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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S MESSAGE	4
FROM THE PRESIDENT	5
FEATURE ARTICLES	7
The Sloane Printed Books Project: Re-Creating the Library of Sir Hans Sloane	7
Good News from Canada	10
Writing for the Encyclopedia of Pestilence, Pandemics, and Plagues	11
PROFILE: THE DITTRICK MEDICAL HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUM	13
COLLECTIONS	16
Psychotherapy and Biochemical Papers Open to Research at Wellcome Library	16
American College of Surgeons Archives Digital Collections	19
College of Physicians & Surgeons Civil War Veterans List now Online	21
NEWS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE	22
Publications	22
Exhibitions	22
A Year of Darwin Activities at NLM	23
Modern Manuscripts Finding Aids: New Search Engine	24
Retirement of Philip Teigen, Ph.D.	24
Release of Victor McKusick Papers in Profiles in Science	25
Upcoming Lectures	25
EVENTS	26
Lectures	26
The Making of Medical Education: 3 Critical Historical Events	26
BOOK REVIEWS	28
Snow, Stephanie J., Operations without Pain: The Practice and Science of Anaesthesia in Victorian Britain (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)	28
More, Ellen S.; Fee, Elizabeth; Parry, Manon, Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008)	30
Meinesz, Alexandre (Daniel Simberloff, trans.), How Life Began: Evolution's Three Geneses (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2008)	32
MISCELLANEA	34
Website Review: Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine and The Public Health Museum	34
ADVERTISERS	36

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Submissions for the Watermark:



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 Chris Lyons, as e-mail attachments. Visuals should be submitted as jpegs with a resolution of 100 dpi if possible. Copyright clearance for content and visuals are the responsibility of the author.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Canadians have a reputation for being polite. This stereotype was played for laughs in that classic northern film, *Strange Brew*, which starred Rick Moranis and Dave Thomas as Bob and Doug McKenzie, two hosers that appeared regularly on the comedy show SCTV in the 1980s. In one scene the bad guys are shown pushing through the crowded streets of Toronto. As the pedestrians are getting tossed out of the way, they unanimously apologise.

Far be it for me to buck national characteristics! I am therefore going to mind my manners by thanking all of you for two things. First, thanks for accepting the new format and medium of *The Watermark*. Change is always risky, especially with something popular like *The Watermark*, but the response to the first online issue has been reassuring to say the least. Second, thanks for responding so well to calls for submissions. For the second issue in a row I received more material than I could fit in, and that's after blowing the rule about the newsletter not exceeding twenty pages. Please don't let that discourage you from submitting a piece though! There's always another issue. Like the last issue, I am excited by the quality and variety of the articles. We are doing exciting and important things with our collections or through other activities like lecturing or writing, which are inspiring and important for us to know about. The News from the National Library of Medicine column is back. I'm also glad to say that our international scope is increasing, with two articles from England and one from Canada. The profile of the Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum, also featured on our cover, is timely for those of us lucky enough to get to Cleveland for the Annual Meeting. Please feel free to share your work and thoughts with your colleagues by submitting an article in the future. Special thanks have to go to the production team of this issue, including Stephen Novak, Head of Archives and Special Collections of the Columbia University Health Sciences Library in New York who has volunteered as a co-editor. Now all we need is a person with layout skills!

Speaking of Cleveland, I look forward to getting a chance to get together and get more feedback about *The Watermark*, both formally at the meeting and informally. We also need to decide if we are going to make this newsletter open access. For those of you

who aren't going, I plan on getting as much content as I can about the meeting into our next issue. Please keep that in mind those of you who are presenting or giving reports.

As for *Strange Brew*, good manners dictate that I not say anything about what I thought of it as a film.

Good day, eh!

Chris Lyons

Assistant History of Medicine Librarian
Osler Library of the History of Medicine
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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm looking forward to seeing many of you very soon at the Annual Meeting in Cleveland. Thanks again to Jennifer Nieves for her superb job with local arrangements and to Patricia Gallagher and the Program Committee for putting together an excellent program.

On a serious note....

I realize that the vast majority of members will not be in Cleveland, with many forgoing the trip due to the current economic situation. Academic institutions and other libraries are all feeling the pinch and travel budgets are often the first thing to be cut.

But professional development funds are just the beginning, and relatively innocuous as budget cuts go. Larger budget reductions at our employing institutions can have deeper effects on our lives and our collections, as well as long-term effects on scholarship.

Recently I was asked to serve on an AAHM ad hoc committee formed in response to some of those effects. Chaired by Charles Rosenberg, the Committee on the Future of Medical History Libraries will address concerns such as lost research opportunities when staff positions at historical libraries are cut and medical historical collections are “dispersed”. Other ALHHS members serving on the Committee include Christine Ruggere, Michael North, Edward Atwater, and John Parascandola. You can read more about the Committee’s mission in Bruce Fye’s President’s Message in the latest *AAHM Newsletter*. If you have any issues you’d like the Committee to consider, or wish to share your perspective, please contact me or one of the other Committee members.

Comings and goings...and lots of gratitude

For many of us, Spring is a time of transition, and so it is for ALHHS. Several Officers’ terms will end at the close of the Annual Meeting, and new Officers will begin. Many thanks to the ALHHS Nominating Committee: Joan Echtenkamp-Klein (Chair); Cynthia Kahn; and Stephen Novak, for choosing a great slate of candidates and conducting an orderly election.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the outgoing Officers: Past-President Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, Secretary/Treasurer Brooke Fox, and Members-at-Large Judy Chelnick and K. Garth Huston. Thank you, Micaela, for mentoring me in my Presidential duties, for always being there for me as a sounding board and to give wise counsel, and for taking on the huge task of revising the ALHHS Procedures Manual (which will make ALHHS Officers’ jobs easier in future). Thanks to Brooke for performing the many thankless tasks that go with being Secretary-Treasurer. Thanks to outgoing Steering Committee members Judy Chelnick and K. Garth Huston for their contributions to the discussion of several weighty issues this past year.

Thank you to continuing Steering Committee members Chris Lyons, who also took on the task of editing *The Watermark*, and Howard Rootenberg who has provided a fresh perspective on ALHHS discussions. I’m pleased to continue to work with both of you throughout the final year of my Presidency.

Please join me in welcoming the new crop of ALHHS Officers whose terms begin at the close of the Annual Meeting: Vice President (and President-elect) Stephen Greenberg, Secretary-Treasurer Arlene Shaner, and Members-at-Large Jack Eckert and Dawn McInnis. I look forward to working with all of you.

Happy Spring, one and all!

Lisa A. Mix

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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

FEATURE ARTICLES

The Sloane Printed Books Project: Re-Creating the Library of Sir Hans Sloane



Born in Ireland in 1660, Sir Hans Sloane moved to London in 1679, and trained as a physician both in London and in France, receiving a doctorate from the University of Orange in 1683. He received many honours and was elected to many scientific societies, most notably as Fellow of the Royal Society in 1685, its second Secretary in 1693 and President in 1727, which office he held until the age of eighty-one, in 1741. He died in

January 1753 at his home in Chelsea.

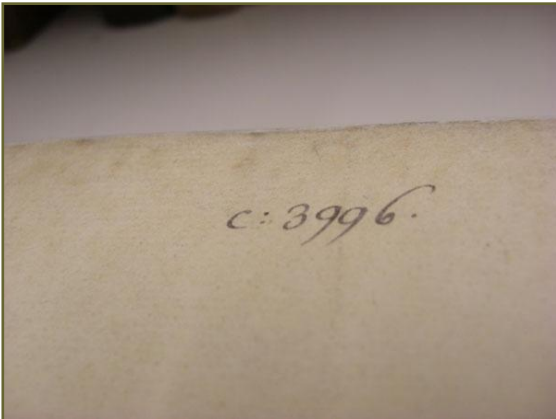
Sloane started collecting books when he was about 20 years old, and continued until his death in 1753 at the age of 92. At his death, when his collections became the foundation of the British Museum, he had an estimated 40,000 printed volumes. This was one of the largest libraries in Europe of its time, and particularly significant for its holdings of medical and scientific material.

Yet Arundell Esdaile writes in 1946 in his history of the British Museum library "There is little that can be said about the library of Sir Hans Sloane, which formed the groundwork and for half a century and more the bulk of the Department's collection. The books have been mixed up with the later acquisitions which formed the Old Library, i.e. up to the middle of the nineteenth century, by the successive shelf arrangements. Sloane's

manuscript pressmarks by which they can be identified have only recently been traced. Nor is there a printed catalogue; but there is an incomplete one in manuscript. The number of volumes was at the time of the foundation (of the Museum) stated at 50,000 volumes; there were really 40,000. There is no doubt that quantities of so-called duplicates were sold from among them in the sales up to 1805. Sloane collected, as might be guessed, medical and scientific, and especially botanical literature, both practically and historically, and was especially rich in the publications of continental academies. But he threw his net wider, and was in fact omnivorous. So far as is known, the Museum owes to Sloane few if any of its rare monuments of literature or typography; but it does owe to him a very solid foundation of a great library of universal scope." This is a reasonably sound assessment of what was known of Sloane's printed collections in 1946. The reference to the recent tracing of Sloane's manuscript pressmarks is to an article by Jeremiah Finch "Sir Hans Sloane's printed books," in *The Library* (vol. 22, 4th series, June 1941).

It seems odd that the significance of the alphanumeric marks which are the primary form of identification should not have been fully recognised for so long, though this may be attributed to the apparent absence of a catalogue of his books. At the time of writing, indeed, only part of the manuscript catalogue of Sloane's library had been found, though most of it has since been located. We now know that Sloane books were being sold as late as 1831, and one could quarrel with the perception that Sloane's library had no rare monuments of literature or typography- what about the incunabula, the exquisite illustrated botanical works? - but his description reflected the knowledge of Sloane's library at the time. However, the main point to be corrected is his view that there is little to say about Sloane's library- there is a very great deal. However, the sheer size of Sloane's library has been a barrier to its perception as a whole, and its dispersal both within the British Library and by the duplicate sales has meant that the identification of individual items has been largely serendipitous.

The Sloane Printed Books Project is putting together a tool which will help tell the story of Sloane's library, and create a resource for the historian, whether the historian of libraries, of medicine or of intellectual history. The Wellcome Trust Research Resources in Medical History programme has funded this project to progress the identification of Sloane's books both in the British Library and elsewhere. Details can be found at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/prbooks/sloaneprintedbooksproject/sloaneprinted.html> and the catalogue at <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/sloane/Home.aspx>



In the great majority of cases the catalogue uses BL bibliographical records, to which are added Sloane's number (if present) or his acquisition code, and any other identifying inscriptions. Previous owners are noted, which provides significant historical evidence for knowledge transfer and embedded collections. Marks of use, such as annotations and underscoring, are recorded, since they help us to understand how knowledge, especially medical knowledge, was used and understood. Sadly, many books which almost certainly belonged to Sloane have now lost the evidence of his ownership, through rebinding and general wear and tear. Such items are entered in the catalogue but marked as 'probably' from Sloane's library until further evidence emerges to confirm ownership.

Our purpose is not only to identify Sloane's books in the British Library but also to contact and/or visit libraries which may hold Sloane books disposed of by the British Museum as duplicates. As of January 2009, the catalogue contains records for over 16,000 items, held by 28 libraries. This is certainly only a fraction of the number of libraries which do hold Sloane books, and we would be very pleased to hear from librarians, particularly in North America, who may have items marked with British Museum duplicate sale stamps or with Sloane's own numbers. In general, these take the form of a letter and a running number, with lower case letters used for octavo and smaller books, and upper case for quarto and larger, though there are exceptions to this. Special categories have different sequences, such as Pr (for print) followed by a Roman numeral, used for books with engravings, and Min (for Miniature) on books with coloured illustrations. The online catalogue also gives examples of these numbers. If you think you may have a Sloane book, or need further information or clarification, please email alison.walker@bl.uk.

Alison Walker

Lead Researcher

The Sloane Printed Books Project

British Library

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

Good News from Canada

It is not only cold fronts and snow that move south from Canada and health historians and librarians may want to note that there are several Canadian projects that have added, or are in the process of adding, additional historical content or finding aids to the web.

Canadian Periodicals Project. The most ambitious project is certainly the digitisation of all Canadian periodicals, in all subjects, published prior to 1920 by Canadiana.org, which is associated with Canada's national library (Library and Archives Canada). Though many sections of their digital collection (Early Canadiana Online <http://www.canadiana.org/eco.php?doc=home>) are available only to subscribers, the Health and Medicine Collection is freely available and so far contains about 40 digitised journal titles from the nineteenth century. It is estimated that this is approximately 50 per cent of the final health content. For more information, see the article by David Crawford, "Canadian health and medical periodicals" in *The Bulletin* of Canadiana.org at http://canadiana.org/pdf/en/bulletin_200902.pdf.

There are also several, more local, digitisation projects such as the Alberta Medical History Collection, which offers access to a digitised collection of western Canadian journals and books (<http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/medhist>) and work by individual institutions such as the digitisation of the Ontario Medical Register by the University of Toronto (<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/62796>) and the Dalhousie University project which has digitized the *Medical Register of Nova Scotia* at <http://www.library.dal.ca/Kellogg/Digital/Collections/NSMedicalRegister>. Then there are several bibliographies and finding aids published by librarians associated with McGill's Osler Library of the History of Medicine in Montreal. Among those the most useful are probably:

Canadian Health Obituaries Index File. This online database has been available for several years; it grew out of a card index maintained by the Osler Library. During the project to move this to the web, additional Canadian journals published up to about 1920 and the full run of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* up to 2000 were systematically searched for obituaries or death notices. The file does not contain the actual obituary but projects such as those noted above and the availability of the full set of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* on PubMedCentral make finding the

original obituaries increasingly easy. Because of the fairly easy access to current e-journals this file is no longer being expanded. This is available at:

<http://osler.library.mcgill.ca/cfstand/>

Bibliography of Canadian health sciences periodicals 1826-1980. This file is an expansion and updates the printed *An annotated bibliography of Canadian medical periodicals, 1826-1975* which was prepared by Charles G. Roland and Paul Potter in 1979. The number of titles described has more than doubled (to about 700) and titles in dentistry, nursing, chiropractic and other health disciplines have been added. This bibliography was recently totally revised and reformatted and now includes links to freely available digitised content. It is available at:

<http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/bibliography/contents.htm>

List of e-journals in the history of the health sciences. This listing, which is not restricted to Canadian titles, provides an easily accessible and briefly annotated list of e-titles in the history of the health sciences. In addition to offering links to the individual titles, it also links to McGill University's catalogue so that full bibliographic information is displayed and identifies which titles are currently indexed for PubMed. It is available at

<http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/ejournals.htm>.

David S. Crawford

Emeritus Librarian

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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

Writing for the Encyclopedia of Pestilence, Pandemics, and Plagues

In early spring of 2007, I answered a call for contributors posted on the Caduceus listserv, seeking articles for a 2-volume reference work, *Encyclopedia of Pestilence, Pandemics, and Plagues*, edited by Joseph P. Byrne, Ph.D. As someone who has written over 150 book reviews, articles and essays, I am used to writing to deadlines and word limits, synthesizing material from a variety of sources, and find it a pleasant challenge to make a topic relatively understandable and ultimately enjoyable - - abilities which I felt would be helpful in fulfilling the requirements, as stated at <http://campus.belmont.edu/honors/EncyclopediaWebpage.html> that the articles be "solid, factual, useful, and engaging."

When confronted with the possible topics at hand, I chose to write 6 brief (500-word) articles, ensuring that I would be given my own copy of the *Encyclopedia*. The *Encyclopedia's* 270 entries were written by about 100 contributors, mostly North American or British medical or scientific professionals. Two of the advisory board members are librarians: Kathleen Donahue, from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Christopher Ryland, from Vanderbilt University. The *Encyclopedia* includes a handful of black and white images, most from the National Library of Medicine, as well as a glossary and 14-page bibliography, entries for which were submitted by its contributors.

Since the *Encyclopedia's* target audiences are high schools students and undergraduates, jargon or overly technical definitions had to be avoided. I found that the medical dictionary in MedlinePlus <http://medlineplus.gov> was particularly useful in helping define terms like "attenuated virus." Both PubMedCentral www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov and Harvard's Open Collection Program on contagion <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion/> were of great value, since another of the *Encyclopedia's* mandates - that all references be comprehensible and physically accessible - allowed for the inclusion of popular medical and scientific books and journal articles, and judiciously-chosen web sites.

It was particularly interesting to see the role that political intrigue played in the lives of some of these scientists. Sometimes it was difficult to identify who was really the "first" (or the "first successful") scientist to make a discovery. This was the case in the 1890's with one of Japan's first microbiologists, Shibasaburo Kitasato (1852-1931). Both he and Alexandre Yersin (1863-1943) were credited with the virtually simultaneous discovery of the bacterium that causes bubonic plague. They worked separately, against a backdrop of English-French colonial turmoil in Hong Kong, and met only once. Another scientist in the same time period whose name had been unknown to me was Waldemar Haffkine (1860-1930), whose life encompassed anti-Czarist revolutionary activity, studies with Elie Metchnikoff (1845-1916) and Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), and the development of vaccine for use in India's 1896 plague outbreak. Politics also played a role in the work of William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920), whose sanitation techniques rendered Cuba (under American control after the Spanish-American War of 1898) and Panama free of malaria and yellow fever. His work was instrumental in allowing for the completion of the Canal, after a French engineering company sold the unfinished project to the U.S.

Once known to me only as the name on a research building at Children's Hospital in Boston, John Franklin Enders (1897-1985) had been intent on a career in English literature until his roommate got him interested in science, and he ended up studying with Hans Zinsser (1878-1940) at Harvard. In his lab at Children's Hospital he discovered that the polio virus, once thought to grow only in nervous system tissue, would grow in many different types of human tissue, thus dramatically speeding up research. He refused to accept the Nobel unless his team members Drs. Thomas Weller (1915-2008) and Frederick Robbins (1916-2003) could share the honor equally with him. The team shared the 1954 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The plethora of material available on Antony van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723) presented its own difficulties. But I had not known that some biographers hypothesized that his training in the cloth trade, where he used microscopes to look for flaws, combined with a trip to England where he viewed Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/ttp/flash/hooke/hooke.html> may have led to his interest in science. "Microscope," my one non-biographic contribution, proved to be the most problematic to write. According to the *Encyclopedia's* instructions for authors, non-biographic articles were to be related to "epidemic disease and its history" and written either chronologically or thematically, without being a general history or summation. Luckily, my proximity to Boston Public Library enabled me to choose the most relevant texts to compose this article.

Martha E. Stone, M. S., AHIP

Coordinator for Reference Services

Treadwell Library Massachusetts General Hospital

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

PROFILE: THE DITTRICK MEDICAL HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUM

Situated within a university setting, the Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum is today thoroughly integrated into the intellectual life and learning experience of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). It hasn't always been so. Despite being located on a university campus since 1926, the Dittrick was originally part of a separate body, the Cleveland Medical Library Association (CMLA). The Dittrick originated in 1899 at the behest of the surgeon Dudley Peter Allen. A native of Oberlin, Ohio, and a graduate of

Harvard Medical School, Allen wrote on the medical heritage of the Western Reserve (the northeast corner of the Ohio deeded to Connecticut after the Revolution) as early as 1886. He developed a lifelong fascination with the history of medicine and instituted the Historical Committee (read: decorating committee) of the CMLA in 1899. Allen was an object or “thing” person, an inveterate collector. While writing about local medical



Howard Dittrick leading a museum tour, c. 1950

history, for example, he collected archives and instruments of early Ohio doctors that became the nascent beginnings of the museum. Allen and the anatomist Carl A. Hamann also bought rare books for the library, and indeed the very first book given to the library by Howard A. Kelly was a 1555 copy of Vesalius' *Fabrica*. Allen's personal collecting focused on 18th century French decorative arts, especially porcelain, and engravings and etchings, but he maintained a longstanding interest in the artwork and objects destined for the CMLA and, ultimately, the Dittrick. Allen and colleagues would periodically mount displays of rare books and antique objects in their library on Prospect Street in downtown Cleveland, but Allen's vision of a museum devoted to the medical past remained unfulfilled at the time of his death in 1915. His will left a substantial endowment to the CMLA for continued support of the library and historical collections.

President Thwing of Western Reserve University enticed the Cleveland Medical Library Association to move to new quarters after Allen's death. Western Reserve was expanding its University Circle campus at that time, and the CMLA's library was seen as a significant asset to those developments. Western Reserve provided the land at the corner of Euclid and Adelbert, just opposite Severance Hall, home to the Cleveland Orchestra. Allen's widow, Elizabeth Severance, funded the construction of the elegant library building to accommodate the CMLA collections and the Dittrick, which opened its doors in 1926. At the dedication of the library Harvey Cushing, a Cleveland, gave the opening address, *The Doctor and His Books*. Reflecting her husband's artifact collecting interests, Elizabeth Severance stipulated that the new building, the Allen Memorial

Medical Library, would feature a museum gallery on the third floor. The fledgling museum, then known as the Museum of Historical and Cultural Medicine, was thus started but lacked staffing and resources. Thankfully, Howard Dittrick agreed to become curator and spent the next three decades building up a distinguished museum that today



Howard Dittrick with museum artifacts, 1950

bears his name. Dittrick had come to Cleveland to study with gynecologist Hunter Robb after graduating from the University of Toronto. Dittrick chose to stay in Cleveland and became active in the CMLA. He curated the nascent museum and must be credited with building up the remarkable medical artifact collections, which today rank as the largest holdings of 19th and early 20th century American surgical instruments. Dittrick did so with almost no budget or staff; what began as an avocational endeavor became an all-consuming passion. Dittrick later commented to his wife that he didn't know how he'd ever managed to make a living (he did), because there were so many other wonderful and

interesting things to do! It wasn't always smooth sailing. At the end of his days, Dittrick witnessed the occupation of the museum gallery by the rare book collection of the Surgeon General's Library (originally a wartime expediency) beginning in 1943 and lasting past his death in 1954, and finally ending with the transfer of those collections in 1960 to the National Library of Medicine.

A few years after Dittrick's death Genevieve Miller became director and presided over the Dittrick becoming part of CWRU in 1966, when the CMLA affiliated with the university. Genevieve also taught medical history and is credited as the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in the history of medicine in America. Patsy Gerstner, a historian of science, followed Genevieve and implemented professional museum practices, and presided over a museum studies M.A. program through the CWRU History Department. Only in 1998 did the Dittrick become a department of the College of Arts and Sciences of CWRU and the baton passed from Patsy Gerstner to Jim Edmonson, a historian of technology with museum training who had joined the Dittrick in 1981.

In the past decade we have put our house in order by installing new exhibits throughout the Allen and Dittrick, which you will see when the American Association for the History of Medicine comes to the Allen for the Garrison Lecture. We have also renovated collection storage; freeing up space for a more ambitious educational program for the museum. Teaching and instruction at the Dittrick is conducted in collaboration with



The College of Arts and Sciences (CWRU) holds classes in the museum's Zverina Room

university faculty; their classes meet in the museum's Zverina Room and use museum resources in the form of artifacts, images, archives, and rare books. In addition to exhibition and education, we continue to make important additions to our rare books, artifacts, images, and archives. The most notable collections added recently include the Percy Skuy Collection on the History of Contraception and the M. Donald Blaufox Collection of Diagnostic Instruments. To showcase these and other collections we offer the Zverina Lecture each fall and the Handerson Lecture each spring. And like our peer institutions, the web has played a key role in bringing our collections to wider audiences, and we encourage you to pay a visit to our site (simply Google: Dittrick).

James M. Edmonson, Ph.D.

Chief Curator, Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum
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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

COLLECTIONS

Psychotherapy and Biochemical Papers Open to Research at Wellcome Library

The Wellcome Library is delighted to announce the completion of two recent cataloguing projects, covering the papers of S.H. Foulkes (PP/SHF) and those of the Biochemical Society (SA/BIO).

Siegmund Heinrich Foulkes, FRCPsych (1898-1976), was a psychoanalyst, a pioneer of group analytic psychotherapy and founder of the Group-Analytic Society (London).

Elizabeth Foulkes (née Marx) was his third wife and also a relative. She, too, was a co-founder of the Group-Analytic Society (London) and also deeply involved in group analytic psychotherapy. They were both German Jews who immigrated to England in the 1930s.

A collection of S.H. Foulkes' papers was made available in the Wellcome Library for the first time in 1994. These related chiefly to professional activities such as clinical practice, teaching and lecturing, writing and publication, and participation in societies and associations. The Group Analytic Society (GAS) was of course particularly well-represented, and the administrative papers of the Society were made available at the same time (SA/GAS). Largely absent from these first Foulkes papers was material of a personal nature. Now, following a bequest from Elizabeth Foulkes, a second tranche of Foulkes material has been catalogued and made available, doubling the size of the collection. Its focus is chiefly personal and it includes material such as photographs, correspondence, and family history. The latter, of course, includes harrowing material relating to the Holocaust: papers in which the Foulkes family set out to track which of their relatives left behind in continental Europe survived the war provide chilling mortality figures.

There is much cross-over between the Foulkes papers and those of the Group-Analytic Society. The Society (GAS) was established in 1952 by Foulkes, Elizabeth Marx, Dr. James Anthony, Dr. Patrick De Mare, W. H. R. Iliffe, Mrs. M. L. J. Abercrombie and Dr. Norbert Elias. Its objectives were to formalise the arrangements for co-operation and discussion which already existed between the founder members; to provide a focus for the teaching and training in group analysis that was being undertaken separately in various teaching hospitals; to stimulate research and publication; and to create a centre for scientific meetings and workshops.

SA/GAS documents the internal history of the organisation, and includes unsigned minutes and committee papers, details of scientific and training activities, financial and administrative papers, some correspondence, and a series of taped interviews about the early history of group analysis. In the course of cataloguing the additional Foulkes material, some further items relating to the GAS were found, and the catalogue to that collection has been expanded and reissued as a result. These two overlapping collections already contributed to the wealth of existing material the Wellcome Library holds on the understanding and treatment of mental illness; the additional material gives them a far wider scope and broadens their appeal to researchers in other fields.

Founded in 1911, the Biochemical Society (SA/BIO) acts to promote and disseminate biochemistry as an independent discipline within the UK and the Irish Republic, and to play a role, both nationally and internationally, in the development of the molecular life sciences. Since its beginnings in the early part of the 20th century, biochemistry has underpinned many advances in medicine. The Biochemical Society collection contains material that can be used to help give insight into the history of some of these advances including correspondence and audio visual interviews with figures such as Sir Rudolph Peters, Max Perutz, Cesar Milstein and the double Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Frederick Sanger.

The collection comprises administrative paperwork and correspondence with various individuals and external organisations; reports and consultative papers written by the society and others; details of conferences and symposia and nominees and recipients of awards and funding. There are also photographs, negatives and slides, publications and articles written by members of the society.

The highlight of the collection, however, are the laboratory notes of Dr Frederick Sanger's experiments on the sequencing of proteins, which earned him his first Nobel Prize in 1958; and on the sequencing of nucleic acids, for which he was awarded his second Nobel Prize in 1980.

To see the catalogues for the papers of Foulkes and the Group-Analytic Society, go to our Archives and Manuscripts online catalogue <http://archives.wellcome.ac.uk> and search for the references PP/SHF and SA/GAS respectively. Likewise for the Biochemical Society papers, search on our on-line catalogue for SA/BIO.

Queries concerning the collection should be addressed to arch+mss@wellcome.ac.uk

Ross MacFarlane

Content & Interpretation Officer
Wellcome Library

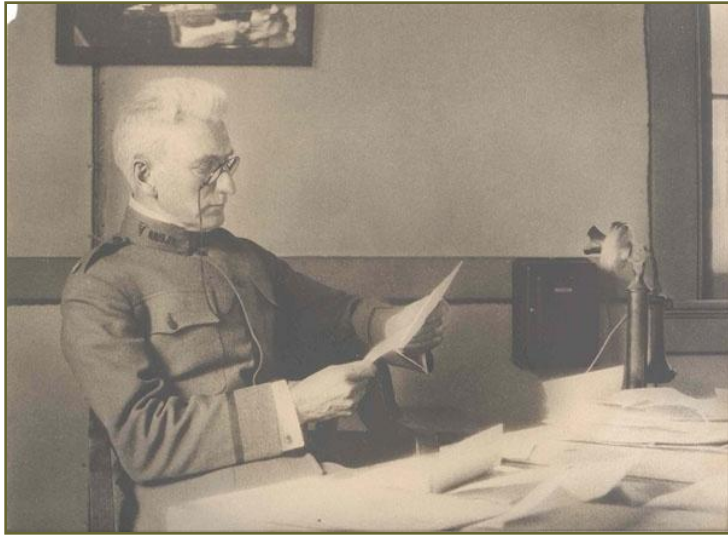
Dr Chris Hilton

Senior Archivist
Wellcome Library

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

American College of Surgeons Archives Digital Collections

The American College of Surgeons announces the launching of its first samples of digital collections. The link to the collections is available on the History and Archives page on



the ACS website www.facs.org/archives.

The materials selected for putting online are just a small sampling of the wealth of materials found in the archives. Historians of medicine should find much of interest on the site, and will get a feeling for the diverse types of materials that have been preserved and made accessible in the ACS

Archives. Among the material digitized is that relating to College founder Franklin H. Martin (1857-1935), who remains an understudied figure in the history of American medicine. He founded the journal *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics* in 1905, which became the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* in 1994; he initiated the Clinical Congresses of Surgeons of North America in 1910, the annual gatherings which have provided a venue for generations of surgeons to learn the latest surgical techniques, providing continuing medical education to thousands; and founded the College itself in 1913. He was appointed to the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense by President Woodrow Wilson, and served as Director of the General Medical Board of that body, representing medicine and surgery including general sanitation for this civilian branch of Wilson's war effort. Martin was a founder and for many years Director of the Gorgas Institute for Research in Tropical Medicine, based in Panama.

Martin and his wife Isabelle left 48 three-ring binders of their "Memoirs" dating from 1899 to 1935, which include typical scrapbook-type materials such as post cards, snapshots, records of social activities, programs of events attended and autographs of some of the notable medical men of the day with whom they socialized. In addition, the "Memoirs" include news clippings and programs of some of the ACS national and regional meetings

as well as frequent excerpts from the Martins' diaries. About ten of the binders are devoted to the War Years during which time Martin kept detailed diaries.

The year that the College was established, Franklin Martin hired a young woman named Eleanor K. Grimm to work as his secretary. Miss Grimm quickly became a collaborator with Martin during the first two decades of the College's existence, and after he died in 1935, she became a chief administrator of the College. After her retirement in 1951, when her position was divided into roughly another dozen positions, the ACS Board of Regents asked her to record her recollections of the history of the College. She began recording her memories orally onto a wire tape recorder and sent the recordings to the College for transcribing by typists there. In twenty-six volumes of typescript, liberally documented with tear sheets stapled in of the dozens of publications she cited, Miss Grimm's "ACS History" can be found in the ACS Archives in two editions, along with the remarkably detailed 59-page index she prepared to the complete set of volumes.

Four categories of records from the ACS Archives appear in the digital collections, including one volume of the forty-eight of the Martin Memoirs, and one volume of the twenty-six of the Eleanor Grimm ACS History Notebooks, along with its index. Besides samples from these two collections, which serve both as artifacts and original source documents, two other categories of records are found in the digital collections: photos of all the ACS Boards of Regents, from the earliest extant until 2006, and all issues of the *Clinical Congress Daily News* that have been located from 1911 to 1979. Researchers can search for names of Fellows who have been represented on the Board and identify them. With the full text issues of the *Clinical Congress Daily News*, one can free text search names, surgical techniques, diseases, issues affecting surgeons, international guest surgeons, examples of post graduate courses in surgery throughout the years and much more. It's also possible to browse through all these materials page by page.

The plan is to gradually, year by year, add more resources to the Digital Collections link on the History and Archives page of the ACS website. Feedback about your use of the site will be appreciated; a link for a one-minute survey can be found under the Digital Collections link. Further feedback, such as recommendations of things you would like to see digitized in the future, can be submitted by filling out the form on the "contact us" link on the public side of the ACS website. Free access to the archives and its collections remains primarily a member benefit. Because of the archives' small staff and limited resources, all others need to pay a small service fee for reference assistance by telephone or e-mail. However, we welcome researchers to visit and use the collections

in person. For more information about the archives, contact ACS archivist Susan Rishworth at the College headquarters in Chicago at 312-202-270 or srishworth@facs.org.

Susan Rishworth, MLS, MA

Archivist, American College of Surgeons

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

College of Physicians & Surgeons Civil War Veterans List now Online

Archives & Special Collections at the Columbia University Health Sciences Library is pleased to announce the addition to its web site of the *College of Physicians & Surgeons Civil War Veterans List*. It can be found at:

<http://library.cpmc.columbia.edu/hsl/archives/civilwar.html>

Compiled by archivist Jennifer McGillan, the list gathers together in one place the names, ranks, military units, and dates of service of the 406 alumni of Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons who served in the American Civil War (398 Union, 8 Confederate). It can be easily downloaded as an Excel document.

This compilation was an outgrowth of the research McGillan did for the Columbia University War Memorial (<http://www.warmemorial.columbia.edu>), an online compilation of all University alumni who died in the service of their country.

With the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War approaching, we hope that this may prove a valuable resource for the medical history of that conflict.

Stephen E. Novak

Head, Archives & Special Collections

Columbia University Health Sciences Library

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Publications

On December 5, Johns Hopkins University Press published *Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine*, edited by Ellen S. More, Elizabeth Fee, and Manon Parry. The book is a collection of essays from a 2005 symposium held at the National Library of Medicine in conjunction with the exhibition *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*.

Exhibitions

The History of Medicine Division (HMD) mounted the website *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine*, featuring works of alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy from HMD's collections that influenced the magic taught at the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The exhibition is found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/harrypottersworld/index.html>. The Division also produced a traveling show of 6 portable banners, which is being circulated under the auspices of the American Library Association, beginning in Fall 2009. Contact: Elizabeth Bland, blande@mail.nih.gov, 301-435-1518.

In the Fall of 2008, HMD mounted *Everyday Miracles: Medical Imagery in Ex-Votos*, on the devotional paintings done to give thanks to a saint or deity for a miraculous healing or blessing. The exhibition lives on in an on-line exhibition of the same name, which has the distinction of being presented in three languages: English, Italian, and Spanish: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/exvotos/index.html> Contact: Jill Newmark, newmarj@mail.nih.gov, 301-435-5241.

From September 2, 2008, to January 13, 2009, the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., hosted *An Iconography of Contagion*, an exhibition of 20 health posters from the 1920s to the 1990s (in facsimile), curated by Dr. Michael Sappol, who has written a catalog of the same title. The posters provide insight into the interplay between the public's understanding of disease and society's values, reflecting the fears and concerns of the time and the medical knowledge that was available. Contact Mike Sappol, sappolm@mail.nih.gov, 301-594-0348.

During the most recent annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (October 26 to 29, 2008), judges awarded first place in exhibitions to the banner version of HMD's *Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health*.

A Year of Darwin Activities at NLM

Darwin Exhibition: *Rewriting the Book of Nature: Charles Darwin & the Rise of Evolutionary Theory*

To mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his groundbreaking work, *On the Origin of Species*, the National Library of Medicine and the Office of NIH History have created an exhibition that focuses on Darwin's books, the development of his theory, and the history of evolutionary discourse from the late eighteenth century to the early decades of the twentieth.

The exhibition runs from February 9 to December 31, 2009 (with a break from July 2 to September 3). On display is the Library's rare first edition of *On the Origin of Species* (London, 1859) and other books by Darwin, photographs and letters of Darwin, and works by Darwin's predecessors, scoffers and supporters. A traveling show has also been produced, with 4 banners, opening at sites around the National Institutes of Health and at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. For more information, contact Mike Sappol, sappolm@mail.nih.gov, 301-594-0348, or Paul Theerman, theermp@mail.nih.gov, 301-594-0975.

Darwin Film Series

September 16 – October 28, 2009, National Library of Medicine, Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A. NLM will host *Motion Picture Evolution*, a film series devoted to evolutionary movies and television programs. For over 100 years, filmmakers have imaginatively responded to the implications of evolutionary theory. This 7-week film series will show: evolutionary monsters; evolutionary morality and bestiality; evolutionary degeneration, extinction and perfection; clashes between evolutionary theory and religious belief; human meddling with the "natural" course of evolution; and lots of scientists, dinosaurs, supermen and cavemen! Contact: Mike Sappol, sappolm@mail.nih.gov, 301-594-0348.

Darwin Symposium

October 1, 2009, National Library of Medicine, Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A. NLM will host *Finished Proofs?*, a symposium to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (1859). Leading historians and scientists will explore changing and contested understandings of Darwinian theory in the last 150 years. Currently scheduled to speak are Dr. Janet Browne (Harvard), Dr. Alan Guttmacher (National Human Genome Research Institute), and Dr. E. O. Wilson (Harvard), with commentary by Dr. Nathaniel Comfort (The Johns Hopkins University), Joe Palka (National Public Radio), and Dr. Maxine Singer (Carnegie Institution of Washington). Contact: David Cantor, cantord@od.nih.gov, 301-402-8915.

Modern Manuscripts Finding Aids: New Search Engine

The Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program at the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, has released a new finding aids search and delivery platform based on the University of Michigan's DLXS software. <http://oculus.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=nlmfindaid>

For the first time, users can search and browse the content of our 190 existing EAD-encoded collection guides, searching within any single finding aid or among the entire set. This Spring the Program plans to add more than 300 additional guides, covering all processed manuscript holdings, many of which had thus far been described only with a catalog record. Contact: John P. Rees, reesj@mail.nlm.nih.gov, 301-496-8953.

Retirement of Philip Teigen, Ph.D.

Philip Teigen has retired as Deputy Chief of the History of Medicine Division effective December 31, 2008, after 24 years of service to NLM. Phil received his B.S. from the University of Minnesota, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He worked for ten years at the Osler Library in Montreal before coming to HMD in 1984. His long list of publications includes work on bibliography (in particular but not limited to William Osler), Tudor-Stuart medicine, and veterinary medicine. He will be greatly missed by all of us. The History of Medicine Division will be performing a nationwide search for a new Deputy Chief in the coming months.

Release of Victor McKusick Papers in Profiles in Science

The National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the release of its newest *Profiles in Science* exhibition featuring the papers of Dr. Victor A. McKusick on January 31, 2009. NLM has collaborated with the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions to digitize and make available over the World Wide Web a selection of the Victor A. McKusick Papers for use by educators and researchers. Dr. McKusick is widely considered to be the founding father of medical genetics. An innovative clinician, medical educator, and researcher, he established the first medical genetics program and clinic at Johns Hopkins in 1957, conceived and compiled *Mendelian Inheritance in Man*, an annually updated catalog of human phenotypes, and conducted landmark studies of hereditary disorders in the Amish. He was an early advocate of mapping the human genome, and was closely involved in the early years of the Human Genome Project, and served as founding president of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO). In 1997 in recognition of his lifelong contributions he received the Lasker Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science. *Profiles in Science* is available at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov>.

Upcoming Lectures

Catherine Kudlick, University of California - Davis, *Disability History and History of Medicine: Rival Siblings or Conjoined Twins?*, April 15 (Wednesday) 2:00–3:30 P.M. — Building 38A, Lister Hill Visitor Center.

Christian Warren, the New York Academy of Medicine & Brooklyn College, *Rickets: Hubris and Neglect in American Public Health*, May 12 (Tuesday) 2:00–3:30 P.M. — Building 38A, Lister Hill Visitor Center.

Paul Theerman

Head, Images and Archives
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

EVENTS

Lectures

The Making of Medical Education: 3 Critical Historical Events

On November 19, 2008, the Medical Education Leadership Track participants, on behalf of the George Washington University School of Medicine, invited Stanley Reiser, MD, MPA, PhD, Clinical Professor of Health Care Sciences; Cynthia Kahn, MILS, MPH, AHIP, Reference and Instruction Librarian; and Jordan Cohen, MD, Professor of Medicine, to discuss the history of medical education. Their talk, "The Making of Medical Education: 3 Critical Historical Events", was well-received by the students, faculty and administration in attendance. The three events highlighted by the panel were the case method, the Flexner Report, and science.

Dr. Reiser noted the long history of the case method of teaching medicine going back to "cases and methods in Hippocratic Medicine." "For Hippocrates and his disciples, case records have two basic functions: to demonstrate the natural causes of illness and to portray the clinical course of illness through accurate observations of the patients' symptoms." Advances by Thomas Sydenham moved the use of cases forward. Sydenham "synthesize(d) from clinical records the case histories of individual patients into a disease history." His use of classification was novel in an era when humoral medicine was practiced. The more recent innovation in the case method came about at the turn of the last century by a second-year Harvard University medical student named Walter Cannon. Using the clinical records of Harvard teaching hospitals, Cannon created a method of teaching that ameliorated the limitations of lecture and bedside teaching. Students could become active rather than passive learners and could follow the full course of illness in a patient.

Cynthia Kahn discussed the history of the Flexner Report. Abraham Flexner surveyed medical schools in the United States and Canada at the behest of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. With help from Dr. F.C. Zapffe of the Association of American Medical Colleges and Dr. N.P. Colwell of the American Medical Association, Flexner visited every one of the 155 schools. Titled *Medical Education in the United States and Canada Bulletin Number Four*, the report was published in 1910. It contained two sections: a history of medical education in the U.S. along with the current status and suggestions for improvement. The first part also had separate sections on

women and Blacks in medicine. The second part, written in blunt and unforgiving language, reported on the status of each and every school. Flexner reported that there were too many physicians. He attributed this to the large number of blatantly commercial medical schools. Within 20 years of the report's publication, the function and structure of medical schools changed dramatically. There were negative changes: of the seven historically Black medical schools, five closed (Howard and Meharry remained open; today there are four medical schools dedicated primarily to training African-American physicians, Howard, Meharry, Morehouse, and Drew). Women were also adversely affected by the report. The Flexner Report resulted in about half the medical schools in the U.S. closing; since many of them had admitted women, it became harder for women to get spots. But, on the positive side, medical schools became components of universities; there was a gradual development of the full-time faculty system, it led to universal prerequisites for medical school entrance and a significant improvement in medical schools' curriculum

The third critical event highlighted by Dr. Cohen is science. He noted that the scientific method was known and used in the early 20th century, yet there was little scientific understanding. Empiric observation and trial and error did not lead to the kind of understanding that came with experimental science. His talk focused on the Vannevar Bush letter to President Roosevelt that led to the development of the National Institutes of Health and to greater and greater specialization. In the new millennium, the next stages of science are developing and so will the teaching of medicine. These are the human genome ("all the -omics") and information technology.

Further Reading:

Reiser SJ. The clinical record in medicine part 1: learning from cases. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 1991; 114:10.

Flexner, A. *Medical education in the United States and Canada*. New York, NY: Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; 1910. See:

<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/publications/pub.asp?key=43&subkey=705&printable=true>

Bush, V. *Science, the endless frontier: a report to the President on a program for postwar scientific research*, 1945. See:

http://www.archive.org/stream/scienceendlessfr00unit/scienceendlessfr00unit_djvu.txt

Cynthia Kahn, MILS, MPH, AHIP,

Reference & Instruction Librarian

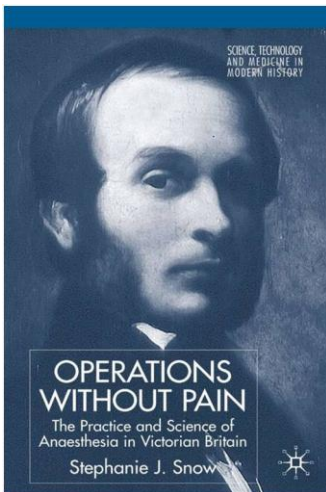
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

The George Washington University Medical Center

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

BOOK REVIEWS

Snow, Stephanie J., *Operations without Pain: The Practice and Science of Anaesthesia in Victorian Britain* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)



Englishman John Snow (1813-1858) is a seminal figure in the histories of two medical specialties, anesthesia and epidemiology, and several recent books have examined his contributions in these areas. His work unraveling the puzzle of the 1854 Broad Street pump cholera outbreak in the Soho neighborhood of London has been explored in two recent books for general audiences, Steven Johnson's *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World* (2006) and Sandra Hempel's *The Strange Case of the Broad Street Pump: John Snow and the Mystery of Cholera* (2007).

A book by Peter Vinten-Johansen, et al., *Cholera, Chloroform and the Science of Medicine: A Life of John Snow* (2003) examines Snow's life and career more broadly for an academic audience. As primary material, in addition to his published books and articles, Snow's case books have been edited by Richard Ellis and published as *The Case Books of Dr. John Snow* (1994). The book under review here investigates Snow's contributions to ether and chloroform anesthesia in the context of British medicine of the day.

This book is part of Palgrave's series, "Science, Technology and Medicine in Modern History" that has included such other titles as *Infectious Processes* edited by Eve Seguin, and David Edgerton's *England and the Aeroplane*. In *Operations without Pain*, the six chapters of the author's arguments are bracketed by an introduction and

conclusion. The chapters are “From Enlightenment Philosophies to Victorian Reform, 1790-1846,” “Altered States,” “Science Versus Empiricism,” “Risks of Life and Birth,” “Anaesthesia in London: John Snow’s Casebooks,” and “In the Name of Safety.” Also included are an appendix with nine tables, an extensive notes section, a bibliography and an index. Snow’s book is not a popular history like Julie Fenster’s *Ether Day* (2001) and Linda Stratman’s *Chloroform* (2003). The book will primarily appeal to an academic history of medicine audience; it is based on the author’s 1995 dissertation at the University of Keele, “John Snow MD, 1813-1858: The Emergence of the Medical Profession.” The author of this book also wrote the entry on John Snow for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and more recently has published *Blessed Days of Anaesthesia: How Anaesthetics Changed the World* (2008), which I have not yet read.

In her introduction the author notes that anesthesia’s early development in the 1840s and 1850s in America and Britain has seldom been placed into wider medical and social contexts. She notes that only work by Martin Pernick on the American introduction in *A Calculus of Suffering* (1985) and a few others have placed “anaesthesia under a wider historical lens” (p. 3), and that her book “will address this deficit by examining complex patterns of innovation, reversals, debate and geographical difference by which anaesthesia became established in British medicine.” (p. 4). Covering the years between 1790 and 1900, the question about anesthesia “were its risks greater than its benefits?” lies at “the heart of this book.” (p. 4). Thus the author ranges from the early work with nitrous oxide by Dr. Thomas Beddoes and Humphry Davy to decades beyond the appearances of ether and chloroform anesthesia in the 1840s.

For more detailed reviews and criticisms, I would refer the reader of this review to another review and an author response. Dr. David Zuck, a well-known British anesthesia historian and a retired anaesthetist, published a long review of this book in February 2007 in *Reviews in History* that is available at <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/zuck.html>. The author’s response was published at the same time and is available at <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/zuckresp.html>. This extensive review and the response offer in-depth arguments with the book’s contributions and its author’s spirited rejoinders. These individuals are much more capable of dealing with the complexity of these issues than I. In the interest of full disclosure, I will note that I have known Dr. Zuck—primarily by email—for some years, and helped the author by email with a minor question or two as she finished her dissertation.

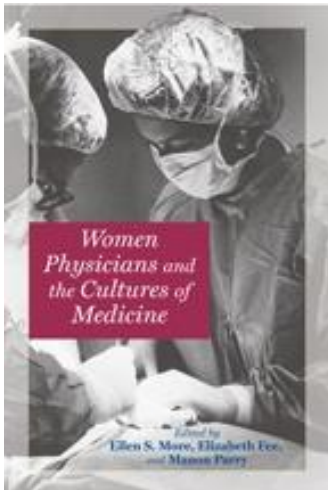
I enjoyed reading this book, but the level of detail sometimes exceeded what even this layman with a serious interest in anesthesia history really wanted to know. The author's efforts to place anesthesia in much wider professional and social contexts are admirable and have produced a work of deep scholarship and usefulness. The innovation of anesthesia is analyzed from both physician and patient perspectives. Much of the book's content, however, may be more useful to those with an interest in British medical history rather than anesthesia history.

A.J. Wright, M.L.S.

Department of Anesthesiology Library
University of Alabama at Birmingham

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

More, Ellen S.; Fee, Elizabeth; Parry, Manon, *Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008)



This collection of essays, taken from a symposium held at the National Library of Medicine in 2005, focuses on the history of women physicians in the United States. It aims to expand the ever-growing investigation into the history of women in medicine by presenting views “related to gender performance, sexuality, race, ethnicity, political activism...and the role of science in women’s...research.” The book is divided into three distinct sections: “Being a Woman Physician,” “Challenging the Culture of Professionalism,” and “Expanding the Boundaries,” each of which examines the role of physicians within a different research context.

The first section examines history from a more biographical view. The authors explore the lives of five notable physicians: Mary Putnam Jacobi; Marie Zakrzewska; Mary Dixon; Margaret Jessie Chung; and Mary Steichen Calderone by focusing on a particular aspect of their lives. In the chapter on Dr. Zakrzewska, for example, Arleen Marcia Tuchman discusses writings on the female body at the beginning and end of her career, and analyzes the differences in her attitudes. Judy Tzu-Chun Wu presents the problems facing women by portraying the internship and residency of an Asian woman - Margaret

Chung - during the period in which she worked in the Mary Thompson Hospital in Chicago.

The second section examines various aspects of women in the profession of medicine through four articles: women entering the profession; the women's health movement of the 20th century; the influence of the book *Our Bodies, Ourselves*; and medical education in the late 20th century are the themes investigated. Robert Nye examines the methods that were used to exclude women physicians from the society of their peers, while Naomi Rogers discusses similar exclusionary practices in medical schools.

Finally, the third section looks at women beyond the profession of medicine itself: mainstream women physicians and their interactions with homeopaths; the work of Ruth A. Parmelee and Esther P. Lovejoy with Greek refugees in Turkey; the college health movement in the United States; and the outlook for women physicians in the 21st century. Virginia Metaxas tells the story of two women who worked to save the lives of Greek refugees ousted from Smyrna in 1922 (a story that echoes for us today, as we see similar displaced people struggling to survive). Heather Munro Prescott discusses the work of Ruth Evelyn Boynton and Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, who were pioneers in the college health movement, supporting women students and providing a new means for women physicians to achieve faculty status in colleges and universities.

The main problem with any compilation of essays is a certain unevenness in tone and scope. I found the chapter by Susan Wells on "Narrative Forms in *Our Bodies, Ourselves*" to be somewhat out of place in this volume, since it has nothing to do with women physicians and seems more about linguistics than the position of women in the medical profession. After all, the whole point of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* was that it was written by women, for women; and the "medical profession" – which the book viewed in a more adversarial tone – was not involved in it. However, the chapters by Naomi Rogers (on the tactics used by male physicians and students to exclude women from medical education), Heather Munro Prescott (on the college health movement), and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu (on the life of Margaret Jessie Chung while an intern in Chicago) are fascinating articles on important and relevant topics.

Unevenness aside, this is an excellent book, and worth having in any history of medicine collection.

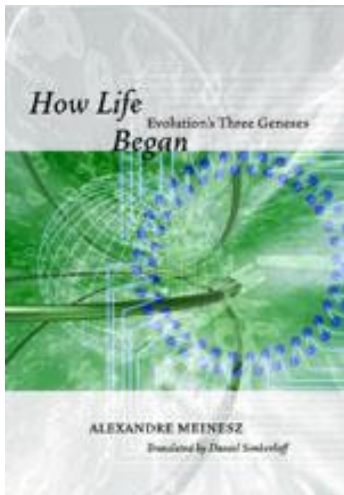
Patricia E. Gallagher, MLS, MA, AHIP

Senior Librarian

The New York Academy of Medicine Library

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

Meinesz, Alexandre (Daniel Simberloff, trans.), *How Life Began: Evolution's Three Geneses* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2008)



In this the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of his *On the Origin of Species*, it is only fitting to examine how we have interpreted theories of evolution and where we have taken them. Darwin's theories were contentious in his day and remain contentious in some areas of the world. It is always interesting to keep up with newly published works on evolution and Alexandre Meinesz's new book about the "history of life" is no exception. Meinesz is Professor of Biology at the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis and his research includes marine invasive algae and littoral ecosystems. He is the author of a previous book about an invasive species of algae

introduced into the Mediterranean Sea entitled *Killer Algae*.

Meinesz's intent for this book was to bring current ideas about how life began, including some novel ideas of his own, to a general audience. He does not expect his reader to be a biologist, paleontologist, or ecologist, just that she have an interest in these fields. He writes about what he considers to be three important beginnings (or geneses) in the evolution of life on Earth: "the appearance of bacteria," "the formation of microscopic animal and plant cells" and "the elaboration of multicellular forms composed of different cell types." (p. 203)

He elucidates these "geneses" of life in a way that most interested readers can understand. By including personal experiences, anecdotes, analogies, and metaphors he brings complex aspects of evolutionary biology and the microscopic world to a level virtually any reader can comprehend. Meinesz relates his work to his personal life, making the book a more inviting text than a scientific treatise.

In the first half of the book Meinesz explains two competing theories on how unicellular bacteria came into existence on Earth. These unicellular bacteria adapted to become simple plants and animals through endosymbiosis by eating and incorporating, rather than digesting, other unicellular bacteria – which he illustrates with his own cartoon-style drawings. In fact, the book is illustrated throughout with drawings, pictures, and eight full color plates. Meinesz writes that evolution progresses through mutations, genetic mixing, and natural selection which occur by luck, chance or randomness, and contingency, which is the progression of random, unpredictable adaptations over time resulting in new species. Most aspects of evolution are made possible through unions, of genetic material or of multiple species, and environmental and chemical influence; but he is quick to inform that the destruction of cataclysmic events has also had an enormous effect on the history of life.

The second half of the book elaborates on the third genesis, the development of multicellular life forms visible to the naked eye, and how these multicellular forms fit into the larger picture of evolution on Earth. As he expands on the history of life, beginning more than 3.5 billion years ago with the first signs of bacteria and progressing to the immense increase in multicellular complex visible life forms 570 million years ago, he relates variant theories of evolution. He concludes that the multicellular visible life forms came into existence because “unity is strength” (p. 168). These complex life forms evolved over billions of years from microscopic unicellular bacteria through many contingencies involving genetic changes and environmental factors which favored the union of cells. Life is forever changing. Evolution does not stop and ‘complex’ does not necessarily mean more evolved. Modern unicellular bacteria have spent several billion years evolving into what they are today.

Unlike some evolutionary theorists, Meinesz also addresses how scientific discoveries affect religious beliefs. He disagrees with the recent theories about intelligent design or combining scientific fact and religious belief. He says that “spiritual and scientific magisteria will always remain separate” but “that believers can integrate scientific progress without losing their faith.” (p. 195)

Meinesz ends his fascinating book by looking to the future. Life will continue changing and we must realize that our actions affect all living creatures from unicellular beings to large complex predators. Everything we, as humans, do has an effect on the environment, which in turn has an effect on natural selection in evolution. As a species

we must become more responsible since we have a hand in writing the ongoing history of life.

Melanie Sorsby

Health Sciences Librarian Intern

Gumberg Library at Duquesne University

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

MISCELLANEA

Website Review: *Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine* and *The Public Health Museum*

Finding new resources focused on the history of medicine and public health remains a fantastic part of working as a librarian in the field. It is always a pleasure to see and appreciate and learn from the work of colleagues. So, having two new sites to review is a true pleasure. From Britain, the Science Museum of London, supported by the Wellcome Trust, launched the exhibit *Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine* and in the States, specifically Massachusetts, *The Public Health Museum* offers a glimpse of its rooms and exhibits.

The websites clearly have different aims. The Science Museum offers an online exhibit with a great deal of attention paid to the design and interactivity of the website. The public health theme, for example, allows teachers and students to 'track down the source of disease' by evaluating evidence of the cholera outbreak of 1854 in London. For each of the themes and topics - ranging from belief and medicine to war and medicine - an overview and four related topics are available. In addition to the themes and topics, the site provides information organized by objects, people, techniques & technology and a timeline. This is an excellent teaching tool and a fun site to visit.

In contrast, the website for the Public Health Museum re-creates some of the rooms and exhibits offered in the brick and mortar space. For those with an eye for design, the Public Health Museum website will feel simplistic. The best part of the site is the photo gallery. Thumbnails of photos lead the user to larger, high resolution images with captions. Despite the drawbacks of the site design and some inconsistencies in the

navigation, the message is clear and useful to those providing instruction in the history of public health.

Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife.aspx>

Public Health Museum

<http://www.publichealthmuseum.org>

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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)

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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)
