest to professionals and lay persons. This might be expected considering that medicine as a profession in New Jersey goes back to the beginning years of the colony. However, until this survey, these resources and their locations have not been identified in a serviceable directory.

For example, The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) in Newark, in addition to its extensive coverage of the entire State’s history, has an exceptionally large collection of items of importance to medical history. Included in the NJHS holdings are the archives of the New Jersey Medical Society beginning in 1766, when it was founded as the first medical society in what became the United States. The collection contains account books, casebooks (including that of Marietta Woodruff, a 19th-century female physician), and papers of agencies and persons and families from the 18th through the 20th century.

The University Libraries of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) is the major center in the State for research in medical history. The holdings of the Special Collections in the History of Medicine section are housed in the Barbara Manisty Peck History of Medicine Room and in the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., M.D. University Archives and include the papers of individual health professionals as well as charitable, commercial, and professional societies, such as the Medical History Society of New Jersey (MHSNJ). It is the location of the Morris H. Saffron, M.D., Collection of Books on Historical Medicine, the Estelle Brodman, Ph.D., Collection on Women Physicians in New Jersey (1886-1982), the archives concerning the history of UMDNJ, the Oscar Auerbach, M.D., (of tobacco’s harmful effects fame) papers, and oral histories of many personages such as the African-American female physician, Lena
F. Edwards, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964 for establishing a clinic for migrant workers in Texas.

Rutgers University Special Collections and Archives in New Brunswick have extensive holdings of medical historical interest regarding the State in general and the university specifically. There are documents going back to the 18th century from and about physicians, dentists, and other persons and organizations involved in the health fields, early records of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association and New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, prescriptions from the 19th century, formula books, burial records, and personal Civil War journals. Particularly noteworthy are the papers of the 1952 Nobel Laureate Selman Waksman. This collection includes correspondence from 1943 to 1949 between Waksman and Albert Schatz, co-discoverers of the antibiotic streptomycin, and the Schatz patent litigation papers regarding this discovery.

The holdings of medical historical interest of the New Jersey State Library in Trenton and Princeton University Library Rare Books and Special Collections in Princeton are unique. The former has, among other items, a collection of materials from governmental bodies, while the latter holds a collection on Benjamin Rush, the well-known physician and patriot of the Revolutionary period, and his family.

But all of the repositories named above are major institutions and one would presume they would come to mind to a researcher interested in medical history. It is the lesser known organizations in New Jersey that make up the largest number of entries in the Guide. These organizations are usually not thought of as sources for medical history and, indeed, it was an interest in their holdings that initiated the survey.

Members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey (LHSNJ) were canvassed and collections of medical historical material identified. There is quite a range in the size of the individual collections. Some are quite small and the material is not catalogued (but, nevertheless, may be rather important to some researchers) while others are significant in size and content and are inventoried. The Camden County and the Salem County Historical Societies are examples of the latter. The Camden County holdings include the Walt Whitman Collection while the Salem County Historical Society has diverse archives and artifacts going back to the 18th century and two historical sites: a medical office of the last decades of the 18th century and a dental office from the 19th century.

Two other societies will be mentioned here because of the particular concentrations of their collections. As the name implies, the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest in Whippany is devoted to the preservation of archives of lay and professional individuals and organizations of the Jewish community of several counties in the State. The Dr. Victor Parsonnet Collection and the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Archives are but two examples of well-known New Jersey names in this society’s catalogue. The Museum of Early Trades in Madison collects tools, instruments and equipment used in various trades and professions. Thirty-two other members of the LHSNJ located throughout the State have provided valuable information on their holdings.

The Guide includes four indexes: Index of Personal Names; Index of Agencies, Municipalities, and Organizations; Index to Medical Historical Sites; and Index to Artifacts/Holdings and Key Subject Words. It is 76 pages in length and ready to go to press in March 1999. The intention of the MHSNJ is to distribute a copy to each of the registrants for the American Association for the History of Medicine meeting in May 6-9, 1999, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. All of the contributing organizations to the Guide will also receive a free copy as will various libraries and institutions in and out of the State. The New Jersey Historical Commission has recognized the value of the Guide and has awarded a grant to the MHSNJ for its publication and distribution. It will also be made available to individuals and organizations at a cost which has not been fixed prior to publication but is estimated at $5.

It is hoped that the Guide will be updated in the
future and that there will be other editions containing revisions from the current contributors and new entries from organizations not included. Moreover, it would be gratifying for the MHSNJ if the directory stimulates similar projects at other historical societies.

**New Jersey Medicine on Display at May 1999 Meetings**

By Karen Reeds  
Curator of the Exhibition

While you are at the annual meetings in New Brunswick, make a point of coming to the opening of a new exhibition, *A State of Health: New Jersey’s Medical Heritage* on Saturday, May 8, 1999, 4-6 p.m. The exhibition is at the Special Collections and Class of ’50 Galleries, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick—about a mile from the convention hotel. (You can take a bus or enjoy a pleasant walk through Rutgers campus to the library.) The exhibition will remain on view through August 15, 1999. A portable version—text and graphics on panels—will also be displayed at the Alexander Library opening and then travel to medical school campuses, local historical societies, corporate headquarters, and other sites.

The exhibition covers more than four centuries of medicine in New Jersey—from a Native American stone mortar and pestle to brand-new medicines and vaccines. Through 150+ artifacts, documents, books, photographs, and works of art, it invites viewers to explore epidemics, children’s health, healers and hospitals, and to recognize New Jersey’s unique position as the heart of the world’s pharmaceutical industry.

The exhibition owes its inspiration to Barbara Smith Irwin. As the head of Special Collections, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), she had made a point of collecting materials illustrating New Jersey’s medical history and wanted to show off the state’s wealth of resources for studying history of medicine to archivists and historians of medicine gathering in New Brunswick. Before her retirement in 1996 and her invitation to me to take over the project, she had begun to put together ideas, talk with fellow librarians and scholars and approach potential sponsors.

Barbara Irwin’s groundwork made it easy for me, an unaffiliated independent scholar, to gain cooperation from archives around the state. The enthusiasm of Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio—originally Merck’s company archivist, but now its director of public affairs for two continents—helped win corporate sponsorship for the exhibition. In addition to Merck, the project has major support from American Home Products, C. R. Bard Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Hoffman-LaRoche, Johnson & Johnson, Schering-Plough, and Warner-Lambert. The UMDNJ Libraries and UMDNJ’s Saffron Endowment for the Study of the History of Medicine have also been generous in their support.

The exhibition draws on some forty different collections. The New Jersey Historical Society, and the Special Collections of UMDNJ and Rutgers University Libraries were very rich sources of objects and images—ranging from a 1940s midwife’s kit to an editorial cartoon of the Radium Girls and a doctor’s daybook which recorded a 1783 smallpox epidemic in New Brunswick. From private collectors have come 19th-century patent medicine ephemera, wood engravings, a photo of the first rescue squad ambulance in America, and even a ceramic bedpan! Local historical societies, hospitals, and libraries have loaned such unique items as a photograph of Newark’s Baby Keep Well clinic and the oldest known set of medical instruments from colonial New Jersey. And the corporations welcomed me into their collections, which overflow with amazing things from their own pasts and from the history of medicine and pharmacy more generally: leech jars, adrenaline ampules, early catheters, a World War II penicillin fermentation bottle, and an item remembered fondly from my childhood: the Little Golden Book entitled *Doctor Dan the Bandage Man.*

Early in my research for the exhibition, UMDNJ’s archivist, Lois Densky-Wolff, gave me a copy of the Summer 1998 *Watermark* issue with Michael Bliss’s wonderful lecture on his own adventures in medical
history archives. I can only echo his respect and thanks to all the archivists whose astute collecting, advice, and generosity have made this exhibition a pleasure to put together.

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Lois Densky-Wolff, Archivist/Librarian of Special Collections, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, is co-chair of Local Arrangements for the ALHHS meeting in New Brunswick in May. Barbara S. Irwin was Managing Librarian at Special Collections, UMDNJ, prior to her retirement in 1996. Her article “The Legacy of New Jersey Physician Book Collectors” is reprinted from New Jersey Medicine 1992 Nov;89(11):829-832. Dr. Katz, the compiler of A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey, has a Ph.D. in parasitology and served on the faculty of Jefferson Medical College and Seton Hall University for many years. In “retirement,” he has been actively engaged in medical history studies and activities of the Medical History Society of New Jersey of which he is currently secretary-treasurer. Karen Meier Reeds, the general curator of A State of Health, is a Harvard-trained historian of science and medicine, whose research interests rove from medieval herbals to 20th-century biomedical sciences. Before becoming a full-time independent scholar, she worked as the science and medicine editor at Rutgers University Press.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is almost May and our annual meeting is right around the corner. This promises to be one of the more unique and interesting of our get-togethers and I hope many of you will be able to join us. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Lois Fischer Black and Lois Densky-Wolff, co-chairs of the ALHHS meeting in New Brunswick, and to Caroline Duroselle-Melish, Patricia Gallagher, Ed Morman, and Lilli Sentz for their efforts to provide us with this experience.

There are many people to thank for their work this year. The long-range planning committee has met and drawn up a draft document. Several issues identified by the committee will be discussed at the steering committee meeting on Wednesday, May 5. After the discussion, we hope to have a document to share with the membership for further input.

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Plans are underway for the development of a Web page for ALHHS. The University of Minnesota has agreed to host the page on its server. We have a designer and will be able to make an announcement shortly. Any suggestions you may have can be shared with any member of the steering committee by mail or at the annual meeting.

Also in the works is a listserv for ALHHS members to augment the communication offered through CADUCEUS. Many have expressed a desire to have a communications tool for discussing professional issues and ALHHS concerns among “the family.” A listserv would allow us to do this while still having access through CADUCEUS to a public forum for information or concerns of a broader nature. It is not possible for this listserv to be mounted at the same location as CADUCEUS, but Richard Behles has offered to act as consultant to assist the brave individual who would like to take on this project. It is hoped that this type of listserv would make communication among us more frequent and bring the organization’s business and concerns more directly to the constituents.

In closing, I would like to add my thanks to the Nominations Committee chaired by Tom Horrocks and to Lilli Sentz, editor of The Watermark. Lilli has managed to maintain the high standards of our publication, a feat that is quite remarkable after the “reign” of our previous editors. It is a huge job and her efforts are much appreciated. A truly big thanks is given to Liz Ihrig for her painstaking work as secretary-treasurer. Her sense of humor and attention to detail are outstanding and have made her a terrific colleague to work with.
I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate on a committee or with any functions of the organization. If there is an area where you see a need, such as an addition to The Watermark or a project, please speak up. The plus of belonging to an organization of our size is the ability to shape its direction. I look forward to seeing you all in New Brunswick!

Elaine Challacombe
President, ALHHS

ALHHS IN NEW BRUNSWICK MAY 5-6, 1999

Registration packages for the ALHHS meeting were mailed to all members in mid-February. If you have not received your registration material, please contact Linda Gardin at The New York Academy of Medicine (212) 822-7301.

The ALHHS meeting begins on Wednesday evening May 5 at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at the River Club, a short walk from the Hyatt conference hotel. On Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. sharp, buses leave the hotel for a visit to Ellis Island. At 10:30 John Parascandola, historian at the U.S. Public Health Service, will discuss the role of the Public Health Service at Ellis Island. Following John’s presentation, George Tselos, Supervising Archivist, will introduce us to the resources available at Ellis Island. The ALHHS business meeting concludes the program. After a box lunch, participants will be able to visit the museum at their leisure or participate in one of the public tours provided by the Ellis Island Park Rangers. Buses return to the Hyatt Hotel by 6:00 p.m. in time for the AAHM opening reception.

As you plan your schedule for the AAHM meeting, please note the ALHHS sponsored luncheon session on Saturday, May 8, 1999, at 12:15 p.m. Chaired by Joan Echtenkamp Klein, the panel of Jodi Koste, Susan E. Lederer, and Suzanne White Junod will present “Primary Resources in the Development of Health Policy.” Congratulations to Joan and her panel for having their luncheon proposal accepted by the AAHM.

Lois Fischer Black and Lois Densky-Wolff
Co-chairs, Local Arrangements Committee

EX LIBRIS

By Lucretia W. McClure

WELCOME

To Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, M.S., M.A., the new History of Medicine Librarian at the Health Sciences Library at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Library Director Karen Dahlen writes that Micaela brings a varied background to this vibrant part of the Health Sciences Library. She was the history of medicine librarian at the American Medical Association for nearly a decade. She has written, published, and lectured on 19th-century sectarian practice in the United States, and on the history of 17th century American medicine. More recently, Micaela kept one foot in medical reference by providing an information service on the Internet. The many “hats” she has worn will serve her well as she aids scholars, tutors, students, manages Rare Books and Special Collections, initiates high-speed document delivery, and enhances the History of Medicine Web site at the Health Sciences Library. She has also been working with the Director to present the vision of the new library to more than ten architectural firms competing for the new integrated learning center contract.

***

From Tom Horrocks at the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard comes word of new staff at the Rare Books and Special Collections Department.

Jack Eckert has been appointed Reference Librarian

Books on the History of Medicine

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phone (617) 776-1365
fax (617) 629-0621
for the Department. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College. He comes to the Countway with a knowledge of special collections in medicine and science, having worked at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia as Curator of Archives and Manuscripts (1988-1994) and at the Burndy Library as Assistant Librarian (1995-1996). Most recently he has been Project Archivist at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Donna Webber has been appointed Manuscripts Librarian. For the past seventeen years, she was the Associate Archivist and Records Management Officer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; before that she worked for three years at the Schlesinger Library. Donna has master’s degrees in American history and library science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Kathryn Hammond Baker has been appointed Records Manager/Archivist. She comes to the Countway from the Massachusetts Archives where she was employed from 1984 to 1998. During this time she held several positions, including Assistant Archivist for Records Management and Acquisitions, Deputy Archivist, and State Historical Records Coordinator. As Coordinator, she directed a statewide strategic planning effort. Prior to 1984, she was an archival consultant specializing in non-profit organizations such as government agencies, historical societies, museums and schools.


***

Patrick Sim, Librarian of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology in Park Ridge, Illinois, announces that Judith Robins, C.A., has joined the staff as Collections Supervisor. This is a new position that combines the duties of an archivist and museum registrar. She has worked for many years as an archivist and knowledge assets management consultant in Philadelphia, and more recently in Chicago.

**ON EXHIBIT**

The Department of Special Collections at the Ocasek Regional Medical Information Center, Rootstown, Ohio, has mounted a new exhibit documenting poliomyelitis, and the “iron lung” that saved the lives of numerous polio victims. The exhibit explores the history of polio in America and the clinical discoveries surrounding the development of a vaccine to prevent it. The exhibit also depicts the development and use of the “iron lung,” which was utilized for almost thirty years to ventilate victims of respiratory failure due to polio. Included are photographs from the archives of Akron Children’s Hospital, which treated more polio patients during the epidemic of 1947 than any other hospital in the United States. The exhibit will be on display in the Information Center throughout 1999.

***

Another exhibit, *Age of Smoke and Starch: Selected*
Scenes from the Fifties, is on display in the Bernard Becker Medical Library at Washington University, St. Louis. The exhibit recalls the Medical School in the 1950s in its world context. Illustrated stories of that period from the medical campus are blended together with national and international events in tabloid newspaper style. Among these are construction of hospitals, housing projects and highways; smoke from the H-bomb and from cigarettes in the lab where the connection between smoking and cancer was first demonstrated; starch in the assays of Carl and Gerty Cori and in the pronouncements of politicians and administrators; the distinctive glamour of the chief of internal medicine, Barry Wood, along with that of Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and the Kennedys; public agitation for civil rights and for government funding of scientific research. The exhibit is on display through July 1999.

GOOD LISTENING

The following is the History of Medicine Seminar Schedule for Spring, 1999, at the Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, College of Physicians of Philadelphia:

March 2 - Erin McLeary, Ph.D. Candidate (University of Pennsylvania) "Medical Museums in the Early 20th Century."
March 16 - Steve Peitzman, M.D. (MCP-Hahnemann School of Medicine) "Learning Obstetrics in the Slums: The Home Delivery Program at Woman’s Medical College."
April 6 - Kathleen Crowther-Heyck, Ph.D. Candidate (The Johns Hopkins University) “Wonderful Secrets of Nature: Medicine and Religion in the Vernacular Medical Culture of Sixteenth-Century Germany.”
April 13 - Tom Harakal, Ph.D. Candidate (Suffolk University) “Child Psychopharmacology at the Philadelphia Orthopedic Hospital, 1885-1889.”

The seminars are held from 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays at the College of Physicians.

MEETINGS

The Waring Library Society, the “friends group” of the Waring Historical Library will hold its twenty-first annual meeting on April 8 in conjunction with the Waring Lecture. Featured speaker will be Loren A. Rolak, M.D., who will speak on “‘The Doctor’: The Most Famous Medical Painting.” The lecture will be held at 5 p.m. in the Basic Science Building Auditorium.

***

“Disability and the Practice of Public History,” a free interdisciplinary conference for scholars and activists on integrating ideas about people with disabilities into history content, beyond issues of access will be held May 13-14 in Washington, DC. It is sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History and Office of Accessibility, in conjunction with the National Rehabilitation
Since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, exhibit designers and other museum personnel have been scrambling to retool gallery space along mandated accessibility guidelines. Physical changes are relatively easy to identify and implement and much is being done to achieve them. Changes in the intellectual and cognitive content of exhibitions, on the other hand, are far more complex and have been virtually ignored. This conference will lay the groundwork for the next level of disability awareness in exhibition and public history practice: the integration of disability concepts into content. The need for addressing this topic is critical. One of the most compelling effects of the practice of public history is that it presents ideas for public examination and discussion. Where disability is missing, dialogue and understanding are also missing. Just as critiques of class, race and gender have revolutionized the humanities over the past thirty years, disability provides another important critique of society and culture today.

The sessions will include: public history and disability, how disability influences American history, other models of integrating under-represented content: lessons from race, class, gender, the spectrum of ideas about disability, exhibiting disability, case studies of integrated exhibitions, and what next?

For information and registration, contact Katherine Rare Books & Manuscripts in the History of Medicine & the Sciences
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NEWS FROM HMD

By Elizabeth Fee
Chief, History of Medicine Division

STAFF CHANGES

Paul Theerman joined the staff on December 6 as Head of Non-Book Collections, responsible for overall direction of the prints and photographs, posters, historical films, modern manuscripts and digital manuscripts collections.

Elizabeth Tunis, who has worked part-time as a reference librarian for several years, has joined the HMD staff on a full-time basis.

Nancy Dosch, who has been working with modern manuscripts on a contractual basis, will be turning her organizational talents to the historical film collection.

Colleen Mason is joining the Digital Manuscript Project as senior archivist for the Joshua Lederberg Papers.

ACQUISITIONS

The History of Medicine Division was pleased to welcome the returned 12th-century manuscript, Recepta Varia, which was returned to the National Library of Medicine after having been missing for some 50 years.

Over 50 historical monographs have been acquired including Pierre Guiffart's *Cor Vindicatum...* (Rouen, 1652), a commentary on Jean Pecquet's discovery of the chyle reservoir; Pierre Barra's *Hippocrate de la Circulation du Sang et des Humeurs* (Lyons, 1672), the first edition of this debate on the circulation of the blood; and Leonard Sowerby's *The Ladies Dispensatory* (London, 1652), a collection of 5000 remedies for various ailments.
Mrs. Mary Schlesinger donated a very large collection of books on neurology, including many classic titles in the history of neurology.

William Helfand donated 44 posters to the prints and photographs collections, including 6 posters for “A Day without Art,” in response to the AIDS outbreak, 1994 through 1998; a variety of American, Brazilian, and German posters, 1978 through 1997; and four Belgian posters from around World War I on the prevention of tuberculosis.

Dr. Sheldon Cohen donated a set of medals of famous contributors to medical history which will be on permanent display in the History of Medicine Division.

EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition program managed to achieve a number of significant milestones during the fourth quarter of 1998. The most important achievement was releasing to Medical Arts for bid the floor plan and elevation, and construction drawing packages for the upcoming Breath of Life exhibition. The scope of the exhibition is much larger than anything the Library has attempted before featuring numerous interactives, videos, hundreds of objects, photographs and text panels, and requiring new case construction. The drawing package and supplemental materials required a great deal of coordination between curators, designers, Library staff, and exhibition program staff and consultants. The exhibition team will be collaborating with a noted Washington DC-based exhibition and graphic design firm Miles, Fridberg, and Molinaroli to develop the graphic identity for Breath of Life which will be incorporated into the designs for the exhibition catalogue and the online version of the exhibition.

Margaret Kaiser put together an exhibit of the Medical Library Association’s time capsule and a selection of its contents. The time capsule commemorates the centennial of the MLA in 1998. The exhibit will be on display in the HMD Reading Room through May 1999.

Young Rhee completed the Web site of the exhibition We Were Here First: A History of the NLM Site. For the current online exhibitions, please see <www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/exhibition.html>

HMD SEMINARS

The HMD seminars are attracting good audiences and are currently being held in the Lister Hill Auditorium.

October 20: Dr. Ruth R. Harris spoke on “Dental Research from Fluoridation to AIDS.”


December 16: Prof. John C. Burnham spoke on “Deinstitutionalizing of Mental Patients in the 1950s: the Topeka Experiment.”

FROM THE ‘NET

By Eric v.d. Luft

If you are going to present a lecture/symposium/conference/workshop/etc. that you think will be of interest to historians of neuroscience, don’t forget to announce it to the HISTNEUR-L list at: <histneur-l@library.ucla.edu>.
If you don’t want to “toot your own horn,” send announcements to me at <rjohnson@library.ucla.edu> and I’ll send them to the list. Likewise, please put me on your snail-mail list to receive flyers/newsletters/etc., which I’ll excerpt for HISTNEUR-L and/or the appropriate section of “RETICULUM: Neuroscience History Resources” at <http://www.medsch.ucla.edu/som/bri/archives/RETICULUM.htm>.

(HISTNEUR-L, 9 Jan 1999)

Society for the Social History of Medicine Prize Essay Competition 1999

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions for its 1999 prize essay competition. This prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine as judged by the SSHM’s assessment panel. The winner will be awarded 200 pounds, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal Social History of Medicine.

The competition is open to students and recently qualified postdoctoral scholars. The deadline for submissions is 31 December 1999.

Further details and an entry form can be obtained from the membership secretary: David Cantor, Department of History and Economic History, Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey Manton Building, Rosamond Street West, Manchester M15 6LL, England; <d.cantor@mmu.ac.uk> or <d.cantor@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk>; +44 (0)161 247 3004 (tel); +44 (0)161 247 6398 (fax).

SSHM website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~ahzwww/homesshm.htm>

(ANES-HIST, 17 Jan 1999)

A Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine go Down (Barker AE. Brit. Med. J. 1907;i:665-674)

An exhibition to celebrate a centenary of spinal and extradural anaesthesia.

The twelfth annual exhibition of the Charles King Collection in the BOC Museum, at the Association of Anaesthetists, 9 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA, tel. 0171 631 1650, is now open, until the end of November 1999.

Open to members of the Association during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Other interested visitors are most welcome, but please phone before coming.

The exhibition encompasses the history of the physiology of the CSF, the development of local anaesthetics, an assessment of Corning’s contribution, lumbar puncture in the treatment of tuberculous meningitis, the work of Bier, Tuftier, Sicard and Cathelin, and the spread and development of the technique on both sides of the Atlantic up to the present day. The exhibits are mostly from the Association’s own collection, supplemented by loans from the Science and Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museums. Also on display are items from the travel scrap-book of A. Charles King, and a replica of Nooth’s apparatus with notes on its history. To take in the whole exhibition would require from one to two hours.

9 Bedford Square is close to the back of the British Museum, and about five minutes walk from Tottenham Court Road tube station.

(ANES-HIST, 17 Jan 1999)

This is the first call for submissions to the Summer 1999 issue of the Katharine Sharp Review, the peer-reviewed e-journal devoted to student scholarship and RARE BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS 15th-20th Century Science, Medicine, Technology, Natural History, Early Printed & Illustrated Books. Catalogues Issued.

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research within library and information science. Articles can be on any topic that is relevant to LIS—from children’s literature to electronic database manipulation to library marketing. Please take a look at previous issues for a sample of what is possible—but do not let that be your only guide! If you care passionately about some facet of LIS or have produced a research paper of which you are proud, consider submitting it to KSR.

All submissions should be received by Monday, April 12, 1999.

Although it is not required in advance, we would appreciate an abstract (of 150-200 words) or indication of intention to submit. Submitted articles must be accompanied by an abstract of no more than 200 words.

For more information, including instructions for authors, please see the KSR webpage at either <http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/review/call.html> or <http://mirrored.ukoln.ac.uk/lis-journals/review/review/> or you can email us at <review@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu>.

(ARCHIVES, 1 Feb 1999)

One hundred and fifty years ago, on January 23, 1849, a young woman ascended the platform of the Presbyterian Church in Geneva, NY., and received from the hands of the President of Geneva Medical College a diploma conferring upon her the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Thus, after many years of determined effort, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to complete a course of study at a medical college and receive the M.D. degree.

In celebration of this event, the National Library of Medicine has mounted an exhibit entitled That Girl There is Doctor in Medicine: Elizabeth Blackwell, America’s First Woman M.D. The exhibit, curated by Carol Clausen of the Library’s History of Medicine Division, is located at the entrance to the History of Medicine Division, just off the NLM lobby (Building 30).

The exhibit displays items illustrating Blackwell’s life from medical school and throughout her career, including circulars and catalogs from the institutions with which she was associated, some of Blackwell’s own publications, and several portraits of her. Included are a formal copy on parchment of the acceptance letter from Geneva College, which Blackwell had copied from the original and esteemed as “one of my most valued possessions,” a facsimile of her diploma, and a set of her class notes from a course on materia medica. A manuscript syllabus of her anatomy class reveals the cause of what she described in her diary as “a trying day ... a terrible ordeal ... Some of the students blushed, some were hysterical ... My delicacy was certainly shocked ...”

The exhibit will be on display until June 30, 1999. Flyers about the exhibit will be available at the NLM or by mail from History of Medicine Division, The National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD 20894.

(CADUCEUS-L, 3 Feb 1999)

The Health Heritage Research Services Web site has just been revised and is in the process of updating its collection of “Useful Health Heritage Resources” on the Internet.

The new Polio History page includes a number of my polio history papers, along with archival photos, as well as Abstracts of my polio history M.A. and Ph.D. thesis, and that of another Canadian polio historian. I am planning on adding more complete papers to site over the next months. On this page there are also a collection of other polio history links, to which I will be adding as quickly as I can.

I invite you to surf around the new HHRS Web site at <http://www.interlog.com/~cjrutty/HHRS/hhrs.html>, and also to help me check through the links pages and report any incorrect or dead links, and also suggest new ones to add.

I also invite general comments about the site and suggestions on how it could be improved.

In the meantime, after looking it over, if HHRS can be of service to your current or future research projects, especially if they require research in the Greater Toronto Area, please don’t hesitate to contact me: Christopher J. Rutty, Ph.D., Health Heritage Research Services, <cjrutty@interlog.com>, <hhrs@interlog.com>, <http://www.interlog.com/~cjrutty/HHRS/hhrs.html> (Updated February 1999); 35 High Park Ave. #1006, Toronto, ON, Canada, M6P 2R6; Phone: 416-769-7948; Voice-Fax: 416-769-7632.

(CADUCEUS-L, 10 Feb 1999, 16 Feb 1999)

Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical: An Interdisciplinary Conference Organized by the SciPer Project, 10-12 April 2000, University of Leeds

The collaborative project “Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical” (SciPer), recently launched at the Universities of Sheffield (Centre for Nineteenth-century Studies) and Leeds (Division of History and Philosophy of Science), is designed to identify and analyse representations of science, technology, and medicine in the general periodical literature of nineteenth-century Britain. The specific objectives are to publish several volumes of analytical essays on the portrayal of science and scientists, and to publish a printed descriptive catalogue and searchable electronic index to the science content of selected periodicals. In addition, it is intended that the project should serve to draw together an interdisciplinary community of scholars with interests in this area, and to this end a series of international conferences is planned.

The project’s inaugural conference, to be held at Oxley Hall in the University of Leeds, will explore all aspects of the subject. Papers of wide interest and broad scope are invited. Possible themes include:

- Public images of scientific and medical practitioners
- Representations of key scientific ideas (e.g., evolution, energy)
- The construction of scientific orthodoxies/heterodoxies
- Gender and science
- Interactions of literary, political and scientific discourses
- Editors, contributors and proprietors
- Science and the politics of the press
- Science and the development of periodical audiences
- Scientific journalism
- The positioning of science within journals
- Periodicals of empire / science and imperialism
- Science in the literary marketplace
- Reviewing science - books and meetings
- Science education
- Science as entertainment
- Illustrations and caricatures
- Moral and religious representations of science

We welcome proposals for individual papers or complete sessions of two or three papers. Approximately thirty minutes will be allowed for each paper. We plan to publish a selection of the papers from the conference, for which we have a publisher interested.

Abstracts of 200 words should be sent by 1 June 1999 to: Dr. J.R. Topham, School of Philosophy, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT; email: <j.r.topham@leeds.ac.uk> (no file attachments please); tel: 0114-2228484, 0113-2333280; fax: 0114-2228481, 0113-2333265.


We would like to announce the launch of the new Web site for the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine Library. Please visit us at: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/library>.
Just a reminder that I maintain an Internet resource called the “Directory of Regional, State and Local Archival Organizations in the United States” at: <http://sophia.smith.edu/~pnelson/regionals/>

You can also surf to it from Lee Miller’s “Ready ‘Net, Go!” Web site at <http://www.tulane.edu/~lmiller/ArchivesResources.html>.

I do my best to keep this online directory up to date, but there are a lot of groups, and I rely heavily on the regionals to give me timely updates. Please help keep your organization’s information current by informing me of changes to your contact person(s), newsletter editor, Web page URL, or other information: Peter Nelson <pnelson@mtholyoke.edu>, Five College Archives Digital Access Project, c/o Mount Holyoke College Archives, South Hadley, MA 01075; <http://clio.fivecolleges.edu>, (413) 538-3020.

The Archival Challenge: Responsibilities, Strategies, and Prospects for the Twenty-First Century. An Invitation to Attend a Series of Public Lectures and Discussions by Dr. Terry Cook, April 19 - 22, 1999. Sponsored by the University of Maryland College of Library and Information Services.

“The Archival Profession: Can It Meet the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century?” Monday, April 19, 3:30 - 5:00 PM, Hornbake Building, Room 0109. Followed by a reception and discussion with students, sponsored by Student Archivists at Maryland (SAM), College of Library and Information Services Lounge, Hornbake Building, Room 4114. What are the prospects for students preparing to enter this field? What challenges lie ahead in the management of records of enduring value? How well is the profession prepared to meet those challenges? What innovative approaches are archivists prepared to try? This session will explore these and other strategic issues.

“Model Approaches to Electronic Records: Effective Strategies and Approaches.” Tuesday, April 20, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, Hornbake Building, Room 0109. The identification and management of archival electronic records represent a complex challenge. Electronic records are unlike their paper counterparts and require different approaches and techniques. Some of these are still under development or being tested. This lecture will concentrate on successful approaches and discuss prospects for meeting this challenge.

“Archival Appraisal and Collection: Issues, Challenges, New Approaches.” Wednesday, April 21, 10:30 - 12:00, National Archives and Records Administration, Lecture Room C, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park. Hosted by the National Archives and Records Administration. The systematic selection of records of enduring value requires careful analysis and an understanding of documentation. How should archivists decide the essential philosophical question of what is valuable? Should consideration of researchers’ anticipated needs affect appraisal decisions? This presentation reviews promising new approaches which focus on documentation of major functions.

“Archives, Heritage, and History: The Mission of Archives.” Thursday, April 22, 4:00 - 5:00, Special Events Room, 4th Floor, McKeldin Library. Hosted by the University of Maryland Archives and Manuscripts Department. Followed by a reception sponsored by Friends of the Libraries. Archivists have a fundamental responsibility to preserve documentation of the present for use by future generations. Their role is essential to the successful transmission of culture and the documentation and study of history. In this final lecture, Dr. Cook will explore this vital role and discuss approaches for meeting it.

This is a time of excitement and change in the archival world. U.S. News and World Report recently identified archives as one of the “hottest” career fields for the opening years of the new century. Archivists face many challenges in identifying and managing records of enduring value for institutional documentation, cultural transmission, and historical research. Archivists are also challenged by digital technologies which complicate their work while at the same time presenting unprecedented opportunities. The public lectures will explore these and other issues.
Dr. Terry Cook is one of the world’s best known experts on archival affairs. He held leadership positions at the National Archives of Canada, has written dozens of articles in archival and other journals, and has lectured and consulted in the U.S., Canada, Australia, South Africa, and other nations. He is particularly noted for his leadership, insight, and articulate writings in the areas of appraisal and electronic records. Dr. Cook now teaches archives at the University of Manitoba.

In addition to the lectures, Dr. Cook will meet with University of Maryland archives and records classes, faculty, and students.

The lectures and presentations are open. Archivists, historians, students, and researchers are particularly welcome. There is no fee for attendance. It is requested that people planning on attending RSVP so we can plan for space. Please contact Ms. Mariana Long at the College of Library and Information Services, <mmlong@wam.umd.edu>, or Dr. Bruce Dearstyne, 301-405-2001.

(Archives, 24 Feb 1999)


The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) announces the on-line availability of the third edition of its publication Preservation of Library & Archival Materials: A Manual, edited by Sherelyn Ogden. The updated and expanded version of the manual will be available March 1, 1999 on NEDCC’s Web site at <www.nedcc.org> A desire to make current information readily available at no cost prompted NEDCC to update the manual, adding important topics, and to make it available on the Web. In addition, if a user prefers the convenience of a book, a bound version will be available through NEDCC later this year.

The manual is approximately 350 pages in length and consists of a series of 51 technical leaflets. The third edition contains eight new leaflets, including Digital Technology Made Simpler; The Relevance of Preservation in a Digital World; Preservation Assessment and Planning; An Introduction to Fire Detection, Alarm, and Automatic Fire Sprinklers; Collections Security: Planning and Prevention for Libraries and Archives; and more. In addition, every leaflet from the first two editions has been updated to reflect new information and changing opinions. The manual is one of few preservation publications written in layman’s language that is an authoritative reference source for up-to-date scientific research. Sections include planning and prioritizing, the environment, emergency management, storage and handling, reformatting, and conservation procedures. Professional illustrations make the “how-to” leaflets easy to understand and use.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, supported the project to convert NEDCCs preservation manual to electronic format for Internet access. In addition, NEDCC receives major funding for its field service program from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center is a nonprofit regional conservation center specializing in the conservation of paper-based materials including books, documents, photographs, architectural drawings, maps, posters, wallpaper, and works of art on paper. It performs paper conservation, book binding, preservation microfilming, and duplication of photographic negatives. Its purpose is to provide the highest quality conservation services and to serve as a source of consultation and training for institutions that hold paper-based collections.

For information about ordering the printed version, contact: Gay S. Tracy, Public Relations Coordinator, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810-1494; Tel 978 470-1010; Fax 978 475-6021; e-mail <tracy@nedcc.org>; <www.nedcc.org>.

(EX LIBRIS, 25 Feb 1999)
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The Watermark is issued quarterly to members of Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences and is edited by Lilli Sentz.

Membership information may be obtained from Elizabeth Ihrig, ALHHS Secretary-Treasurer, Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416; (612) 927-6508; FAX (612) 927-7265; E-MAIL Ihrig@thebakken.org.

Production deadlines are 1 June, 1 September, 1 December, and 1 March.

Submissions may be sent to: Lilli Sentz, Special Projects Librarian, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10029-5293; (212) 822-7313; FAX (212) 722-7650; E-MAIL lsentz@health.nyam.org.

Submissions for Ex Libris should be sent to: Lucretia W. McClure, 164 Elmore Road, Rochester, NY 14618-3651; (716) 244-8703; E-MAIL lmcl@accglobal.net