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WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

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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



It always surprises me how quickly it is time to put out a new issue of *The Watermark*. It feels as though Summer lasted all of one month. I was glad to hear from some readers that the last issue had useful information for them, especially for those who could not attend the annual meeting. To me, this is the *raison d'être* of this publication. Summer is truly over now and Autumn is here, and with it comes new classes and students, new presentations to prepare and teach, and a new issue of *The Watermark*. This issue is filled with useful information and announcements, beginning with John Rees' feature on the use of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) at the National Library of Medicine. I for one really appreciate this insight into this important effort to make archival collections more readily findable on the web. In terms of the other submissions, I am yet again amazed to read about all the interesting things we do in terms of promoting and developing our collections and services. I was very pleased too that some of our new members were willing to contribute brief profiles of themselves. We have had over a dozen people join us recently and I feel that this venue is a good way to get to know them. I should also mention that they were mostly approached by colleagues who were ALHHS members, so please feel free to spread the word. I also hope to get down to Alabama some time (preferably when it is -30 Celsius here in Montreal) to visit the Mobile Medical Museum, our featured member institution.

Although Lisa Mix is not contributing a full piece in this issue, she has asked that you consider nominating colleagues for an award. There will be an official call for nominations in November. Have a look at the awards section of the ALHHS website for details <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/alhhs/>. Note that websites are now eligible for the Publication Award. Also, please consider contributing your news, ideas and thoughts to the Winter issue of *The Watermark* – there is still space left. The deadline for submissions is mid December.

Chris Lyons

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FEATURE ARTICLE

What a Long, Strange Trip: Deploying an EAD Search and Retrieval Platform

The opinions expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health or the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The archival science literature is rife with articles describing the perceived complexities (some valid, many not) of implementing Encoded Archival Description (EAD) for marking up finding aids in XML and transforming that XML into some type of human-readable product to patrons. In most cases this product is defined as a web site with some type of search engine that can make use of the finely encoded, hierarchically structured texts that are EAD finding aids. The evolution in the availability of training, support, and tools for creating EAD records since its inception in 1998 has grown by leaps and bounds, however the same cannot be said for similar resources supporting human-readable web-based products. This article describes the path taken at the History of Medicine Division (HMD), the skill sets acquired along the way, and some lessons learned.

We first committed to EAD in 2001 after I attended Daniel Pitti's Rare Book School EAD Encoding course. The freeware given to students in the class were the first set of tools developed for encoding finding aid texts using a simple text editor, open source tools for validating and parsing the resulting XML, and rudimentary XSL code for transforming the XML into a static web page. Michael Fox's *EAD Cookbook* and Chris Prom's repackaging of that product were close behind. One needed to be comfortable in the world of angle brackets, unafraid of learning some new technology in the burgeoning world of XML, and have plenty of time to spend marking up their finding aids or have the funding and project management skills to outsource the work. Of course this scenario assumes your resource allocators are also similarly supportive of creativity and learning. After a year of marking up finding aids and generating web pages, we had a nice static web site. Various lists pointed to the individual finding aids, we linked to them from our MARC records, and Google was there to index the HTML—a fairly typical stem-to-stern implementation practice for a lone-archivist operation. But, out there in Big Research Library Land were local integrated XML search engines that could leverage EAD's complexity; Perl and Java programmers; grant money to develop EAD consortiums; and transformative web user experiences generated from those core EAD records. As the archives program of a national library with little experience in enterprise library

technologies outside of creating MARC records, few interactions with NLM's Office of Computers and Computing Services, and the inability to acquire outside funding, how could we grow our EAD program?

In 2002 there were less than a handful of SGML/XML search and display web solutions; some were proprietary vendor offerings, with a few more choices in the open source arena. The two most ubiquitous products were DLXS (a web-based product produced by the University of Michigan created specifically for the Bentley Library's EADs and their Digital Library Production Service's TEI texts; offered as open source with licensed search engine and technical support) and Electronic Book Technologies' Dynaweb (a commercial, generic SGML search/display product requiring a desktop plug-in for web access). We were not in a position to explore these options at the time, but concurrently HMD was developing an infrastructure for delivering the XML version of the Index Catalogue using Endeavor's ENCompass federated search/XML product -- however it failed completely despite its advertising as an EAD/TEI solution and now is a defunct product.

In 2005 I began another round of XML product evaluation, as by then there were more offerings developed specifically for EAD and TEI. I developed a set of evaluation specifications, a few of which are enumerated below:

- Open source;
- Use programming languages I could understand (XML/XSL, Perl, HTML);
- Little technical support needed beyond some server administration;
- Operated on a Unix platform;
- Oracle dependent, but other open source databases secretly preferred;
- Faceted searching/XML indexing, not just word indexing;
- HTML delivery in chunks, not just a single web page;
- Capacity for OAI-PMH harvesting;
- Capacity for hosting an EAD consortium for other history of medicine institutions.

The three main contenders were DLXS again, which had just migrated to a pure XML-Perl code base; XTF, an XML Java/Tomcat application from the California Digital Library (CDL); and teiPublisher, another Java application from the University of Maryland's MITH program.

XTF seemed the most promising as it was touted as the principal discovery mechanism for all of CDL's digital archiving programs. I later discovered it was DLXS reversed-

engineered for Java instead of Perl. CDL had been a DLXS customer. They liked DLXS's content management and display functions, but their programmers wanted their own code base to develop. XTF also used the open source search engine Lucene and not a proprietary engine like DLXS. XTF was still in its first release in 2005 and I received lots of free support from its developers. Their first goal was CDL's TEI collections and not EAD, so while it was fairly easy to install and get running for TEI, the EAD components were not fully developed. The Java and XML interactions were too much for me to comprehend without Java technical support, which NLM did not have at that time. XTF also did not have much documentation at the time.

teiPublisher was billed as a XML publishing tool for small institutions and we had a working relationship with its developers at the University of Maryland. Built specifically for TEI, it could also work with EAD. Again, it was fairly easy to set up using my local machine with Apache/Tomcat running, but the EAD was a bit imperfect. teiPublisher used an open source XML database, Exist, rather than an RDBMS, that was in its infancy in 2005. XML databases promised the functionality of an RDBMS but with the purity of preserving your full-text XML documents. However, there were still some bugs indexing EADs and the user display produced a single HTML page. We could already produce single web pages in-house using the *EAD Cookbook*, but we were unsatisfied with accepting this as the status quo. For long finding aids it was frustrating having to scroll through pages and pages of content. We wanted a delivery system that could produce specific chunks of EAD, such as just a Scope and Content Note, or just the container list for a specific series.

DLXS had the best user interface of all the products, many implementers, an annual week-long implementers' "boot camp" class, and the option of paid technical support from the developers. With few other products on the horizon, and with NLM having yet to embrace digital librarianship in any kind of enterprising fashion, I received permission to forge ahead with purchasing the full DLXS and a 3 year technical support license. In terms of difficulties securing the purchase contract, let us just say procuring open source software within the government was a three month trial of the heart. Teaming with NLM's computing division, I planned for systems administration support for installing the software, its dependencies, and server configuration as well as part-time technical support from an applications developer that was expert at Perl.

The applications developer and I attended the summer 2006 DLXS training camp where I learned just how complex an undertaking this would be. But I was confident that

between the two of us we would succeed. Installation took a few days and soon we were on our way to digging into our source EADs. We had some encoding practices that did not fit with DLXS's programming. I would not say we were an early adopter, but only after our original EAD implementation were the RLG *Best Practices Guidelines* published wherein an actual suggested maximum character length was first defined. The EADID uniquely identifies each EAD file and DLXS uses the element as an indexing and validation hook, so while our practice was not "wrong" there was a local system implementation to which we did not conform. Luckily the applications developer crafted a Perl script that stripped the unnecessary characters.

The other major problem was invisible hard-return codes in some of our early vendor-encoded EADs. Even though we used an ASCII editor for all our encoding, and our files validated and parsed error-free, the editor did insert some hard-returns that were non-UTF-8 compliant characters. This issue took us a while to figure out, frustratingly so. It was only after viewing the XML in the Unix editor Vi that we discovered the problem. Luckily another easy Perl script solved the problem. We also determined our current encoding practices do not insert these characters.

DLXS's underlying commercial search engine uses binary indexes precompiled as part of the collection building workflow, offering extremely fast response times. The indexes are built from a file containing a set of queries based on the EAD elements. There are separate indexes for the text and XML elements, thus allowing faceted searching for any portion of the content we wish. One needs only to create a query for the specific EAD content desired. Currently we have indexes/searches built for:

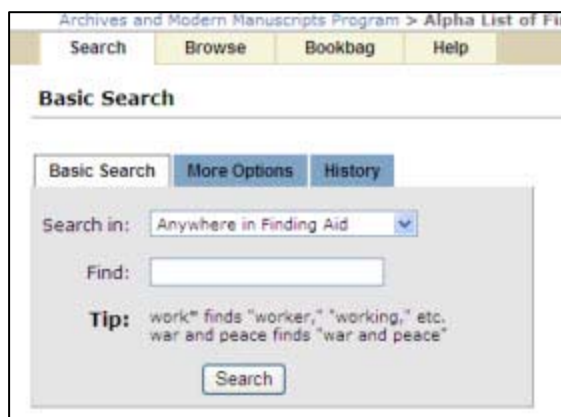
- Full EAD record
- <scopecontent>, wherever they are encoded, e.g. <archdesc> or <dsc> levels
- <bioghist>
- <controlaccess>→<persname>
- <controlaccess>→<subject>, MeSH terms
- <controlaccess>→<geogname>
- <controlaccess>→<corpname>
- <dsc>, e.g. container list

The indexes are based on string search techniques rather than word searching, meaning each character is a specific byte. For example, a keyword anywhere search on the phrase "Martin E. Cummings" and "Martin Cummings" will return different results since each phrase is a different set of character strings. Alternatively, word search engines like Lucene or that used by Google index each word, so Lucene would find every occurrence

of “Martin” “E.” and “Cummings”. String searching offers high precision, but recall can suffer, whereas word searching offers high recall with less precision. Google and its ilk rely on secondary algorithms to increase hit relevance/precision (or steer you to commercial sites). One could argue that string searching is an outmoded technique and could confuse customers used to Google’s word searching. It is further evidence that technology has not completely solved the librarian’s age-old quest for marrying precision and recall.

DLXS web interface offers both browse and search features. Archivists still rely heavily on browsing by creator’s authoritative name. Title browsing does not offer much added value since it only provides an inline personal name browse rather than an inverted name browse. The next DLXS release offers Subject Browsing, which should be a major enhancement. Personally I perform single-word, keyword anywhere searches (“Anywhere in Finding Aid” in our case) rather than limited searches or Advanced/Boolean ones. Most other finding aid sites offer similar search categories and limits. Users can also search within any single finding aid. DLXS has no real relevancy ranking. To mimic this function we only provide a Hit Frequency Sort in the Search Results view. Collections in the hit list are sorted decreasingly from the most to least occurrences of a search phrase. Additional niceties most users expect are the ability to save search histories and a bookbag feature for saving and emailing records. Items in the bookbag can also be searched, however the bookbags are not permanent resources that one can return to indefinitely—federal government privacy policy mandates we clear cookies and session caches and this takes place once the browser closes.

We were planning to release the site in time for the summer 2007 DLXS training camp, and were excited to start exploring other DLXS uses such as the TEI class for an encoded letters collection and a place for oral history transcripts in XML. However, we noticed the server response time was very slow. On average it took 13 seconds for a page to load from the server. We were using the standard NLM server set-up on a Sun Solaris SPARC machine. After some research and talking with other DLXS users, Solaris had a history of not performing XSL transformations well. We really needed a Linux machine to speed up performance. Unfortunately due to staff shortages and competing priorities, it took five additional months to acquire the new server hardware and another few months to create the production copy for public access.



Full development took almost two calendar years but in actual work time we spent about 40% of my time and 10% of the Application Developer's time over 4 months to implement the out-of-the-box DLXS for our initial 192 EAD records. I then spent 50% of my time for another 6 weeks customizing the XSL/CSS/HTML code to fit NLM/HMD's style guidelines using our headers and footers and the like. We also

submitted the site to NLM's Web Team for Section 508 compliance and overall site navigation feedback.

In the final summation, the road was indeed hard and at times frustrating. Encoding EAD files is by far the easy part of the equation. There is a plethora of encoding tools and training now available. Delivery of EAD content in a form other than static web pages is indeed difficult for lone archivists. However EAD becomes more and more important as we accept that humans are not our only customers, for on the internet machines are the primary customers. At times it seemed that few others shared my outlook, but NLM finally embraced the idea of open source products being enterprise-worthy technologies on its inroads into the broader field of digital librarianship. Now that we are finally in production mode we added few hundred more EADs and have lots of new ideas in beta testing. Our EAD site is <http://oculus.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=nlmfindaid>.

John P. Rees

Curator, Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program

History of Medicine Division

National Library of Medicine

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PROFILE: MOBILE MEDICAL MUSEUM

When Dr. Samuel Eichold II established a medical museum in Mobile, Alabama in 1962, his two main goals were preservation and education. Through the years the name of the organization changed several times; first it was called the Heustis Medical Museum, then the Eichold-Heustis Medical Museum, next the Eichold-Heustis Medical Museum of the South, and finally in 1999 the name was changed to Mobile Medical Museum.

Occasionally the various names cause confusion for people visiting Mobile for the first time because they have the impression that there is more than one medical museum in the city. Although both the name and the physical location have changed, Dr. Eichold's original goals remained constant for almost fifty years.



Ribbon cutting ceremony

When the Board of Trustees of the Medical Museum began searching for a more visible and accessible location in 2002, the Vincent/Doan house was mentioned, but although an ideal site, it was in significant disrepair. A lease agreement was reached with the University in early 2003 and the house was completely renovated during 2003-2004 providing museum quality windows, some new walls, and upgraded plumbing.

Today, the Mobile Medical Museum is located in the historic Vincent/Doan House. This 1827 raised cottage style house is the oldest residential structure on its original foundation in the City of Mobile. It is listed in the Historic America Buildings Survey of the National Parks and is included on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is situated within the beautiful Sculpture Park of the University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital.

The purpose of the museum is to preserve medical artifacts, books, papers and other archival materials related to Mobile and Alabama's rich medical history. These items are utilized in educational exhibits designed to enlighten visitors of all ages about the history and ongoing importance of health care in the community. The museum supports local health awareness campaigns and actively encourages students who visit the museum to explore careers in the health care field.

The collection of medical artifacts in the museum dates between 1700 and 1968. Objects include: surgical, obstetrical, and blood-letting instruments; quackery devices; microscopes; and antique spectacles. Some larger pieces include: nineteenth century paper maché anatomical models; a 1921 EKG machine; exam tables and cabinets used in the old City Hospital; an Iron Lung; and a Sarnes Heart-Lung machine used by the first heart surgeon in Mobile in the late 1960's. Approximately half the objects remain in storage because exhibit space is limited to the ground floor of the building. The second floor is home to archives, offices and a medical library containing books related to medical specialties, nursing and other health sciences.

Most archival material in the museum remained virtually untouched for several years, but recently the museum hired an archivist to organize, maintain and operate the archives on a daily basis. After examining all holdings, the archivist and museum staff embarked upon a major re-organization project to make the collection more accessible. A key component of the project was to add a link on the Medical Museum's web page (www.mobilemedicalmuseum.com) providing a listing of the collections. Although the listing is incomplete at this time, it is already getting the attention of many researchers and will continue to expand as items are processed. Archival materials date from the 1600's to the 1970's, with the bulk of items between 1875 and 1950.



Meetings of the Mobile Medical Museum are often combined with fund-raising efforts that are open to the public. Other meetings feature guest speakers whose topics relate to new exhibits. In 2006 the museum presented an exhibit on Polio, the dreaded disease of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The museum was very fortunate to welcome David M. Oshinsky, PhD as guest speaker during the polio exhibit's opening. Dr. Oshinsky's book, *Polio: An American Story*, won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in History. Other guest lecture topics included diabetes, Civil War medicine, obesity, and organ transplants. The museum

Drs Oshinsky & Shriner provides lectures and traveling exhibits at local historic parks and functions.

Visit us on the web @ www.mobilemedicalmuseum.com

Sally C. Green

Director

Mobile Medical Museum

Glendon S. Farquhar

Archivist

Mobile Medical Museum

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

Exhibitions

“Physician at the Breakfast Table: Oliver Wendell Holmes as Popular Icon”

in the History of Medicine Division Reading Room, August 17, 2009 to January 11, 2010

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (August 29, 1809—October 7, 1894), noted physician, lecturer, poet, novelist, and father of the Supreme Court Justice with the same name. Through his wit and turn of phrase, Holmes became an iconic figure in popular American culture, most notably through his book of essays, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, first published in 1858. His image and quotations from his works became ubiquitous, and he was one of the most sought after lecturers in America on topics ranging from medicine to literature.



Oliver Wendell Holmes is most known in medicine for his work, *The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever* (1843), in which he challenged the medical establishment about its treatment of women during childbirth. He was professor of anatomy at Harvard for over 30 years and was an immensely influential figure in American medicine.

The Exhibition includes 22 items related to Holmes, including a color lithograph portrait by Leslie Ward (a.k.a. SPY) from *Vanity Fair* in 1886 (pictured) and nine colorful editions of Holmes' noted *Autocrat*. Materials in the Exhibition are from the collections of The National Library of Medicine and Marilyn Barth of Washington, D.C.

“The Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and The Yellow Wall-Paper”



Charlotte Perkins Gilman writing at her desk, ca. 1916-1922.

Courtesy Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

Gilman, who was discouraged from pursuing a career to preserve her health, rejected these ideas in a terrifying short story titled “The Yellow Wall-Paper.” The famous tale served as an indictment of the medical profession and the social conventions restricting women's professional and creative opportunities.

The National Library of Medicine has launched “*The Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and The Yellow Wall-Paper*,” a new traveling banner exhibition. “*The Literature of Prescription*” examines the relationship between science and society. In the late 19th century, when women were challenging traditional ideas about gender that excluded them from political and intellectual life, medical and scientific experts drew on notions of female weakness to justify inequality between the sexes. Artist and writer Charlotte Perkins



Illustration from “The Yellow Wall-Paper,” *The New England Magazine*, January 1892.

This exhibition describes Gilman's life and career, her experience of depression, the medical advice of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, and the writing and publication of “The Yellow Wall-Paper.” The six-banner traveling version is accompanied by an online exhibition which includes additional primary source texts, educational resources for high school and undergraduate students, and references for further research.

“This exhibition is opening at a time of renewed interest in Gilman's life and ‘The Yellow Wall-Paper,’” observed curator Manon Parry of NLM's History of Medicine Division. “Her classic tale of the treatment of depression is not only a shocking horror story, but a powerful critique of the medical profession and one of the founding texts of American feminism.”

As part of a collaboration with the Schlesinger Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts, the exhibition website will also feature digitized images and manuscript pages from the papers of Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Visit the exhibition web site at: www.nlm.nih.gov/theliteratureofprescription.

Beginning October 4th, two copies of the show will be on display in libraries across America. For the tour schedule, or to apply to be a host institution, please consult the Traveling Exhibitions website at:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/travelingexhibitions/literature.html>.

As with all NLM traveling exhibitions, this show is available free of charge with borrowing institutions paying incoming shipping only (about \$200-300).

“Chinese Anti-Malaria Posters” Online Exhibition

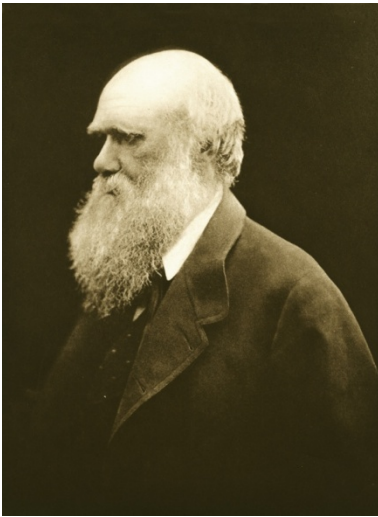


In August 2009, the National Library of Medicine mounted “Chinese Anti-Malaria Posters,” a gallery of 15 public health posters dating from circa 1950 to 1972. The exhibit was curated by Dr. Liping Bu, professor of Chinese history at Alma College, and a visiting scholar in the History of Medicine Division. The posters were produced as part of the successful campaign waged by the Chinese government; the Library acquired them in 2006 as part of collection of Chinese public health materials.

Left: Firmly Fight the Infectious Diseases That Harm the People in Southern Sichuan
坚决与危害川南人民的传染病作斗争 N.d., circa 1950.

Year of Darwin

The National Library of Medicine continued its celebration of the “Year of Darwin”—the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (1809–1882) and the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*—with two events.



Charles Darwin, circa 1880.

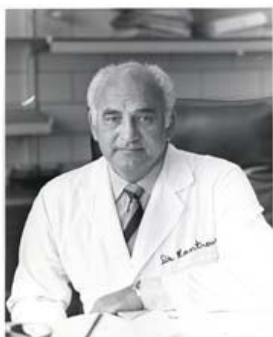
"Finished Proofs: A Symposium to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Publication of *On the Origin of Species*" took place October 1, 2009, at the Library. It featured biographer Janet Browne of Harvard University; philosopher Michael Ruse of Florida State University; Barry Werth, author of *Banquet at Delmonico's: Great Minds, the Gilded Age, and the Triumph of Evolution in America*; and Eric Green, Scientific Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). Commentators were Maxine Singer, former president of the Carnegie Institution for Science; Joe Palca of

National Public Radio; historian Nathaniel Comfort of the Johns Hopkins University; and scientist Alan E. Guttmacher of NHGRI. The symposium addressed Darwin's enduring legacy, especially in the United States, focusing on both the enduring excitement of his theory and the ongoing controversies over its public acceptance. The symposium was a joint venture with the Office of History of the National Institutes of Health.

Throughout September and October, the Library is mounting *Motion Picture Evolution*, a seven-week film series on "evolutionary" films. Offerings include *Inherit the Wind*, *The Time Machine*, and *Planet of the Apes*. Shown both at noon and at 6:00 in the Library's Lister Hill Auditorium, the evening screenings feature expert commentary from staff members Michael Sappol, David Cantor, and Paul Theerman, and outside scholars Marcel LaFollette and Andrew Nolan. For more information see <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/filmseries.html>.

The Library's symposium and film series complement its reading room exhibit, *Rewriting the Book of Nature: Charles Darwin and the Rise of Evolutionary Theory*, which opened February 9, 2009, and has been extended to January 15, 2010. Featuring materials from the Library's collections, including a first edition of Darwin's *On the -Origin of Species*, the exhibit looks at both precursors to Darwin's evolutionary theory, and its influence on science and culture. The online version is found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/darwin/> The exhibit and website are joint ventures with the Office of History of the National Institutes of Health.

Adrian Kantrowitz Papers on Profiles in Science



Adrian Kantrowitz,
circa 1990.

In July 2009, NLM released an extensive selection from the papers of surgeon Adrian Kantrowitz (1918–2008) on *Profiles in Science*, the Library's online digital archive of personal papers and manuscripts of leading innovators in science, medicine, and public health. Best known for performing the world's second human heart transplant, Kantrowitz was also a leading surgeon-inventor who developed bioelectronic devices such as cardiac pacemakers, mechanical left heart devices, and the intraaortic balloon pump. The collection is available at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/>.

NLM also recently completed a report on a year-long user evaluation of *Profiles in Science*, which included an online American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey and focus groups. The Library aims to use the data collected to improve visitor satisfaction with content, navigation, and design.

Paul Theerman

History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

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NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

Recipe Books Digitisation

The Wellcome Library is pleased to announce that its entire collection of 17th century receipt (recipe) books - 75 manuscripts in total - have been made available online. They are currently available as PDFs from our [catalogue records](#).

These 'recipe' books contain more than just food. They cover healing, cosmetics, religious and intellectual interests, family and social networks, and household and veterinary management. The disconcerting mix of culinary and medical recipes in [Grace](#)

[Acton's 1621 volume](#) is typical: her flamboyant recipe for roast peacock is followed by an unappetising cure for bed-wetting that involves feeding a child a mouse boiled in urine.

The manuscripts are accumulations of knowledge passed from one generation to the next, and their numerous annotations give a sense of individual women's experiences. With their limited circulation, they allowed their compilers the freedom to explore their interests in a way unthinkable in published works. Ironically, however, they also served to reinforce social norms, providing a role model for the next generation of women.

For more information on this project, see our [digitisation pages](#) on the Wellcome Library website.

In order to keep the PDF file sizes down, they have been compressed, and in many cases, blank pages have been left out.

Mounting the images online is only half the project – we are currently indexing the recipe titles, a process we hope to have finished by the end of the summer.

Helen Wakely

Archivist

Cayley Robinson Launch



Orphan girls entering the refectory of a hospital, 1915. L0051546.

Acts of Mercy is the collective title of four large oil paintings on canvas painted by Frederick Cayley Robinson (1862-1927) between 1915 and 1920 for the Middlesex Hospital in London. They had been commissioned for the hospital around 1912 by the Australian-born mining tycoon and art-lover Edmund (later Sir Edmund) Davis (1861-1939).

The paintings were for many years on display in the entrance hall of the Middlesex Hospital. In 2005 the Middlesex Hospital's functions were transferred to University

College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust ([UCLH](#)), and in 2008 the Middlesex Hospital building was demolished.

UCLH and the Wellcome Trust, with the aid of [Tate](#) and [The Art Fund](#), entered discussions to ensure that these works were retained for the public benefit, as Edmund Davis intended. Tate offered to safeguard the paintings while discussions about finding a permanent location proceeded. Each of the canvases measures approximately 200 x 340 cm. (6 ½ x 11 feet).

In January 2009, The Wellcome Trust agreed to buy the four paintings and display them on the large walls in the entrance hall of the Wellcome Library. The official launch of the paintings took place in March of this year, at which Art Historian Richard Cork, gave a short talk on the significance and qualities of the paintings.



Men attending the hospital, 1920.
L0051536

The four canvases form two pairs. One of the pairs shows orphans and the other shows medical patients, reflecting the social and clinical roles of hospitals respectively. In the former pair orphan girls are receiving sustenance and upbringing. In the latter pair, patients including soldiers injured in World War I gather at the entrance to the hospital.

The [Acts of Mercy](#) now join more than 1,200 oil paintings and other works collected by the founder of the Wellcome Library, Henry S. Wellcome (1853-1936).

William Schupbach

Curator, Paintings, Prints, Drawings and Photographs

Medicine in Literature Events

The Wellcome Library has recently launched, "*Medicine in Literature*," a new strand of events, exploring how authors have drawn on our resources to inspire and inform their writing.

First, Philip Hoare, used archive images and film to revisit his research for his book *Spike Island* (2001), which re-imagined the history of Netley Victorian military hospital, near Southampton, Hampshire, through its ruins, and told the stories of the disparate men and women who worked or visited there.

Then, in May, Mike Jay gave the first public talk since publication by Yale University Press, on *The Atmosphere of Heaven: The Unnatural Experiments of Dr. Beddoes and his Sons of Genius* (2009). Mike discussed the chaotic rise and fall of the Pneumatic Institution in Bristol, and revealed its influence on the birth of the Romantic movement, the development of anaesthetic surgery and even modern day drug culture.

The first two events succeeded in bringing a new audience through our doors, and we aim to hold further “*Medicine in Literature*” events in Autumn 2009.

Phoebe Harkins

Assistant Librarian

Chris Carter Retirement

In the first week of June, after close to 40 years of working for the Wellcome, Chris Carter retired from his job as Senior Photographer in the Wellcome Library.

During this period, Chris photographed a vast array of Wellcome Library materials and Wellcome personnel: almost any search on our picture library [Wellcome Images](#) will produce images taken by him. And, given that Chris has photographed across the Library's holdings, the case could be made that he has actually seen more of our collections than any other person.

Chris has been a witness to a huge range of the Wellcome's activities over the last few decades, and recorded many of these events for posterity. His photography has also formed an integral part of thousands of books, journals and dissertations during this time, and will continue to be used by a wide audience long into the future.

Ross MacFarlane

Research Officer

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NEW MEMBERS PROFILES

Sally Green



Home town: Born in Marshall, TX, now live in Mobile, AL.

Current employer: Mobile Medical Museum, Director for 7 years overseeing all facets of the museum's operations, including exhibits, medical library and archives.

Education:

- Vanderbilt University;
- B.Sc. in Human Resources, University of South Alabama.

Professional interests: Preservation of historic buildings, sites and artifacts and research in regional history.

Other facts, interests or hobbies: I am married to a physician and was his office manager until his retirement. Prior to my work at the Medical Museum, I was president of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society which included operation of Oakleigh Mansion (a house museum) and archives. As a member of the Alabama Museums Association I am currently council representative for District 6, comprised of eleven counties in the southern part of the state. Hobbies include French handsewing, gardening and kayaking.

Kathleen Mahoney



Home Town: Kankakee, Illinois

Current employer: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Library, August 2009-present.

Education:

- I studied English and Modern languages at the University of Dallas (graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2002).
- I went to Spain on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship and studied Spanish Literature at the Universidad de Oviedo for one year after college (2003-2004). I was a visiting student and took 30 credit hours.
- I studied for my teaching certificate at National-Louis University (2006-2007) and am certified K-12 with endorsements in Spanish and English.

- I received my Masters of Library Science in August 2009 from The Catholic University of America.

Professional interests: cataloging, virtual reference services, government information

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I recently completed an internship with the National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division, working with the Rare Book Cataloger to upgrade cataloging records for a group of books from the hand press period.

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COLLECTIONS

Selikoff Papers Opened

The Mount Sinai Archives, a division of the Levy Library at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, is pleased to announce the opening of the first portion of the Irving J. Selikoff, MD Collection. The collection currently consists of over 33 feet organized into 9 series: Clippings Series, Box 1-2; Conferences Series, Box 3-5; Desk Files Series, Box 5; Individuals Series, Box 6-13; Mount Sinai Medical School/Medical Center Series, Box 13-15; Publications Series, Box 16-17; Subject Series, Box 18-29; Unions Series, Box 41-43; Widow Letters Series (restricted), Box 34. Two additional boxes (10 inches) of photographs are stored in the Archives photo collection. Please note that this collection is composed of Dr. Selikoff's correspondence files and does not include his research records. Irving Selikoff, 1915-1992, was a pioneer in environmental and occupational medicine. He was well known in the area of asbestos research, as well as work on the link between tobacco and cancer. There are many partially or completely restricted files. A complete finding aid is available from the Archives. It is anticipated that more accretions will be sent in the future. For more information please contact Barbara J. Niss at 212-241-7239, Barbara.Niss@mssm.edu or by writing below.

Barbara J. Niss

Archivist

Mount Sinai Medical Center

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NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Archives Finding Aids on Website

The staff at the Medical Center Archives is pleased to announce that selected finding aids are now available on our website (weill.cornell.edu/archives) for the personal papers of doctors and nurses who have been associated with the medical center. The Medical Center Archives holds the records of Weill Cornell Medical College (formerly Cornell University Medical College founded in 1898) and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell (formerly New York Hospital founded in 1771). Over the years many outstanding pioneers in medicine have worked at these two institutions.

Several of the online finding aids are for the collections of former chairmen of departments at Cornell University Medical College: Drs. David Barr (Medicine), McKeen Cattell (Pharmacology), Fritz Fuchs (Ob/Gyn), Frank Glenn (Surgery), R. Gordon Douglas (Ob/Gyn), George Heuer (Surgery), Joseph Hinsey (Dean/Anatomy), Samuel Levine (Pediatrics), Graham Lusk (Physiology), Walsh McDermott (Public Health), Alton Meister (Biochemistry), Robert Pitts (Physiology), George Reader (Public Health), Walter Riker (Pharmacology), Henricus Stander (Ob/Gyn), and Charles Stockard (Anatomy). All of these men were pioneers in their respective fields.

There are additional finding aids for the collections of other renowned faculty: Drs. Hugh DeHaven (who developed safety measures, such as seat belts for airplanes and automobiles, as part of the Cornell Crash Injury Research Project), George Papanicolaou, (the developer of the Pap Smear), Herbert Traut (a collaborator of Dr. Papanicolaou), Connie Guion (one of the first women to be appointed a clinical professor of medicine), Benjamin Kean (a specialist in tropical diseases), Harold Wolff (a pioneer in research of headaches and psychosomatic diseases), Victor Marshall (head of urology), David Rogers (a leading expert in AIDS and other infectious diseases and a former president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), E. Lovell Becker (kidney specialist), Keeve Brodman (developer of the Cornell Medical Index), Cranston Holman (involved in one of world's first heart-lung transplants, 1969), John MacLeod (male infertility specialist), Carl Muschenheim (expert on lung diseases and the treatment of tuberculosis), Preston Wade (trauma surgeon and one of President Kennedy's physicians), and Mary Allen Engle (pediatric cardiologist).

Finding aids are available for nurses, Mary Beard (director of the Red Cross Nursing Service), Marie Troup (chief nurse of the Ninth General Hospital in WWII), and Marion Stanley Doane, who were all graduates of our nursing school.

There are also finding aids to the papers of members of the Stimson Family, who were long associated with Cornell University Medical College and New York Hospital. Dr. Lewis Stimson was one of the founding faculty members of Cornell University Medical College; he was instrumental in organizing the original affiliation between Cornell University Medical College and New York Hospital in 1913. His niece, Julia, an alumna of New York Hospital Training School of Nurses, was the head of the Army Nurses Corps. Her brother, Philip, was a pediatrician at this medical center.

Another extensive finding aid is to the records of the Office of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society of the New York Hospital, which identifies administrative documents of the hospital dating from 1818 to 1933. The Secretary was responsible for taking and maintaining the minutes of meetings of the Board of Governors and other records; the Treasurer kept the financial records of the hospital. The bulk of the records documents the activities of the Board of Governors and its various committees. These records can be used as a case study of the changes in hospital administration over the years from a committee of lay persons to a system of trained administrators and doctors managing the hospital affairs.

Please let your patrons know about these valuable resources.

Elizabeth Shepard

Assistant Archivist

Medical Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell

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CHFM Announces New Resource in Family Medicine History Research

In July 2009, the Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) unveiled an important new online resource in the study of Family Medicine history: the *Classics in Family Medicine* webpage.

This unique resource features the most important articles, studies and reports that have been written on the history, development and practice of Family Medicine throughout the history of the specialty. These works have now been compiled into a single online

bibliographic resource for researchers. Wherever possible, online versions of the articles cited have also been provided for free download by researchers.

The *Classics in Family Medicine* project originally began in 2004, when the Center for the History of Family Medicine's governing board, the Board of Curators, conceived the idea for a project to assemble a collection of the most important/classic/memorable works relating to the specialty of Family Medicine. Originally conceived as a book tentatively entitled *The Anthology of Family Medicine*, the project has now evolved into a unique web-based resource.

After extensive research and review, the Board (which is composed of Family Medicine practitioners, educators, researchers, and executives from across the U.S.) identified a list of forty-four of the most important works that have been written on Family Medicine throughout the history of the specialty. These works—deemed classics by virtue of their impact on the development of the specialty—range in dates from 1927 to 2005 and discuss a wide variety of issues relating to General Practice, Family Practice, and the specialty of Family Medicine.

The *Classics* webpage, which was developed as part of the Center's ongoing commitment to preserve and share all areas of the history of the specialty of Family Medicine, is available online through the Center's website at:

<http://www.aafpfoundation.org/online/foundation/home/programs/center-history/classics.html>.

In announcing the site, CHFM Manager Don Ivey also emphasized that this project is still a work in progress. "This is an ever expanding and evolving project," Ivey said, adding that if researchers have suggestions for other articles that they feel should be included in this bibliography they should contact the Center at chfm@aafp.org.

Donald J. Ivey, MPA

Manager

Center for the History of Family Medicine

Leawood, KS

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EXHIBITIONS

New Online Reflections Exhibit: From One Moment to the Next: The Halifax Explosion

For those who weren't able to see the physical exhibit on the Halifax explosion that was in the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library lobby at the University of Virginia in February and March, you can see it online! The exhibit, *From One Moment to the Next: the Halifax Explosion*, describes the largest man-made explosion until the first atomic bomb was detonated over Hiroshima. Two square miles of Halifax, a major Canadian city where ALHHS met in 2006, was reduced to rubble when a munitions ship blew up in the harbor in December 1917.

The Web exhibit includes many contemporary photos and text by Normajeane Hultman and Addeane Caelleigh. Designed to be viewed by anyone interested in history and/or medicine, the emphasis is not just on the events leading up to the disaster and the direct aftermath, but also relief efforts. The earliest U.S. public emergency response unit, the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety, had its first test in Halifax and was only one of many contributors of aid.

This fascinating and educational exhibit can be viewed at

<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/halifax><http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/>. Note that other *Reflections* exhibits on neurasthenia, screens and public health, hand washing, corsets and fashion, and drowning and resuscitation can also be accessed at this site and are collaborative projects of Historical Collections and the Dean's Office of the School of Medicine. *Reflections on Health in Society & Culture* exhibits examine the interweaving of social and cultural themes in our understanding of health, illness, and ourselves. The next exhibition planned is *A Breath of Fresh Air: Tuberculosis Hospitals*.

Joan Echtenkamp Klein

Alvin V. & Nancy Baird Curator for Historical Collections
Claude Moore Health Sciences Library
University of Virginia

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EVENTS

Conferences and Workshops

SAHMS Twelfth Annual Meeting: March 5-6, 2010, Louisville, KY: Call for Abstracts

The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) invites paper proposals for its twelfth annual meeting on March 5-6, 2010, in Louisville, KY, co-sponsored by the University Of Louisville School Of Medicine and the Innominate Society.

SAHMS welcomes papers on the history of medicine and science, broadly construed to encompass historical, literary, anthropological, philosophical and sociological approaches to health care and science including race, disabilities and gender studies. Participants may propose individual papers or panels of several papers on a particular theme.

Each presenter is limited to 20 minutes, with additional time for questions and discussion. Please do not submit papers that have already been published, presented or scheduled for presentation at another meeting. All participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and must pay registration costs in advance of the meeting. There are student travel awards each year. For more information on applications for this competitive award, please see information on the SAHMS website.

Electronic submissions as email attachments in MS Word or other readily supportable formats are required. Submit a one-page abstract of the paper that includes the headings: Purpose of study; Rationale and significance; Description of methodology; Identification of major primary and secondary sources; and Findings and conclusions. Abstracts will be selected on the basis of merit. Proposals must also include three learning objectives for the presentation. Include a one-page CV and cover sheet (found on the website) for each presenter. Proposals should be submitted no later than October 31, 2009. All attendees must register in advance of the meeting. Please send paper proposals to Mary E. Gibson, PhD, RN at meg2e@virginia.edu.

Checklist for proposal submission:

- ☐ Cover sheet (from website)
- ☐ One page abstract including name, contact information and affiliation.
- ☐ Three learning objectives
- ☐ One page CV

For more information, please go to: <http://www.SAHMS.net>.

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Lectures

Medical Center Hours: Now Showing on YouTube!

The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library and the University Of Virginia School Of Medicine are pleased to announce a new service: *Medical Center Hours* are now available for viewing on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/uvamch>. Free subscriptions to the channel are offered as a convenient feature for the new service. We encourage you to subscribe!

The Medical Center Hour (MCH) is the School of Medicine's weekly forum on medicine and society. Produced by the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Humanities, *The Medical Center Hour* is an hour-long program held on Wednesdays from mid-September through March. For those unable to attend MCH presentations the YouTube videos will be welcome substitutes. Airing the videos on YouTube will extend MCH talks to a worldwide audience.

Many *Medical Center Hours* are History of the Health Sciences Lectures, co-sponsored by the Library's Historical Collections. The first MCH available on YouTube is Robert Martensen, M.D., Ph.D., presenting *A Doctor's Reflections on Illness in a High Tech Era*, on 18 February 2009. Dr. Martensen's talk is one of the History of Health Sciences Lectures, all available from this point forward at <http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/lectures.cfm>.

YouTube videos may be accessed at any time convenient for the viewer. It is now also possible to actually see the MCH speakers and commentators online.

To access the Medical Center Hour YouTube channel:

- Go to <http://www.youtube.com/uvamch>
- Click on Subscribe if you would like to subscribe to the channel and follow instructions for subscribing
- Select which video you would like to watch and begin!

Podcasts for MCH presentations will no longer be available. The YouTube service is replacing this delivery option.

Joan Echtenkamp Klein

Alvin V. & Nancy Baird Curator for Historical Collections

Claude Moore Health Sciences Library

University of Virginia

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History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series Presentations 2009-2010

October 14, 2009

History of the Health Sciences

The Walter Reed Award Lecture: Which Road to the Nobel Prize?

Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D., Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1998), Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, University of Texas-Houston, Medical School, Houston TX

November 11, 2009

History of the Health Sciences

Opening Doors: The Making of an African American Surgeon

Dorian J. Wilson, M.D., Department of Surgery and Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Center for Humanism in Medicine, New Jersey Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark NJ

In conjunction with "Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons," a National Library of Medicine exhibit in the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library.

March 3, 2010

History of the Health Sciences Lecture

Iconography of Contagion

Michael Sappol, Ph.D., Historian in the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, Rockville MD

In conjunction with "An Iconography of Contagion: An Exhibition of 20th-century Health Posters," a National Academy of Sciences exhibit in the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library.

March 31, 2010

The Kenneth R. Crispell Memorial History Lecture

Normal at Any Cost: Tall Girls, Short Boys, and Medicine's Quest to Manipulate Height

Susan Cohen and Christine Cosgrove, science journalists, Berkeley CA (authors of *Normal at Any Cost: Tall Girls, Short Boys, and the Medical Industry's Quest to Manipulate Height*)

Joan Echtenkamp Klein

Alvin V. & Nancy Baird Curator for Historical Collections

Claude Moore Health Sciences Library

University of Virginia

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MISCELLANEA

Website Review: Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine, Science Museum, London.

This recently launched website <http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife.aspx> includes images and explanations of 2,500 objects from the history of medicine collection housed in the Science Museum. Intended primarily for high school students, university undergraduates, and their teachers, the site provides a database searchable by country, person, theme, or topic. Many of the core themes historians of medicine are interested in appear here, including practicing medicine, understanding the body, war and medicine, and public health, although some other major areas, such as reproductive health, would make valuable additions. Search results begin with a summary of the item or issue, links to related artifacts or people, and further reading. Some also include

interactive elements or games. Online visitors more interested in browsing through the materials can also explore timelines of famous people and major events.

Making such a breadth of material easily navigable is quite a challenge, and the site can be commended for its concise topic summaries, the range of issues addressed, and the links drawn between the different subjects and the objects associated with them. There is clearly a wealth of fascinating material to discover and a tremendous amount of information incorporated. The broad scope does mean that many topics are not examined in great detail, and entries often skip around across time periods and countries rather than provide a more comprehensive analysis. Some search categories, such as “Vatican City” or “Patient Zero” do not currently yield any results, which may indicate a programming glitch or ongoing work to develop the site.

Overall, the approach provides important snapshots of the history of medicine in an engaging format and accessible language. Audio and sign-language descriptions are also available in some instances, although it is not clear if these will be added throughout or are confined to sections focusing explicitly on disability topics, such as war and medicine. Visitors are invited to download images, arrange their own online collection of objects and edit the text that accompanies them, or create interactive quizzes for others. No doubt innovative users will come up with numerous other ways to repurpose the material to enrich their own documents, presentations, or web sites, building on the potential of this resource.

Manon Parry

Exhibition Curator

National Library of Medicine

Brought to Life, striving to be “the ultimate resource for educators and students”, presents the Science Museum’s history of medicine collection through the framework of the British General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), a series of academic qualifications for secondary students to move on to colleges and universities. Although tailored to this specific curriculum, the learning goals are broadly stated so as to be applicable and useful to high school and undergraduate educators in the United States.

The “Teachers” section specifies relevant curriculum links, suggests activities and discussion ideas, supplies fun and engaging multimedia games for students, and provides online templates and step-by-step instructions on how to create classroom

materials using the images and text from the site. "Using this website" consists of several features that help teachers review, select, and incorporate the *Brought to Life* content into their instructional resources. For example, classroom activities are suggested based on the ten themes that organize the web content under "Themes & Topics." There are two activities suggested in each theme, where one activity has a direct link to the "Themes" section with sub topics, images, a multimedia game, and interpretive text with links to specific content elements. The multiple cross-links among the classroom activity, "Themes" section, and specific content elements provide a mediated exploration of the range of materials on the website. Navigating these cross-links, I found the Teachers link on upper right corner of the website helpful in finding my way back to the section where I had launched my exploration.

There are ten multimedia games listed at the bottom of the "Using this website" page. These games are also available on each of the ten theme pages. The games are specifically designed for students who, I think, will find all of the bells and whistles engaging. The visual and sound treatments are attractive and dynamic. The games are brief and focus on different history of medicine topics with various features, such as patient testimonials, testing students' knowledge and assumptions, problem solving, or story-telling instead of lecturing. These features are also supported by thoughtful application of technology, where the game content may well entertain students.

Under "Using objects" in the "Teachers" section, teachers find suggestions on object-centered activities as well as technical instructions on how to download and print object images from the website. Under "Creating your own resources," teachers encounter step-by-step instructions as well as online templates that they can use to assemble classroom handouts and quizzes. The instructions are clear and templates are easy to use for creating a document online. In addition to supporting teachers to create their own resources, this online assembly feature can also be useful for students to create project presentations.

Jiwon Kim

Exhibition Educator

National Library of Medicine

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News from the University of North Carolina

Special Collections at the Health Sciences Library of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill is pleased to announce a revamped website, the *Carolina Curator* blog, as well as its presence on *twitter* and *facebook*. The website www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections features the following new sections: Exhibitions; Highlights; Digital Collections; Historical Collections; Archival Collections; Oral History; Donor Collections; Research Resources; UNC Health Affairs History; the Bullitt History of Medicine Club; and Friends of the Health Sciences Library.

The ***Carolina Curator*** blog <http://carolinacurator.blogspot.com> is an open-ended forum for the history of the health sciences, and serves to alert readers to news and events, useful resources, and the activities of Special Collections at the Health Sciences Library and the university at large. Over the summer, the blog was named as one of the "100 Best Museum and Curator Blogs" by OnlineUniversities.com.

Notable recent activities in Special Collections include the recent awarding of \$34,850 for the first year of a three-year NC ECHO digitization grant project funded by the State Library of North Carolina. Building on a pilot project that resulted in the digitization of historical North Carolina journals in public health, dentistry, and eugenics, the ***North Carolina History of Health Digital Library*** will contain over 800 volumes (approximately 350,000 pages) of core journals in medicine, public health, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing from 1849 to 1977. These materials document the development of health care and the health professions and are thus a significant part of the state's cultural heritage and history. The digital library will be keyword searchable and browseable, and will provide consolidated online access to materials that are currently difficult for students, researchers, and the public to find and utilize in print. The digital library will also provide historical context for the digital resources and K-12 educational materials for selected content.

"UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health: Meeting the Public Health Challenges of the 21st Century"

www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/gillings/ is a new online exhibition at the Health Sciences Library that features both current initiatives and the history of the School, which was renamed following a \$50 million gift from Joan and Dennis Gillings. Visitors will find information on the Gillings Gift, Research and Teaching, Community and Global Outreach, Water, School History and Deans, North Carolina Public Health

History, and a research guide to public health resources at UNC. The online exhibit also incorporates audio and video selections (such as highlights from the naming ceremony and oral history interviews), a slide show from the Daniel Okun Papers, and many other materials. Library collections and projects are also well represented, including NC Health Info, the AHEC Digital Library, the UNC Project Library in Malawi, and digital initiatives at the library.

The ***Bullitt History of Medicine Club*** www.med.unc.edu/bhomc, a longstanding organization of the UNC School of Medicine, now offers its lecture series online as MP3s and via iTunes. A new series of speakers began in September, and the schedule can be viewed on the website. The Bullitt Club has also established an annual essay competition, the *McLendon-Thomas Award in the History of Medicine* that is currently soliciting submissions for its third year.

During the spring, the Health Sciences Library hosted a conversation with UNC's Nobel Laureate, **Professor Oliver Smithies**, who spoke on his life in science as well as on some of the many changes that have occurred in the scientific record during his career. Video excerpts and other Smithies-related materials are accessible online at <http://carolinacurator.blogspot.com/search/label/Oliver%20Smithies>.

Daniel Smith

Special Collections Librarian

Health Sciences Library

University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill

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Bakken Travel Grants

Scholars and artists are invited to apply for travel fellowships and grants, which the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers to encourage research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, prints, and instruments. The awards are to be used to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at the Bakken for researchers who must travel some distance and pay for temporary housing in the Twin Cities in order to conduct research at the Bakken.

Visiting Research Fellowships are awarded up to a maximum of \$1,500; the minimum period of residence is two weeks, and preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating informally for a day or two with Bakken staff during their

research visit. Research Travel Grants are awarded up to a maximum of \$500 (domestic) and \$750 (foreign); the minimum period of residence is one week.

The next application deadline for either type of research assistance is February 19, 2010.

For more details and application guidelines, please contact:

Elizabeth Ihrig,
Librarian
The Bakken Library and Museum
Ihrig@thebakken.org

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Murray Gottlieb Prize Submissions due November 1, 2009

Established in 1956 to recognize and stimulate the health sciences librarians' interest in the history of medicine, the Murray Gottlieb Prize is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences written by a health sciences librarian. For submission information, please see:

http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/awards/gottlieb_nom_20090707.pdf. Previous awardees are listed at <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/gottlieb.html>. The author of the winning essay receives complimentary registration to the annual meeting, a certificate at the association's annual meeting and a cash award of \$100 after the annual meeting. Please contact jury chair Lee Vucovich lvucovi@uab.edu with any questions.

Lee Vucovich

Assistant Director for Reference Services
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Atwater Visiting Scholar Program

The Rare Books & Manuscripts section of the Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N.Y., is soliciting applications for its Atwater Visiting Scholar Program. This research travel grant is intended to provide the selected

applicant with funding to work one week or longer with materials in the Edward C. Atwater Collection of American Popular Medicine. The Atwater Collection consists of more than 7,000 titles (books, pamphlets, periodicals, ephemera and manuscripts) published or generated between the late 18th century and 1917 that pertain to medical self-help in America, i.e., domestic medicine, domestic & personal hygiene, women's health, sexual physiology and hygiene, contraceptive practice, juvenile health education, and patent medicine advertising. The collection is described in *An Annotated Catalogue of the Edward C. Atwater Collection of American Popular Medicine and Health Reform* published in three volumes between 2001 and 2008.

The award of \$1,500 may be applied to transportation, housing or other costs incurred during a visit of one week or longer to the Miner Library during the 2009/10 fiscal year. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae and a cover letter describing his or her research interest as it relates to the Atwater Collection. Applications should be addressed to: Christopher Hoolihan, Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarian, Edward G. Miner Library, 601 Elmwood Ave., Rochester NY 14642 or via email at christopher.hoolihan@urmc.rochester.edu (telephone: 585-275-2979). No application deadline.

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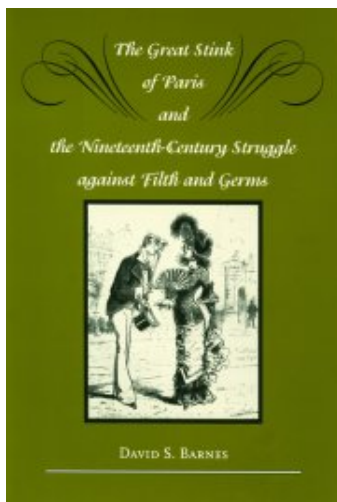
BOOK REVIEWS

Barnes, David S., *The Great Stink of Paris and the Nineteenth-Century Struggle against Filth and Germs* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

Public health, as we know it today in the United States, is based greatly on events and developments in France from 1880 through 1895. Summers in Paris, normally quite pleasant, were anything but in 1880 and in 1895. The air in many parts of the City of Light had turned odiferous, and both troublesome events, each lasting two to three months, came to be called Big Stinks. Likely causes? Sewer "emanations," human waste and garbage in the streets and improperly disposed of, urination in public places, stagnant water not properly drained away, indiscriminant dumping of industrial wastes into the River Seine, improper removal of human waste from cesspits in residential and commercial areas, poorly operated or maintained sewage treatment facilities outside the growing city, poorly operating sewers, etc. Living conditions for the poor and working

classes in the city meant severe overcrowding and filth, in buildings poorly lit and inadequately ventilated; diseases borne by human excrement only exacerbated the situation. Conditions were no better in rural areas either. Drinking water often came from sources in close proximity to contaminated water streams or piles of manure; in rural areas, humans often shared living quarters with farm animals.

Drawing on archival records and other sources, Barnes weaves a tapestry of causes, reactions, public clamor, involvement of the press and governmental response. He also charts a mindset change from odors as being carriers of disease to one of germ theory and of microbial pathogens as being culprits. In addition there is also an analysis of cultural changes. The author also describes hygiene courses being taught in schools; other scientific advances; the often tireless efforts of 'epidemic doctors' in the country's *départements* (akin to counties); the establishment of a niche medical specialty, that of "hygienist;" disinfection czars and disinfection crews; and equipment in this 15-year period. Whereas the 1880 Big Stink was surely thought to cause rampant disease in the city, the 1895 Big Stink was met with quite an about face. Filth and germs were considered the disease culprits then, by a more enlightened populace; France's Louis Pasteur lent his voice to the cause, further enhancing his reputation.



Paris hosted the World's Fair in 1900, and showcased by the Prefecture of Police was the city's disinfection service. A disinfection unit consisted of a crew of several men, and a horse-drawn mobile steam tank. The crews were outfitted in the PPE (personal protective equipment) of the day; protective robes and caps and gloves. France was where 'public health' was happening; other countries took note, often creating similar public health programs of their own. This mélange of old thinking with the new relative to these issues of this time is termed the "sanitary-bacteriological synthesis," or SBS, by Dr. Barnes.

The Big Stink of 1880 created a major public outcry. Conventional thought at that time was that disease was transmitted by bad odors/vapors/air or miasmas; the public clamor for the government and elected officials to do something was fanned by the press; then, as now, political cartoonists depicted the debacle in caricature fashion. The government's investigation pointed out numerous possible industrial causes for the bad odors; certainly not just cesspits alone, or the sewers. *Vidange*, or the emptying of

cesspits, especially if done improperly, was likely a partial cause of the Big Stinks. Instead of carrying human waste to the treatment plants some distance away, the *vidangeurs* could easily have tossed their cargoes into Paris sewers. The sewers may not always have functioned properly either or have been flushed as often as necessary. An unusually heavy snow the winter of 1880 also likely added to the city's woes, hampering sanitation efforts.

Sanitation conditions in rural areas were often more deplorable. "Epidemic doctors," who had their origins under the rule of Louis XIV, continued to fill a vital role. As the name implies, these physicians responded to and reported findings on disease outbreaks in the hinterlands, well before the Big Stinks. These physicians were required to document findings, reporting them to a health council or similar body; findings were often reported in the medical literature, giving us insight into the human conditions of those times. Not always welcomed by rural villagers who often considered the physicians as outsiders, these men would prove instrumental in dispelling much superstition and helping change the religious attitudes of those in rural settings. Many Roman Catholics in rural areas were resigned to their stations of poverty and despair. Squalid living conditions abounded, as did contaminated water supplies and other detriments. Efforts to educate youngsters by instituting hygiene courses in school would eventually pay handsome dividends.

Sharon Lee Butcher, MLS, MSO

Reference Librarian

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Owen, Patricia, 27 Commonwealth Avenue (CreateSpace, 2008)

The author lived with others at Number 27, while she was serving a dietetic internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital fifty years ago. The building stands on land which was reclaimed, bucket by bucket, from Boston's Back Bay (so-called because it was once located on the other side of the town from the Harbor.) It was almost exactly one hundred years before Owen arrived in Boston, when one Samuel Hooper ordered the building to be constructed, together with its "other half", number 25. By 1865, it stood handsomely in a large corner lot separated by a solid granite balustrade from the wide brick sidewalk and rough appearing avenue. Indeed this was one of the buildings that may have set the tone for what would eventually be many along the still proud Avenue.

Many years later, Number 27 & 25 became property of the Hospital. Named "Herrick House" for its donor, the building was used variously for housing and other activities for a number of years. More recently, in line with the trend in that area, the entire property has been converted into upscale condominiums.

Much of Patricia Owen's narrative is based in this locale, almost adjacent to what was probably America's first (1634) public Common. Both the Common and Massachusetts General Hospital (founded in 1811 and a central part of the story), were virtually "prime direct waterfront" property in their respective early days. Boston's coastal location comes into view frequently through numerous brief reminiscences offered in this vividly presented collection.

The author, with a fresh B.S. degree from the Oklahoma University School of Home Economics, was one of a modest number accepted into Massachusetts General Hospital's course for dietetic internes in 1957. In her hundred page book, she has recalled various places, people, events, and day-to-day activities from her time in Boston. Administrative and social details about the MGH intern experience are remarkably well documented, and are accompanied by a number of fairly clear illustrations in color. The "flavor" of this almost diary-like account of a segment of Boston history of fifty years ago rings very true indeed.

Let your mind shift back to these times (or, for younger readers, to history classes) for a minute or two. *Crest*® toothpaste and FORTRAN had just appeared in public. Salk polio vaccine and the Suez Canal were still in news reports. People were reading Jack Kennedy's Pulitzer-winning *Profiles in Courage*, and Grace Metalious had written *Peyton Place*. Just months before young Patricia's entrance into the scene, Boston's Rear Admiral George Dufek and crew reached the South Pole by plane and established what became a very productive research station there. (Before she left town, Boston's Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the first American to fly over that pole, died.)

The Owen book is replete with short descriptions and anecdotes that give us a clear and quite readable sampling of what Boston was like for an out-of-town student in a professional environment. Brief follow-up information, including some obituaries, is provided about many of the author's friends and associates of the time, as is appropriate for a 50th year Class Report, which, virtually this book is. Overall, the publication is a quick read, and somewhat in keeping with today's style it reads rather like a blog. Its best audience will be those persons fairly closely related to its time and place, plus, of

course, social historians.

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