The 2008 ALHHS Meeting

A Letter from the Local Arrangements Chair

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to encourage you to attend this year’s meeting, to be held on Wednesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 10, 2008, in Rochester, New York. As always, the ALHHS meeting precedes the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, which extends through Sunday, April 13.

Our annual event opens with dinner at the Country Club of Rochester. Dinner will be preceded by an open bar, the perfect opportunity to catch up with one another after a year’s separation.

The program committee has put together an original and imaginative program titled “Blame it on the History Channel: Sharing Our Resources with Varied Audiences.” The presenters will describe various activities involving outreach to both our traditional constituencies and the “public” in the larger sense. In the afternoon we will visit the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House, where we will be given guided tours of the galleries and the photo archive.

Because of graduation activities at the University of Rochester in late April and early May, the ALHHS and AAHM annual meetings had to be scheduled two weeks earlier than usual. This rescheduling caused a brief flurry among members concerned about the weather. Contrary to common perception, Rochester is actually closer to the Carolinas than to the Arctic Circle. The heavy snows are over by the end of March, and although precipitation is the norm during April, it is as likely to take the form of rain as snow. Accumulation is slight by comparison, and Nature may even grant a springlike day or two. Global warming has not yet transformed Rochester into Charleston, so dress warm, wear “sensible shoes,” and bring an umbrella.

Christopher Hoolihan
Local Arrangements 2008

An Invitation from the President:
Some Words of Relative Wisdom

Our Chance to Learn and Schmooze

I would like to thank Christopher Hoolihan and all his contacts in Rochester, New York, for what promises to be a wonderful annual meeting for ALHHS and Medical Museums Association (MeMA). Do try to join us April 9th and 10th (and beyond, for those staying for the American Association for the History of Medicine). Chris and the Program Committee of Stephen Novak, Russell Johnson, Toby Appel, and Arlene Shaner did a top-notch job of gathering members to speak on their innovative outreach (broadly writ!) projects. In addition to the package you have received from Chris, Russell has put the information on the ALHHS Web site: <www.alhhs.org>.

Teaching an Oldish Dog New Tricks

This year is the centennial of the University of Wisconsin’s School of Medicine and Public Health. I know
that many of you have been through similar projects with the attendant concerns of small staff, outrageous deadlines, too many cooks in the kitchen, printers’ costs, graphic design agendas, inadequate funding, trying to corral disparate resources held in ten different places in your institutions, customized non-functional display cases, administrators with unrealistic expectations ... the list goes on. What I did not expect was that all of this work would actually inform me to such a degree. After nine years, I finally had the luxury of learning about my own institution. This was, indeed, a good problem to have. I was in charge of producing a reading room’s worth of educational and evocative historical displays, as well as providing 100 linear feet worth of vintage photos in our library. In addition to all the research, writing, scanning, installing, etc., there was the promotional juggernaut to arrange and the opening reception to plan. I could not have done it without many committee members, but especially without one of our newest ALHHS members, my colleague, Historical Service Librarian, Mary Hitchcock. There’s nothing like a reasonable partner in crime to get all the “devils in the details” completed in a timely fashion. Mary also produced our terrific poster that incorporated vintage images with a current medical student. <ebling.library.wisc.edu/historical/exhibitions.cfm>.

The result of all this effort? I know now the real story behind our remarkable school. The dynamic deans, the politics of starting a two- then four-year school, the economics behind the bricks and mortar of our buildings, the creation of our renowned preceptorial plan to educate our fourth-year medical students, the ups and downs of funded research, the favorite faculty, the student skits, the one medical student that was expelled three times ... Our story, like so many of yours, is worthy of novelization. Beyond the dry facts that I used to recite to inquirers, I now appreciate the human drama that made our school what it is today; a world class institution with its rich Hopkins-influenced triumvirate of clinical training, teaching, and research. Lesson learned: No matter how little time you think you have to devote to such an endeavor, there are hidden talents in your midst to assist you, and you will be the better archivist/curator/librarian for having been included in the undertaking.

**Be Careful What You Wish For:**

**Deglamourizing the News Industry**

Part of the promotional buzz surrounding our centennial included the Curator (capital “C”) being on the local Saturday morning news show, on NBC-15, with anchor, Brock Bergey. I should have known by the 4:50 a.m. start time (with live reporting at 5:00 a.m.) that there would be little time for instruction. Talk about a steep learning curve! I brought numerous artifacts and photos along, as well as the intrepid, previously mentioned Mary. With little time to cope, and Ben the cameraman busy with the three cameras and their attendant cords, Mary helped with the microphone. I anticipated that the three three-minute segments would actually be three three-minute segments, and had prepared erudite and pithy questions and answers to fill in that voluminous time. But in “news time,” that’s actually one-and-a-half minutes for Brock and weatherwoman Michelle Riell, with Nancy Sinatra go-go boots, to engage with me, and one-and-a-half minutes for me to show two of the twelve photos to Michelle instead of to the camera. By the second segment, after the national news, weather, and local birthday contest to guess how many inches of snow we’d received the week before, I had figured out the nuances of camera work, interview posture and dismissal of the carefully crafted script. By the third segment I was ready to call Oprah and offer to be the resident historical librarian whenever Dr. Phil was on vacation.

The deglamourization part: The small set with its duct tape, wiring, old TVs, and jerry-rigged equipment, looked like the Borg spaceship on Captain Picard’s Star Trek voyage. Green Room? Evian Water? Freshly brewed coffee? Not so much — though Mary and I did treat ourselves to the lumberjack breakfast at Denny’s at 7:00 a.m. Lesson learned: Take every opportunity to get you and your institution “out there.” One of the construction crew on a university project saw me the following Monday: “Hey, I saw you on the TV this weekend. I didn’t know the anatomy labs used to be in the Science Hall attic! You were just like the History Channel!” High praise for any Curator.

**Couldn’t Have Done it Without You**

My presidency ends this April. Give a warm welcome to Lisa Mix, who will be a fine addition to our officer slate. I will be mentoring her, for whatever it is worth, along the way. I have been involved with ALHHS as either Secretary/Treasurer or Local Arrangements Chair (twice — is there some sort of award for that!??) or President for a bit of time. Short of being the Hilary Swank of ALHHS, and forgetting to thank the various
Chad Lowes in my life, I will say upfront — thanks to all who helped. Still, a few people should be singled out, as they made my job much easier. Pat Gallagher, muse, friend, she corralled and made effective my Bohemian approach to organization. Chris Lyons, last year’s Local Arrangements Chair. Elaine Challacombe, Jodi Koste, Russell Johnson, Katharine Donahue, Brooke Fox, Arlene Shaner, Lilla Vekerdy, Eric Luft, Stephen Greenberg, and Lucretia McClure. Most especially, perhaps, Joan Echtenkamp Klein, who, in 2001, said, “Micaela, wanna run for Secretary, there’s really not much to it.” Yeah, right ...

Yours, Micaela
Micaela Sullivan-Fowler
President, ALHHS

ALHHS 2008 Program and Schedule

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 9 - Thursday, April 10, 2008
Hyatt Regency Rochester
125 East Main Street, Rochester NY 14604
phone 585-546-1234 fax 585-546-6777
Web site <rochester.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

Wednesday, April 9
4:00-6:00 p.m. Steering Committee meeting, Hyatt Wilmorite Room.
6:30 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency prior to boarding bus to go to the Country Club of Rochester, 2935 East Avenue, for dinner.
7:00-7:45 p.m. Open bar, Living Room, Country Club of Rochester.
7:45-9:30 p.m. Dinner, Library, Country Club of Rochester.
9:30 p.m. Bus returns to the Hyatt Regency.

Thursday, April 10
8:00-8:45 a.m. Continental breakfast and registration, Hyatt Grand Ballroom ABC.
8:45-9:00 a.m. Welcome and introductions: Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, ALHHS President.
9:00-11:45 a.m. ALHHS Program: “Blame It on the History Channel: Sharing Our Resources with Varied Audiences.”

9:00-9:25 a.m. “ars sine scientia nihil est,” Cynthia Kahn, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, George Washington University <mlbcrk@gwumc.edu>.

The Latin phrase, *ars sine scientia nihil est*, translates to “art without knowledge is nothing.” The phrase is attributed to Jean Mignot, a fourteenth-century French architect. Mignot believed theory and practice could not be separated. To wit, the art (*ars*) of any profession — whether it be architecture or medicine — cannot be practiced without basing decisions on science (*scientia*). In short, learning the art of medicine in conjunction with the history of medicine creates something special — a true understanding of the profession and its knowledge base. This paper explores the latest endeavors at the George Washington University to bring history of medicine to students and faculty in the medicine, public health, and history fields. The history of medicine curriculum at George Washington University expanded dramatically in 2007. The university has hired a group of new faculty members with backgrounds in this discipline to buttress existing history of medicine activities, including a student interest group, and the overall curriculum. In Fall 2007, a core group was invited to discuss future activities, such as the growth of the medical historical collection at GW, the creation of a Web presence for medical history, the establishment of field trips to historical Washington venues for medical students, the formation of a public lecture series and courses as well as the exploration of research directions and interests. New faculty offer history of medicine courses in several disciplines — medicine, public health, and history. Thus, the science of the profession is being disseminated throughout the university, among the faculty and students, and also in the library collections.

9:25-9:50 a.m. “Reaching Out to the Inside: Bringing History to Employees,” Barbara J. Niss, Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library, Mount Sinai Medical Center <barbara.niss@mssm.edu>.

The Mount Sinai Archives serves the community of the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. In-house users constitute by far the largest component of patrons. Reaching out to Mount Sinai faculty and staff serves to: (1) heighten the visibility of the Archives to senior leadership and shows concrete return for their continuing investment in the Archives; (2) educate employees about our history, hopefully making them feel more connected to the institution; and (3) make potential users aware of the Archives and its collections. The Archives has developed an active colla-
boration with our internal Department of Training and Education, the division of Human Resources that is responsible for new employee orientation, ongoing education programs, and employee recognition events. They also facilitate the institution-wide performance improvement initiative called the BEST initiative: (Building Excellence for Success Together). I will speak about the various ways in which the Archives supports the Training Department and show images and video from various events. In particular, working with Training and Education on the annual employee recognition events has increased the visibility of the Archives and has gotten the Archivist out of the stacks and into the Medical Center community. Over the past four years of working with this program, historical images and information have been brought to literally thousands of Mount Sinai employees as they celebrate milestone anniversaries at the institution ranging from ten to fifty years of employment. Also, the Archives has provided information for a scavenger hunt that was used during orientation to help familiarize new employees with the large campus, as well as Mount Sinai “fun facts” for another orientation program. These activities have in turn led to a number of reference questions, as people now know whom to ask.

9:50-10:15 a.m. “Creating a Hub: The Scholarship Outreach Efforts of the OSU Medical Heritage Center,” Judith A. Weiner, Medical Heritage Center, The Ohio State University <judith.wiener@osumc.edu>. The Ohio State University Medical Heritage Center was founded in 1997 with the mission to promote, preserve, and collect the rich health sciences history of central Ohio. Under the mission of promoting this heritage, the center has identified and designed programs to cultivate scholarship efforts among a wide variety of once-scattered constituencies. In this presentation, the Head Curator of the Ohio State University Medical Heritage Center will discuss the efforts of the institution to bring together individuals engaged or interested in the history of the health sciences scholarship with the goals of increasing collection awareness and use, creating center-sponsored publications, and making the center an established area hub for health sciences history information and activity. Reaching this wide variety of individuals, such as academics, writers, amateur historians, students, and history interest groups, these programs are meeting and even far exceeding the expectations of their conveners. This presentation will specifically focus on the center’s scholar-in-resid-
the collections and their diversity; (2) provide an opportunity for visitors to experience “real” historical material; (3) potentially spark a new interest for visitors in, for example, the history of medicine, social history, art techniques, conservation, etc; and (4) inspire visitors to value the Library and collections and act as advocates— but not necessarily register as readers.

11:10-11:20 a.m. Combined discussion of Wheeler and Simpson papers.

11:20-11:45 a.m. “Search, Sort and Zoom! Improved Access for Images from the History of Medicine,” Laura Hartman, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine <laurah@mail.nlm.nih.gov>.

The History of Medicine Division of NLM has selected a new public interface for its Images from the History of Medicine (IHM) database and would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate its new features to the members of ALHHS. The new IHM is expected to debut in March 2008. All 69,000+ records in the current IHM database are presently being converted to Luna’s Insight software, which will provide much greater functionality for searching and display of images. In the current IHM database, researchers can only search for images via keyword, but in the new database, they will also be able to search every field in the cataloging record using actual record text selected via dropdown windows. Retrieval sets will show thumbnail images, which may be easily sorted by any field in the cataloging record at the user’s request. Thumbnail images may be enlarged and viewed through a zoom browser tool that enables the viewer to see the tiniest image details, including picture captions. All these new features will greatly enhance image research in the history of medicine.

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Business meeting and box lunch.

1:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency prior to boarding bus.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Tour of the International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House, (900 East Avenue <www.eastmanhouse.org/>). We will divide into two groups that will alternate between a 50-minute docent-led tour of the Eastman House and a 50-minute tour of the Photo Collection with David Wooters, Archivist.

3:00 p.m. Bus returns to the Hyatt Regency.
The ASA, of which the WLM is an affiliated foundation, also has many publications that would be of interest to medical libraries and medical historians, some of which may be read online or downloaded at no charge <www2.asahq.org/publications/).

As a cultural and heritage-oriented institution dedicated to anesthesiology, the WLM sponsors several programs consistent with its mission. A few of these programs are briefly described here.

The John W. Pender Living History of Anesthesiology Collection is an oral history program featuring interviews with pioneers in the field who experienced and contributed to the history of their specialty. For more information, visit <www.woodlibrarymuseum.org/livinghistory.aspx>. To see a list of the interviews, visit <www.woodlibrarymuseum.org/livingHistoryList.aspx>.

The Paul M. Wood Fellowship in the History of Anesthesiology provides recipients with financial support for up to three weeks of scholarly and historical research at the WLM pertaining to the specialty of anesthesiology. Applications are invited from anesthesiologists, residents in training in anesthesiology, physicians in other disciplines, historians, graduate students of the history of medicine, and other individuals with an interest in the history of anesthesia or library and museum research. For further information, contact Patrick Sim <p.sim@asahq.org at the Wood Library-Museum>.

The Laureate of the History of Anesthesia is an international program initiated by the late Dr. Nicholas M. Greene to identify and elect the best scholar in the history of anesthesia every four years to promote the study of anesthesia history.

The annual Lewis H. Wright Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the WLM and presented by a distinguished medical historian at the ASA annual meeting. Its namesake, Dr. Wright, was a pioneer in American anesthesiology who worked to enhance the stature of anesthesiology as a clinical science and as an advanced medical specialty. A founding member of the Board of Trustees of the WLM, he later served as its President-Emeritus. In 1975 the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists endowed this history lectureship to honor Dr. Wright, who died in 1974.

The WLM acquires, preserves, and makes available archives related to the history and practice of anesthesiology, as well as the organizational records of the ASA. Among the collection are letters, photographs, manuscripts, membership lists, minutes, organization records, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, newsletters, legal documents, ephemera, and other items relevant to anesthesia.

Finding aids to some of the archival collections have been added to the Web site through encoded archival description (EAD). These finding aids may be found at <www.WoodLibraryMuseum.org/FindingAids.aspx>.

Outreach activities include reaching out to area schools, hotels, visitors bureaus, and the local medical community. The WLM was recently represented at the Chicago Archives Fair and the Chicago Area Medical Archivists History Symposium.

With the growth of the ASA’s staff and membership, and the increasing interest in anesthesia and the practice of anesthesiology, the WLM is a busy, dynamic, and vibrant place to be.

Four treasures from the WLM: Above: an early text on acupuncture in Chinese-Japanese literature, with
Japanese students were dispatched to China on learning missions, which included the popular transcription of Chinese medical classics into Japanese. These rare volumes include important fourteenth-century treatises in which text in traditional Chinese style calligraphy was transcribed in black ink by hand on volumes of stitch-bound rice paper. Two such in this tradition were recently acquired by the WLM. Both written in 1341 by the prominent Chinese physician Hua Shou, these volumes are hand-transcribed from the Chinese text by Japanese scholar physicians. They are titled *shih ssu ching fa hui (The Elucidation of the Fourteen Acu-Tracts)* and *do ren hsing chen ku ji nan sho (Transcribed Guides to Acupuncture on a Bronze Figure)* and represent the earliest Chinese-Japanese work on acupuncture in the WLM. For more information, see the article, “Acupuncture from East to West: Chinese Medicine and Therapeutics: Early Texts Represented in the WLM Collection,” by Lydia A. Conlay, M.D., Ph.D. (Vice-President, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology Board of Trustees), and Patrick Sim, M.L.S. (Paul M. Wood Distinguished Librarian), which appeared in the *ASA Newsletter*, 71, 9 (September 2007).

Left: A 1944 first edition copy of the mystery, *Green for Danger*, about the criminal application of anesthesia as a theme adopted in popular culture. This book was later made into a film starring British actor Alastair Sim (Scrooge).

The WLM has several editions of the *Green for Danger* book, as well as a DVD of the film. Above is a later paperback edition:
Below: Stovaine Ampoules, ca. 1910: a cardboard box containing ampoules with the anesthetic Stovaine, manufactured by Poulenc Freres in Paris, France.

Ernest Fourneau produced a local anesthetic initially marketed to the English-speaking world as “Fourneau-caine.” Embarrassment over confusion with the word “fornicate” soon forced a new marketing strategy. The proprietary name of the new synthetic local anesthetic was changed to Stovaine. (His name, “Fourneau,” is the French word for “stove.”)

Visits to the Archives are arranged by appointment.

The Library staff includes Patrick Sim, Paul M. Wood Distinguished Librarian (Wood Library-Museum Director); Karen Bieterman, Librarian; Caitlin O’Connor, Assistant Librarian; and Margie Jenkins, Library Assistant.

The Museum is run by Judy Robins, Collections Supervisor, and George S. Bause, M.D., Honorary Curator.

Felicia A. Reilly, Archivist, and Judy Robins handle the Archives.

Felicia A. Reilly, Archivist
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Lloyd Library and Museum Launches New Initiative: Historical Research Center for the Natural Health Movement

On Saturday, March 1, 2008, the Lloyd Library and Museum kicked off a new endeavor in its long tradition of collecting, maintaining, preserving, and making accessible historic and current books and journals, as well as archival materials, on a wide variety of disciplines that fall under the subjects of natural history, botany, pharmacy, and medicine — an endeavor critically needed to balance and enhance the documentation of medicinal botany — the creation of the Historical Research Center for the Natural Health Movement. This initiative positions the Lloyd to become the central repository for the archives and personal papers of those involved in both scientific and grassroots efforts to bring natural health into the mainstream.

The March 1st event featured speakers Rosemary Gladstar, herbalist, author, and instructor, presenting “A History of Late Twentieth-Century Herbal Pioneers”; A. Douglas Kinghorn, Jack L. Beal Professor and Chair in Natural Products Chemistry and Pharmacognosy,
College of Pharmacy, the Ohio State University, presenting “The Development of Pharmacognosy in the Twentieth-Century United States”; Mark Blumenthal, founder and Executive Director, American Botanical Council, presenting “The Importance of Documenting the History of the Natural Health Movement”; and Anna K. Heran, Archivist, Lloyd Library and Museum, presenting “A Case in Point: The Varro “Tip” Tyler Papers.” Other activities included the formal opening of Tip Tyler’s papers for research, an exhibit from the Tyler papers, Lynn Carden’s art exhibit, “It Began at the Lloyd: An Artist’s Journey,” and a catered reception.

The Lloyd Library is prepared and equipped to offer its facilities and services to house, maintain, preserve, organize, and make accessible in one location this crucial body of knowledge for the scholars of today and tomorrow who will be investigating the natural health movement. Not only does the library have a professional archivist on staff with more than ten years experience, but it is also in the process of developing a space plan to accommodate new archival collections. New collections will be added to the library’s existing archival collections, covering names and institutions in the fields of pharmacognosy, herbalism, chemistry, and pharmacy. They will join already existing collections such as those of John Uri Lloyd; Lloyd Brothers, Pharmacists, Inc.; Varro E. Tyler; George Hocking; Alex Berman; Stephen Buhner; Susun Weed; Clarence Meyer (author of Herbalist Almanac); the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati; John Milton Scudder; and Robert F. Raffauf; among many others.

The Lloyd’s new initiative is significant in that currently there is no other known institutional endeavor to collect such materials as widely as the Lloyd will with the establishment of this research center. The Lloyd is seeking cooperation from all participants in the natural health movement to help establish a centralized location for studying the ongoing development of medicinal botany and other alternative healing practices. This center will assist researchers by reducing the amount of travel needed to complete their studies, as well as providing an indispensable contextual environment complete with a vast collection of current and historical works, both published and unpublished.

In addition, the library is the optimal site for this project because, in many respects, the Lloyd already is the “Historical Research Center for the Natural Health Movement.” An increased effort to add archival collections to its many other significant resources will enhance its goal of comprehensive documentation in the fields of naturopathic healing and alternative medicine.

This project continues and honors the legacy of founder John Uri Lloyd, who was relentless in his investigation and advocacy of medicinal botany. He and his brothers not only built the library, but also provided for its future, because they understood the critical need to acquire historic and current resources and preserve them for posterity. The establishment of this research center underscores their commitment and embodies their belief that the past is the path to the future. For more information, please visit <www.lloydlibrary.org>.

The Lloyd is also pleased to report that it has received significant gifts from the estate of George Rieveschl, Jr. In September 2007, the Lloyd lost Rieveschl, a beloved friend, donor, and board member. He passed away at age 91. He developed the first prescription antihistamine, Benadryl, while working at the University of Cincinnati as a researcher and professor of chemical engineering. After he left teaching, he became senior vice president at Parke-Davis. In 1970, he returned to
the University of Cincinnati as vice president of research. In 1977, he was elected to the Lloyd Library Board of Directors, and held that position until his death.

Early in 2008, the Lloyd received over $230,000 to establish the George Rieveschl, Jr., Book Fund. It was his last gift over a period of forty years of service and gift giving to the library. In 2004, he agreed to donate his papers and books to the Lloyd and began preparing small portions of his collections for pickup throughout the intervening years. The library was still working with him to obtain the remainder of the materials when he passed away. The process is now continuing with the assistance of his widow, Ellen Rieveschl. When the entire collection is in the library, we will widely publicize the news, make it a priority for processing, and open the Rieveschl Historical Collection to the many researchers who are interested in his life, his work, and his significant scientific contributions. Recently, Ellen Rieveschl donated the desk, chair, and lamp that he used in his office, and will add an exhibit case for his books, awards, photographs, and other memorabilia. These items will be placed in a special section of the Lloyd reading room, designated the George Rieveschl, Jr., Research Center, as a visible acknowledgment of his many generous donations of time, funding, and research materials to the library.

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Japanese Woodblock Collection
Online at UCSF

The University of California - San Francisco Library and Center for Knowledge Management is pleased to announce a new Web site featuring the Japanese Woodblock Print Collection: <asian.library.ucsf.edu/>.

“Hashika Yōjōben” = “Advice on Caring for Measles Patients” (1862), by Yoshitora Utagawa (fl. 1850-1870)

The UCSF Japanese Woodblock Print Collection has drawn interest from scholars of Asian medicine, the history of medicine, and Japanese art, as well as current health care practitioners. Consisting of approximately 400 prints, it is the largest collection in the United States of woodblock prints related to health and an important component of the library’s East Asian Collection.

The prints offer a visual account of Japanese medical knowledge in the late Edo and Meiji periods. The majority of the prints date from the mid- to late nineteenth
century, when Japan was opening to the West after almost 250 years of self-imposed isolation.

Visitors to the Web site may search for prints by keyword or artist, view prints by theme, or read essays about five themes in the collection: Contagious Disease, Drug Advertisements, Foreigners, Religion and Health, and Women’s Health.

Funding for the digitization of the UCSF Japanese Woodblock Print Collection was provided by the California Digital Library (CDL). Images of the prints can also be accessed through the CDL Web sites Calisphere and the Online Archive of California.

For those of you who attended my presentation at the 2007 ALHHS meeting in Montréal, this Web site is the end product of the project I described.

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“Reflections on Health in Society and Culture” at the University of Virginia

“Reflections on Health in Society and Culture” is the new exhibit series at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia. A joint project of the Moore Library and the School of Medicine, it examines the interweaving of social and cultural themes in our understanding of health, illness, and ourselves.

“Reflections” consists of four exhibits in 2007-2008 and more in coming years. These exhibits, displayed in the lobby of the Moore Library, present art, essays, and cultural objects on topics in the social and cultural history of health and illness. The Library Web portal <hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/> includes expanded essays on the display topics, useful Web links, recommended readings, and handouts of the exhibits’ essays.

The first four “Reflections” exhibits are “Watery Grave: Drowning and Resuscitation,” “Too Close for Comfort: Corsets, Fashion, and Health,” “Coming Clean: Hand Washing and Public Health,” and “Screening: Screens and Public Health.” Bookmark the site and visit often! For further information on the “Reflections” exhibit series, please contact Joan Echtenkamp Klein: <jre@virginia.edu>.

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“Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics” Online at Harvard

On January 31, 2008, Harvard’s Open Collections Program (OCP) launched its third online collection, “Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics.” This new, Web-accessible collection is online at <ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion>.

Created with support from Arcadia, the new “Contagion” collection brings carefully selected historical materials from Harvard’s renowned libraries, special collections, and archives to Internet users everywhere. The collection, which includes more than 500,000 pages of digitized books, serials, pamphlets, incunabula, and manuscripts, contributes to understanding the global, social history, and public policy implications of disease and offers important historical perspectives.
on the science and the public policy of epidemiology today.

In developing “Contagion,” Harvard’s Open Collections Program has been guided by a distinguished committee of Harvard faculty members: Allan Brandt, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine and Professor of the History of Science in the Harvard Medical School; Katharine Park, Samuel Zemurray Jr. and Doris Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor of the History of Science in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Charles Rosenberg, Professor of the History of Science and Ernest E. Monrad Professor in the Social Sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Barbara Gutman Rosenkrantz, Professor of the History of Science Emeritus in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Rosenberg describes “Contagion” as “a wonderfully accessible and invaluable tool for the scholar or student at any level. It demonstrates not only that we need to think about disease and its history, but that we can think with it — about society and its values, about government, and about changing ideas. It was an honor to have been associated with this innovative project.”

Harvard libraries, special collections, and archives contributing to the “Contagion” collection include:
Baker Library, Knowledge and Library Services — Harvard Business School.
Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine — Harvard Medical School.
Government Documents / Microforms Collections / Social Sciences Program — Harvard College Library.
Harvard Law School Library
Harvard Map Collection, Social Sciences Program — Harvard College Library.
Harvard University Archives — Harvard University Library.
Harvard-Yenching Library — Harvard College Library.
Houghton Library — Harvard College Library.
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America — Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

For more information about “Contagion,” please visit <hul.harvard.edu/news/2008_0204.html>.

Images Searchable Online at NLM

The History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce that as of December 17, 2007, catalog records from the Prints and Photographs Collection “Images from the History of Medicine” database <wwwihm.nlm.nih.gov/> are searchable in NLM’s online catalog <locatorplus.gov> or <locatorplusv2.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Crystal Smith, Reference Librarian
History of Medicine Division
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Web site <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd>

Book Reviews


Todd Savitt, the acknowledged dean of the study of the history of African American medicine and health care, has crafted a marvelous new tome covering many aspects of this specific area of the history of medicine. Drawing on his long scholarly career and his many previous publications, he has woven a masterful work which is by far the best single volume addressing African American health care issues from the colonial era into the early years of the twentieth century. He has divided his text into four complimentary sections.

The initial group of essays covers the diseases and health conditions that confronted African Americans
from the days of slavery through the first description of sickle cell anemia in 1910. These articles are heavily based on research that Savitt published in two of his most significant books, *Medicine and Slavery: The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia*, and *Disease and Distinctiveness in the American South*, the latter co-edited with James Harvey Young. Savitt addresses such key health concerns of the African American community as the high infant mortality rate among slave infants, elephantiasis in the United States, and why sickle cell anemia should be viewed as the invisible disease among the African American population.

The next section contains chapters looking at the provision of medical care by both the white community and within the slave population. The author addresses the highly charged topic of the use of slaves in human experimentation, taking a very realistic approach to the work of James Marion Sims. The last two chapters in this grouping address the concerns over slave life insurance and the efforts of the Georgia Freedman’s Bureau to provide medical care and education to the newly freed black community.

The third set of essays reprint and update several of Savitt’s articles on African American medical education, from the late nineteenth century into the 1920s. He describes the creation, rise, and failure of all but two of the black medical schools founded in the south, either by northern evangelical religious groups or as profit-making proprietary medical institutions. The reader is introduced to such long forgotten black medical schools as those affiliated with Lincoln University, Straight University, and Shaw University. Savitt is particularly disappointed over the failure of the Leonard Medical School, which, like the other failed black medical schools, could not afford to keep up with the rapidly growing costs of improving the quality of medical education in the early twentieth century.

The most significant chapter in this section covers the impact of the 1910 Flexner Report on the status of American and Canadian medical schools, establishing standards that only two black medical schools could meet. Savitt is rather harsh towards Flexner, wishing he had supported more than two black medical institutions. Yet the reality that Flexner strongly supported saving Meharry Medical College and the Howard University Medical Department shows he was not against black medical schools as a concept and that he was enforcing his vision of top quality medical education across the board at all American and Canadian medical schools.

The final section examines the challenges faced by the newly trained African American physicians in trying to establish and maintain their medical practices. These new doctors faced many daunting challenges. They had to establish some type of relationship with the already established white physicians in their communities. They had to convince their mostly black patients that they could deliver just as good medical care as their white counterparts. They had to face severe financial situations, including the inability to get loans to start their practices, as well as difficulties encountered in trying to collect their charges from such a poor population base.
Throughout this volume the reader encounters a series of fascinating individuals who fought for good medical education, health care, and professional integrity for the newly freed African American populace. Henry M. Tupper at Shaw and Charles F. Meserve at Leonard were outstanding medical educators who did their best to save their institutions, despite what proved to be overwhelming financial obstacles that would lead to their ultimate closure. Miles Vandahurst Lynk, the idealistic founder of the Medical and Surgical Observer, the first African American medical journal in the United States, championed the professional needs of African American physicians for high quality continuing medical education and the opportunity to publish their research and clinical findings in the medical journal literature. Alonzo C. McClenan pioneered both a medical journal and a hospital for the black community in Charleston, South Carolina, and tried to break down the growing racist views of the black medical community that were gaining strength throughout the early twentieth-century south.

This volume will be a cornerstone for anyone trying to understand the complexities of American medical history. While there is some redundancy among some of the chapters, including the use of one quote several times and the repetition of previously introduced facts, the clarity of Savitt’s vision and his overall mastery of the history of African American health issues makes this volume an instant classic in this field of study.

Jonathon Erlen, Ph.D.
History of Medicine Librarian
Health Sciences Library System
University of Pittsburgh

Mary K. LeClair, Justin D. White, Susan Keeter.

The aim of this book seems to be to present appealing views of groundbreaking American women physicians to a young audience and thus to encourage more women to become physicians — a worthy goal. Yet it is a battle which by 2008 has largely been won, as slightly over 50 per cent of first-year students in American medical schools are now women. Within the next few decades this “pipeline” will ensure that the ranks of medical professors and administrators, where women still are fewer than men, will approach 50/50 gender balance. Much of this achievement had its genesis in the work of these three amazing women: Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910), the world’s first woman to earn a legitimate M.D. at an accredited medical school by completing the usual course of study; Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919), the first woman surgeon in America; and Sarah Loguen Fraser (1850-1933), America’s first black woman physician to earn her M.D. from an accredited, allopathic, coeducational, mixed race medical school.

Such a book, celebrating as it does the lives of three such venerable subjects, should have been a uniformly high quality presentation. Sadly, this is not the case. Each of the three authors was responsible for one of the three doctors. They apparently did not consult each other during the research and writing process. Their levels of competence vary widely, as do the quality and tone of their contributions. The strong, unifying hand of an editor is lacking. That the book is written at a high school level is not the problem — indeed, this fact is to its credit, given its intended readers. The
problem is its unevenness. This could easily have been remedied by editorial guidance and by appointing a different author to write about Blackwell.

Mary LeClair’s essay, “Elizabeth Blackwell: In the Fullest Sense of the Word a Pioneer,” is a “puff piece,” given to hyperbole and sentiment. It contains no notes and only four (rather obvious) titles in its bibliography. The less said about it, the better.

Justin White is the Town Historian of Oswego, New York, Walker’s birthplace and chosen residence. His essay, “Dr. Mary Walker: ‘A Missionary Spirit,’” is professional and scholarly. He has carefully mustered the facts and has presented them clearly, logically, and sometimes even eloquently. His bibliography is helpful and his 85 notes are to the point and accurate. But again, editorial influence is wanting. White’s sentence, “Mary would flaunt tradition” (p. 50), should have been “Mary would flout tradition.” That is an easy and forgivable mistake for an author to make — almost like a typographical error — but any decent editor would have caught it.

The gem of the collection is Susan Keeter’s essay, “‘All the Heaven I Want’: The Life of Dr. Sarah Loguen Fraser.” Ever since Keeter first learned of Fraser in 1998, she has been fascinated by every aspect of her life and has worked hard to advance our knowledge and appreciation of her. She has adopted Fraser almost to the extent of a cause célèbre — and she is very good at it. She promotes Fraser’s legacy not only with fervor, but also with skill, intelligence, and just the right degree of restraint. Her work is solidly founded on Fraser’s daughter Gregoria Fraser Goins’s book-length typescript biography of her mother, “Miss Doc,” and other primary documents from the Goins Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. She has identified, tracked down, and interviewed Loguen family descendants. Her bibliography is comprehensive for the current state of Sarah Loguen Fraser scholarship.

The book is marred by physical and formatting inconsistencies that make it seem more like a patchwork than a unified anthology. Some examples: The bibliography for Fraser is set in a different style and a smaller type height than the other two bibliographies. The “About the Authors” section is set in all boldface — which is quite annoying to the eyes. The rubric “(Continued)” appears at the bottom of a page where continuation is obvious. Some of the illustrations are reproduced well, but others are tiny, fuzzy, faint, or somehow else inadequate, and should have been either cleaned up or left out. Such errors make the book look amateurish.

I feel particularly interested in this anthology for many reasons: All three of these important historical figures have close ties to Central New York State, where I live. Two of the three graduated from the medical school where I was the history of medicine librarian for nineteen years; the other was from the next county and got her medical degree just down the road. While I was at Upstate Medical University, I helped many researchers with their work on them, including Keeter with Fraser and Julia Boyd with her definitive biography of Blackwell.1 I even published several articles about them myself, including the entries on each of them in The Encyclopedia of New York State (Syracuse University Press, 2005) and the first scholarly work on Fraser.2 So, given my background, the only honest judgment that I can pass on this book is that it should have been more consistent.

Eric v.d. Luft, Ph.D., M.L.S.
Curator of Historical Collections Emeritus
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David Wootton has an impressively long list of publications on political theory and philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche, with extended stops in the neighborhood of John Locke and the Federalists. In this book, he has chosen a new field of inquiry: the history of medicine in the West from Hippocrates to contemporary times. The result is a sour little book that leads one to wonder why he bothered. His subtitle alone sums up everything he has to say.

It is neither a secret nor a surprise that early medical theory and practice were capable of some truly bizarre health care. But blaming researchers for knowing or discovering less than Wootton thinks they might have done is anachronistic and more than a little unfair. A case in point is Wootton’s handling of James Lind’s role in the conquest of scurvy. He takes Lind to task for not being consistent in his approach to his own findings — but Lind, after all, did not know why his cure worked! Lind knew that diet played a role, but vitamins would not be discovered for another century, and it seems rather harsh to blame an eighteenth-century naval surgeon for not being a twentieth-century biochemist. Likewise, Ambroise Paré cannot be blamed for not being Michael DeBakey any more than Newton can be blamed for not being Einstein. As Newton himself famously said, we see farther because we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Wootton clearly does not like doctors very much (although he casually mentions that his daughter is one), and he is not too fond of historians of medicine either. He writes, “Historians of medicine are a diverse group, with widely differing views, but in general they no longer write about progress, and so they no longer seek to distinguish good medicine from bad” (p. 2). “Progress” is indeed a loaded word, and all but the most whiggish historians (in many fields) give it a very wide berth, but it is also obvious that Wootton does not read or even guess at all the new articles and books received by my institution alone! The reason for Wootton’s confusion is that he wants the history of medicine to be primarily the history of medical technology, and that is simply not the case. If contemporary historians of medicine are currently interested in the social aspects of their field, say, the history of the delivery of health care with its great disparities, they are interested as well in the history of the fights again AIDS, Ebola, bird flu, West Nile, SARS, etc. Wootton’s chapter on Richard Doll, Austin Bradford Hill, and the link between smoking and lung cancer breaks less new ground than Wootton would have us believe, but it also demonstrates that medical understanding is not the only factor that affects public health policy. After all, there are still some doctors who smoke.

Another unhappy feature of this book is that it contains neither notes nor references. There is a brief “Further Readings” essay of modern secondary sources, but beyond that the reader is referred to a Web site <www.badmedicine.co.uk>. At this time, the site is live but the reference materials have yet to be added. Assuming that they will be added someday, one still must wonder at the permanence of such arrangements.

Yet one cannot quite dismiss all of Wootton’s arguments out of hand. How medical technology developed as it did is always a fascinating tale, although Wootton’s tone of impatience quickly becomes irritating. Wootton is certainly correct that the history of medical science is most baldly measured by “Death Deferred.” It is certainly possible in a limited way to gauge the progress of medical science by noting what diseases will kill us and which no longer present a threat (although many still die from things that “should not” kill them, for all sorts of political and social reasons). In the end, Wootton’s view is too narrow and jaundiced to be of much use to the scholar.

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

ALHHS Workshop at AAHM

A luncheon workshop on Saturday, April 12, at the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Annual Meeting in Rochester, New York, features members of ALHHS. The description for the workshop, “Twenty-First-Century History of Medicine Resources ‘Out There’: Three Perspectives from Archivists and Librarians,” reads: “The advent and acceptance of the Web changed many things, including a number of the resources used to teach or research the history of medicine. In some cases, the teachers of medical history are now learning from their students what resources are available electronically. This program will offer perspectives from three geographically diverse archivists and librarians, working at three flagship institutions, about what is ‘out there’ in terms of researching medical history topics. Joan Echtenkamp Klein, University of Virginia, will chair the session.”

Russell Johnson, UCLA, speaks on “People Who Need People: Social Networking Through Professional Society Web Sites.” One of the most important roles of a professional scholarly society is to identify, bring together, and promote experts. This talk looks at the gap between social networking Internet resources offered by professional historical societies vs. popular and individual uses of tools such as blogs, Facebook, search strategies, and so forth. UCLA hosts the Web site of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN). Using the old-fashioned ISHN gateway as an example, discussion will consider what services should be added to help members find relevant news about similarly-interested people and help nonmembers connect with historical subject experts.

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, University of Wisconsin, Madison, presents “Historical Research Needn’t Be So Daunting: Converting a Traditional Handout into an Appealing Online Tool.” Students and faculty in the History of Medicine and Bioethics Department at UW-Madison provided the impetus for making our historical resources workshop handout into a Web-based entity. Working with our information architect, we produced a resource guide and database portal that has proven to be very useful to our diversely capable patrons.

Paul Theerman, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, offers “Making Sense of Many Things: NLM’s Resources for Teaching the History of Medicine.” The National Library of Medicine’s resources for research in the history of medicine are widely known — so recent efforts have gone into showcasing teaching resources. Over the last five years we have mounted an online archive of syllabi in the history of medicine, supported teachers to identify materials for classroom use, and promoted our biomedical documentary project, Profiles in Science, as a teaching tool. New efforts on the horizon focus on our image collections, and on making our wide range of materials easier to access and to use.

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“Book Catalogues, Tomorrow and Beyond” at the Grolier Club

The Grolier Club and the Bibliographical Society of America presented “Book Catalogues, Tomorrow and Beyond,” a one-day conference on catalogues and their uses, on January 22, 2008, at the Grolier Club, New York City.

The conference was in part a follow-up to the 1995 BSA conference, “Book Catalogues, Today and Tomorrow,” which discussed traditional printed book catalogues and their scholarly uses. The 2008 conference
also addressed the dual impact in the past decade of the Web and digitization capabilities on provenance and other research using book catalogues. The morning session was devoted to reports on projects, digitally grounded or otherwise, connected with traditional collections of printed catalogues. The remainder of the day explored the gap that has developed since 1995 between the millions of books bought and sold solely on the Web, and the dearth of information about those transactions, and the implications of that information gap for future provenance and other research in the history of the book.

Speakers included:
- William P. Barlow, Jr., on the private collecting of book catalogues.
- Giles Mandelbrote, British Library, on his revision of Pollard and Ehrman.
- Christian Coppens, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, on his “Census of Printers’ and Booksellers’ Catalogues to 1600.”
- Lawrence J. Schoenberg, on his database of manuscript sales.
- Deborah Kempe, Frick Art Reference Library, on the SCIPIO auction catalogue database.
- Maria Hutchison, ABEbooks.com, on ABE’s database of book sale transactions.
- David Szewczyk, ABAA, on “Dealer Catalogues: Dead, Dying, or Thriving?”
- G. Thomas Tanselle delivered concluding remarks.

On October 16, 2007, in the UCLA Faculty Center, Jacqueline Wolf, Ph.D., Professor of Social Medicine, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, spoke on “Powder and Lipstick Were On Just So: The Ideal Woman, Perceptions of Labor Pain and the Use of Obstetric Anesthesia.” She was introduced by Mary Terrall, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, UCLA.

In the 1970s the lay press celebrated natural childbirth as invigorating and transforming. Today attitudes are starkly different: Newspapers and magazines ridicule natural childbirth as “an extreme sport” and urge women to opt for an epidural. How do medical and social approaches to labor change so radically in one generation? Wolf examined the history of medical and social views of labor pain and corresponding changes in the use of obstetric anesthesia and linked those changes to broad contemporary social concerns and the cultural perception of women.

“‘The Architecture of Healing,’” an international conference at the David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, celebrated the opening of the new Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center on November 16-17, 2007. The conference Web site is <aohucla.wordpress.com>.

On Friday morning, November 16, Gene D. Block, Ph.D., Chancellor, UCLA, welcomed the session on “The Origins of the Hospital.” The two papers were: “Early Christian Hospitals: Caring and Curing” by Pe-
regrine Horden, Ph.D., Professor of Medieval History, Royal Holloway College, University of London; and “Bimarstan, the Islamic Hospital: Innovation and Tradition” by Peter E. Pormann, Ph.D., Wellcome Trust Lecturer, Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of Warwick. Claudia Rapp, Ph.D., Professor of History, UCLA, provided commentary.

That Friday afternoon, Gerald S. Levey, M.D., Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, welcomed the second session, “The Commitment to Care v. the Commitment to Knowledge.” The three papers were: “Principles and Methods of Clinical Research” by Ted J. Kaptchuk, O.M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard University; “How Technology has Shaped Clinical Research at the Bedside” by Joel Howell, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of History, Internal Medicine, and Health Services Management and Policy, and Director of the Program in Society and Medicine, University of Michigan; and “The Patient in Clinical Research: Revisiting the Barney Clark Case” by Barron Lerner, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University. Commentary was by Marcia L. Meldrum, Ph.D., Researcher, Departments of History, Pediatrics and Neurobiology, UCLA.

On Saturday morning, November 17, Gary E. Strong, M.L.S., University Librarian, UCLA, welcomed the final session, “From Hospice to Health Center.” The two papers were: “An Illustrated History of Hospital Architecture: From Hospice to Health Center” by Axel Karenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Institute for History and Ethics of Medicine, University of Köln; and “Convergence of Art, Science, and Technology: The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center,” by James B. Atkinson, M.D., Chief, Pediatric Surgery, UCLA. Katharine E.S. Donahue, M.L.S., Head, History and Special Collections, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, offered commentary.

The primary sponsor for this conference was the Department of Neurobiology, Geffen School of Medicine, with special thanks to Professor Marie-Françoise Chesselet, Chair. Further special thanks to the Southern California Colloquium in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology and Professor Margaret Jacob. Additional support came from these units at UCLA: History and Special Collections, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library; David Geffen School of Medicine; School of Nursing; School of Public Health; Department of History; and Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences. The program chairs were Dora B. Weiner, Marcia L. Meldrum and Katharine E.S. Donahue.

On February 5, 2008, in the UCLA Faculty Center, Marjorie Perlman Lorch, Ph.D., Reader in Brain and Language, Birkbeck College, University of London, presented “Contested Wills: The Medico-Legal Aspects of Acquired Language Disorders in Victorian England.” The discussant was William M. McGovern, LL.B., Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA. This event was co-sponsored by UCLA Programs in Medical Humanities and the UCLA Neuroscience History Archives.

In the second half of the nineteenth century several areas of theoretical development and evolving practice converged in the civil court cases of contested wills. The determination of “being of sound mind” required by law was challenged at this time by new clinical distinctions between intelligence and understanding, language and thought, speech and expression in people with neurological diseases. The emerging diagnostic categories of aphasia and dementia were being developed in the newly created fields of neurology and psychiatry. At the same time jurisprudence was developing in the newly founded probate courts, formed to deal with the large volume of cases regarding will-making. Physicians were called upon as expert witnesses with increasing frequency to aid in the determination of testamentary capacity. The development of ideas on language and thought in Victorian England is revealed in the medical and judicial opinions recorded in court reports on the ability of people with language and memory disorders to make wills.


UCLA Programs in Medical Classics is a series of free presentations designed to enhance an appreciation of the links among famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. Several times a year these meetings bring together a convivial group of individuals of scholarly tastes — both from the community and from UCLA faculty, students, and staff — for a lecture and an opportunity to discuss and examine texts and topics that embody the
History of advances in medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings. See <www.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/medicalclassics.html>.

**History of Biomedicine Event at NIH**


Dr. Robert S. Ledley, founder of the National Biomedical Research Foundation (NBRF) and Professor of Radiology, Physiology, and Biophysics at the Georgetown University Medical Center, held a conversation with Dr. Joseph November, Assistant Professor in the University of South Carolina Department of History and the current DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Memorial Fellow. They discussed Ledley’s remarkable career as a biomedical computing pioneer and the consequences of his decades-long effort to harness computer technology to advance biology and medicine. An expert in mathematics, physics, electronic engineering, and dentistry, Ledley shared his unique insights into developments (often initiated by Ledley himself) in computing and biomedical research over the last fifty years.

Though he is best known for developing the first whole-body CT scanner in the 1970s, Ledley’s vision of computing has shaped many other areas of biomedicine since the 1950s. In the late 1940s, he simultaneously trained as a dentist at New York University and as a physicist at Columbia University. After working with some of the earliest digital electronic computers at the National Bureau of Standards in the early 1950s, he dedicated his career to using computers to solve problems in biology. In addition to developing computers that automated chromosome analysis, medical diagnosis, and medical image processing, Ledley and his collaborators at the NBRF created the Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure and the Protein Information Resource, thereby helping to lay the groundwork for GenBank.

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**Talk at the New York Academy of Medicine on the Archimedes Codex**

The Friends of the Rare Book Room at the New York Academy of Medicine presented the Annual Friends of
the Rare Book Room Lecture on January 22, 2008, “The Strange Case of the Archimedes Codex” by William Noel of the Walters Art Museum. This talk explored an astonishing manuscript: a thirteenth-century prayer book whose handwritten text was known to conceal unique texts of two treatises by Archimedes. This is a story of the survival of ancient texts against all odds and their retrieval by high-tech means.

The Archimedes Palimpsest is a medieval parchment manuscript containing 174 folios that exists now as a prayer book that was completed by April of 1229, almost certainly in Constantinople. To make the prayer book, the scribes used parchment that had already been used for writing other books. Most importantly, they used a book containing seven treatises by Archimedes, several of which no longer exist in any other form. The palimpsest contains the only surviving copy of On Floating Bodies in Greek, the language in which Archimedes wrote, and the only copies of The Method of Mechanical Theorems, and a portion of the Stomachion. Other texts that were used to create the prayer book are also unique, and several of them have yet to be identified.

The hidden texts are slowly being preserved by conservators, revealed by imaging scientists, and read by scholars. Sophisticated multispectral digital imaging techniques have been used to enhance the underlying text to make it appear so that scholars can see and work on it.

Dr. William Noel (shown above right examining a fragment of the Archimedes Codex with Stanford Linear Accelerator Center physicist Uwe Bergmann) is the Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, a position he has held since 1997. He has also been the Director of Studies in the History of Art at Downing College, Cambridge University, and the Assistant Curator of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. His most recent book, The Archimedes Codex (2007), co-authored with Reviel Netz, tells the amazing story of the high-tech imaging that rescued Archimedes’s words. He is also the author of The Oxford Bible Pictures (2004), which concerns a series of English miniatures from the thirteenth century in the Walters collections, and The Harley Psalter (1995), an in-depth investigation into the making of an illustrated eleventh century psalter.

For more information about New York Academy of Medicine events, you may contact Arlene Shaner in the Malloch Rare Book Room, <ashaner@nyam.org> or 212-822-7313, or visit <www.nyam.org/events>. 
Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference: “Children, Disability, and Community Care from 1850 to the Present Day”

A multi-disciplinary conference sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) was held October 24-25, 2007, at Sketty Hall, Swansea.

Community care has become an increasingly important topic for social policy and historical research. While recent work has stressed the diversity of experience, the variety of different groups involved, the long antecedents of the policy, and its contested meanings, there is arguably still too much emphasis on the closure of long-stay mental health and learning disability facilities. This conference sought to:

- Locate services for children within debates about institutional and community care (framed by the adult experience) over a much longer time-frame.
- Extend analysis to a range of physical and sensory disabilities alongside, and in comparison to, provision for children with mental health problems and/or learning difficulties.
- Contrast evolving institutional and community-based services for children with disabilities with statutory and voluntary sector provision for children in care because of family breakdown and/or childhood delinquency.
- Re-examine and integrate the now extensive literature on infanticide, child abuse, and “mercy” killings, in relation to childhood disability issues.
- Evaluate midwifery and obstetric services, including the development of pre-natal screening and special care for premature babies.
- Assess the role the medical profession played in the diagnosis of childhood disability and the control of specialist services. Here special attention was paid to the relationship between knowledge and practice.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between knowledge and practice for nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists.
- Emphasize the role community-based services play in leading people into, as well as out of, residential care.
- Draw together ideas about children in need to link efforts to maximize the opportunities available to children disadvantaged by poverty and/or disability, through an evaluation of the SureStart scheme.
- Acknowledge the contribution of the voluntary sector and self-help initiatives.

Involve researchers and practitioners from a range of disciplines.
Develop an international dimension to this research by inviting participants from abroad.
Develop opportunities for the publication of selected conference papers.

Since SSHM’s inaugural meeting in 1970, its membership has consisted of those interested in a variety of disciplines, including history, public health, demography, anthropology, sociology, social administration and health economics. Membership benefits include subscription to the journal, *Social History of Medicine*, and *The Gazette*, which contains information about professional events, reduced registration fees at SSHM conferences, 30 per cent off titles in SSHM’s Routledge series, 25 per cent off titles in Ashgate’s series, “History of Medicine in Context,” as well as discounts on selected books from Manchester University Press. Details on how to join the Society and information about further membership benefits can be found at <www.sshm.org/> or are available from Lutz Sauerteig, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University, Queen’s Campus, Wolfson Research Institute, University Boulevard, Stockton on Tees TS17 6BH, United Kingdom.

Further details about this conference can be found at the University of Exeter Centre for Medical History Web site: <www.centres.ex.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/children/index.shtml>.
Miscellanea

New History of Medicine Series Announced

Pickering and Chatto is pleased to announce the launch of a new monograph series in collaboration with the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM). This series, Studies for the Society of the Social History of Medicine: Medicine, Society and Culture, is the successor to the society’s Studies in the Social History of Medicine series, published by Routledge. Dr. David Cantor, Deputy Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) History Office, will edit the collections of essays, while Dr. Ornella Moscucci of the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London (UCL), takes responsibility for the authored monographs.

Pickering and Chatto is a leading academic press with a reputation for publishing first-rate scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. Mark Pollard, Publishing Director, says, “We are delighted to be working with the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Since their foundation in 1970, they have pioneered an interdisciplinary approach to the histories of health, welfare, medical science, and practice. We’re pleased to join this tradition and anticipate that some really exciting and original scholarship will come out of the collaboration.” Dr. Flurin Condrau, Chair of the SSHM Executive Committee, is similarly enthusiastic: “We are pleased to join forces with a scholarly publisher like Pickering and Chatto. Together we plan to produce a high-quality series serving our members and the wider academic community.” Proposals are welcome from SSHM members and non-members alike. Full information on the series and how to submit a proposal can be found at: <www.pickeringchatto.com/sshm>.

Quiz Question

Which two of the following are real medical conditions?

A. Fox syndrome  
B. Mix syndrome  
C. Luft syndrome  
D. Sullivan-Fowler syndrome  
E. Greenberg syndrome

(Answer below on page 27.)

A Few Words from the Editor

One of my wisest teachers was fond of saying, “The future does not exist to be known.” He was quite correct. Woe to any of us who try to predict it.

I sincerely believed that as soon as I retired as Curator of Historical Collections at Upstate Medical University in August 2006 all sorts of time would open up for me to do the projects dear to my heart — including The Watermark. But nothing like that happened. What actually happened was that these projects soon filled up my calendar to such an extent that I could not do justice to any of them. Almost immediately I became busier in “retirement” than I had been when I was “working.” In a word, I was, and remain, overwhelmed.

Many of you probably know that librarianship was my second career and the history of medicine was my third. My true and original calling was to be a philosopher. All my degrees except my M.L.S. are in philosophy or religion. I lost my enthusiasm for librarianship several years ago; and — to my surprise — even my interest in the history of medicine seems to be dwindling. “You can’t go home again,” as Thomas Wolfe well knew, yet I want to spend my last years, not as I spent my middle age, but as I spent my youth: reading and writing philosophy, being a political activist, trying to build an ethical world, and pretending to be a poet. That is where my heart is. Also, I want to increase my total of peer-reviewed articles and to grow my little business, Gegensatz Press <www.gegensatzpress.com>. That all takes time.

You all know that I have had trouble keeping up with the quarterly schedule of The Watermark. That is not because editing The Watermark is either difficult or time-consuming. It is because I am just swamped by a host of other demands, some equally important, some more important, and even a few less important. Editing The Watermark is easy and it does not take much time. Maybe 60 or 70 hours per issue. But that is more time than I have available.

I intend to resign as Editor of The Watermark as soon as the Steering Committee can find someone to succeed me. Until then I will try to keep it going.

But I can’t be a secret kid anymore ...

Cheers!
New Librarian / Archivist at UCLA

Cherry Dunham Williams has been appointed as the Special Collections Librarian for the Sciences and the William Sweet Papers Archivist in the History and Special Collections Division of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library at UCLA.

Cherry has been working part-time as a project archivist on the William Sweet Archives in the Biomedical Library since July 2005. She also worked part-time as Associate Director for Special Projects in the Department of Information Studies of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA from October 2005 to November 2007. Her experience includes Research Assistant at the Getty Research Institute from November 2003 to June 2005 and Rare Books Assistant at the University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center from September 2002 to August 2003. She completed internships in the History and Special Collections Division of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library from August 2004 to June 2005 and in the Manuscripts Department of the Art Collections and Botanical Gardens of the Huntington Library from September to December 2004. Her professional experience includes volunteer service and fundraising positions with the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library as well as service on its Board of Trustees and Foundation Board in Sheridan, Wyoming. She holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Colorado and completed work toward a Bachelor of Arts in art history at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. She earned a Master of Arts in the humanities with a concentration in Art History from the University of Chicago and Master of Library and Information Science from UCLA. She is a member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries and its Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the American Association for the History of Medicine, Archivists and Librarians in the History of Health Sciences, the Bibliographic Society of America, Book Collectors of Southern California, Los Angeles Preservation Network (LAPNet) and its Steering Committee, the Society of American Archivists, and the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP).

The Sweet Collection was a gift to UCLA from his widow, Elizabeth Dutton Sweet. She also donated $100,000 to enable UCLA to process the collection. It will be approximately 250 linear feet when finished. William H. Sweet, M.D., D.Sc. (1910-2001) was professor of neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and served most of his career at the Massachusetts General Hospital, culminating in his tenure as Chief of the Neurosurgical Service from 1961 to 1977. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Pain Society during its formative years and was a founding member of the International Association for the Study of Pain. Sweet’s best-known contributions to neurosurgery were the development of proton beam and neutron capture therapy for the treatment of brain tumors and the establishment of one of the first brain imaging laboratories. He pioneered the development of invasive treatments of trigeminal neuralgia and the use of cordotomy for the treatment of intractable pain. His work in the 1950s laid the foundation for the development of the neurostimulators used today to treat severe pain.

Cherry is also coordinating the process of UCLA’s move to establish an interdisciplinary Special Collections Division for the Sciences, which will include not only all the life sciences but also the physical sciences. She writes, “It’s obviously a very exciting position!”

Parascandola Edits New History of Medicine Book Series

John Parascandola posted the following to ALHHS-L:

“I am writing to inform list members about a relatively new series of history of medicine books (“Healing Society: Disease, Medicine, and History”) from Praeger Press, which I am editing. We are seeking authors for potential books for the series. The books are meant to be written by knowledgeable scholars based on research in the primary and secondary literature, but should be broader in approach and scope than typical academic press books. The books will be fully documented, but are intended to be accessible to more general readers, and will hopefully find a place in public as well as academic libraries.

“The series has just gotten under way, with one book on the history of public health in print and another on the history of multiple sclerosis in production. I will be turning in the manuscript soon for my own book on the history of syphilis in America for publication in the series in 2008. Other works are in the pipeline.
“If you want to see what Praeger has published (over 3000 titles in history), you can go to their Web site: <www.greenwood.com/praeger.aspx>. If you point the cursor to “Search by…” at the top of the page, you can elect to search by topic (e.g., history) or series (e.g., “Healing Society”).

“If you have any questions, or would like further information about the series or how to submit a proposal, please contact me by e-mail: <jparascandola@verizon.net>.”

Time to Update the NLM Directory!

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) is in the process of updating its Directory of History of Medicine Collections for the new 2008 print edition. This is among the most useful tools on the desk of any history of medicine librarian.

You should have received an e-mail from Crystal Smith at NLM, requesting updates and/or changes to your Directory entry. Please feel free to contact her if you have not received this e-mail. Also, if you are currently not in the directory, but would like to be included, please e-mail her and she will send you the information on how to add your collection to the Directory.

Some of you may already know that the NLM has changed the Directory’s publication frequency from every year to every two years, biennially. NLM accepts changes throughout the year to the online Directory as they occur, but those changes will not reflect in the printed Directory until it reaches the biennial cycle. Publication should be by the end of March 2008.

The directory is also available online at: <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/directory/index.html>.

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Financial Aid to Study at the Wellcome

M.A. Studentships in the History of Medicine are available from the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London.

The Centre is the world’s largest research institute devoted to the study of the history of medicine. It invites applications from prospective M.A. students with a good honours degree for one year commencing September 2008. The Centre anticipates being able to offer three studentships at approximately £19,500 plus the payment of home fees. Applications to study full or part time without a scholarship are also welcome. The deadline for application is May 15, 2008. Interviews will be held in June. For further details, please see <tinyurl.com/3axcnb> or <www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/teaching/MA/index.html>. For information and application forms, contact Adam Wilkinson at <ucgaawi@ucl.ac.uk>.

Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine Research Fellowships, 2008-2009

The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine (FHWIM) <www.fhwim.org> is pleased to offer two fellowships to support research related to the history of women in medicine at the Countway Library’s Center for the History of Medicine (CHM) at Harvard Medical School and its Archives for Women in Medicine (AWM) <www.countway.harvard.edu/rarebooks/awm.shtml>.

FHWIM was founded in 1998 in the belief that knowing the past is a powerful force to shape the future. It has established strong partnerships with like-minded organizations to deliver viable programs such as the oral history project, research fellowships, student scholarships, and an annual recognition award.

AWM is a project of CHM and the Joint Committee on the Status of Women. AWM’s goal is to recognize outstanding medical leaders and to document the social phenomena that have brought large numbers of women to the forefront of medicine. It acquires, processes, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes the papers of women physicians, researchers, and medical administrators.
FHWIM Fellowships are offered for research related to the history of women in medicine. FHWIM provides two $2000 grants to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009. In return, the Foundation requests a one-page report, a copy of the final product, and permission to post information about each Fellow on its Web site. Preference is given to projects that deal specifically with women physicians or other health workers or medical scientists, but proposals dealing with the history of women’s health issues may also be considered. Fellowship proposals should demonstrate that the Countway has resources central to the research topic.

Applicants should submit a proposal (no more than two pages) outlining the research project, length of residence, historical materials to be used, and a project budget, along with a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendations by March 1, 2008. The decision should be made by April 1, 2008.

For more information please contact:

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Answer to Quiz Question: C and E. Steve and I are the real sickos.
A. Fox syndrome — This is over-reliance on “fair and balanced” news. Also, a band at Beloit College, the Cougars, has a song called “Toxic Fox Syndrome”: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=47PSodg7hE8>.
B. Mix syndrome — This is a term from the recording industry, having to do with a remix sounding like a remix instead of natural music.
C. Luft syndrome — Hypermetabolism caused by abnormal mitochondria rather than thyroid problems.
D. Sullivan-Fowler syndrome — Are you kidding?
E. Greenberg syndrome — A type of skeletal dysplasia, also known as hydrops-ectopic calcification, in which bone has a moth-eaten appearance.
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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: Brooke Fox, University Archivist, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), 175 Ashley Avenue, P.O. Box 250403, Charleston, SC 29425. <foxeb@musc.edu> or <cbf2@musc.edu>. Phone: 834-792-6477.

Submissions for the ALHHS Web site <www.alhhs.org> 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 951798, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798. <kdonahue@library.ucla.edu>. Phone: 310-825-6940. Fax: 310-825-0465.