The Pamphlet Collection at NLM

John Shaw Billings, Director of the Library of the Surgeon-General’s Office (later the Army Medical Library and now the National Library of Medicine) from 1865 to 1895, was a compulsive book collector. He left the Library well endowed with the medical literature of his time and blessed — or cursed — with a large collection of nineteenth-century pamphlets. Although Billings took a personal approach to Library acquisitions — many of the pamphlets have a manuscript note on the cover addressed by the author to Billings — the acquisition of pamphlets continued unabated after his departure. Consequently the Library found itself with a collection of about 20,000 pamphlets published between about 1840 and 1920, approximately half in English, with a large number in German, French, Italian, and a scattering of many other languages using both Latin and non-Latin alphabets. To this was added an even larger collection of about 60,000 pamphlets, most of them from the twentieth century, in bound volumes.

It appeared as though the pamphlets had been allowed to accumulate for a period of perhaps a year, then organized and boxed alphabetically by author. This resulted in about 1000 boxes divided into about thirty or forty separate alphabetical groupings. Since it seems likely that older pamphlets continued to be received along with contemporary ones, the collection had no chronological order. Most of them were included in the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General’s Office, but never recataloged for either NLM’s card or electronic catalogs, as were the monographs and serials. Since Index Catalogue contained no location information, the result was a potentially valuable collection with no real way to access it — a librarian’s and a researcher’s nightmare.

This was the situation about twenty years ago, when we first turned our attention to this collection. The 20,000 unbound ones were our first concern. They were more difficult to access and less likely to be available elsewhere. We had a record of the locations of a small number of these pamphlets, but it was arbitrary, highly incomplete, and scattered among several sources. Even some of these items could not be found on the shelf if, for instance, the location had been changed or the item had at some time been declared out of scope and withdrawn. Examination of the pamphlets confirmed our impression that this was a rich and valuable collection that should be better known and more accessible.

During the next few years we managed to get about 2000 pamphlets cataloged by means of a scattershot of small projects. We came to realize, however, that cataloging the entire collection, even in a limited format, would require very substantial resources and time.

The pamphlet project was put aside for several years. Then the massive enterprise of putting online the entire contents of Index Catalogue was undertaken and we realized that it had provided us with a new opportunity to deal with the pamphlets. Four years
ago, with the completion of the *Index Catalogue* conversion in sight, Lillian Kozuma, systems librarian, and Anne Whitaker, cataloger, turned to the first large-scale application of this new resource.

We knew that the *Index Catalogue* entries did not approach full cataloging standards, but the extensive revision that would be required to meet these standards would be tantamount to original cataloging. We decided to go with what we had, on the principle that it was more important to make available some sort of record than to produce a perfect record.

The subject headings raised an immediate question. *Index Catalogue* provided extensive subject access for pamphlets, but they were not MeSH terms, though many varied only slightly from MeSH. For example, “Air-passages” in *Index Catalogue* is “Airway” in MeSH. *Index Catalogue*’s “Arrow-wounds” is not in MeSH at all. We knew that subject access was crucial; few of the pamphlet authors were well known and subject terms were likely to be the chief approach. We decided to keep the *Index Catalogue* subject terms, hoping that they, along with full-text search capability, would enable users to find pamphlets on particular subjects.

Since *Index Catalogue* provided no means of distinguishing the pamphlets from the monographs, which already had records in our online catalog, we took each pamphlet and searched for its record in an early electronic version of *Index Catalogue* on CD. In any case, it was necessary to touch each item both to make sure we really had it and to apply a location number and bar code.

*Index Catalogue* was, naturally, not in MARC format. In the electronic format of *Index Catalogue* each entry had been parsed into several bibliographic fields. A program was written to translate these fields into MARC format so that the record could be transferred to the Library’s online catalog. A few additional elements were added manually: language and country of publication and, if they were not in the *Index Catalogue* record, imprint and pagination. The approximately 3000 pamphlets that could not be found in *Index Catalogue* received original cataloging and MeSH subject terms.

The collection is diverse and reflective of all the medical interests of the nineteenth century. Among them are:

- Controversies about vaccination, vivisection, and homeopathy.
- Academic inaugural and commencement addresses, a wonderful source of information on contemporary values and mores for professional conduct and practice.
- Promotional materials for particular medicinal products, devices, and theories.
- Obituaries and appreciations of medical figures, both famous and obscure.
- Accounts of the new knowledge in areas such as anesthesia and bacteriology.
- Publications by prominent people such as Louis Pasteur, Rudolf Virchow, and Oliver Wendell Holmes.
- The odd piece that has nothing whatsoever of medical content (e.g., “Memorial of Daniel Ruggles, Asking an Appropriation to Be Expended in Developing His System of Producing Rainfall”), but perhaps(?) of great interest to some scholar some day.

Our hunch about the value of these materials proved correct. As the records began to appear in our public catalog, LocatorPlus, patron requests started to come in and increased in number as the inputting progressed. The project was completed in the summer of 2004.

Next? Our collection of 60,000 bound pamphlets?

Carol Clausen
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine
A Few Words from the Interim Editor

Two years ago the President of SUNY Upstate Medical University, Gregory L. Eastwood, M.D. told me that he had just realized that he had recently become the longest serving president in the school’s history, but that it did not seem like such a long time at all. I hope that twelve years from now I will be able to say something similar to you about my tenure as Editor of The Watermark.

I joined ALHHS at the May 1990 meeting of the AAHM in Baltimore. I do not remember much about that meeting, chiefly just five things: (1) hanging out with Gretchen Worden, (2) hearing an excellent paper on tobacco, (3) calling home every day to check on the health of my newborn daughter, (4) the great food at Johns Hopkins, and (5) the wonderful ALHHS people. I had not previously known about ALHHS, but I instantly knew that this was my kind of group, that I would have lots of fun in it, learn much useful stuff, and make many cherished and lasting friendships. Only finances prevented me from attending more ALHHS meetings in those early years. As soon as I could manage it, I became a more active member. At Jodi Koste’s invitation, I compiled the “From the ‘Net” column in The Watermark from October 1996 to December 1999, and following Elaine Challacombe’s suggestion, I started ALHHS-L <web.upstate.edu/lufte/alhhs-l.html>, the group’s private listserv, in May 1999. I was elected a member of the Steering Committee for 2003-2005.

But I wanted to do more. ALHHS is my favorite professional organization. It is such a good-natured, helpful, and stress-free group that I felt obliged to increase my level of participation.

Whatever talents or skills I may have, I believe that my editorial experience has given me an understanding of small academic and professional publications that would benefit ALHHS. I edited the yearbook in high school, co-edited the daily newsheet in college, and founded, edited, and continue to co-edit the newsletter of my present library. For thirteen years I was the Associate Editor of The Owl of Minerva, the journal of the Hegel Society of America. I edited a book of new essays on Arthur Schopenhauer. Last summer, as you all know, I took over and put together the delayed ALHHS membership directory. In all six of these positions, copy-editing, design, and layout were my responsibilities.

I am thankful that ALHHS has now given me this chance to show what I can do. As I look over the list of Watermark editors, I see that I am in good company:

Robin Overmeir (1975-1976)
Lisabeth Holloway (1977-1987)
Robin Overmeir (1988-1992)
Joan Echtenkamp Klein and Jodi Koste (1993-1997)

If I am confirmed as permanent editor I would like to restore The Watermark to the high level of quality that typified it throughout the 1990s. Part of such quality is a punctual and dependable production schedule, but a greater part is the content of the publication.

The content is determined, not by the editor, but by all of us ALHHS members as specialists in our field. What informs us, what helps us to do our jobs better, what makes us enjoy our work more? I want to be responsive to what you want to see in The Watermark.

Besides the usual stories about events and activities at NLM, there are in this issue notices of talks and meetings in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, and Chicago, and exhibits in Madison, Boston, Cleveland, and Minneapolis. We need more of this sort of thing. We need to involve more of you. Please, if your institution is sponsoring a talk, hosting a meeting, or mounting an exhibit, let’s put it in The Watermark. Don’t hide your light, however small, under a barrel.

Eventually, by including full-length scholarly book reviews (there are two in this issue), conference reports, critiques, longer topical articles, and other features of interest to us, I hope to justify replacing the word ‘newsletter’ in the subtitle with the word ‘journal’.

Toward these ends, my first official act as co-editor of the last issue was to obtain an ISSN for The Watermark. That is the first step to becoming a “real” journal. I welcome your input on all these ideas — and indeed, on anything that pertains to The Watermark.

I promise to do my best for my beloved ALHHS!
News from the History of Medicine Division

Shell Shock

“Strange Hells Within the Minds War Made”: War and Trauma in the Twentieth Century,” an exhibit on shell shock and post-traumatic stress syndrome, opened in the History of Medicine Division on November 9, 2004. Blamed initially on the percussive effects of high explosives, shell shock — as this syndrome was first named — was soon understood to be of psychosomatic origin. “Strange Hells” explores shell shock during World War I and the medical and cultural responses to it, especially in literary accounts proliferating during and after the war. The exhibit also traces shell shock’s antecedents and its later manifestations in other twentieth-century wars. It will be on display through May 31, 2005 at the National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, 20895.

Travelling Exhibit

The History of Medicine Exhibition Program has just produced a ten-panel exhibition entitled, “An Odyssey of Knowledge: Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books from the National Library of Medicine.” Premiered at the International Congress for the History of Medicine in Bari, Italy in September 2004, it will tour interested libraries throughout the world. Contact Kevin Schlesier at <schlesk@mail.nlm.nih.gov> or 301-435-1518.

Medical Biography

The History of Medicine Division has begun a three-year project to index medical biographies in the American National Biography (1999) the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (2004), and the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (1966- ). Records will appear in NLM’s online public catalog, LocatorPlus. These three biographical works are expected to yield about 7500 biographies for LocatorPlus.

New HMD Web Sites


Gifts of Note

Dittrick Receives Contraception Collection

The world’s largest assemblage of historical birth control products, a donation of more than 650 artifacts and 150 books and ephemera in the Percy Skuy Collection on the History of Contraception, arrived on December 1, 2004, at Case Western Reserve University’s Dittrick Medical History Center. Janssen-Ortho, the donor and a company specializing in women’s health, had previously housed the collection in its Toronto, Ontario headquarters. The public can view the collection at the Allen Memorial Medical Library through March 2005.

Over the past 40 years, Percy Skuy, the former CEO of Ortho Pharmaceutical, assembled the collection to illustrate talks he gave on birth control. “These artifacts really tell an important sociological story of human motivation to want to limit family size over
hundreds and thousands of years in different cultures and in different countries,” said Skuy. What he found over the years was that birth control methods emerged in varied ways from folk medicine remedies like women using crocodile dung with its high salt content that acted as a natural spermicide to the high-tech developments of intrauterine (IUD) devices and birth control pills.

“Equally important is the recognition that with the limited knowledge people had, once motivated, they had to use what was readily available around them and some creative approaches were taken,” said Skuy. “Some were useless, some harmful, and some could probably have shown a reasonable degree of effectiveness.”

“The Percy Skuy Collection provides the university with a unique vehicle for a variety of creative and innovative learning experiences at Case,” said James Edmonson, chief curator at the Dittrick Medical History Center in the Allen Memorial Medical Library. “The donation will become a catalyst and centerpiece for important research, classes and study of health and social issues surrounding contraception.”

In addition to birth control devices, the collection contains books, birth control marketing materials and audiotapes and videos of interviews with the collection’s founder.

After March 2005, a museum advisory committee of representatives from the community and faculty will work with Edmonson to design a permanent exhibit for the museum on the library’s third floor. Plans are also underway for an international symposium, invited guest lecturers, and a virtual exhibit online in order to share the wealth of information from the collection with people around the world. Because the gift comes with no exhibiting restrictions, the Dittrick is free to design and use the items in ways it envisions for the university setting. Edmonson believes the permanent exhibit will be popular among students, researchers, and the public. A museum setting, he said, is ideal for exploring sensitive topics.

“Ultimately we will have the opportunity to present the story of contraception in a broader way than the current display is now constituted to do,” said Edmonson. “We want the exhibit to encompass social issues, medical concerns about women’s health and a variety of tangential and related subjects that create a context for understanding the significance of these different means of contraception.”

“Case has exceptionally distinctive programs in history of technology and history of medicine,” said Mark Turner, Dean of Case’s College of Arts and Sciences. “The Dittrick museum specializes in their intersection: the history of medical technology. It is no wonder that Percy Skuy has chosen Case over many competing institutions as the repository for the premier collection of contraceptive technology.”

Skuy, a leader in pharmaceutical contraceptive technology, became an avid collector by happenstance. In 1965, as a product manager for Ortho Pharmaceutical in Canada, he was invited to give a talk on modern birth control to a group of pharmacists in Hamilton, Ontario. He started the talk with stories on the history of birth control. When invited to speak again, he was asked to tell more about birth control history. At that point, he began to search for items to illustrate those talks. By word of mouth from physicians or business sources and personal communications, he tracked down an array of items from folk medicines to modern pharmaceutical devices.

In 2000, Skuy began to look for a permanent home for the collection. His search brought him to the Dittrick, established in 1898 as a part of the Cleveland Medical Library Association and one of the five leading medical museums in the United States.

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Dittrick Medical History Center
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Cleveland, OH 44106-1714
phone 216-368-3648
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Major Gift to Upstate

Philip L. Ferro, M.D., a prominent ob/gyn physician in Syracuse, and his wife Barbara celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation from Upstate
Medical University by donating their copy of the second edition of William Cowper’s *The Anatomy of Humane Bodies* in September 2004.

In 1685 Dutch physician and anatomist Govert Bidloo (1649-1713) published *Anatomia Humani Corporis* with 105 exquisite plates drawn by Gérard de Lairesse (1640-1711). Even today these plates are universally recognized as among the best anatomical illustrations ever executed. This book soon became the focus of a classic case of plagiarism.

English surgeon Cowper (1666-1709) and Samuel Smith, his publisher, bought Lairesse’s plates and issued them in 1698 — with Cowper’s name pasted over Bidloo’s — as illustrations for *The Anatomy of Humane Bodies*. The furious Bidloo publicly accused Cowper of theft and deception, but Cowper’s text was better received than Bidloo’s and had a much longer printing history, including this 1737 second edition revised by German anatomist Christian Bernhard Albinus (1696-1752).

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**Book News and Reviews**

The Office of NIH History is pleased to announce the publication of a new book on the history of mental health and neurology research at the National Institutes of Health in the 1950s. The book, *Mind, Brain, Body, and Behavior: Foundations of Neuroscience and Behavioral Research at the National Institutes of Health*, edited by Ingrid G. Farreras, Caroline Hannaway, and Victoria A. Harden (Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2004), discusses the research that was conducted by scientists from both the National Institute of Mental Health and from what was then known as the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness.


From the back cover: “The history of medicine in Central New York has national and international as well as local and regional importance. The world’s first woman physician to earn her M.D. by completing the regular course of study at an accredited medical school received that degree in Central New York. Alumni and faculty of SUNY Upstate Medical University and its predecessor institutions have achieved greatness that has enriched medicine and society around the world since 1834. This book tells their stories.”

Its ten chapters are:

1. The Dawn of Medical Education in Upstate New York
2. The World’s First Woman Doctor
3. Geneva Medical College and its Competition
4. The College Moves to Syracuse
5. Surviving the Flexner Report
6. The Weiskotten Years
7. The U.S. Army 52nd General Hospital
8. New York State Takes Over
9. Rejuvenation and Expansion
10. Toward the Future: One University, Nine Names

Baker and Taylor, Amazon.com, and the publisher are all accepting advance orders.

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The Mount Sinai Hospital was founded in 1852 as the Jews’ Hospital in the City of New York, but more than a century would pass before a school of medicine was created at Mount Sinai. In *Teaching Tomorrow’s Medicine Today*, surgeon Arthur Aufses and archivist Barbara Niss chronicle the development of the medical school from its origins in the 1960s to the current leadership.

The authors examine the social forces that compelled the world-renowned hospital to remake itself as an academic medical center, revealing the school’s departure from and subsequent return to its founders’ original vision. In addition to a compelling history of each of Mount Sinai’s departments, *Teaching Tomorrow’s Medicine Today* describes the school’s methods for providing both graduate or resident training and postgraduate physician education.

Recognizing Mount Sinai’s central mission as a teaching institution, the authors close their account with perspectives of alumni and current students.

Barbara J. Niss is the Archivist at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, a program she helped formalize over fifteen years ago. Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., has been affiliated with Mount Sinai for more than forty-five years. He served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1974 to 1996. They are also the authors of *This House of Noble Deeds: The Mount Sinai Hospital, 1852-2002* (New York: New York University Press, 2003).


What was the nature of the practice of medicine in the rural South between 1830 and 1880? Who entered this profession and how were they educated? What type of medical education did they receive in their urban-based medical school training? How did the social component of the patients’ bedside experience determine the financial and clinical success of the physicians’ practice? What do the copious writings of Southern physicians during these decades tell us about what they believed should be the scope of their country orthodox medical practice? Why did the Civil War have so little impact on medical practice in the post-war South? These and many other significant questions about the nature and scope of Southern rural medical practice in the mid-nineteenth century are analyzed and answered in this outstanding book by Steven Stowe, an acknowledged expert in the history of Southern medicine.

This dense, at times challenging, work is based on a tremendous amount of research using primary documents written by physicians throughout the South during this era. Stowe has delved into a treasure trove of physicians’ letters, diaries, case narratives, and medical topographies to uncover a very different view of the practice of Southern rural medicine. From this research emerges
the world of the educated rural Southern physician and his efforts to bring his moral values and medical expertise to his isolated community, despite the obstacles placed in his way by well-meaning patient family members, clergy, and neighbors, all of whom believed they had an equal right at the patient’s bedside.

Stowe describes the medical education these prospective physicians received at the South’s best medical schools, including the use of lectures, hospital ward rounds, anatomical dissections of cadavers, and the writing of medical theses. Upon graduation these young doctors would return to their rural homes to establish their medical practices, facing at times daunting competition from older practitioners and alternative healers. Using a wide collection of doctors’ daybooks, Stowe discusses the nature of rounding in the old South, with physicians facing the regular hazards of inclement weather, long horseback rides in the dark on bad roads, and physical threats from strangers on the road.

The most important aspect of this book is Stowe’s ability to take the reader to the social bedside of the physicians’ patients. Based on extensive quotes from doctors’ case narratives, the author portrays the harsh realities of both failures and successes in their medical practices, including the challenges of diagnosis and drug therapy choices. An experienced physician often would combine his heroic therapies with the domestic cures popular in his community. The doctors endeavored to set both the moral and scientific tone at their patients’ bedsides. Physicians’ published medical topographies reveal their broader perspectives on Southern health-care concerns and their frustrations at not having the medical authority to effect changes in clothing, local diets, and the living conditions of slaves. The author carefully describes the doctors’ handling of the slaves’ medical care, thus extending the earlier high-quality studies on this topic by Todd Savitt. Stowe clearly explains why the Civil War had so little influence on the country orthodox medical practice in the post-war South. Leaving aside the issues of race and slave health, Stowe further states that the medical practices of the Southern physicians he studied were identical to those of rural practitioners throughout mid-nineteenth-century rural America, thus making this study an even more important contribution to American medical history.

For all its great strengths, however, this study fails to address a number of important questions: What was the quality of the proprietary Southern medical schools that produced the majority of Southern physicians during this period? How did medical practices differ in the major Southern cities? What roles did the major alternative medical sects, such as the Thomsonians and the various botanical healers, play during these decades? Do the physicians Stowe portrays represent the majority of traditional medical men in the old South or only the educated elite?

We can only hope that Stowe and other medical historians will continue his impressive research efforts and find answers to these and other questions about medical conditions and care in the mid-nineteenth-century South. This text will serve as a linchpin in the expanding social and clinical histories of medicine on this topic for the foreseeable future.

Jonathon Erlen
Health Science Library System
University of Pittsburgh


The life of herbalist Nicholas Culpeper is such an intriguing and mysterious topic that almost any new biography is to be welcomed. Unfortunately, Benjamin Woolley’s Heal Thyself: Nicholas Culpeper and the Seventeenth Century Struggle to Bring Medicine to the People shows why the qualifier “almost” is required.

Little is actually known about Culpeper’s life except the barest of bare bones, and this biography adds nothing new. To cover the paucity of facts, Woolley resorts to the oldest tools of the frustrated biographer: “must have,” “should have,” “likely,” “certainly,” “probably.” There are, in fact, more hard biographical facts about the life of William Harvey (a much easier subject to research, and one that clearly fascinates Woolley) in this volume than there are about Culpeper. Incidentally, there is nothing new about Harvey either; Woolley even includes the bit about Harvey being a
prickly young man who always carried a dagger. This goes back to Aubrey’s Brief Lives, but Woolley does not cite the original source. In fact, virtually all of Woolley’s information about Harvey comes from Geoffrey Keynes’s 1966 biography. I have always wondered whether this was something Harvey picked up in Italy studying with Fabricius (though Jacobean and Caroline England had no shortage of dagger-wielding young bravoes, and Harvey would choose the Cavalier cause in the Civil War). But there are few such nuggets about Culpeper.

Woolley also seeks to provide a layer of charm by naming his chapters after various medicinal herbs (tansy, borage, angelica, wormwood etc.), including both original plates and text from Culpeper. This is a pleasant touch, since it reminds the reader what the fuss was all about. But the effect wears a little thin when the reader realizes the choices were entirely random, and have nothing to with the chapters they head. What might have been an interesting device becomes merely a bit precious.

Some of the writing is simply careless, and it is hard to know whether to blame author, editor, or proofreader. For example, when giving background on Culpeper’s birth in the provinces, Woolley writes that “villages such as Hartland in Devon enjoyed infant mortality and life expectancy rates so low that they would not be matched nationally until the 1920s” (p. 8). Surely he means “life expectancy rates so high.” Other times, Woolley’s sense of chronology is odd, and it shows. In one paragraph (pp. 39-40), seeking to establish popular attitudes towards the medical establishment in the 1550s, he bounces from Sir Thomas Browne’s Religio Medici (1642) to Geoffrey Chaucer to Christopher Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus (published, as Woolley states, in 1604, but written at least ten and possibly as many as fifteen years earlier).

The underlying argument, of course, is the attempt of the early modern medical establishment to gain monopoly control over the delivery of health care, squeezing out traditional healers, herbalists, midwives, and the like. Setting up Culpeper and Harvey as polar opposites is convenient (as indeed they were in many professional and political ways), but too much can be made of models for seventeenth-century “empowerment.” Woolley sees virtually everything Culpeper ever did through a populist prism, and that might be going a bit far. I for one suspect that the brouhaha over the 1649 translation of the Pharmacopoeia owes as much to the Stationers’ Company wrestling with the Royal College of Physicians over printing monopolies as it does to any medical populism.

The best part of this book is when Woolley lets Culpeper speak for himself; in the chapter introductions (despite their cuteness), and in the long quotations from the herbals found in the later chapters. But for that one can turn to the easily available reprints of the herbal, and not worry about the reliability of this book.

Stephen J. Greenberg
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine
Good Listening

Chicago Area Medical Archivists (CAMA) Meeting, August 31, 2004

The August 31, 2004 meeting of Chicago Area Medical Archivists (CAMA) was held at the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Members present were Susan Rishworth, ACS; Allen Podraza and Laura Carroll, American Medical Association; Ron Sims and Ramune Kubilius, Northwestern University Galter Health Science Library; Heidi Butler, Rush University Medical Center; and John Zwicky, American Society for Clinical Pathology.

The meeting began with a reminder to join the recently created CAMA e-mail list. For those who have not yet joined, a sign-up form can be found at the following URL: <rushmetc.net/mailman/listinfo/chimed-archivists_rushmetc.net>. The list is primarily for communication between professionals at Chicago-area medical archives and related collections, rather than a place for researchers to post questions.

Although Sue Sacharski, Archivist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and coordinator of the Third Annual Archives Week Medical History Symposium this year, was not able to attend, she sent a verbal report on developments. Briefly, that event would take place at Northwestern Memorial Hospital on Friday, October 15, 2004, and all but one speaker were already confirmed. She would report to the group on the list.

The rest of the meeting’s discussion was led by Heidi Butler, who talked about her experience with a digital library project in her employment prior to coming to the Rush University Medical Center Archives in Chicago. Susan Rishworth had requested this after attending the School for Scanning, because she learned that collaborative projects are strongly encouraged.

Heidi was Local History Librarian at the Wichita Public Library in 2000-2002, where she worked on a collaborative digital library project with staff from the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum and Wichita State University Libraries’ Special Collections.

Some of the major issues the institutions had to address in the project were: (1) the theme(s) of the digital materials selected; (2) the quantity and types of materials to digitize; (3) the target audience(s) and how to organize the digital collection to best serve them; (4) how to accomplish the goals with limited funding, staff, and technological capability; (5) how to market the project; and (6) how to expand it in the future.

The digital library (online at <www.wichitaphotos.org>) was launched as a prototype with 150 total photographic images, split among the three Wichita institutions. Scanning and description were done by each institution and uploaded to an online Microsoft Access-based database that was created by a student intern at the University. Initial hosting was provided by the University as well; at present the project has its own domain but may not yet have a dedicated server.

The prototype version did not rely on an accepted metadata format such as Dublin Core, although several metadata standards were explored. The committee created a simplified version that could be modified to conform to standards in the future. (It has since been modified to suit Open Archives Initiative standards.) Marketing was provided in part by staff at the public library, but the principal librarian participants of the project also conducted outreach. Grant funds of $15,000, as well as funds from private sources, were obtained shortly after the launch of the prototype. The funds were designated in part for improvement of the computer hardware and software for each institution, and for further training for the staff.

Heidi left Wichita about four months after the project’s launch, but noted that it has since grown to about 1000 images, with a special online exhibit and lesson plans, and will likely continue to expand.

One of the most significant models for collaborative digitization efforts is what was formerly known as the Colorado Digitization Project (CDP). Through various special digital projects, it has brought together a wide range of institutions for the common purposes of centralizing resources, improving access, and increasing technological capabilities. Heidi suggested the CDP and one of its specific projects, Western Trails, as something to explore further. CDP has many standards and guidelines available on its Web site: <www.cdpheritage.org>.

The Open Archives Initiative, which at first glance is very technical, can be found at <www.openarchives.org>.
All at the meeting agreed that it would be useful to consider a collaborative digital project of some sort for the future (with emphasis on “consider”). At a future meeting, everyone should bring about ten examples of collection items that could be digitized, as well as the existing metadata (catalog records) that relate to them. Items should be those to which the institution has the rights, and would most likely be photographs for the first phase of such a project.

Susan Rishworth also gave the group a tour of her new facility, and talked about some of the opportunities and challenges in her Archives.

Ron Sims said he would host the next meeting in January 2005 at the Galter Health Sciences Library at Northwestern University.

Heidi Butler
Rush University Medical Center Archives

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**College of Physicians of Philadelphia Medical History Programming, Spring 2005**

**Wednesday, February 23, 6:15 p.m.**, Wood Institute Mini-Symposium: “Buying, Collecting, and Caring for Rare Medical Books,” Bruce Ramer (medical antiquarian bookseller, New York City), Eugene Flamm, M.D. (Chair of Neurosurgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia), and Michael Ryan, Ph.D. (Associate Director for Special Collections, University of Pennsylvania Libraries).


**Saturday, April 16**, The Section on Medical History Celebrates its Centennial with a “History of Medicine Day”:

- Morning: “Medical History Walking Tour of Old Philadelphia,” Steven J. Peitzman, M.D. (Medicine, Drexel University; Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia).
- Afternoon: Works-in-progress sessions organized by the Wood Institute for the History (speakers and topics to be announced)
- Evening: “Clio in the Clinic,” Jacalyn Duffin, M.D., Ph.D. (Hematology, Queens University, Ontario; President of the American Association for the history of Medicine).
- Subscription Dinner: “100 Years of Medical History in the United States,” Russell Maulitz, M.D., Ph.D. (Family Medicine, Drexel University; Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia).

**Friday, May 20, 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.**, The Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, the Section on Medical History, and the Section on Medicine and the Arts present a Mini-Symposium on the History of Quackery (speakers to be announced).

The morning program will be followed by a subscription lunch at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a special tour of the exhibit, “Quack, Quack, Quack: Sellers of Nostrums in Prints, Posters, Ephemera, and Books,” conducted by William H. Helfand (Curator of the exhibit and Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia).

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Stanley Burns Brings the Burns Archive to his Alma Mater

On October 1, 2004, Stanley B. Burns, M.D., a member of the Upstate Medical University Class of 1964, spoke to a standing-room-only audience in the atrium of the Upstate Health Sciences Library about his magnificent collection of medical photographs, some of which were on display behind him.

Burns had selected and lent to the Library about fifty of the 700,000 photographs in the Burns Archive and, with his wife Sara, personally mounted the exhibit in honor of his fortieth reunion. The pictures remained on display throughout October and fascinated everyone who saw them.

The Burns Archive <www.burnsarchive.com/> is the world’s premier collection of antiquarian photographs of pathological and medical phenomena. Many of these images are morbid and some are even scary, but all are eye-catching and of tremendous historical significance.

Burns’s talk was both a Medical Alumni Reunion event and the Ninth Health Sciences Library Lecture. Previous topics in the Library Lecture Series include Elizabeth Blackwell, domestic violence, evidence-based medicine, images of women, medical genealogy, psychiatric diagnosis, medicalized childbirth, and military medicine. The Web site is <www.upstate.edu/library/history/librarylectures.shtml>.

The Upstate New York Colloquium for the History of Science and Medicine (UNYCHSM)

At the December 17, 2004 meeting of the Upstate New York Colloquium for the History of Science and Medicine (UNYCHSM), Theodore M. Brown of the University of Rochester presented “The World Health Organization and the Transition from ‘International’ to ‘Global’ Public Health,” a paper that he co-authored with Marcos Cueto of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, and Elizabeth Fee of the National Library of Medicine. (Dr. Fee presented the same paper at the monthly NLM Seminar in the History of Medicine on January 19, 2005.)

The discussion made reference to Brown’s frequently cited article, “The College of Physicians and the Acceptance of Iatromechanism in England, 1665-1695,” which appeared in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine 44, 1 (January-February 1970): 12-30; examined from a Kuhnian standpoint the internalist (“idea-driven”) vs. externalist (driven by political and social forces) ways of explaining historical changes in science and medicine; and debated the semantics of the words ‘global’ and ‘international’ as they pertain to the development and policies of the World Health Organization.

UNYCHSM is the brainchild of Gwen E. Kay, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History at SUNY Oswego, who perceived a need for farflung scholars in Upstate New York, i.e., between Troy and Buffalo and generally “north of the Thruway,” but also including schools such as Colgate, SUNY Geneseo, and Hamilton, to exchange ideas regularly about their research and thus provide the level of mutual intellectual support that is automatic in larger environments such as New York City. She successfully proposed the idea at the 2002 meeting of the History of Science Society. The first UNYCHSM meeting occurred on February 28, 2003.

UNYCHSM meetings are twice a semester and are always at SUNY Upstate Medical University because of its central location. Previous talks have included topics such as phrenology, medical botany, infertility, images of the body, hygiene, and government regulation of medicine. For more information visit the UNYCHSM Web site at <web.upstate.edu/lufte/unychsm.html>.
The C.F. Reynolds Medical History Society

The C.F. Reynolds Medical History Society, the nation’s largest local/regional history of medicine organization, has about 200 members in the Western Pennsylvania region. It is named after Charles F. Reynolds, former head librarian of the Falk Library of the Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, who also taught history of medicine courses in Pitt’s School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine. The Society’s 2005 schedule of meetings is:

Thursday, January 27, 2005: Eugene Myers, M.D., Professor and Eye and Ear Foundation Chair, Department of Otolaryngology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, “Neck Dissection: An Operation in Evolution.”

Thursday, February 17, 2005: Douglas Bacon, M.D., Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and History of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, “Biological and Chemical Warfare: An Historical Perspective.”

Thursday, April 14, 2005, Sixteenth Annual Mark M. Ravitch History of Medicine Lecture: Lewis Wall, M.D., D.Phil., Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Washington University School of Medicine, “J. Marion Sims and the Vesico-Vaginal Fistula: A Clinical Re-Appraisal of an Historical Controversy.”

Thursday, September 29, 2005: Norman Gevitz, Ph.D., Professor of History of Medicine, Ohio University, “A Corrective Plaster for Vices: Medical Ethics in New England, 1620-1720.”

Thursday, November 10, 2005: 12th Annual Sylvan E. Stool History of Medicine Lecture: Susan Lederer, Ph.D., Professor of the History of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, “Hearts and Minds: Cardiac Transplantation in the 1960’s.”

All lectures will be held in Lecture Room #5, Scaife Hall, University of Pittsburgh, at 6:00 p.m. A dinner for members and their guests in the 11th floor Conference Center, Presbyterian University Hospital will follow each of the five individual lectures. Please refer all questions on the Society and its programming to Dr. Jonathon Erlen, 412-648-8927 or <erlen@pitt.edu>. The Society’s Web site is <www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/histmed/cfreynolds/>. 
Collections, Exhibits, and Access

Medical Research in Cincinnati

Despite construction, the University of Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center is still open and available for research by appointment or e-mail. This important collection includes the papers of such notables as Daniel Drake and Albert B. Sabin. The UC Health Sciences Library has moved into four locations during the renovation and new construction period of at least three years at the Medical Sciences Building. But all services remain available to users. Interesting times are here.

For more information, contact:

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A Moving Opportunity: The Wisconsin Experience

The Rare Books and Special Collections in the Middleton Health Science Library at the University of Wisconsin at Madison moved in June of 2004. These collections are now housed in the Ebling Library within the new Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC). The HSLC was designed with collaboration in mind. The Ebling, covering two floors, coexists with the Medical School on the other two floors. Across the street from the HSLC is the School of Pharmacy, and through a corridor from the HSLC are the School of Nursing and the University of Wisconsin Hospital. This interdisciplinary layout encourages health science students of all “stripes” to interact in ways that will eventually impact professional collaboration as well as encourage empathetic attitudes towards their common as well as specialized roles in patient care and research.

Central to this environment is the presence of the Historical Services Unit. Our space on the third floor is visible from many vantage points in the HSLC because of its atrium and balcony layout. The Historical Reading Room with four large exhibit cases, wireless access, comfy couches, large study tables, and com-
comfortable lighting has already become a favorite of health science students, weary practitioners, and the occasional history student (we are now geographically removed from central campus, which is one of the shortcomings of such a move). We look forward to imparting a historical sensibility to previously untapped patron groups. Through our collections and exhibits, we hope to impact visually and programmatically their education and practices. Ebling had its first exhibit this fall, a companion piece to the NLM/ALA traveling exhibit, “Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature.” Our modest offering, “Frankenstein: Creating Life at the Ebling,” highlighted some of our eighteenth-century texts on galvanism and seventeenth-century texts on monstrosities. It was well received.

In addition to the move we were able to hire a Historical Services Librarian, Greg Prickman. He is responsible for the increased images and content we have on our Web pages, for much of our exhibit design, for providing back-up reference service, for eventually processing our in-house archives and artifacts, and for reorganizing our Vault (another of the shortcomings of the move, we didn’t get our collection arranged perfectly in its new environmentally controlled space). For any institution that has the luxury of hiring in an academic position, think of someone with a studio graphics, rare book preservation, archives, and Web site design background. Greg has been a godsend, and you’ll be seeing some wonderful projects coming out of our “shop.”

Thank you to all who wished us well during this amazing move (three health science libraries into one building!). For anyone who anticipates such a change, we can offer advice, counsel, and prayers. Here’s our new contact information:

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler
Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections
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phone 608-262-2402

Greg Prickman
Historical Services Librarian
<gprickman@library.wisc.edu>
phone 608-262-4421

University of Wisconsin at Madison
Historical Services Unit
750 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 33705

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**Exhibit on World War I Military Medicine**

Historical Services at the Ebling Library, University of Wisconsin at Madison, presents “Casualties Have Been Very Heavy: Medical Transport in the Great War, 1914-1918,” an exhibit of stamps, postcards, and other philatelic material from the collection of guest curators Annette Yonke and Gerald Estes. These materials tell the story of the ambulances, stretchers, hospital ships, and field hospitals that served the wounded on the European front during the First World War. The exhibit runs from January 18 through April 15, 2005 in the Historical Reading Room on the third floor of the Ebling Library.

The Web site (design and content by Historical Services Librarian, Greg Prickman) accompanying the exhibit is at <ebling.library.wisc.edu/historical/WWI-index.cfm>.

The Ebling Library is located in the Health Sciences Learning Center at 750 Highland Avenue, University of Wisconsin at Madison. For more information, please contact the Curator, Micaela Sullivan-Fowler at 608-262-2402 or <msullivan@library.wisc.edu>.

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**New Exhibit on Library History at the Countway**

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Boston was on the verge of becoming one of the leading centers of medical education and research in the United States. The move of Harvard Medical School to the city from Cambridge in 1810 signaled the beginning of a rich creative period of foundation and development of hospitals, professional societies, and medical journals — many still in existence today. But some of the local developments are less well known and have proved less enduring. One of these is the Boston Medical Library of 1805.
Formed by Drs. James Jackson and John Collins Warren two hundred years ago, the first Boston Medical Library was intended to provide up-to-the-minute medical and surgical information for the city’s physicians. The library’s collection grew quickly, and yet twenty years later it had all but disappeared. “The Boston Medical Library: a Reconstruction of the Collection of 1805 and Its History,” a new exhibit at the Countway Library of Medicine, traces the few facts known about this library and attempts to rebuild it from the surviving remnants which have found their way into the Countway.

How much of that original collection remains? Using the existing catalogs and examination of the physical evidence of bookplates, inscriptions, and shelf marks, over 200 titles from the first Boston Medical Library have now been identified, and most of the books displayed in the exhibit are drawn from the 1805 collection. Rare medical works along with portraits and early photographs of some of the Library’s trustees and officers are brought together with a handful of catalogs and official records to flesh out the history of this ancestor of the Countway Library. Although nearly forgotten today, the Boston Medical Library of 1805 provides a snapshot of the knowledge of medicine and surgery of the period, while its story testifies to the developing sense of benevolence, education, and social service of the city’s physician population and casts light on an obscure chapter of Boston’s rich medical heritage.

“The Boston Medical Library: a Reconstruction of the Collection of 1805 and Its History” will be on display in the Lower Level 2 exhibit area of the Countway Library of Medicine through August 2005. For additional information contact:

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Rare Books and Special Collections
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<countway.med.harvard.edu/rarebooks>

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American College of Surgeons Archives
Joins Research Community Through
NUCMC/RLG Database

For over three years, the historical and archival records of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) have been undergoing preservation treatment, processing, arrangement, and description to make them accessible to members of the College and other researchers and to ensure their longevity.
A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), enabled ACS Archivist Susan Rishworth to hire Heather Stecklein, a doctoral student with several years of experience in archival processing, to begin work on July 1, 2003 as Susan’s half-time assistant for one year. They packed up and transferred all the archival records that had been stored in the Murphy Memorial Building to the headquarters building of the ACS, bringing the records into an environment with much better climate control.

Together Susan and Heather processed and created complete finding aids with MARC-based series records formatted in textbases of the InMagic software program for 90 per cent of the 400 linear feet of archival records that had been stored in Murphy, thus reducing the total extent to less than 200 linear feet. The ten per cent of records without complete finding aids include the Franklin Martin papers, which will require conservation treatment before processing, and the Board of Regents minutes, which will require close examination for duplication with other copies and editions, before processing. All the materials have full accession records describing their content and location.

In the summer of 2004 Susan submitted to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC, pronounced “nuck muck”), a description of the ACS Archives to be entered into its database of nearly 2000 archival repositories holding as many as 90,000 separate archival collections.

NUCMC is a cooperative cataloging program operated by the Special Materials Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress (LC), which, through NUCMC, provides cooperative cataloging as a free service to make archival repository collections available to researchers throughout the U.S. and the world. NUCMC catalogers create MARC bibliographic records in the Research Libraries Group (RLG) database, a national level database, and the catalogers assign LC subject headings to these records. NUCMC began describing archival and manuscript collections in 1959 and since 1986 all of NUCMC’s descriptions of archival collections have been in the RLG online database.

The ACS Archives is now listed on the NUCMC/RLG Web site: <lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>. ACS anticipates that the number of researchers using the ACS collections will increase due to the improved exposure through this database. Even though the ACS Archives staff still has many records to process, and will continue to have them as more departments transfer their inactive records to the Archives, the appearance of ACS in the NUCMC/RLG database constitutes a significant achievement for the ACS in enhancing the meaning and value of “FACS” for surgeons and the public.

This processing of the ACS Archives and the cataloging in NUCMC satisfies the requirements of the one-year NHPRC grant for assistance in creating finding aids for 200 linear feet of stored material.

The new Archives space measures 36 by 25 feet and houses reading tables and chairs acquired from the NARA Great Lakes Region offices, property which had been scheduled for disposal. The Archives office has also moved to a larger and better space.

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fax 312-202-5023
<srishworth@facs.org>
New Regional Historical Database

The 19th Century Indiana Physicians Database is now available in a genuine database format at <www.medlib.iupui.edu/hom/19thphysicians/>. Formerly, it was featured as an online exhibit, but now is a fully searchable database, with information on over 15,000 Indiana physicians.

After a decade of work, the Ruth Lilly Medical Library Special Collection announces public access to this database. The raw data will also be available to researchers.

Nancy L. Eckerman
Special Collections Librarian
Ruth Lilly Medical Library
Indiana University School of Medicine
975 West Walnut Street IB100
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5121
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Bakken Artifacts Now Accessible Online

The Bakken Library and Museum announces the availability of a new online database of its outstanding collection of artifacts relating to the history of electricity and magnetism and their uses in medicine and the life sciences. Records for approximately 90 per cent of The Bakken’s unique collection of roughly 2000 artifacts have been entered into the database along with images of almost every item. The information provided typically includes description, remarks, and an image, as well as materials, date, size and weight, and a list of accessories.

The database is located at <thebakken.org/artifacts/database/> and is organized by The Bakken’s accessioning categories. A person interested in plate electrostatic generators, for instance, would first click on “Electrostatics.” Under “frictional generators,” click “plate.” The result will be a list of the plate electrostatic generators in the collection. Clicking the hyperlinks will then lead you to an image and description of the generator in question. We hope to implement more sophisticated search functions in the near future.

The instrument collection focuses on the history of electricity and magnetism in the life sciences. It includes electrostatic generators, magneto-electric generators, induction coils, physiological instruments, recording devices, and accessories. There are hundreds of pacemakers and defibrillators, and dozens of magnetic devices.

A partial online catalogue of The Bakken’s extensive book collection has been available for a number of years at <www.thebakken.org/library/library.htm#BooksAndManuscripts>. Plans are being made for an online public access catalog of the entire collection.

The artifact database is a work in progress and The Bakken welcomes feedback from researchers. Please direct comments and questions to Ellen Kuhfeld, Curator of Instruments, at <kuhfeld@thebakken.org>.
Mesmerism at the Bakken

The Bakken Library’s Web site features an online tour of some highlights from its collection of works about mesmerism and animal magnetism at <www.thebakken.org/exhibits/mesmer/index.htm>. For information about research at the Bakken, see: <www.thebakken.org/research/research.htm>.

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Miscellanea

Research Fellowships in the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine for the 2005-2006 Academic Year

Each year, the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) offers the Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine and the Audrey and William H. Helfand Fellowship in the Medical Humanities to support work in history and the humanities as they relate to health, medicine, and the biomedical sciences:

The Klemperer Fellowship supports research using the Academy Library’s resources for scholarly study of the history of medicine. The Helfand Fellowship supports work in the humanities, including both creative projects dealing with health and the medical enterprise, as well as scholarly research in a humanistic discipline — other than the history of medicine — as applied to medicine and health.

Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the Academy Web site <www.nyam.org> to acquaint themselves with the Academy and its library. When using the online catalog of the Academy Library, please be aware that entries for a considerable portion of the collections have not yet been converted to electronic form.

Deadline: Applications must be received by March 1, 2005. Candidates will be informed of the results by April 30, 2005.

Quiz Question

Who is the world’s most famous black comedian of all time? (answer below)

New URL for Baker-Cederberg

Phil Maples reports that the Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives in Rochester, New York, has a new URL: <www.viahealth.org/body_rochester.cfm?id=331>.

Mark Your Calendars!

The next ALHHS meeting will be at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, on April 6-7, 2005, just before the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) meets in the same location. A splendid time is guaranteed for all — as usual!

Check out the photos of the April 2004 Madison, Wisconsin meeting online at <www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/alhhs/photo_album_2004/index.htm>.

See y’all in Dixie!
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The Watermark encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of ALHHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to Eric Luft, preferably as e-mail attachments.

Information about membership in ALHHS is available from the Secretary/Treasurer: Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, Historical Collections, Ebling Library, 750 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-2221. <micaela.sullivan-fowler@library.wisc.edu>. Phone: 608-262-2012. Fax: 608-262-7432.

Submissions for the ALHHS Web site <www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/alhhs/> should be sent to the Chair of the Web Site Committee: Katharine E.S. Donahue, Head, History and Special Collections, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, 12-077 CHS, Box 951978, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798. <kdonahue@library.ucla.edu>. Phone: 310-825-6940. Fax: 310-825-0465.