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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



Here at last is the first issue of our 33<sup>rd</sup> volume. I wanted to get as much information about the upcoming Annual Meeting as possible in it, so am grateful to **Renee Ziemer**, the ALHHS Local Arrangements Chair, **Holly Herro**, the ALHHS Program Chair and **James Curley**, the MeMA Program Chair for both their hard work and the contributions to this issue. In addition to the programme, there are background pieces on the tours and general information about Rochester to help those attending the meeting. There are also profiles of the Mayo Clinic Libraries and the Mayo Clinic Historical Suite and Archives. Our cover features the original Board of Governors' Room of the Mayo Clinic, now part of the Historical Suite. Come on the tour and see the original!

This year marks a number of medical milestones. It is the centenary of *the Flexner Report*, which had such a profound impact on American medical education, as well as the death of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). Perhaps a less famous anniversary is the sesquicentennial of Anton Chekhov's birth (January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1860 - July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1904). Famous as the author of such plays as *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Seagull* and *Uncle Vanya* and numerous short stories, Chekhov saw himself as a doctor as much as a writer and in fact attributed his literary talents to his diagnostic training and the variety of people he saw in his practice. He was a wonderfully humane practitioner, giving freely of himself to the peasants and other poor people who sought his help as well as founding clinics and battling a cholera epidemic in 1892. I am curious to know if anyone is doing anything to celebrate these events, say through exhibitions or lectures. If so, I would love it if you could write to *The Watermark* describing it.

Two final bits of news: I am pleased to welcome **Jonathan Erlen** of the University of Pennsylvania to *The Watermark* team as Associate Book Review Editor. His help in this department is greatly appreciated. Expressions of gratitude go out as well to **Russell Johnson** of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA and ALHHS webmaster for making the electronic versions of *The Watermark* available on our website (<http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/alhhs/>). This is an intermediate step while we pursue a secure, permanent home for digitized versions of the complete run of our newsletter.

As usual, I am grateful for everyone's contributions and encourage all our readers to contribute "news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of ALHHS."

Hope to see you in Rochester!

**Chris Lyons**

Assistant History of Medicine Librarian  
Osler Library of the History of Medicine  
McGill University

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT****Rochester!**

It seems that 2009 just flew by, and now our ALHHS Annual Meeting is just around the corner! I hope that many of you will join us in beautiful Rochester, Minnesota, at the historic Mayo Clinic. Renee Ziemer is doing a great job with local arrangements and has arranged some wonderful tours for us, as well as the annual dinner. I'm sure good times will be had by all. You can read more about Rochester and its charms elsewhere in this issue.

Holly Herro and the Program Committee are putting together a full day of programming that will include an educational component in the morning. We'll be having a joint program with our colleagues from the Medical Museums Association. Holly's article in this issue will have more details on what is certain to be a stimulating program.



## Honors and accolades

The Annual Meeting is also the occasion for presenting awards to recognize the accomplishments of members and colleagues. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for the Lisabeth M. Holloway award, the ALHHS Curatorship award, or the ALHHS Recognition of Merit. Contact Christine Ruggere, chair of the Awards Committee, at [ruggere@jhmi.edu](mailto:ruggere@jhmi.edu), to make a nomination.

ALHHS will also be presenting a Publication Award this year to honor an outstanding work published by an ALHHS member in the past 4 years. Remember, we decided at last year's meeting that websites are now eligible for the Publication Award along with print publications. Michael North will be chairing the Publication Award Committee. To nominate a publication, contact Michael at [northm@mail.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:northm@mail.nlm.nih.gov).

I really want to present some awards at this meeting, my last as ALHHS President. C'mon folks, help make my dream come true!

## Opportunities

As always, ALHHS needs YOUR support and participation. Here are some ways that you can serve the organization:

**Directory Editor:** It's time to produce the bi-annual ALHHS Directory, to be distributed to all members later this year. The Editor will assemble the components of the Directory (working with the Secretary-Treasurer to ensure the accuracy of members' information) and oversee production of the publication. If you are interested, please contact me. You'll make my week!

**Officers:** In 2010 ALHHS will be electing a Secretary (assuming the bylaw change passes) and 2 Members-at-Large of the Steering Committee. When the Nominating Committee sends out the call, please consider running for office. Speaking from personal experience, being an ALHHS officer can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your professional life.

Many thanks to all of the ALHHS officers, committee members, those who produce *The Watermark*, and all of the many volunteers who keep this organization running throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Rochester!

Happy 2010!

**Lisa A. Mix**

Manager of Archives & Special Collections  
Library and Center for Knowledge Management  
University of California, San Francisco

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## ALHHS ANNUAL MEETING: ROCHESTER MINNESOTA



As you are making plans for 2010, please mark your calendar for April 28 and 29 to attend the 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences to be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel (<http://www.thekahlerhotel.com/>) in Rochester, Minnesota. To learn more about the unique history of the hotel, which opened in 1921 and included operating suites, 150-bed convalescent unit and 220-room hotel, visit this webpage [http://www.thekahlerhotel.com/about\\_kahler/](http://www.thekahlerhotel.com/about_kahler/).

The hotel is located across the street from Mayo Clinic, one of the largest integrated medical centers in the world, which provides comprehensive diagnosis and treatment in virtually all medical and surgical specialties. More than 350,000 patients from all walks of life seek answers at Mayo Clinic each year. Mayo Clinic occupies approximately 13 million square feet - about 2.5 times the size of the Mall of America. The hotel and clinic are located in the hub of downtown Rochester with easy accessibility to a variety of

dining experiences and shopping. To help you plan your stay and learn more about what Rochester has to offer, visit the Rochester Convention and Visitors Bureau website at (<http://www.rochestercvb.org/>). The skyway and subway systems make it easy to navigate through downtown Rochester without going outdoors!

Join us on Wednesday afternoon for tours of the Mayo Historical Suite, which includes the restored offices of Drs. William J. and Charles H. Mayo and the original Board of Governors Room; the Mayo History of Medicine Library where several thousand volumes of rare medical classics (from 1479) and early journal literature (from 1665) comprise the core collection of primary literature on all aspects of medicine and allied fields; Heritage Hall museum, which presents multimedia displays that link Mayo's history with Mayo's current activities and Mayo's plans for the future; and a Multidisciplinary Simulation Center where simulation-based medical education is taught. The center provides a controlled or simulated environment created to imitate a real-life patient care setting where learners can practice and master skills without putting patients at risk.

In addition, you may register to visit the Rochester Art Center on Wednesday afternoon. The exhibit at the center will feature more than 250 prints and engravings, from Dr. W. Bruce Fye's personal collection, depicting a broad range of medical themes. Selected from one of the world's largest collections on the subject, the works span five centuries: from a 1493 German woodcut *The Dance of Death* to Rosemary Covey's 1998 wood engraving *Antigenic Shift*. Most of the prints in the exhibit were produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by artists and craftsmen who used various engraving, etching, or lithography techniques. They will be grouped thematically with major sections devoted to anatomy, patients in various contexts, nurses, portraits of physicians, surgical treatment and other therapies, military medicine, caricatures, and patent medicine advertisements.



In the evening, ALHHS and Medical Museums Association members will meet for dinner in the Elizabethan Room located on the lobby level of the Kahler Grand Hotel.



The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29 in Phillips Hall in the Siebens Building, which is part of the Mayo Clinic campus and located directly across the street from the hotel. The program committee has been working diligently to provide sessions sure to pique the interest of those attending.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to seeing you in April!

**Renee Ziemer**

ALHHS Local Arrangements Chair

Mayo Clinic Historical Unit

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## *Rochester 2010: The Annual Meeting Program*

The Program Chairs and Local Arrangements Committee invite you to attend a joint annual meeting between the Medical Museums Association and the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences at the Mayo Clinic. This year we are excited to announce that Steve Puglia will be joining us as guest speaker to talk about digital production and digital preservation. Below is the tentative program.

| Wednesday, 28 April 2010 |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.         | <b>Tours</b> (Select one tour choice)<br><br><b>Tour #1</b><br>Mayo History of Medicine Library & Plummer Library<br>Mayo Historical Suite<br><br><b>Tour #2</b><br>Mayo Heritage Hall Museum<br>Simulation Center |
| 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.         | <b>Optional tour - Rochester Art Center</b><br>The exhibit will feature more than 250 prints and engravings  |

### Wednesday, 28 April 2010

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
|                  | spanning five centuries, from Dr. W. Bruce Fye's personal collection, depicting a broad range of medical themes. (Another opportunity to see the exhibit is during an AAHM meeting) |
| 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | <b>Steering Committee Meeting</b><br>Siebens Building, Second Floor, Room 203   |
| 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. | <b>Cash Bar</b><br>Kahler Grand Hotel, Lobby Level, Elizabethan Room  |
| 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | <b>Dinner</b><br>Kahler Grand Hotel, Lobby Level, Elizabethan Room  |

### Thursday, 29 April 2010

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.   | <b>Continental Breakfast</b><br>Siebens Building, First Floor, Phillips Hall                                       |
| 8:45 – 9:00 a.m.   | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>   |
| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  | <b>Steve Puglia</b><br>Digital production and digital preservation   |
| 10:00 – 10:15 p.m. | <b>Break</b>   |
| 10:15 – 11:30 p.m. | <b>Steve Puglia</b><br>Digital discussion continues  |
| 11:30 – Noon       | <b>Dr. Brent Bauer</b> , Mayo Clinic, General Internal Medicine<br>Historical Collections Used in Medical Research |
| Noon – 12:15 p.m.  | <b>Break</b>   |
| 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.  | <b>Business Meetings</b> – separate organizations  |
| 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Boxed lunch with MeMA attendees</b>   |
| 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.   | <b>Matt Dacy</b> , Director, Mayo Clinic Heritage Hall<br>History of Mayo Clinic and Local History                 |

## Thursday, 29 April 2010

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. | <b>Select speakers from ALHHS and MeMA</b><br>Outreach Through the Use of Technology: using Twitter, Podcasts, Weblogs, or Facebook to showcase digital collections. There will be a break during this. |
| 4:00 – 4:30      | <b>Mayo Industrial Hygienist</b><br>Discussion on How to Exhibit, Store, and Handle “Hidden” Toxic Materials in History of Medicine Collections   |

We look forward to seeing you in April!

**Renee Ziemer**

ALHHS Local Arrangements Chair

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## *Information about Rochester*

### **What to Expect from the Weather**

Rochester weather can be pretty unpredictable in the Spring. The average temperature for the end of April is 50 degrees. The conference hotels (Kahler Grand and Rochester Marriott), Mayo Clinic, Civic Center, Rochester Art Center, and several downtown shopping complexes and restaurants are connected by a comprehensive subway and skyway system that means you will not have to go outside in inclement weather.

### **Airport and Ground Transportation Information**

Rochester International Airport (RST)

Helgerson Drive SW

Rochester, MN 55902

507-282-2328

[rst@rochesterintlairport.com](mailto:rst@rochesterintlairport.com)

Check flight schedules at [www.rochesterintlairport.com](http://www.rochesterintlairport.com)

Rochester International Airport is located 8 miles south of the city, just off US Highway 63. Second in Minnesota only to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Rochester International Airport serves hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Be sure to use RST as your airport code when ordering tickets online to avoid confusion with Rochester, New York.

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Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

Lindbergh Terminal 612-726-5555

Humphrey Terminal 612-726-5800

[www.mspairport.com](http://www.mspairport.com)

90 minutes north of Rochester, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport offers additional flight service. Daily shuttle service to and from the Minneapolis Airport is available by making reservations through GO Rochester Direct. Available seven days a week, vans pick up and deliver passengers in the Ground Transport area. Shuttles serve most Rochester hotels and advance reservations are recommended. The Kahler Grand is one of their regular stops. Travel time one way is approximately 90 minutes. Regular

fare one way is \$29 or round trip \$55; senior (60+) fare one way is \$27 or round trip is \$52.

GO Rochester Direct

507-280-9270

800-280-9270

[www.gorochesterdirect.com](http://www.gorochesterdirect.com)

### **Taxi Service**

If taxi service is needed, the taxi company will provide at-the-door pickup. City ordinances set a minimum charge of \$3.75 for each taxi load. Charges begin with a \$3.75 meter flip and accrue at \$2.25 per mile thereafter. Taxi fare between downtown and the Rochester International Airport is approximately \$25.00 that can be shared by up to four occupants. Advance reservations suggested for hotel to airport transports.

### **By Road – Highways**

Rochester is easily accessible by highway. East-West Highway Routes: Interstate 90, US Hwy 14, State Hwy 30, State Hwy 42, State Hwy 296. North-South Highway Routes: Interstate 35, US Hwy 52, US Hwy 63.

Rochester is centrally located in the Midwest with sixteen major metropolitan areas less than 550 miles away.

- Minneapolis, MN - 76 miles
- Madison, WI - 202 miles
- Chicago, IL - 355 miles

### **Hotels**

The conference hotels are the Kahler Grand Hotel and the Marriott Hotel. The AAHM room rate is \$110.00 or student rate \$59 at the Kahler (800-533-1655) and \$143.00 at the Marriott (800-228-9290) per night. A listing of other hotel choices is available at <http://www.visitrochestermn.com/visitors/accommodations.asp>. Reservations at those hotels can be made by calling the hotel directly.



## Restaurants

Rochester is an international city of international tastes. With over 165 restaurants, there is something for everyone. The following choices are all in the downtown area and in easy walking distance from the Mayo Clinic and the conference hotels.

### **300 First** (300 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW, First Floor, 507-281-2451)

Prime Steaks, Fresh Fish, & Smokin' Martinis. American style food prepared without shortcuts in a hip, stylish setting for people who truly enjoy dining casually. The menu boasts prime grade steaks and prime rib, grilled fresh fish, American Kobe beef burgers, sandwiches, fresh salads, and tempting desserts. Signature martinis and cocktails, along with handcrafted and domestic beers and wines, round out the menu.

### **Bilotti's Italian Village** (304 1st Ave SW, 507-282-8669)

Relax in a rustic setting while the staff at Bilotti's Italian Village serves you traditional Italian food. You can also choose from an American menu of salads and sandwiches.

### **Chester's Kitchen & Bar** (111 S. Broadway, 507-424-1211)

Conveniently located in University Square, Chester's is downtown's answer to classic American food served in a contemporary, casual setting. The "energetic, high-spirited bar" is a favorite gathering place for the after-work crowd. Relax to the sounds of live jazz on Friday and Saturday evenings.

### **City Café** (216 1st Ave SW, 507-289-1949)

Step out of Rochester into the quaint metropolitan ambience of City Cafe, and discover why it was voted "Rochester's Best Restaurant" for the past three years. Specializing in "flown in fresh" seafood and fish, new American cuisine, and award-winning mojitos. A playful, award-winning martini menu and a great outdoor seating area simply add to the fun.

### **Grand Grill** (Kahler Grand Hotel Lobby, 507-285-2585)

Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Savor delicious weekday, home-style lunch buffets.

### **Jasper's** (14 Historic 3rd Street, 507-280-6446)

This is a bistro where you can enjoy upscale dining or pizza and beer in an intimate and relaxed setting. Chef Joe Purl delights restaurant goers with Alsatian specialties - Boeuf

a la Mode and Tarte Flambe, and with regional favorites - Pan-crusted Walleye and Wild Rice Risotto Cakes. And of course, you can't go home without tasting the incredible desserts.

**Lord Essex Tavern** (Kahler Grand Hotel Lobby, 507-282-2581)

Old World Hospitality in the Kahler's most distinctive restaurant. The award winning chef's menu offers fresh fish choices and prime rib roasted daily.

**Mac's Downtown Restaurant** (20 1st St SW, 507-289-4219)

Mac's Cafe is the place to go for fine Greek or American food. Gyros or hamburgers, it's your choice. Even if you want breakfast at 6 p.m.!

**Martini's at the Kahler** (Kahler Grand Hotel Lobby, 507-280-6200)

Martini's not only has over 60 Martini choices, it serves a wide variety of tapas, including the "Awesome Burger" and a Prime Rib Panini. Martini's is located in the Kahler Grand Hotel in the heart of downtown, across the street from the Mayo Clinic and centrally located near shopping and entertainment in downtown Rochester. Martini's also now has outdoor seating on the plaza. Enjoy great food and drink with a new open-air atmosphere.

**Michael's Restaurant & Lounge** (15 Broadway Ave S, 507-288-2020)

Michael's has been offering fine dining in downtown Rochester since 1951. Features steaks, chops and seafood, along with daily specials and patron favorites. Diners are guaranteed to find many things to please every palate.

**Newt's** (216 ½ SW 1st Avenue, 507-289-0577)

Newt's, a local tradition since 1978, is the only place for great burgers and cold beer. Voted Best Burger FIVE years in a row, the menu features 12 different hamburgers to choose from, all guaranteed to satisfy burger lovers! Come see why this 80 seat restaurant serves up well over two tons of hamburger a month! Quick lunches, a kids menu, and a large selection of cold imports, microbrews, domestic beer, wine, and a full bar are complemented by the friendly service.

**Oak Room Restaurant & Bar** (Marriott Hotel Lobby, 507-280-6000)

American cuisine.

**Pannekoeken Restaurant (6 First Avenue NW, 507-287-0722)**

Home of the famous oven baked Pannekoeken, a light, fluffy Dutch-style pancake. The original apple-stuffed pannekoeken is still the most popular item on the menu day or night - top it off with syrup and ice cream for a dessert-worthy treat. They also offer delicious homemade muffins, sandwiches and burgers.

**Pescara (150 S Broadway, 507-280-6900)**

Pescara invites those with an appetite for fresh, forward food to share small plates, savor fine wine and enjoy selections from sea and land. Located in the newly renovated DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Rochester, it's the perfect place to gather for business lunches, pre-theater appetizers or romantic dinners.

**Redwood Room (300 1st Ave NW, 507-281-2978)**

Gourmet Pasta, Pizza, and Live Jazz. A boisterous, bar atmosphere makes this downtown spot the place to go for fun. Handmade pastas and gourmet pizzas with culinary twists, rambunctious martinis, and a stylishly rustic atmosphere amid a backdrop of light jazz and acoustic music, all keep guests coming back for more. Voted Most Romantic Ambience for the past 6 years and Best Place for Live Music.

**Söntés (4 Third St. SW, 507-292-1628)**

Small plates and tapas. Wine lovers can choose from roughly 130 different types of wine at Söntés. Voted Best Place to Lounge Over a Fine Glass of Wine.

**Sushiitto (318 S. Broadway, 507-280-0034)**

Sushiitto combines the traditional Japanese food with flavors of the western world. Offerings include Chicken, Beef, Seafood, Rice, and Vegetable dishes as well as a wide variety of specialty rolls and a traditional sushi menu.

**Victoria's Fine Italian Cuisine (7 1st Ave SW, 507-280-6232)**

Victoria's serves up authentic Italian food in an elegant, yet upbeat atmosphere. Everything is as fresh as possible and made just for you when you order it. Includes a gluten-free menu.

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

### *“Reflections on Health in Society & Culture”: A Series of Exhibitions at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Library*



From Summer 2007 through Spring 2009 a series of seven exhibitions were opened simultaneously in the lobby of the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library and on the Web. The Historical Collections department in the library and the Dean's Office at the University

of Virginia's (UVa) School of Medicine collaborated on the exhibition series, *Reflections on Health in Society & Culture*. The exhibit series, usually referred to by the collaborators as simply *Reflections*, examined the interweaving of social and cultural themes in our understanding of health, illness, and ourselves. Each physical exhibit in the library lobby featured an essay on a selected topic, art to illustrate the topic, text to expand upon it and cultural objects on the topics in the social and cultural history of health and illness. As often as possible, items from Historical Collections were featured in the physical exhibits. The primary image for *Reshaping the Body: Clothing & Cultural Practice* is an 1819 caricature by George Cruikshank, which is in Historical Collections. The exhibit creators also had access to the collections of the UVa Art Museum and the UVa Drama Department and worked with them for several of the exhibits. For the first exhibit, *A Watery Grave: Discovering Resuscitation*, we featured the period bathing costume of a drama staff member's grandmother. For *Reshaping the Body* we featured corseted manikins, costumed in 19<sup>th</sup>-century dresses from the costumes collections in the Drama Department. Another source of material for display items was EBay. The faculty member from the Dean's Office scoured the site to find suitable items, which she then donated to Historical Collections. The real and model lotus shoes for bound feet for the *Reshaping the Body* exhibit came from the auction site.

A popular element of the physical exhibits was the drawing at the end of each exhibit for non-Historical Collections items that were either featured in the exhibit or complemented the topic. Exhibit visitors had filled out slips of paper with their names and contact information and deposited them in an appropriate receptacle, e.g. a brass spittoon for the *Every Breath You Take: Tuberculosis Treatments*. Exhibit giveaways included a pocket watch for *From One Moment to the Next: The Halifax Explosion* and a ewer and

basin for *Coming Clean: Hand Washing and Public Health*. (I was actually surprised that anyone *wanted* that particular “prize.” It was a pretty unattractive set -- read cheap -- I thought.) We created an e-mail list from the names on the slips to let them know when the next exhibit went up.



**"The Cholic" by George Cruikshank, 1819. Engraving on paper. Featured in "Reshaping the Body."**

The interaction with the physical exhibits went both ways. We gave away keepsakes and sometimes people gave us mementos. For the Halifax explosion exhibit we had period-looking clothes on display to symbolize the clothes that were donated to the survivors of the disaster. When we looked at the clothing on the table one morning, we discovered that early 21<sup>st</sup>-century designer jeans had been added to the pile, which were donated to Goodwill, completing the relief cycle.

While the physical exhibits were on display for a limited time, each one was complemented by a Web exhibit on the same topic, which opened simultaneously with the physical exhibit but which are perennially on display. The *Reflections* Web exhibits offered expanded essays on the display topics, useful Web links, recommended readings, and, for two of the exhibits, the exhibit brochure. We were fortunate that we had great support from our library technology and Web teams. The “Reflections” exhibits, in chronological order, were:

- *A Watery Grave: Discovering Resuscitation*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/fall2007/index.html>)
- *Reshaping the Body: Clothing & Cultural Practice*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/winter2008/index.html>)
- *Coming Clean: Hand Washing and Public Health*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/spring2008/index.html>)
- *Screening for Health: Insects & Disease Prevention*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/summer2008/>)



- *Neurasthenia & the Culture of Nervous Exhaustion*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/fall2008/>)
- *From One Moment to the Next: The Halifax Explosion*  
(<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/halifax/>)
- *Every Breath You Take: Tuberculosis Treatments*  
([http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/tuberculosis/white\\_plague.html](http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/reflections/tuberculosis/white_plague.html))

The *Reflections* project came to an end when it did due to personnel, budget, and time constraints. The exhibits, both physical and online, were created by a faculty member in the Dean of the School of Medicine's office, Addeane S. Caelleigh, who worked on this project part-time, and a staff member in Historical Collections, Normajean Hultman, who worked on "Reflections" full-time. The Historical Collections Specialist, Sonya Coleman, created lovely brochures for the exhibits. Historical Collections' time commitment was not envisioned to be so large at the beginning of the "Reflections" series, but it soon proved that it had to be 40 hours per week to meet the exhibition schedule of a new exhibit every quarter. The *Reflections* Historical Collections staff member left the library to move to another state and that position was eliminated due to budget cuts, along with a part-time Historical Collections graduate student position. Given our smaller staff and doing-more-with-fewer exigencies, there was no one in the department who could take on the responsibility for *Reflections*. The *Reflections* Dean's Office faculty member assumed new duties around the same time, which effectively ended her involvement in the project, too. We had also, for the 18-month period, been using all Historical Collections allotted library technology and Web teams' time on putting up the *Reflections* online exhibits. We needed to allow at least equal time for other departmental online projects, which had stacked up in the interim. We felt, however, that the *Reflections* exhibits had had a good run and the Web exhibits live on.

We recently redesigned the Historical Collections Web exhibits home page (<http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/exhibits2.cfm>), a project that had had to wait until *Reflections* ended, to make our online exhibits more visible to the public. In the redesign process we chose to eliminate the separate *Reflections* home page. We thought the individual exhibits, pulled out from the former umbrella format, would gain more visibility. We definitely wanted the most visibility possible after spending so much time on these exhibits and statistics showed that they were not being discovered and visited as much as we would have liked. All the *Reflections* exhibits are in the "Public Health" category,

and *From One Moment to the Next: The Halifax Explosion* is also found in “Military Medicine.”

The *Reflections on Health in Society & Culture* exhibition series was an interesting, fun, challenging, complex, and time-intensive project. I’m glad that we undertook it and also glad that the timing worked. We would not be able to do this project now. We invite you to visit the online *Reflections* exhibits and see if we did, indeed, examine the interweaving of social and cultural themes in our understanding of health, illness, and ourselves.

### Joan Echtenkamp Klein

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

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## *“Oliver Wendell Holmes and the Spirit of Scepticism”: A Symposium at the Countway Library*

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894) spent parts of the nineteenth century as America’s best-known physician and best-selling author. Sir William Osler praised him as “the most successful combination which the world has ever seen, of the physician and man of letters.” Henry James, Sr., called him “intellectually the most alive man I ever knew.” Today, he is remembered as a physician for his investigation of the contagiousness of puerperal fever (well before the advent of the germ theory), for his advocacy for therapeutic skepticism and rationalism, and for coining such terms as “anesthesia.” He is celebrated as a literary and cultural figure for such poems as “Old Ironsides” (considered responsible for saving the *U.S.S. Constitution*), for his ground-breaking contributions to *The Atlantic Monthly* (which he named), and for terming Boston the “Hub of the solar system” and describing its “Brahmin” caste.

Holmes was both the founding president of the Boston Medical Library and dean of Harvard Medical School during a key era in its development, and on November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Countway Library of Medicine’s Center for the History of Medicine held a bicentennial symposium to explore “*Oliver Wendell Holmes and the Spirit of Skepticism*.” In the first panel, on Holmes as a cultural figure, Charles Bryan first set the scene with a biographical overview of Holmes and an exploration of Holmes’s “*religio medici*.” Peter

Gibian then placed Holmes at the center of an inquisitive – and talkative -19<sup>th</sup> century's culture of conversation, while Michael Weinstein placed Holmes at the head of an intellectual lineage of depth psychologists, exploring the nature of consciousness and its implications for free will and responsibility. For the second panel, on Holmes' medical persona, John Haller, Amalie Kass, and then Charles Rosenberg in absentia respectively enlightened us regarding Holmes's three most memorable essays – his 1842 paper on homeopathy and its kindred delusions, his 1843 investigation and announcement of the contagiousness of puerperal – or childbed - fever, and his 1860 lecture before the Massachusetts Medical Society on currents and counter-currents in medical science, where Holmes uttered his most famous medical epigram that “if the whole material medica – *as now used* – could be sunk to the bottom of the sea, it would be all the better for mankind, - and all the worse for the fishes.”

It became clear that if there is one theme that unites Holmes the physician and Holmes the man of letters it would be his identity as a skeptic: Holmes's attack on such apparent medical dogmas as heroic medicine and homeopathy would be paralleled by a skepticism that would render him critical of Calvinism and most other “isms” of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, Holmes' medical and non-medical iconoclasm ultimately appeared inseparable, making the distinction between Holmes the physician and Holmes the man of letters impossible to maintain. Both of Holmes's personae, nevertheless, remain highly relevant today.

The symposium will be accompanied by an edited volume entitled *Oliver Wendell Holmes: Physician and Man of Letters* (Science History Publications, 2009), containing essays by each of the symposium's contributors. In addition, the editors have arranged and annotated approximately 500 epigrams and excerpts from Holmes's medical and non-medical writings in such a way as to present, perhaps for the first time, an accessible overview of Holmesian thought.

**Scott Podolsky, MD**

Director of the Center for the History of Medicine  
Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine  
Harvard University

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## PROFILE: MAYO CLINIC HISTORICAL SUITE AND ARCHIVES



**Plummer Building**

Located in the magnificent Plummer Building, the Mayo Historical Suite is a quiet refuge in the heart of the world's largest private medical center. It is a museum that reminds staff members, patients, and visitors that Mayo Clinic owes much of its unique character and success to the vision and idealism of Drs. William J. and Charles H. Mayo and their father, Dr. William W. Mayo. When you enter the Historical Suite you step back in time and can sense the extraordinary impact the brothers had on medicine. The portrait gallery includes photographs of leading surgeons and physicians whose careers and lives were intertwined with the

Mayo brothers and their clinic. The inscriptions on the photographs reveal the depth of affection and admiration that many felt toward Dr. Will and Dr. Charlie.

The brothers received countless awards and honorary degrees from organizations and institutions. Despite their professional success and personal accomplishments, the brothers worked hard to build a clinic where teamwork was the central organizing principle. The goal of this collaboration has been to provide the highest-quality patient care. Meanwhile, education and research have been joined almost seamlessly with the care of patients in order to advance the science and practice of medicine. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, literally thousands of physicians and surgeons from across the nation and around the globe received part of their training at the clinic and in its affiliated hospitals. Imbued with the Mayo spirit, many trainees went on to create clinics of their own or to enrich the staff of private practices and academic centers

The suite also contains exhibits that describe and explain the history and unique features of the Plummer Building. Architecturally, the building is a gem. When it was designed and constructed in the late 1920s, Mayo internist Henry Plummer incorporated

many features designed to facilitate patient care and encourage collaboration between the physicians and surgeons.



#### **Original Board of Governors' Room**

Historical Committee charged with "... the acquisition, arrangement and orderly preservation of any items that would have sound and permanent historical value..." However, it was five years ago that the first trained archivist was hired and over 100 years of materials began to be processed at archival standards. The archives include the Doctors Mayo's correspondence and publications, Emeritus Staff memoirs, postcards, photographs, films, audiotapes, videotapes, medical and surgical equipment, books, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and other primary source material on Mayo staff and departments. Currently, there are four individuals working in the archives, who in addition to processing, assist with the approximately 800 requests for historical information on a yearly basis.

In addition, the Mayo Historical Suite houses the expert staff responsible for acquiring, organizing, preserving, and promoting the recorded memory of individuals and organizations which have shaped Mayo Clinic's unique culture and history, and for providing research tools and services to make such materials accessible to users. In May 1952, Mayo's Board of Governors appointed a

During your stay in Rochester, explore the beauty of the Plummer Building and stop by the Historical Suite located on the third floor to learn more about Mayo's history.

#### **Renee Ziemer**

Coordinator

Mayo Clinic Historical Unit

Mayo Clinic

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## PROFILE: MAYO CLINIC LIBRARIES

Professional library service was initiated at Mayo Clinic in 1907 when Mrs. Maud H. Mellish was appointed “to organize and develop a medical library and do editorial work in connection with the publications of papers.” Starting with one librarian, a small reading room, and a few shelves of books, and journals, the library has evolved over time and today is served by an integrated library system including extensive online components and efficient delivery systems.



**Mrs. Mellish, Mayo's first librarian**

The Mayo library system includes the Mayo Digital Library accessible 24/7 at all institutional sites, library locations on the Jacksonville, Rochester, and Arizona group practice campuses and libraries serving the regional practices of the Mayo Health System. Special collections include hospital-based patient libraries supporting the needs of hospitalized patients and their families and special libraries serving the needs of students and faculty of Mayo Medical School and Mayo School of Health Sciences. Rare medical works of scholarly significance, first descriptions, and classic accounts as well as works which help explain the development of medicine are housed in the Mayo History of Medicine Library.

Resources available to staff and students include a rich collection of traditional and digital resources networked throughout all Mayo sites. The collections cover the entirety of clinical medicine, biomedical research areas, and related fields. The Mayo library system contains an extensive collection of journals and books totaling 398,242 archival volumes. The collection includes 6,124 journal titles with a subset of approximately 3,600 electronic journals and over 475 electronic textbooks and finding tools. Desktop access on a 24/7 basis to the Mayo Digital Library is available at over 50,000 institutional workstations at all Mayo sites. The breadth and depth of these resources makes the Mayo Clinic Libraries among the most comprehensive in North America.

Library services include traditional services such as circulation, document delivery, and interlibrary loan. A full range of training and staff-mediated services is also available: online database training, evidence-based medicine training, expert literature research for



staff and students, consultation on online retrieval strategy, in-depth reference and consultation services, current literature alerting, and photocopy services including electronic document delivery. Mayo libraries participate in regional and national interlibrary loan networks including the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and can obtain material not owned or accessed by a Mayo library from a variety of university and commercial sources.

The Mayo History of Medicine Library is a specialized library within the Mayo Medical Library housing important collections in the history of medicine and allied sciences. Several thousand volumes of rare medical classics (from 1479) and early journal literature (from 1665) comprise the core collection of primary literature on all aspects of medicine and allied fields. Early medical imprints (pre-1875) and more recently published histories, biographies, facsimiles, and other support material, comprise the remainder of the collection of some 23,000 total volumes. Non-book special collections include: medical bookplates; *Vanity Fair* caricatures of physicians and scientists; photographs of selected Nobel laureates and Mayo Clinic staff; caricatures of medical specialists by a Bavarian wood carver; Mayo Clinic related cartoons; medical philately, and heraldry.



Medical works of scholarly significance, first descriptions, classic accounts and works which help explain the development of medicine, and works which enhance the physician's understanding of the art of medicine, are selected for the collection. Special strengths include Mayo medicine (all specialties), anesthesiology, cardiology, dermatology, immunology, ophthalmology, and neurology. Contemporary support materials (recently published historical accounts, biographies, etc.) are available for circulation. Research assistance in identifying historical works, reference verification, and other literature research can also be arranged through this library.

Please come and visit the Mayo Clinic Libraries during your stay in Rochester!

### Mayo Clinic Library Staff

Mayo Clinic

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

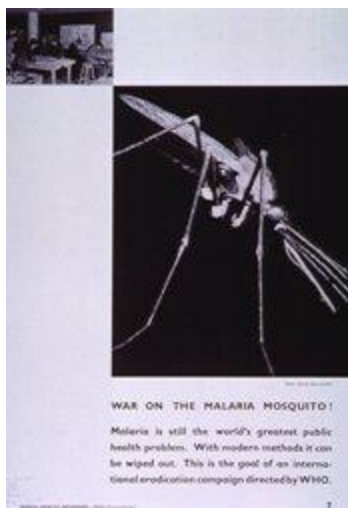
### *"ARL's SPEC Kit on Processing Decisions for Archives and Manuscripts" features NLM's Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program*

*Processing Decisions for Archives and Manuscripts*, a SPEC kit produced by the Association for Research Libraries (ARL), released November 2009, featured the manuscripts prioritization scheme developed by Curator John Rees of the History of Medicine Division's Archives and Modern Manuscript Program. The table of contents and executive summary of this SPEC Kit are available online at [www.arl.org/bm%7Edoc/spec-314-web.pdf](http://www.arl.org/bm%7Edoc/spec-314-web.pdf). The kit itself is available through ARL at [pubs@arl.org](mailto:pubs@arl.org) or [www.arl.org/resources/pubs/pubsorderform.shtml](http://www.arl.org/resources/pubs/pubsorderform.shtml).

### *HMD's Images and Archives Section releases online guide: "Audiovisuals on Tropical Medicine and Disease at the National Library of Medicine"*

The Images and Archives Section of NLM's History of Medicine Division announces the release of *"Audiovisuals on Tropical Medicine and Disease at the National Library of Medicine."* This online guide was produced by Nancy Dosch, Sarah Eilers, Sheena Morrison, Paul Theerman, and Deshaun Williams, with technical support from John Rees. The guide features information on 120 films from the historical and general collections of the Library, dealing with malaria, cholera, Ebola, Hansen's disease, sleeping sickness, and other tropical diseases. The films were produced from 1927 through 2009. The guide may be found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/collections/films/tropicalguide/index.html>, or from the Historical Audiovisuals webpage of the Division at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/collections/films/>. This guide complements the guide, "*Tropical Medicine Manuscript Collections in the History of Medicine Division*," found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/manuscripts/tropical/home.html>.



(Left) War on the malaria mosquito! Geneva: World Health Organization, Division of Public Information, 1958, as found in the HMD's image catalog: Images from the History of Medicine: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/ihm/index.html>

### *“Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine”*

In the Fall of 2009, the National Library of Medicine launched “*Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine*”, a traveling banner exhibition exploring the connections between the popular children's literature series, Harry Potter, and the history of science. Although millions of readers have followed Harry's adventures at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, many do not realize that the magic taught to the boy wizard is partially based on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy.

Drawing from the History of Medicine collections, the exhibition features the works of historical thinkers mentioned in Harry Potter, such as alchemist Nicolas Flamel, occultist Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, and physician Paracelsus. Also highlighted are 15th- and 16th-century illustrations of some of the fantastic creatures and plants featured in the series, including basilisks, dragons, merpeople, and mandrakes. The exhibition also examines the intersection between the novels and Renaissance thought, lore, and practices, including ethical questions such as the desire for knowledge, respect for nature, and the responsibility that comes with power. The accompanying exhibition

website includes middle and high school lesson plans, a higher education resource, online activities, and further readings:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/harrypottersworld>.

In partnership with the American Library Association, "*Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine*" will travel to 12 select libraries through 2011. To find out what venues will be hosting the exhibition and associated public programs, please visit:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/programming/potter/potteritinerary.cfm>

The National Library of Medicine's additional tour of *Harry Potter's World* is fully booked through 2012. Please visit

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/about/exhibition/travelingexhibitions/hpinerary.html> to see where the exhibition will be on display.

### Jeffrey S. Reznick

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division  
National Library of Medicine

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## NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

### *Wellcome Film: Digitising Medical History*



*Wellcome Film* is a new digital collection of moving images on 20th century healthcare and medicine. The digitisation of more than 450 titles - over 100 hours of film and video – from the Wellcome Library's Moving Image and Sound Collection, is reaching completion and the titles are now freely available under Creative Commons licences.



Material is available to watch via the Wellcome Library's website from Wellcome Film's homepage (<http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/wellcomefilm.htm>), with many also available on Wellcome Film's YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/WellcomeFilm>).

In addition, all material can be accessed via the JISC-funded Film and Sound online service (<http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk>). JISC Collections provided part funding to digitise the material, adding Wellcome Film to the 16 other collections in Film and Sound's online portfolio.

*Wellcome Film* chronicles the history of medicine over the last 100 years, from early research into typhus and cholera to reconstructions of the experiments in Ivan Pavlov's laboratory.

There are also educational and training films from the 1920s and 1930s, material made by the Wellcome Foundation Film Unit from the 1940s and 1950s showing the work of the pharmaceutical business, and more recent titles made by the Wellcome Trust about tropical diseases such as malaria.

*Wellcome Film* also features historical medical films that have a practical application for contemporary healthcare and medical issues, such as a series of films on clinical nutrition that may be useful for the treatment of obesity.

Other items of interest are 100 public information films and videos produced by the UK Central Office of Information, 1940-1980s, on subjects such as immunisation and smoking, and campaign films about cerebral palsy from the charity Scope (formerly the Spastics Society).

### *3,000 AIDS Posters Catalogued*

A project to catalogue and digitise the Library's collection of 3,000 international AIDS posters has just been completed. Forming one of the largest collections in the world, almost all the posters were acquired from a single collector based in Amsterdam. They derive from 99 countries and include 75 different languages, with the two largest collections coming from the USA and Germany.

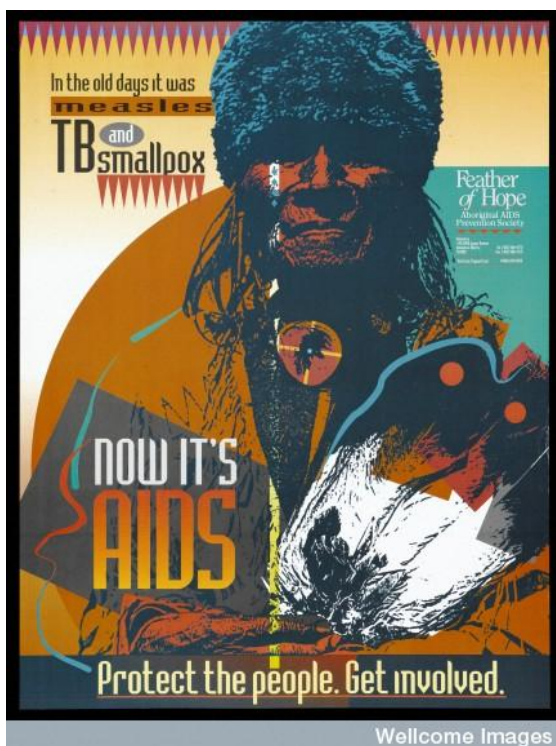
The posters offer an insight into the reactions and prejudices surrounding the worldwide AIDS epidemic during the 1980s and 1990s. They were designed to be displayed to warn people against the causes of AIDS, to educate them on the disease and reveal

health policies and concerns in specific countries and regions through a variety of words and designs.

Dates of the posters range from 1978 - before AIDS became known - to 1998 as it continued to be a concern. The early posters during the 1980s relay simple messages about how the disease is transmitted. Extensive advertising campaigns raising awareness were produced as the AIDS epidemic increased. More complex messages about the signs of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases appear throughout the period but the majority of posters simply hammer home the importance of safer sex and condoms.

Digital images of the copyright-cleared collection (work on this is still ongoing) are freely available online via Wellcome Images (<http://images.wellcome.ac.uk>). The full range of posters, are described on the Wellcome Library catalogue (<http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/search/o?SEARCH=digaids>).

To mark World Aids Day (1<sup>st</sup> December), an [audio-visual slideshow](#) was produced for the website of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). It featured narration explaining the significance of the posters, from William Schubach, the Librarian who manages this collection, and Julia Nurse, who has catalogued the posters over the past 18 months.



(Left) An Aboriginal Indian with a warning about the need to protect people against AIDS; advertisement by the Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society, Edmonton, Alberta (Wellcome Library ref. 668437i)

### *Patients Association Archive Available in the Wellcome Library*

The archive of the Patients Association has recently been catalogued and is now available for research.

The Patients Association, a registered charity, was founded in 1963 by Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd (1910-1987), civil servant and consumer rights campaigner. It was set up as an independent national voluntary body to protect and develop the interests, rights and well-being of users and potential users of health services in the UK. The Association was probably the first to address this angle of health, being set up before Community Health Councils and many other self-help organisations. Its activities focused on patient frustration with the National Health Service, particularly hospitals, doctors and bureaucracy and educating the public on their rights and responsibilities as patients.

The Archive has been allocated collection reference SA/PAT and comprises 112 boxes. It is divided into ten sub-sections and covers the history of the organisation from its establishment in 1963 up to about 1996. It contains material relating to the organisation and administration of the Association, correspondence with numerous voluntary, professional and other health related bodies, files on a wide range of health subjects, publications, press cuttings and patient correspondence (the latter is however closed for a specified period in order to protect the confidentiality of individual members of the public).

The catalogue can be viewed by entering 'SA/PAT' in the reference field of the search interface of the Wellcome Library's Archives and Manuscripts online catalogue (<http://archives.wellcome.ac.uk>).

The papers are available subject to the usual conditions of access to Archives and Manuscripts material, after the completion of a Reader's Undertaking. Please note that parts of this collection are subject to specified restrictions or closure periods for the purposes of data protection.

### *17th Century Recipe Book Project Completed*

As previously mentioned in *The Watermark*, the Wellcome Library has recently digitised its 17<sup>th</sup> Century Recipe Books, one of our most heavily used collections, numbering 76 manuscripts in total. Transcriptions to all of these titles (which were created by Backstage Library Works), can be found through our Archives and Manuscripts catalogue (<http://archives.wellcome.ac.uk>).

As a result of this project, there are now available through our catalogue, tens of thousands of recipe titles containing original spelling and associated Library of Congress or MeSH subject headings, enabling searches within the text of these fascinating manuscripts.

Individual pages and entire manuscripts are also available online in PDF format, which can be reused under a Creative Commons license.

### *John Symons*

We are saddened to report the death in October of John Symons, former Curator of Early Printed Books and a long-time member of the Library's staff. Though John had suffered from ill health since his early retirement in 2005, he regularly kept in touch with old friends and colleagues.

After reading Greats at Oxford, and attending the library school at University College London, he joined the Wellcome staff in 1968 as an Assistant Librarian, specializing in early printed books. Here he stayed, succeeding Harold Denham as Chief Cataloguer in 1982, and gaining an unrivalled knowledge of the bibliography of medicine. He was appointed as the first specialist Curator of Early Printed Books in 1988.

John will be remembered as a supremely dedicated rare books librarian with an encyclopaedic knowledge of both the Library's collections and internal Wellcome history. His [History of the Wellcome Institute](#), published in 1993, only hinted at the many ways in which he had sought out members of staff, some from the 1920s, and their families, and collected documents and reminiscences. He was joint compiler of the third volume of the [Wellcome Catalogue of Books Printed Before 1850](#), and was responsible for its continuation – the fifth and final volume being published in 2006. Its completion was a fitting monument to his devoted work over a lifetime of bibliographical scholarship. He was always eager to place his learning at the service of scholars and many within and beyond the Library will have cause to remember his myriad kindnesses in assisting them with enquiries and more extensive research questions.

Few former Wellcome Library staff have made a greater impact on the Library as experienced by its users over time, and surely none ever will again.

**Ross MacFarlane**

Research Officer

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**NEW MEMBER PROFILE***Josue Hurtado*

**Home town:** Originally Baldwin Park, California (near Los Angeles). Currently reside in San Francisco.

**Current employer:** I am Assistant Archivist at the Archives and Special Collections in the Library of the University of California at San Francisco. I've been in this position for three years.

**Education:**

- B.A. in History, Minor in Classics; Stanford University, 1997
- M.I.S. with a specialization in Archives and Records Management; University of Michigan, 2004

**Professional interests:** Technical services and archival materials of historically underrepresented groups.

**Other facts, interests or hobbies:** I love the outdoors; camping, hiking, but especially fishing. I'm also a huge baseball fan (Go Dodgers!) and am a fierce competitor in several fantasy baseball leagues. I enjoy running and hope to complete another marathon in 2010. Of course I love to read and am a big news junkie, which is good since my wife is a journalist. We just got married in May.

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## COLLECTIONS

### *Maya Rivière Ward Papers Open at Columbia University*

Archives & Special Collections at Columbia University's A.C. Long Health Sciences Library is pleased to announce the opening of the papers of Maya Rivière Ward (1908-1989). Ward, who used her maiden name Rivière professionally, was a leading U.S. expert in the rehabilitation of the disabled. As Director of Rehab Codes, Inc., she was responsible for developing a controlled vocabulary and an information management tool for those involved in the rehabilitation of the disabled. Among other goals, Rivière and her colleagues were hoping to shift the public perception and professional focus of rehabilitation from managing individual handicaps to maximizing individual assets and capabilities in order to improve the social status of rehabilitated persons.

The bulk of the papers is comprised of Rivière's records as Director of Rehab Codes, Inc., ca.1958-1968, and includes correspondence, committee minutes, annual and project reports, financial records, and newspaper and magazine clippings. In particular, there is much on the testing of the newly designed standards in real-life settings at various sites around the U.S. Besides these professional records, there is also considerable personal material including correspondence with family and friends, genealogical records, diaries, notebooks, newspaper clippings, educational records and photographs.

A special feature of the collection are the hundreds of ephemeral publications relating to the rehabilitation of the disabled collected by Rivière in Great Britain in the early 1950s and in the US in the period 1957-1968.

Mary (later Maya) Rivière was born in Georgia in 1908. She received her BA from Agnes Scott College in 1928 and afterwards studied voice at the Juilliard School. She worked at a variety of jobs (including church organist and Hollywood script reader) before becoming a caseworker for the Musicians Emergency Fund in 1932. In the late 1930s she also worked as a director in the WPA Federal Theater Project. After recovering from several years of incapacitation due to tuberculosis, she joined the National Tuberculosis Association's Rehabilitation Service as a field consultant in 1945. In 1948-49 she served as Executive Director of the National Council on Rehabilitation. Awarded one of the first Fulbright Scholarships, she studied at Oxford University from 1949 to 1954 under noted economic historian, detective novelist and Fabian Society member G.D.H. Cole. For her dissertation "Rehabilitation of the Disabled, with Special



Reference to the Administration of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act,” she received the D.Phil. in 1954.

Upon her return to the US, she was hired by the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children in New York City to work on the project that evolved into Rehab Codes, Inc. After completing its work in 1968, Rivière served as a consultant for a variety of organizations before retiring due to ill health in 1970. She died in New York in 1989.

Rivière was married twice: first in 1937 to Girvan George Higginson whom she divorced in 1942; and second in 1954 to John Owen Ward, a musicologist and music editor who survived her.

The bulk of the papers is open without restrictions, though for some material researchers may need to follow HIPAA Privacy Rule regulations. The finding aid can be found at:

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

For more information, please contact Archives & Special Collections at

[hslarchives@columbia.edu](mailto:hslarchives@columbia.edu)

### **Jennifer McGillan**

Archivist

Archives & Special Collections

A.C. Long Health Sciences Library

Columbia University Medical Center

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## **EVENTS**

### *Lectures*

#### **Handerson Lecture at the Dittrick on Safe Sex in the 18th century**

The 2010 Handerson Lecture, on March 18, will feature Natasha McEnroe, of the Grant Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, University College London. Her talk, entitled “*In Armour Complete: Safe Sex in 18th-Century*,” takes an intimate look at the very private lives of some of 18th-century London's leading literary and society figures, notably the essayist and lexicographer Samuel Johnson and his biographer, James

Boswell. The basis for this work comes from Mrs. McEnroe's time as past Curator of Dr. Johnson's House, and co-editor of *The Tyranny of Treatment: Samuel Johnson, His Friends and Georgian Medicine* (2003). We will be mounting a companion exhibition of rare books and prints on popular and scientific presentation of venereal disease in 18th century London. Keep tuned to the Dittrick website for details.

<http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/>

Also, our new permanent exhibition, "*Virtue, Vice, and Contraband: A History of Contraception in America*" opened on Sept 17. It features the Percy Skuy Collection on the History of Contraception. For more info, see:

<http://www.case.edu/affil/skuyhistcontraception/history.html>

<http://blog.case.edu/case-news/2009/09/14/dittrickexhibit>

**James M. Edmonson, Ph.D.**

Chief Curator

Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum College of Arts and Sciences

Case Western Reserve University

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**Spring 2010 History of Medicine Lectures at the New York Academy of Medicine**

Historical Collections and the Section on the History of Medicine and Public Health at the New York Academy of Medicine are pleased to announce the spring 2010 lecture series. All lectures take place at NYAM, with light refreshments at 5:30 p.m. followed by the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 4, 2010**

The Lilianna Sauter Lecture

*Gut Feelings and Technical Precision: Thinking about Cystic Fibrosis*

M. Susan Lindee, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

The Iago Galdston Lecture

*Bleed or Not Bleed Mrs. Camac? A 19th Century Medical Decision*

Steven J. Peitzman, M.D., Drexel University College of Medicine

**Monday, April 12, 2010**

The John K. Lattimer Lecture

*Medical Miracles: Doctors, Saints and Healing in the Modern World*

Jacalyn Duffin, M.D., Ph.D., Queens University, Ontario

**Wednesday, May 19, 2010**

The Annual Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecture

Special reception for the Friends of the Rare Book Room immediately following lecture

*Nature Revealed: The Evolution of a Scientific Emblem*

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*2010-2011 Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine at the NYAM*

Each year, The New York Academy of Medicine offers the Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine. The fellowship supports research using the NYAM Library's resources for scholarly study of the history of medicine. It is intended specifically for a scholar in residence at the NYAM Library. The Klemperer fellow will receive a stipend of \$5,000 to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2010 and May 31, 2011. Besides completing a research project, each fellow will be expected to make a public presentation at NYAM and submit a final report. We invite applications from anyone, regardless of citizenship, academic discipline, or academic status. Preference will be given to those whose research will take advantage of resources that are uniquely available at NYAM, and individuals in the early stages of their careers. These fellowships are awarded directly to the individual applicant and not to the institution where he or she may normally be employed. None of the fellowship money is to be used for institutional overhead.

**Applications must be received by NYAM by Tuesday March 2, 2010; candidates will be informed of the results by May 4, 2010.**

Application forms and instructions are available online at

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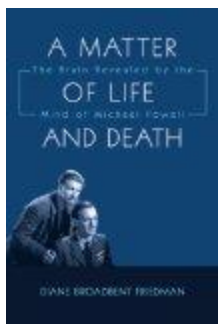
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## BOOK REVIEWS

Friedman, Diane Broadbent, *A Matter of Life and Death: The Brain Revealed by the Mind of Michael Powell* (Bloomington, IN: Author House, 2008)



Michael Powell (1905-1990) was a British film writer and director of great renown: his works include *The Red Shoes* (1948), *The Thief of Baghdad* (1940), *One of Our Aircraft is Missing* (1942) and many, many others during a career that lasted half a century. His quirky 1946 film, *A Matter of Life and Death* (called *Stairway to Heaven* in the United States) is considered one of his masterworks. The film tells the story of Peter Carter (played by David Niven), an RAF pilot who is downed on a mission during the Second World War. Though he is certain of his death, he awakens on a beach in England alive. A short time later, he is visited by an angel. It seems the angel was derelict in his duty and didn't arrive in time to pick up Peter, who indeed was supposed to die. Peter, in love for the first time in

his life and totally unwilling to die, requests a hearing by the heavenly council. The hearing is held while Peter is undergoing brain surgery, since the doctors on earth “mistake” his conversations with the heavenly messenger for brain trauma.

And thus lays the focus of this book. The author, Diane Broadbent Friedman, decided after viewing the movie and reading Michael Powell’s autobiography that director Powell (who, with Emeric Pressburger, is also the author of the screenplay) was using this film to present a complete and accurate neurological case history. And it’s not that there isn’t some evidence in this book for her thesis. The problem with this disappointing book is that it is full of hyperbole and makes huge leaps of judgment based on very small evidence. For example – according to Powell’s autobiography he was fascinated by maps. Therefore, says Ms. Friedman, he was interested in brain mapping. While there might be some link between geographic maps and body maps, I myself find it rather hard to make the connection (and then place it in the context of this one particular movie).

Friedman’s case is not helped by the poor production of the book itself. It has a number of illustrations from the film, but they are very poor quality. The paper used for printing this book is not conducive to high-quality image printing; as a result, the prints are muddy and overexposed (and in one case, it is impossible to tell what the picture is showing. Had Ms. Friedman not explained it, I would have thought it was an error in the printing process).

There is perhaps enough information here to warrant a closer examination of Powell’s interest in neurology, and to use *A Matter of Life and Death* as a case study for his interest, but this is the stuff of an article, not an entire book. Author-printed books have severe issues – one of them is that there isn’t an editor to suggest that a shorter format might have been a more effective means of communication.

**Patricia E. Gallagher**

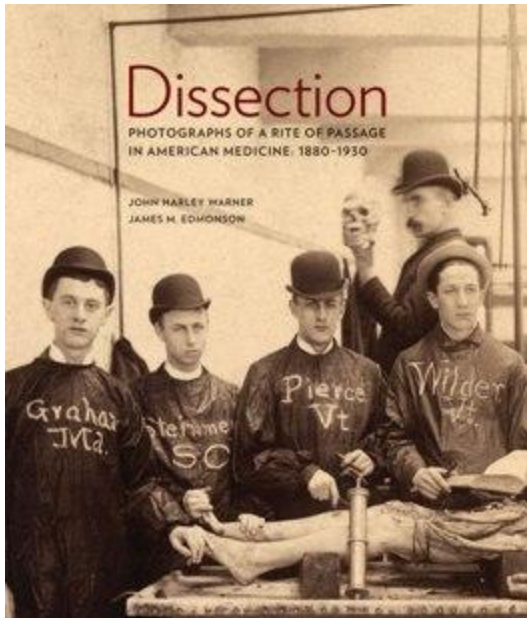
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Warner, John Harley and James M. Edmondson, *Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage in American Medicine, 1880-1930* (New York: Blast Books, 2009)



*Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage in American Medicine, 1880-1930*, is a wonderful book - - - a superb gallery of stark, evocative photographs bracketed by essays written by John Harley Warner and James M. Edmondson. It deals with a peculiar and slightly macabre genre in the history of American medicine and photography: the more or less formal group portraits of medical students gathered around their cadavers in gross anatomy class.<sup>1</sup>

Warner's opening essay sets the stage. He methodically follows the history of the photographic genre, starting with the central place of dissection in the medical curriculum, and how the very act of dissecting a human body introduced the neophyte into the inner mysteries of medical practice. Students were often forbidden to "divulge the secrets of the dissecting room"<sup>2</sup> to outsiders. Warner is careful to prevent this gallery of images from degenerating into a freak show by reminding the reader how seriously the faculty took these classes. Gross anatomy and human dissection were what made doctors different from outsiders; they created a gulf so vast that it could not be discussed with the uninitiated. But some personal, secret reminder was needed, if only as an informal way of proving membership in a most exclusive club. From the 1880s to the 1930s, it seems that such pictures were pretty much a standard feature of a medical education. Female medical colleges produced these pictures as well, as did dental schools.

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<sup>1</sup> As the authors note (p. 193), such photographs were not unknown in Europe, but they are far more frequent in the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.7.

Edmondson's essay, placed after the photographs, deals more matter-of-factly with the surviving photographs as artifacts to be collected as part of a long tradition of medical imagination and imaging, going back to Vesalius and Rembrandt, with a nod to Eadweard Muybridge along the way. As curator of a particularly fine History of Medicine collection (the Dittrick, at Case Western Reserve University) he has had many opportunities to see these pictures up close, and discuss them with collectors.

Of course, the real core (I almost wrote "meat") of this volume is the selection of the photographs themselves, divided into seven galleries with useful but not intrusive introductions and captions. I shall say little about them: they must be seen to be appreciated, and nothing I can write here will add to their impact. It must be said, however, that the authors did a remarkably fine job in gathering a broad selection of images that serve admirably to underline how varied and yet consistent these images could be. Some may find this book a difficult read. The pictures are unvarnished and often painfully direct, which was, of course, precisely the object of the exercise. The attempts at humor by the sitters are a bit strained and can border on the grisly. Odd little epigrams are often scrawled on the side of the dissecting table, the most common being "He lived for others, but he died for us." But that jarring, half-religious, half-satirical mood highlights the exact point that Warner and Edmondson make in their subtitle and essays. Dissection of a human cadaver was a rite of passage, the act that would forever set the student who would be a doctor apart from the rest of society. Even in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the average American was more likely to have spent time near a corpse than today, few would have seen a body this way. What better way to memorialize the moment, and have it available to share with others of the same clan?

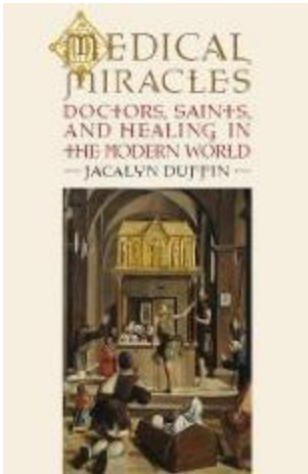
Nowadays, it is all too common for reviewers to complain how an otherwise fine book was marred by poor printing or presentation. Happily, that is not the case here. All involved in the production of this book are to be congratulated for the exceptional quality of the finished volume. In particular, the photographs are excellently reproduced. Given the wide variety of times, places, situations and sources of the photographs, one assumes this was the central challenge in putting this volume together.

**Stephen J. Greenberg**

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Duffin, Jacalyn, *Medical Miracles: Doctors, Saints, and Healing in the Modern World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009)



For those familiar with the history of medicine Jacalyn Duffin needs no introduction. Former president of the American Association for the History of Medicine and author of a number of monographs in the field (including one of the very best general introductions to the field, *History of Medicine: A Scandalously Short Introduction* [1999]), the Hannah Chair for the History of Medicine at Queen's University in Ontario now lends her seasoned scholarship to the fascinating topic of medical miracles. Thus it was with great anticipation that this reviewer approached the present monograph.

*Medical Miracles* is the result of prodigious research. It represents more than 1,400 miracle accounts held at the Vatican archives detailing canonization records from 1588 to present. Its praise from reviewers is not surprising. A *JAMA* review by Ann Hardy, for example, calls it “thoughtful and multilayered” (301.24, June 24, 2009: 2522), and Iona McCleery writing for the *New England Journal of Medicine*, concludes that “it will no doubt become a seminal work” (360.21, May 21, 2009: 2262). One cannot disagree with these assessments.

Duffin outlines her goals clearly from the outset as follows: to examine how “what had once been considered miraculous” has changed over time; “to discover what miracles are and have been in the Roman Catholic tradition”; to call attention to the “rich potential” of these archives for future research; and “to engage medical practitioners in a discussion about the meaning and function of medicine and religion” (6). The author is to be particularly commended in the last, but by no means least, of these goals. Duffin is impressed with the Church’s consistent “deep commitment to scientific evidence,” astutely observing that religion is much more comfortable with medical science than medical science is with religion (185). The author concludes boldly, “I believe in the plausible wonder that these tales meant to the players and the people involved in their collection, transmission, preservation, and use as evidence. I believe in the remarkably careful scrutiny conducted by the Church officials with the help of the best science and medicine available at the time. These stories are true. As a result, they are indeed miracles” (183). *Medical Miracles*, therefore, becomes a much-needed antidote to the

reductionist and poisonous scientism that has too frequently characterized contemporary works on medicine and religion, the most glaring of which can be found in Sherwin Nuland's *Mysteries Within: A Surgeon Reflects on Medical Myths* (2000), a work of disconcertingly hubristic conceit. Unlike this and similar works, Duffin's book is important and provides a sound foundation upon which to build a meaningful discourse on medical science and religion.

Nevertheless, this reviewer was disturbed by the profoundly narrow approach of the book. In fact, the title is misleading. This is not a book on "medical miracles" per se, it is a book on the Catholic Church and its medical miracles, and had the book been so titled little objection could be made. As it is the book promises much more than it delivers. Admittedly, Roman Catholicism clearly has had a central role to play in defining and mediating what precisely has constituted a medical miracle during the past two millennia. But it is not the *only* arbiter of the miraculous. Duffin confesses that the lens through which she peers is a limited one, but the admission hardly reveals the extent of its tunnel vision. Where, for example, are medical miracles—"the wondrous" cures—in the Jewish tradition? The great physician Maimonides (1135-1204) started out with no need for miracles but increasingly incorporated them into his medical worldview (see Y. Tzvi Langermann, "Maimonides and Miracles: The Growth of a (Dis)Belief," *Jewish History* 18.2/3 [May 2004]: 147-172). Protestant miracles are also conspicuously absent. Puritan physician Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712), for example, offered an extensive examination of miracles in his *Cosmologia Sacra* (1701). More importantly the Jansenist movement, arising from the writings of Dutch theologian Cornelius Jansen (1585-1638) and centering itself in the Parisian convent of Port-Royal, receives bare mention. Opposed by the Jesuits as Calvinistic and condemned in a series of papal bulls in 1653, 1705, and 1713, the Jansenists were nonetheless constructed upon and sustained by a series of miraculous healings that impressed even eighteenth-century skeptic David Hume (1711-1776). So influential were the Jansenists that the great mathematician Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), regarded by many as the first truly modern Christian apologist, became a sympathizer.

As these few examples demonstrate, an untapped well of discovery and analysis remains for future historians. Jacalyn Duffin has indeed established a seminal model for this work and is to be commended for doing so. Yet this is not the magisterial work it might have been. As such it is more suggestive of further historical investigation than it is a definitive history of the miraculous in medicine.

It is recommended for those seeking to build comprehensive collections in the history of medicine or for those with strong graduate programs in the history of medicine and/or religion. Others may want to wait for a monograph offering a broader overview of the subject. The history of medical miracles from Judeo-Christian traditions still awaits us.

**Michael A. Flannery**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

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