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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**

For those of you who were at the Annual Meeting in Rochester I don't need to tell you what a great one it was. This issue includes some of the talks plus additional information to give those of you who weren't there the chance to benefit from it, as well as to help the rest of us remember all the rich details. Steven Puglia's extensive discussion of digitisation was masterful. One member later commented that he wished he'd heard it five years ago when he began digitizing material. Others gave presentations about the excellent things they're doing which I've already begun trying to do here at the Osler Library. Other presentations and the tours provided an interesting introduction to the Mayo Clinic and its history.

The Business Meeting was informative. I'm happy to write that unlike our governments, ALHHS keeps its finances healthy. Some changes were made to the organisation and the executive. We also acknowledged the outstanding career of Erich Meyerhoff, who received the Recognition of Merit award.

Of course, the social side of the meeting was also pleasant. We got the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, such as Jennifer Miglus, whose new member profile is in this issue. Holly Herro and the Program Committee and Renee Ziemer and all the others responsible for local arrangements are to be commended for the wonderful job they did in staging yet another success Annual Meeting.

Have a happy and healthy Summer.

**Chris Lyons**

Associate Librarian

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

McGill University

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This is my first letter to the membership, and I find I must start it on a very sad note: remembering the life and mourning the passing of a friend and colleague, Cynthia Kahn, who passed away, suddenly and far too young, on 7 June. She was not quite 40 years old.

Cynthia was ALHHS's long-time listserv mommy, assiduously herding the cats that make up our membership. But her activity in our field did not stop

there. She also ran the listserv and edited the newsletter for the Medical Library Association's History of the Health Sciences Section, and helped maintain a web page and blog for the Washington Society for the History of Medicine. In the clinical sphere, she was active in the MLA Public Health/Health Administration Section. In everything she did, Cynthia was quick, eager, and tireless.



After years of working in the DC area at the American Association of Medical Colleges and more recently at the Himmelfarb Library at the George Washington University, Cynthia had taken a new job at the University of Central Florida in Orlando in March of this year. When I last saw her (at the MLA Annual meeting in DC in late May), she was full of ideas for building up the history collections at her new location.

Cynthia's life was shaped by her battle with diabetes. Her facebook friends were accustomed to postings recounting the daily struggles and small victories in that uneven fight. Not surprisingly, Cynthia found time to do more than just watch her glucose level. She was active in a program called "Adventures for the Cure," and I can do no better than to quote from its website:

“Adventures for the Cure” exists to raise awareness for diabetes, to show adults and children diagnosed with diabetes and their families how leading a healthy and active lifestyle can move you beyond your perceived limits, and to raise funds for diabetes research.”

Friends of Cynthia have already established a memorial scholarship fund in her name with the group. ALHHS has made a contribution to the fund, and I invite you to do the same. Information about the organization (which is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit) and the fund can be found at:

<http://adventuresforthecure.com/extremeWeekend/cynthiaKahnMemorialFund.html>

Cynthia will be missed by us all.

\*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*

There are other things to remember that are not so sad. This Spring’s annual meeting was a great success, thanks in no small part to Holly Herro and her Program Committee, and the wonderful hospitality of Renee Ziemer and her colleagues at the Mayo Clinic. Steve Puglia’s presentation was a ground-breaking program for us in many ways, and it was especially fine to see Erich Meyerhoff receive his well-deserved (no matter what HE says) ALHHS Recognition of Merit Award.

Of course, it’s not too early to start thinking about the 2011 meeting in Philadelphia. Charles Greifenstein, now at the American Philosophical Society, has agreed to be our Local Arrangements Chair, and Elaine Challacombe will head up the Program Committee. As always, volunteers are welcome!

Thanks for reading.

**Stephen Greenberg**

President

Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Silver Spring, Maryland

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## 2010 ANNUAL MEETING – ROCHESTER MINNESOTA

### *Presentations*

#### **Digitization and Digital Preservation**

##### **OVERVIEW**

Digitization of collections in libraries and museums and of holdings in archives is more than just scanning. Digitization is a process involving many parts of the organizations responsible for managing collections and holdings. Also, it is a broad and managed process covering many activities:

- Selection
- Assessment
- Prioritization
- Project management and tracking
- Preparation of originals for digitizing
- Metadata collection and creation
- Digitizing
- Quality management
- Data collection and management
- Submission of digital resources to delivery systems and into a repository environment
- Assessment and evaluation of the digitization effort

A lot of very good information is available on planning, implementing, and managing digitization projects. A selection includes:

- [\*Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access\*](#) - Northeast Document Conservation Center
- [\*Moving Theory into Practice\*](#) - Cornell University Library
- [\*JISC Digital Media\*](#) - JISC
- [\*Cataloging & Digitizing Toolbox\*](#) – Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress
- [\*Digitization Activities – Project Planning and Management Outline\*](#) – Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative

When it comes to planning and managing a digitization project, often it is helpful to think about a couple of habits from Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, and to strive to "be proactive" and to "begin with the end in mind." One way of doing this is to consider what constitutes good digital collections and the desired end result of the digitization process.

One of the best resources for thinking about "good" digital collections is [A Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections](#), 3rd Edition, 2007, developed by NISO. The Framework "provides criteria for goodness" organized around four entities:

- Collections (organized groups of objects)
- Objects (digital materials)
- Metadata (information about objects and collections)
- Initiatives (programs or projects to create and manage collections)

## **DIGITIZING EQUIPMENT**

One of the major parts of digitization projects is the process of scanning or digitizing collections and holdings. There is a wide variety of equipment available for doing this work, including:

- Digital copy stands and digital camera systems (digital camera on a copy stand with copy lights and light boxes) for general scanning of a wide range of originals
- Flatbed scanners for scanning paper documents and photographs
- Overhead book scanners for both flat and bound originals
- Automated page-turning book scanners
- Specialized copy stands for scanning rare books
- Oversized scanners for maps, plans and other larger originals
- Traditional studio photography set-ups for taking digital photographs of objects and artifacts
- High-speed document scanners for modern good-condition paper documents
- Microfilm scanners for roll-film and microfiche
- Film scanners for photographic film originals
- Digital audio workstations for audio recordings
- Digital video workstations for video recordings
- Automated video digitizing systems for video cassette formats
- Motion picture film scanners



## ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

When planning for digitization, it is important to think about and determine the essential characteristics or features of the originals that should be replicated and carried forward to the digital version. This has been done for other types of traditional photographic reformatting, like microfilm. Microfilming standards and guidelines focus on ensuring good text legibility, the critical characteristic the communities using microfilm have determined is important. Similarly, specifications for photographic duplicates define approaches to produce duplicates that have the same photographic properties as the originals – same overall density, density range, and relationship between the tones.

Other ways to think about this is to consider the characteristics we can stand to lose (with traditional microfilm, color information is lost) or how much information needs to be captured (is color important to the interpretation of the information?).

Decisions about the essential characteristics for originals will be informed by functional, technical, physical, qualitative, curatorial, archival, risk-related, etc. assessments. The essential characteristics may be unique to the collection/record/media type and/or institutional specific. The considerations for digital reformatting are the same as for traditional methods of reformatting, and include:

- Curatorial or archival issues
- Costs
- Reproduction quality
- The sustainability of the digital copies (analogous to the stability of the imaging materials for photographic copying and duplication)
- Ease of distribution

There are different ways to think through the decision making process for reformatting collections and holdings. The following perspectives represent a range of viewpoints that are worth considering:

- Institutional and User Perspective (Stephen Chapman's *Microfilm: A Preservation Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?*)
  - Use
  - Sustainability
  - Affordability

- A Synthesis (Paul Conway's *Overview: Rationale for Digitization and Preservation*)
  - Source characteristics
  - Purpose/People
  - Technology capabilities
- Original Resource Perspective (Steven Puglia's reformatting pyramid chart)
  - Fidelity
  - Functionality
  - Longevity

## GUIDELINES

One recommendation for digitization efforts is to produce consistent, high-quality digital objects and related metadata. This will facilitate the long-term management and preservation of the digital resources. Achieving these goals will be facilitated by following guidelines and standards for digitizing and metadata. Whenever possible, appropriate guidelines and standards should be followed for producing metadata of all types, file formats, approaches to digitizing physical collections and other aspects.

Our perspective has been:

- Standardize your digital objects, just like your metadata
- It is best to define consistent approaches, and
- Treat large batches of images, or other digital objects, in the same way.

Standardization and consistency of the digital objects and metadata produced will promote ease of management and lower costs to maintain and preserve digital collections over time.

Consciously capture as many characteristics and as much information as you think appropriate to define the original resources, but perform a cost-benefit analysis to determine the most cost-effective approach to reformatting. The tendency is to want to capture more information; the challenge is to define a reasonable and affordable minimal approach that achieves the desired goals.

Digitizing guidelines exist, although there is still work to be done in terms of developing more detailed guidance in many areas. Currently, guidelines exist for digitization of:

- Paper based collections – including loose sheet originals, bound volumes and these materials on microfilm
- Still photographs
- Audio recordings
- Work is progressing on video recordings and motion pictures

A partial list of digitizing guidelines includes:

- [\*Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative \(FADGI\)\*](#) – this effort has two groups developing guidelines, one for still images and one for audio and moving images
- [\*NARA's 2004 Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access\*](#)
- [\*Benchmark for Faithful Digital Reproductions of Monographs and Serials\*](#)
- [\*CDL Guidelines for Digital Images\*](#)
- [\*Yale University Library Best Practices\*](#)
- [\*Metamorfoze Preservation Imaging Guidelines\*](#)
- [\*Technical Information\*](#) – American Memory, Library of Congress
- [\*Sound Directions: Best Practices for Audio Preservation\*](#)
- [\*Digitization Best Practices for Audio\*](#) – CARLI

## METADATA

Metadata is information about information. Digitization projects involve the collection, creation and management of as much metadata as practical and affordable, including the following: broad categories:

- Descriptive / Discovery
- Administrative
- Technical
- Preservation
- Behavior / Structural

A couple of excellent resources for learning about metadata include:

- [\*Understanding Metadata\*](#) – NISO
- [\*Introduction to Metadata\*](#) - Getty Research Institute

Metadata tends to be defined in many ways; most often it is characterized as “data about data.” Metadata is the information necessary to identify, locate, manage, access, use and preserve a

digital resource of any media type or format. Metadata is as important as the digital objects being created, and work on collecting, creating, and managing metadata is a major and essential part of digitization projects.

Metadata serves to document the original resources, the digital resources created, the process followed to create the digital copies (as part of the resource's provenance to verify the digital version is an accurate and authentic representation of the original), changes to the digital resources over time, and the content regardless of the format.

Metadata is created at all stages of and managed throughout a digitization project- prior to digitizing, during the digitizing process, post capture/digitizing, and upon ingest of the digital resources into management systems.

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION

IFLA states "preservation includes all the managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods involved in preserving library and archive materials and the information contained in them."

Fundamentally, preservation is a long-term management process addressing the identification and mitigation of the risks for loss of information, and for appropriate collections and records includes protection of the original physical form.

OCLC states that:

- "Digital preservation refers to a series of managed activities designed to prevent obsolescence and to maintain data integrity. "
- "Digital objects are not preserved unless they are stored in a digital repository. "

The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) definition for digital preservation spells out (in part) that:

- Digital preservation combines policies, strategies and actions to ensure the accurate rendering of authenticated content over time, regardless of the challenges of media failure and technological change.
- Digital preservation applies to both born digital and reformatted content.

- Digital preservation policies document an organization's commitment to preserve digital content for future use; specify file formats to be preserved and the level of preservation to be provided; and ensure compliance with standards and best practices for responsible stewardship of digital information.

The specific approaches for managing and preserving digital data/objects/records differ from managing and preserving physical records. In general, the need is to be proactive, not just reactive. A systems perspective is required; it is about risk mitigation and creating a managed environment. All of this is true for the preservation of physical collections as well.

The digital preservation field has advanced and evolved over the last couple of decades. Work remains; everyone continues working to determine all that will be necessary to preserve digital data over the long term. Organizations will need to preserve digitally created materials using digital technology; media reversion is not an option for most digital resources because functionality will be lost and the resources will no longer be authentic.

In [\*What is Digital Preservation?\*](#), Stephen Chapman states a digital repository "...is understood to mean any organization or system charged with the task of preserving information over the long term and making it accessible to a specified class of users..." Chapman points to the preservation obligation guarding against obsolescence of all types:

- Images become incompatible with associated applications.
- Images (and associated applications) become incompatible with current use requirements.
- Preservation strategies strive to manage both technological compatibility and user expectations.
- Fiscal obsolescence could prove to be one of the biggest problems.

Chapman states that a "repository is more than storage," and includes submission agreements, storage systems to manage the digital objects (data), databases to manage administrative information (metadata), data managers and administrators and preservation policies/procedures.

The [\*Open Archival Information System\*](#) (OAIS) was developed as a reference model that defines terms for general functions of a digital repository used for the long-term preservation of digital

data, but does not provide any implementation details. OAIS describes the following functional aspects of a digital repository:

- Ingest
- Archival storage
- Data management
- Administration
- Preservation planning
- Access
- Common services

Potential actions and techniques for preserving digital data include the following approaches:

- Maintaining obsolete systems
- Data integrity / verification - use checksums
- Refreshment – data and media
- Migration – media and formats
- Normalization
- Transformation
- Emulation
- Digital archeology
- New/future technical and conceptual approaches

Organizations will need to build appropriate information technology infrastructure, including well designed and robust IT systems. These environments will need to address a range of IT issues:

- Data validation and integrity
- Records integrity and provenance
- Data and system security
- Metadata (all types)
- Hardware and software
- Policies
- Staff

Effective IT procedures exist for the short-term management of electronic records and digital information, however:

- They are not always followed



- They are not always as easy or as inexpensive as advertised, and
- We have been sold on the promise of the technology, but rarely acknowledge the downsides.

Organizations will need to emphasize data security, including back-ups, distributed storage of multiple copies, etc., to prevent catastrophic loss of digital resources.

### **COSTS, COST REDUCTION, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

In 1999, I conducted an analysis of the costs of digital imaging projects. The results were published as “The Costs of Digital Imaging Projects” in the [RLG DigiNews](#) newsletter.

Costs factors for digitization projects will include:

- Selection
- Preparation
- Cataloging / Description / Indexing
- Preservation / Conservation
- Digitization
- Quality Control - images and data
- IT and Network Infrastructure
- On-going maintenance of images
- On-going maintenance of data

Overall, on average, the costs break down as follows:

- 1/3 of the cost is digital conversion
- Slightly less than 1/3 of the cost is cataloging / description / indexing
- Slightly more than 1/3 of the cost is administrative / quality control / etc.

The averages and ranges from this cost study have proven to be accurate for digital imaging projects in cultural institutions. Most projects will not be average, so do not focus too much on the average cost. The ranges provided below still reflect legitimate variation in costs, and the varied approaches taken by organizations.

Adjusted Projections (per image):

|                      |         |                          |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Total-               | \$17.65 | range- \$1.85 to \$42.45 |
| Digitizing-          | \$6.15  | range- \$0.25 to \$16.65 |
|                      | 34%     | 5.5% to 80%              |
| Cat./Desc./Ind.-     | \$7.00  | range- \$0.75 to \$17.25 |
|                      | 31%     | 3.5% to 55%              |
| Admin./Qual. Control | \$10.10 | range- \$0.45 to \$28.15 |
|                      | 41%     | 19% to 78%               |

Mixed Collections (per item):

|                   |         |                          |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Total-            | \$24.45 | range- \$3.25 to \$40.50 |
| Digitizing-       | \$9.35  | range- \$3.45 to \$16.50 |
|                   | 37%     | 15% to 53%               |
| Cat./Desc./Ind.-  | \$10.60 | range- \$2.85 to \$17.25 |
|                   | 32%     | 14% to 46%               |
| Admin./Qual. Cont | \$11.40 | range- \$4.50 to \$21.55 |
|                   | 39%     | 19% to 42%               |

Photo Collections (per photo):

|                  |         |                          |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Total-           | \$19.30 | range- \$5.20 to \$42.45 |
| Digitizing-      | \$7.60  | range- \$2.30 to \$16.65 |
|                  | 28%     | 11% to 58%               |
| Cat./Desc./Ind.- | \$5.85  | range- \$4.85 to \$6.45  |

|                      |         |                          |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
|                      | 28%     | 15% to 34%               |
| Admin./Qual. Control | \$13.45 | range- \$3.35 to \$24.65 |
|                      | 48%     | 24% to 58%               |

Organizations and institutions should plan for the on-going costs from the beginning of the project. Cost for minimal maintenance of one set of the master image files (off-line) and access files (on-line) during the first 10 years is likely to be 50% to 100% of initial investment. The cost for maintaining image files in large-scale automated digital repository during the first 10 years is likely to be 10% to 25% of initial investment.

A lot of time and effort has been put into determining ways to effect cost reduction for digitization efforts. The Minerva project has published a couple reports on cost reduction that warrant close consideration – [\*Handbook on Cost Reduction in Digitisation\*](#) and [\*Good Practices in Cost Reduction for Digitisation\*](#).

The long-term sustainability of digital collections remains a concern for all organizations and institutions. The [\*Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access\*](#) published a report, [\*Sustainable Economics for a Digital Planet: Ensuring Long-Term Access to Digital Information\*](#), in 2010 that provides the most current perspectives on these issues.

## CONCLUSION

In today's world, digitization plays an important role in libraries, archives and museums. Digitization can be complex, but can be done successfully. Everyone is making progress, but there is still a lot of work to do in regards to digital preservation and long-term sustainability. This article provides a broad overview of digitization and many references to assist organizations in the planning for and management of digitization projects.

**Steven Puglia**

Preservation and Imaging Specialist

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

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## Distributed Delivery for Digital Image Collections - the Stanford Medical History Center Project

The Stanford Medical History Center is at the very early stages of implementing “Distributed Delivery” - a new project to improve access to our historical images. This project involves both a new way for us to create and store digital image files on our local servers, as well as using flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/>) and other image sharing websites to display those images and make them searchable.

### I. Scanning and Storing Digital Image Files

We’ve created three different directories for image files on our local servers, and the structure of these three directories mirror each other exactly. The directories are called the Dark directory (for high-resolution master files), the Public directory (for low-resolution use files), and the Workshop directory (a temporary holding place for files that require editing). The same image can appear on all three directories, though in different formats.

As an example, I could take a glass plate negative depicting a physician in Gold Rush San Francisco from our collection. We would scan the glass plate negative as a high-resolution TIFF file according to the specifications established by the California Digital Libraries ([http://www.cdlib.org/services/dsc/tools/docs/cdl\\_gdi\\_v2.pdf](http://www.cdlib.org/services/dsc/tools/docs/cdl_gdi_v2.pdf)). We then generate metadata for the digital file, again using the California Digital Library’s structure standard - a kind of modified version of Dublin Core (<http://www.cdlib.org/services/dsc/contribute/docs/GDO.pdf>). For the metadata content standards, we are using MeSH (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>) and the Library of Congress’ Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/tgm/>). The metadata is embedded within the master TIFF file using Adobe PhotoShop and Adobe Bridge. The finished master TIFF file, with the metadata embedded within it, gets saved on the Dark directory. The Dark directory is password protected and accessible only in-house.

We’ll be using Adobe Bridge for an automated process in which the high-resolution master TIFF files in the Dark directory are batch copied, the copies are converted into low-resolution JPGs while retaining the embedded metadata, and those copies are then saved in the Public directory. The files on the Public directory can be linked to directly; it is not password protected.

## II. Flickr – the Benefits

Once we have low-resolution JPGs with embedded metadata in the Public directory, it is possible to use flickr to automate a batch copying of the low-resolution JPGs from the Public directory and upload those copies into flickr. There are four reasons we have chosen to use flickr to display digital versions of our historical images. First, flickr is currently perhaps the most widely-used of the websites that hosts user-contributed images. As such, it puts our images in a highly-trafficked location beyond own website. Secondly, the cost to open a flickr account is only \$25 a year, and it requires no staff time on our part to build or maintain the site. Third, flickr is an example of so-called “Web 2.0” technology – in other words, once you’ve posted images on flickr, not only can others see your images, they can also write tags, comments and notes on those images. Fourth, it’s possible to aggregate content from different accounts, using something that flickr calls “Groups.” So if, for example, Lisa Mix at the University of California, San Francisco and Susan Goldstein, the city archivist for San Francisco, and I all have flickr accounts, it’s possible for us to collaborate by pooling content from our separate accounts. We would create so-called “Groups” of which we three were members, and we could copy content from our respective accounts into those Groups based on any criteria we agree upon. For example, we could create Groups based on themes for which we all had images, such as women and medicine in Northern California, or hospitals in 19<sup>th</sup> century San Francisco. In each of those Groups, users would find images from all three of our collections, and would be able to see which institution contributed which images.

## III. Flickr – the Challenge

Aside from these four positive features, however, there is another feature of flickr that poses something of a challenge. As you might be aware there are two different kinds of flickr accounts: flickr Commons

([http://www.flickr.com/commons?GXHC\\_gx\\_session\\_id\\_=6afecb2055a3c52c](http://www.flickr.com/commons?GXHC_gx_session_id_=6afecb2055a3c52c)), and standard flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/>). The difference between them has to do with copyright.

When it comes to copyright, like many archival repositories, the images at the Stanford Medical History Center could be divided into four groups: Images in the public domain; images that are “orphan” works; – i.e., the copyright holder is unknown; images copyrighted to us; images copyrighted to someone else. Standard flickr accounts are for images that are copyrighted. Flickr Commons accounts are for images that are in the public domain or that are orphan works.

If you are interested in posting both copyrighted images as well as images that are either in the public domain or are orphan works, you have to purchase a flickr Commons account and a standard flickr account. This is what we'll be doing at Stanford. Even though we'll have two separate flickr accounts, there is the option of creating a Group for which our two separate accounts are the only members, and into which we can put copies of all the images from both of our accounts. As of now, this is the only way to create a single user interface that includes all of our content; both copyrighted and not. It's not an ideal solution, but it's what we plan on doing.

#### **IV. Web 2.0**

We have hundreds of what I like to call our "mystery photos" – images of unidentified persons and places. We also have a lot of orphan works – images that might be copyrighted but for which we have no documentation as to who the current copyright holder might be. We're hoping to do targeted outreach – particularly to alumni – to help us identify the people in the mystery photos and the rights holders of the orphan works. Users can provide us with information in the form of tags, comments or notes.

The owner of a flickr account can see a record of any activity on their account. Not only can you see how many users have looked at an image, but you can also see when users contributed notes, tags or comments. When users contribute content, that content might get used to enhance the metadata that is embedded on the master TIFF files in the Dark directory and their counterparts on the Public directory.

#### **V. Distributed Delivery**

Because the JPGs on the public directory have their metadata embedded within them, it would be possible to post copies of those image files in more sites than just flickr. For example, we are in negotiations to have our images posted onto the Online Archive of California's "Calisphere" (<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>), which is a union database of images from archives across California. Again, we would batch upload copies of the low-resolution JPGs with embedded metadata, and the embedded metadata would automatically populate the fields that appear on Calisphere. Copies of those same low-resolution JPGs with embedded metadata can be uploaded into yet other image-sharing venues.



This gets to the central idea behind Distributed Delivery: to retain our original files with embedded metadata on our local servers, but upload copies of them into multiple image-sharing venues like flickr and Calisphere as possible. If anything happened to any one of those venues – for example, if Yahoo goes bankrupt tomorrow and flickr disappears, we would still have the original digital files on our local servers, ready for copies to be uploaded to any other venues where appropriate.

By implementing this “Distributed Delivery” model, our intention is to improve access to and use of our historic image collections by allowing us to flexibly and strategically present our images where they can be most easily discovered and searched. For a sneak preview of our content on flickr, please go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/40390680@N08/>. For questions about the project, please contact me at [dbourn@stanford.edu](mailto:dbourn@stanford.edu), or (650) 725-8045.

**Drew Bourn**

Curator

Stanford Medical History Center

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**Flickr, Blogs and Other Online Initiatives at the Otis Historical Archives**

At the Otis Historical Archives of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, our flickr site began as a lark. We had undertaken a large scanning project of photographs as part of a records modernization initiative for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. A team of archivists and technicians were working their way through photographs, captioning and indexing them, but this meant being stuck at their desks for hours. The idea of putting pictures onto flickr was meant to boost morale, as people could select the best photograph they saw that day, perhaps for the first time since it was taken, and put it online for a hopefully wider audience. In Fall 2006, archives staff began adding interesting photographs to flickr’s website. By late January 2008, approximately 400 photographs had gotten 48,000 views; two months later after some publicity that led to the offer of a flickr Commons account, we had 73,380 views on 577 images. Our initial plan had been to create a new account every time we filled up the free 200 images, and we did that four times until one of the staff decided to pay for a ‘pro’ account.

This reset our numbers somewhat as we could merge the images into one primary account, but not their statistics. Fortunately, *Wired.com* noticed our site and wrote an article on it – “Open

Data: Rare Trove of Army Medical Photos Heads to Flickr” by Alexis Madrigal (March 17, 2009, <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/03/medarchives/>). That evening we had 65,070 views of individual photographs. By the next morning at 4:45: 82,395 views; at 2 pm: 173,792; at 7:15 pm; 246,540 and at 11:10: 310,089 for 816 pictures. Boing Boing, NPR and Austria's public television picked up the initial story and drove even more traffic to us. By March 22, 2009, the site had 503,160 views on 872 photos. By early December 2009, we broke the 900,000 mark for individual photograph views, an average of about 524 views per image, but our most-viewed image, MIS 66-9275, a Vietnam-war era X-ray of a man with a grenade embedded in his head, had 63,345 views. As of May 26, 2010, with no new publicity given the site, we have 965,590 individual views and 2,412,646 aggregate views of photographs, the ‘photostream,’ and sets (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/medicalmuseum/>)

On the downside, people questioned the posting of these images both at *Wired* and at flickr. Some people were asking about HIPAA, which provides for privacy of medical records. These photographs were taken for medical education by various sources, including the Army Medical Museum's Museum & Medical Arts Service (MAMAS), photographers who had no role in treating patients (or an electronic billing relationship with them which is the main criteria for applying HIPAA), but were dispatched to theaters of war to take pictures. Additionally, when we created the scanning database, we did not capture the name of the patient. We have tried to be very careful about selecting images that are anonymous unless the photograph was previously published with the names included (as all the Civil War and Signal Corps pictures were). The whole secure scanning database, which will hit 1,250,000 images this fall, is not available to the general public and has many restricted images that only administrators can see. These photographs have been available to the public as part of the AFIP's Medical Illustration Service Library since the 1940s - this is just the first time that they have been easily viewable without visiting Washington, DC, although the other half of the old Army Medical Museum & Library's collection was put online years ago by the National Library of Medicine.

Books and documents were also scanned in this project and uploaded to the free Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org/details/texts>), where they are available for downloading. Titles uploaded included *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* (six volumes, 1870-1888); *The Medical Department of the US Army in the World War* (15 volumes, 1923-1929); "The Annual" (Nursing Yearbook) from Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, DC, and Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, California (1921-1927); "Taps" Annual (Nursing Yearbook) from Walter Reed General Hospital (1929-1931); *An Illustrated Description of First-*

*Class Achromatic Microscopes, Apparatus, Specimens, etc.*, Miller Brothers (1879) as well as others. Many of these have had several hundred viewers, and we are currently planning on making the files available to the National Library of Medicine for the new digital medical libraries initiative.

Also in spring 2008, we began *A Repository for Bottled Monsters*

(<http://bottledmonsters.blogspot.com/>), an unofficial blog for the museum, which has attracted a worldwide audience. The Army initially blocked access to blogs, so all posts to it were added by staff from home on their own time. Some social media, including blogs like this, were unblocked early this year although Flickr is still blocked. This blog has largely remained a project of the Archives, as has the flickr site, in spite of encouraging the other four collecting divisions to participate. As of May 26, 2010, one map counter lists the total visitors since April 1, 2008, at 87,387 with 129 viewers for the previous day. The map shows that viewers come from around the world, but we get very little feedback for this project. Since January 2010, we have been posting a 'letter of the day' from the Archives, transcribing a letter whose date matches the current date, and which is of some interest. We have a vague hope of collecting these into a book. Independent of our efforts, the Museum public affairs office maintains facebook and Twitter sites, as well as the main Museum website (for which we also provide content). Our website's *Guide to the Collections of the National Museum of Health & Medicine* (<http://nmhm.washingtondc.museum/collections/guide/guide.html>), which was started as a book project, but then converted into a website, is the main way people are able to access the collection's broad picture prior to contacting a department staff member. I would estimate that 90% of our research requests originate online now. As we are converting individual department databases to an online public access catalogue via KE Software's EMU, this number should only increase when that project goes live.

As noted above, not every aspect of social media is positive. We have over a million scans; the sheer number of images is making it hard for us to mount them on the web in any reasonable fashion. Our flickr site has 2001 images –which is not even a noticeable percentage of what we have scanned. By their nature, social media sites demand item-level cataloguing. Generating an individual record for each photograph, although we are only doing quick-and-dirty cataloguing by capturing the title and other obvious information, takes a tremendous amount of time. Managing staff time to actually get people to post material on the web OR to not spend all of their time posting material on the web can be difficult. Your public relations department may not agree with your goals or how you are proceeding. Also, most web 2.0 sites are work-arounds

for an institution, leaving them reliant on other people's properties or sites, and, as AOL's history, or more recently, facebook's usurpation of MySpace's lead and its current problems show, today's leader may be a site that few use in the future. Finally, no matter how much information you put up, nobody may come and use it. However, in spite of these caveats, the collections of the Archives went from a couple of hundred of determined users per year to tens of thousands of users, and that is something to be appreciated and cultivated. These days, museums, archives and libraries need to give people a reason to care about them so they can survive today *and* build support for the future.

*The opinions or assertions contained herein are the private views of the author and are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the US Department of Defense. This piece is a US government work and, as such, is in the public domain in the United States of America.*

**Michael Rhode**

Archivist

National Museum of Health and Medicine

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**Shaping a Digital Library for Medical Heritage**

*Although this presentation was not for ALHHS specifically, the topic is of considerable interest to members. I am grateful to Ms. Baker for writing it. ed.*

The Medical Heritage Library (<http://www.medicalheritage.org>) – a project funded by the Open Knowledge Commons via a Sloan Foundation grant – will digitize 30,000 public domain books from the collections of the National Library of Medicine, New York Public Library, and the medical libraries of Columbia, Harvard and Yale over the next eighteen months. These partner libraries joined together because they recognized that creating a 'next generation' digital library exceeds the capability of any one partner to undertake. By joining together, they will be able to foster a Medical Heritage Library that furthers their respective missions as well as the interests of the history of medicine community.

***New Approaches to Digital Content***

Over the past twenty years, the availability of digital content has radically altered user expectations and research methods. Archives and special collections in the history of medicine

have responded with a number of initiatives, most of which offer content, contextual information, and user interfaces with search capabilities. The number of sources for digital content continues to grow. This embarrassment of riches, however, presents its own challenges: libraries face the prospect of investing scarce resources in digitizing published materials that have already been digitized by others. Users struggle to stay up-to-date on new content sources and, due to the lack of a central portal, must learn multiple user interfaces and repeat searches.

Other communities are innovating to solve such problems and further digital scholarship:

- The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is an international collaborative project that focuses on mass digitization of the biodiversity literature, close linkage to user communities, and development of research tools, both sponsored by the BHL and by users through open application programming interfaces (Open API) and web services that allow remixing and reuse of BHL content. Partner libraries work together to reduce duplication in digitization, thus creating administrative efficiencies. Content is public domain or licensed through agreement with rights holders and is freely available.  
<http://smithsonianlibraries.si.edu/smithsonianlibraries/2010/04/medical-heritage-library.html>  
<http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/About>  
<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>
- The HATHI Trust, a collaborative of American universities, is a shared digital repository that provides preservation and access to content from digitization projects, including the Internet Archive, Google Books, and university-sponsored digitization efforts. HATHI is developing tools and actively encourages tool development by others through an Open API. Partners pay a fee on deposit and annually to support preservation of their digital content. Users benefit from the ability to search easily across the digital holdings of multiple libraries. <http://www.hathitrust.org>
- The NINES (Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship) is an alliance of academic organizations and repositories that seek to link the archive to scholarship in the digital environment. The NINES provides access to best practices in digital scholarship, software tools, and federated, peer-reviewed online publishing for those scholars working in the 'long Victorian' century (1780-1920). Using Collex, a software tool, users can, for example, collect, annotate, and tag online objects and to

repurpose them in illustrated, interlinked essays or exhibits. Collex captures user activity as metadata, thus adding additional context to objects. <http://www.nines.org>

These projects involve selection, digitization, and access; what qualifies them as 'next generation' is the degree to which they are user-centered, even user-driven, innovative, and deeply collaborative. Could the history of medicine community engage in such 'radical collaboration' to increase the operational efficiency and the effectiveness of efforts to support digital scholarship?

### ***The Medical Heritage Library***

In 2009, Maura Marx of the Open Knowledge Commons encouraged representatives of several libraries to begin thinking about how to respond to this question. Over the spring and summer, the library partners began to outline the components of phase I of a Medical Heritage Library project. These included many of the elements of peer projects: a commitment to freely available content; digitization in a narrow subject area-- the intersection of medicine and society-- that would enable the rapid development of a deep research collection; a registry or de-duplication tool to prevent the waste of resources resulting from digitization of duplicates; and, perhaps most importantly, ongoing planning for the future of the MHL that would include broad consultation with peers and users, and, in phase II, the creation of an access portal and the addition of more library partners.

Phase I, funded in 2010 by the Sloan Foundation, is now underway. A copy of all content will be deposited in the Internet Archive, a temporary solution to meet MHL's commitment to free and open access (<http://www.archive.org/details/medicalheritagelibrary/>). The National Library of Medicine is preparing to digitize all American imprints up to 1865. Other partners have begun digitizing medical school catalogs, directories, and public health reports, and rare books in such areas as psychiatry, anesthesia, plastic surgery, medical jurisprudence, obstetrics, and pediatrics, to 1923 for American imprints and to 1908, in most cases, for European imprints.

MHL partners seek the views of librarians, archivists, and researchers across the history of medicine community. MHL sponsored an open session in Rochester, MN, in April 2010, in conjunction with the ALHHS annual meeting so community members could hear from Martin R. Kalfatovic of the Smithsonian Institution about the origins and ongoing development of the BHL, and to discuss a heritage library for medicine. Meeting participants were asked and offered ideas about next steps for the project. How the MHL evolves will be influenced by the interest



and expertise of community members. For example, MHL founding partners are now working with the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and others interested in seeking funding for the development of an online collaborative digital environment to support interdisciplinary digital scholarship in the history of medicine. Such a project could include digitization of a test collection of archival materials, as well as the development of tools for scholars, students, and others such as search, annotation, and communication. The test collection could be augmented by digitized rare books produced in phase I of MHL. Ideally, such an environment, when implemented, would harvest the breadth of the MHL content, but would enable more than discovery. It could be the locus for digital research, collaboration, and publication tools, fully supporting the research endeavor and the history of medicine community.

People interested in sharing their ideas or learning more about MHL can contact Kathryn Hammond Baker ([kbaker@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:kbaker@hms.harvard.edu); 617-432-6205) or representatives of other partner institutions. Look for a formal survey, to be distributed to ALHHS members later this summer. Additional information about MHL progress will be forthcoming soon.

**Kathryn Hammond Baker**

Deputy Director

Center for the History of Medicine

Countway Library of Medicine

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)*Photo Section*

(All the photos in this section and the cover are by Stephen Greenberg except #5, which is by Pat Gallagher)

**1. ALHHS Dinner****2. Lisa Mix and Steven Puglia**



3. Award winner Erich Meyerhoff flanked by Arlene Shaner (l) and Pat Gallagher (r)



4. The two presidents: Bruce Fye and Lisa Mix



5. The new president: Steve Greenberg



6. Michael North and Lilla Vekerdy



7. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

## *Business Meeting*

### **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting: April 29, 2010**

Lisa Mix convened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. She extended her thanks to the Steering Committee, the outgoing officers, Renee Ziemer for the local arrangements, and Holly Herro and Jim Curley (MeMA) for the program. Bruce Fye, President of AAHM, stopped by to greet everyone and welcome ALHHS to Rochester.

**Election results:** Patricia Gallagher reported on the election results. ALHHS voted to change the bylaws to separate the positions of Secretary and Treasurer and to clarify the responsibilities of the newsletter editor and the website editor. Crystal Smith has been elected Secretary; Martha Stone and Jennifer Nieves have been elected Members-at-Large. The election was held electronically using Survey Monkey.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Arlene Shaner reported that as of the end of March, 2010, ALHHS has \$20,841.35 in the checking account and a \$15,000 short-term CD. The CD earned \$44.38 in interest in 2009. ALHHS has 143 individual members and 8 institutional members. Arlene then explained that in order to get our tax-exempt status in order we need to fill out paperwork that requires that we have a dissolution of funds clause. The membership will be asked to vote this summer on a bylaws change as discussed by the Steering Committee.

**Audit:** Elaine Challacombe reported that the finances are in order but that we will be having a professional audit done in the future.

**Program:** Holly Herro thanked Renee Ziemer and Jim Curley for their help in arranging the program.

**Local Arrangements:** Karen Koka spoke on behalf of Renee Ziemer and said everything was going very smoothly.

**Website:** Russell Johnson reminded everyone that the website address is [www.alhhs.org](http://www.alhhs.org). He said that there has been some reorganization of the website and that new content is coming, including a calendar of dates and deadlines and links to research fellowships. He requested that people send photographs of the meeting so they can be posted.

**Listserv:** Lisa reported for Cynthia Kahn. The listserv is still at George Washington University, even though Cynthia has moved to Florida. We will address this change when needed.

**Archives:** Jodi reported that the archives are still at VCU and have been used quite a bit this year.

**Watermark:** Chris Lyons reported that four issues have been published this past year. He extended his thanks to a number of individuals for their help. *The Watermark* is now open access and has been cataloged by a number of institutions. We are still looking for a permanent home and a place for the digital files back to the beginning of newsletter. The summer issue will have reports from the annual meeting. Chris is always open to new ideas and suggestions for content.

**Awards:** Christine Ruggere thanked the awards committee and announced that Erich Meyerhoff was being awarded the Recognition of Merit after having been nominated by Arlene Shaner and Michael North. Christine also explained that the awards criteria are in the process of being modified.

**Publication awards:** Michael North will be the chair of the Publication Awards committee and proposed an expansion of the categories to include exhibition brochures and online exhibition awards, as well as the traditional publication award. These new categories will have winners and finalists.

**Procedure Manual:** Micaela Sullivan-Fowler and Patricia Gallagher have been working on updating the Procedure Manual and removing inconsistencies. Lisa Mix will continue to work on the manual in her role as Immediate Past-President. Once the revisions seem to be complete, the manual will be posted on the website.

There was no new business. ALHHS extended its thanks to Lisa Mix for her service as President. Steve Greenberg then made his first remarks as incoming President. He thanked Lisa and issued a call for volunteers to work on committees. He also expressed a desire to expand the activities of ALHHS and to consider doing things more than once a year.

Lisa presented the ALHHS Recognition of Merit award to Erich Meyerhoff. Erich had already been sent the Tiffany paperweight at home in New York, but Lisa presented him with the award citation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Arlene Shaner**

Secretary/Treasurer

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## **ALHHS 2009-2010 Financial Report**

**Checking Balance as of 3/31/2009** \$10,850.91

### **April 2009 (transition month)**

**Deposits** \$2,932.00

### **Expenses**

- USPS (\$139.14)
- Staples (\$26.86)
- Nighttown (conference dinner) (\$2,562.00)
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (Kramer honorarium) (\$500.00)

**Ending balance** \$10,554.91

### **Income 5/1/2009-3/31/2010**

- Watermark advertising 2008-2009 \$720.00
- Watermark advertising 2010 \$900.00
- 2009 meeting payments (extra) \$144.00
- 2009 memberships \$165.00
- 2010 memberships (143 individual) \$2,145.00
- 2010 memberships (8 institutional) \$132.00
- 2010 conference (33) \$825.00
- 2010 dinner (37) \$1,406.00
- Transfer from CD into checking at renewal \$5,000.00

**Total income 5/1/2009-3/31/2010** \$11,437.00

W a t e r m a r k

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**Expenses 5/1/2009-3/31/2010**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| • New checks                                    | (\$21.00)  |
| • MeMA for 2009 meeting catering                | (\$760.40) |
| • Ed Morman 2009 dinner refund                  | (\$47.00)  |
| • USPS certified mail                           | (\$3.41)   |
| • Pat Gallagher reimbursement for Survey Monkey | (\$19.95)  |
| • Delta Airlines (Steve Puglia plane ticket)    | (\$298.80) |

**Total expenses** (\$1,150.56)

**Ending Balance 3/31/2010** \$20,841.35

We have \$15,000 in a CD (we had \$20,000 in that CD but transferred \$5,000 in order to avoid monthly banking fees). The CD earned \$440.38 in interest in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

**Arlene Shaner**

Secretary/Treasurer

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### *Meet Your Elected ALHHS Officers!*

Meet the officers of ALHHS, who are working for you, and with whom you could work, too. As ALHHS President Stephen Greenberg says in his letter for this issue, "As always, volunteers are welcome!" There are many opportunities available to get more involved in ALHHS, including those Stephen mentions for the 2011 meeting. I'm sure he would love to talk to you about some of the current openings for volunteers. And, for now, let's extend our congratulations and thanks to the elected, all-volunteer corps of ALHHS officers!

**Stephen J. Greenberg, President (2010-2012)**, received his doctorate in Early Modern History from Fordham University with a dissertation on early printing and publishing. After teaching for several years, he returned to school and earned his library degree from Columbia University, specializing in Rare Books. Since 1992, he has worked in the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine, where he is currently Coordinator of Public Services. His papers and publications span a number of fields, including the history of printing and publishing, medicine and surgery in early modern Europe, and the history of medical librarianship. In 1996, he was awarded the MLA's Murray Gottlieb Prize. He has taught many CE courses to both national and regional audiences, and he is the co-author (with Patricia E. Gallagher) of the



Medical Library Association BibKit on resources in the History of the Health Sciences, now in its second edition, and the chapter on Special Collections Librarianship (also with Patricia E. Gallagher), in *Introduction to Health Sciences Librarianship* edited by M. Sandra Wood (Haworth Press, 2007). He is also an adjunct professor at the College of Library and Information Studies at the University of Maryland (College Park) where he lectures on the History of the Book.  
[parzere AT gmail.com](mailto:parzere@gmail.com)

**Lisa A. Mix, Past-President (2010-2011)**, has been the Manager of Archives & Special Collections at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Library since 2002. She writes, "I fell in love with archival work as an undergraduate during an internship at the Maryland Historical Society (that blossomed into a part-time job). I cemented my interest in medical archives and medical history working for 16 years in the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives at Johns Hopkins." In addition to Lisa's ALHHS involvement, she served on the Steering Committee of the SAA's Science-Technology-Health Care Roundtable, and was co-chair of the Roundtable 2001-2002. [Lisa.Mix AT ucsf.edu](mailto:Lisa.Mix@ucsf.edu)

**Crystal Smith, Secretary (2010-2012)**, has been a reference librarian in the History of Medicine Division (HMD) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) since 2003. She has also worked in three other departments within the NLM, including the Public Services Division (PSD), the Technical Services Division (TSD), and the Bibliographic Services Division (BSD). She received her undergraduate degree in history and her master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland at College Park. Crystal has been a member of the ALHHS since 2003 and has always enjoyed attending the annual meetings and sharing and exchanging knowledge with its members, who, she says, "are a very enthusiastic group." She has been the compiler/editor of NLM's *Directory of History of Medicine Collections* publication since 2004 and has worked with HMD's two systems librarians to develop the database version of the Directory that was released in March 2010. Crystal looks forward to serving the ALHHS as secretary during the coming months ahead. [Smithc AT mail.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:Smithc@mail.nlm.nih.gov)

**Arlene Shaner, Secretary/Treasurer (2009-2010), Secretary (2010-2011)** is the Assistant Curator and Reference Librarian for Historical Collections in the Malloch Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine Library. Arlene's very considerable load was lightened when it was decided to separate the position of Secretary and Treasurer at this year's Annual Meeting. Members will continue to benefit from her great attention to detail and passion for excellence which has characterized her work thus far. [ashaner AT nyam.org](mailto:ashaner@nyam.org)

**Jack Eckert, Member-at-Large (2009-2011)**, is the Public Services Librarian at the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine's Center for the History of Medicine in Boston and has been on the staff at the Countway since December 1998. He was the Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia from 1988 until 1994 and has also held positions at the Burndy Library of the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology and the Senator John Heinz History Center. [jack\\_eckert AT hms.harvard.edu](mailto:jack_eckert@hms.harvard.edu)

**Dawn McInnis, Member-at-Large (2009-2011)**, has been the Rare Book Librarian at the Clendening History of Medicine Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center since 2001. Dawn says, "I immediately joined ALHHS, and have really appreciated the energy and information from the annual meeting, along with our members' willingness to share knowledge. My two-year position as one of the Members-at-Large requires attending the yearly steering committee meeting that precedes the annual meeting. This means I also have to attend the social evening!" The duties include assisting the president in conducting the business of the organization, helping with long-range planning, and serving as needed on ad hoc committees or task forces. She adds, "I'm looking forward to learning more about the internal workings of the organization and to returning energy and knowledge back to the membership."  
[dmcinnis AT kumc.edu](mailto:dmcinnis@kumc.edu)

**Jennifer Kane Nieves, Member-at-Large (2010-2012)**, is the Museum Registrar and Archivist for the Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Fresh out of graduate school (Wright State University, 1989) Jennifer joined the Dittrick Museum as Registrar and Assistant Archivist. In 1998 she was appointed Archivist for the Center, while retaining her responsibilities as Museum Registrar. Since joining the Dittrick staff, Jennifer has been an active member of the Medical Museums Association and has served as Secretary/Treasurer since 1998. She is also a member of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (Local Arrangements Committee Chair, 2009), the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, the Ohio Academy of Medical History (Membership Coordinator) and the Society of Ohio Archivists (Council Member). [jennifer.nieves AT case.edu](mailto:jennifer.nieves@case.edu)

**Martha Stone, Member-at-Large (2010-2012)**, started her career at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) almost 30 years ago, as a secretary in the division of gynecologic oncology. In the late 1980's, she decided to further her education and received her master's degree in library science from Simmons College. "Luckily," she says, "I was able to remain at MGH and have been the Coordinator for Reference Services at Treadwell Library since 1990. The major focus of my

work is, naturally, reference, as well as bibliographic instruction and long-term research projects (particularly in light of MGH's upcoming 200th anniversary). I am a member of the MGH Nursing History Task Force Committee, which will publish a photographic history of MGH nursing next year. I write book reviews and articles for a variety of publications (if you're curious, check out Expanded Academic Index). In my non-work life, I am the Literary Editor at the Boston-based bi-monthly magazine, *Gay & Lesbian Review/Worldwide*, now in its seventeenth year."

[mstone AT partners.org](http://mstone.atpartners.org)

### Joan Echtenkamp Klein

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

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

### *Health for the People, an Online Exhibition of Chinese Public Health Posters, Transparencies and Pharmaceutical Ads*

The National Library of Medicine, the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health, announces *Health for the People*, a new Web exhibit focusing on Chinese public health posters and other paper ephemera. You can explore it at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/healthforthepeople/index.html>.

Acquired by the Library in 2006, the Chinese poster collection consists of about 3,000 items.

"We probably have the largest collection of Chinese public health posters outside of China," said Paul Theerman, PhD, chief of Images and Archives in the History of Medicine Division.

The collection is mostly made up of posters from the People's Republic (or post-revolutionary) era, from the 1950s through the 1970s. In the days before the Internet and the 24/7 news cycle, the Chinese government relied on posters to get health messages out to its citizens.

Organized into four sections, the posters urge citizens to pursue healthy habits. For example, in the *Children's Section*, a poster encourages children to, "Love Cleanliness and Sanitation." A series of transparencies teaches children how to admit their mistakes and correct their peers' inappropriate behavior. A poster in the *Family Planning Section* encourages women to carry out

family planning for the revolution, while *the Medical Advertisement Section* touts the benefits of progesterone and methyltestosterone, potent over-the-counter hormone therapies.

The *Four Pests Section* presents posters from a 1958 campaign focused on rats, sparrows, flies and mosquitoes. "Eradicate pests and diseases and build happiness for ten thousand generations," urges one poster. The campaigns were short-lived and unsuccessful; more enduring were the efforts to improve water quality and waste treatment, which led to dramatic reductions in the epidemic diseases of cholera, plague and typhoid.

The Chinese were far more successful with their anti-malaria campaign. In 1950, over 30 million Chinese people suffered from malaria; one percent of those died. The Chinese Government launched a major campaign in the 1950s, stressing the importance of timely treatment of the disease, but mostly emphasizing preventive measures. The colorful posters encourage citizens to eliminate the breeding grounds of mosquitoes, to keep houses and livestock clean, fill in the ditches, use bed nets, and screen doors and windows. (A special online section deals with these posters, at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/chineseantimalaria/>.) By the 1990s, China had made major inroads in the fight against malaria. In 1998, there were only 32,000 malaria cases in China—a drop of 99 percent, compared to 1954.

"The use of health posters to convey medical information has dropped drastically," noted HMD's Theerman. "Television and the Internet are ubiquitous - even in third world countries - and they have replaced posters as the major way of getting health information out to various populations."

You can view a larger selection of the Chinese Health Posters at:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/chinese/posters/index.html>

The National Library of Medicine has one of the largest collections of health posters in the world, numbering close to 12,500. View posters, prints, photographs and other medical artworks in the NLM Images from the History of Medicine database at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/ihm/>.

## *Papers of Daniel Nathans Added to the Profiles in Science Web Site*



The National Library of Medicine, in collaboration with the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions announces the release of an extensive selection from the papers of molecular biologist Daniel Nathans (1928-1999), who received the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his innovative use of restriction enzymes in analyzing virus genomes, on the Library's *Profiles in Science* Web site <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/PD/>.

With this addition, the number of prominent researchers, public health officials, and promoters of medical research whose personal and professional records are presented on Profiles has grown to thirty (<http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov>). "Dr. Nathans' work demonstrated the immense utility of restriction enzymes for genome analysis, and transformed molecular biology. Gene mapping, sequencing, cloning, and recombinant DNA technology would be inconceivable without the techniques he pioneered," said Donald A. B. Lindberg, MD, director of the National Library of Medicine.

Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Nathans majored in chemistry at the University of Delaware. He went on to medical school at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, planning initially to enter general practice. By the time he received his MD in 1954, however, several of his mentors had introduced him to the fascinating world of laboratory research. Nathans decided to pursue an academic medical career, combining teaching, research, and patient care. He did his internship at Columbia- Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, and then spent two years as a clinical research fellow at the National Cancer Institute, where he began studying protein synthesis in tumor cells. Finding himself increasingly drawn to lab research during his subsequent medical residency, he became a full-time research associate at Fritz Lipmann's laboratory at the Rockefeller Institute in 1959.

Biochemists, microbiologists, and geneticists were rapidly forging the new discipline of molecular biology during the 1950s, resolving central questions about how the genetic material DNA directs living cells to manufacture the enzymes and structural proteins they need. At the Rockefeller Institute, Nathans joined these efforts, pursuing his interest in protein synthesis in

bacteria and viruses. His most important project, carried out with Norton Zinder, showed that RNA could direct the synthesis of a specific protein, and supported the emerging idea that RNA might act as a "messenger" between cellular DNA and the protein-synthesizing "machinery" of cells.

Nathans joined the faculty of the microbiology department at Johns Hopkins University in 1962, and continued investigating protein synthesis. Several years later he became interested in tumor viruses; like bacterial viruses, they promised to be excellent models of genetic mechanisms in the cells they infected. In 1969 he spent a six-month sabbatical at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, learning cell-culture techniques and getting acquainted with simian virus 40 (SV40), a small tumor virus.

While Nathans was in Israel, Hamilton Smith, a JHU colleague, wrote to him about a new enzyme he'd found in *Haemophilus influenzae* bacteria, which seemed to cut the DNA of other species at particular points. Nathans recognized that such an enzyme would be useful for making uniform fragments of a small virus DNA that could then be mapped, i.e., the precise molecular structure determined. Returning to JHU, he immediately set to work testing Smith's enzyme and several other known restriction enzymes on the SV40. As he hoped, the *Haemophilus* restriction enzyme cut the SV40 DNA into eleven specific fragments. He and his graduate student Kathleen Danna then proceeded to deduce the physical order of the fragments and to discover the point where DNA replication started.

Restriction enzymes rapidly became essential tools, stimulating a rapid expansion of discovery in molecular biology. In subsequent work, Nathans and his associates constructed physical maps of the SV40 genome, and used restriction enzymes to create mutant forms of the virus in which certain DNA segments were deleted. These mutants were reintroduced into the host cells and assessed for biological activity. In the latter part of his career, hoping to learn more about how cancerous processes began, Nathans shifted from tumor viruses to the study of cultured mouse cells, investigating the effects of substances called growth factors on cell reproduction. He and his co-workers isolated and characterized some of the first cellular genes that were activated when cells were stimulated to grow and divide.

Though widely acknowledged as a first-rate researcher, teacher, and mentor, Nathans was also an able administrator-- thoughtful, fair, deliberate, and clearheaded. (One colleague noted that Nathans had "the highest signal-to-noise ratio of anyone" he'd ever known.) He was director of

the Microbiology Department at JHU from 1972 to 1982, and then served as Senior Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institutes unit there from 1981 to 1999. He served on many national scientific committees and as Interim President of JHU during 1995-96, guiding the institution through a time of difficult transitions.

*Profiles in Science* features correspondence, published articles, notebook excerpts, report drafts, and photographs from the Daniel Nathans Papers at the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Visitors to the site can view, for example, excerpts from Nathans' medical school notebooks, laboratory notebooks and correspondence reflecting his early work with restriction enzymes, reports and correspondence relating to his administration of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute unit at Johns Hopkins, and letters between Nathans and Paul Berg, Maxine Singer and Ernest Winocour.

**Jeffrey S. Reznick**

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division

National Library of Medicine

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## NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

### *National Gallery to Exhibit 'Acts of Mercy'*

This summer, between 14 July and 17 October, the National Gallery in London is exhibiting 'Acts of Mercy' by Frederick Cayley Robinson.

As was reported in the Fall 2009 issue of *The Watermark* (Volume 32, no. 4), the work was purchased by the Wellcome Trust in 2009. It comprises four large-scale panels in two pairs that explore the positive forces of the human spirit in the face of destruction.

The four panels were executed as a commission for the Middlesex Hospital in 1915, and were purchased by the Trust after the Hospital was demolished in 2008. Since then, they have been on public display in the Wellcome Library.

The 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 one pair, orphan girls



are receiving sustenance and upbringing. In the other, patients including soldiers injured in World War I gather at the entrance to the hospital.



Orphan girls entering the refectory of a hospital, Frederic Cayley Robinson, Wellcome Library number no. 672831i.

### *Recently Catalogued Archive Collections*

A number of archive collections have been catalogued in recent months by members of the Wellcome Library's Archives and Manuscripts department. They are now readily available for research.

Newly available are the papers of Sir Harold Himsworth KCB FRS FRCP (1905-1993), medical scientist and administrator. Papers held are roughly split between Sir Harold Himsworth's scientific career, in particular relating to diabetes, and his subsequent role within the UK Medical Research Council. Also included are papers on medical education in wartime, an enquiry into the use of tear gas during the Troubles in Northern Ireland, and writings on sociology and science. (PP/HPH)

Retroconversion, the process of turning our old word-processed catalogues into database entries, continues. As a result, the large catalogue describing the papers of the psychiatrists Rudolph Karl Freudenberg and Gerda Freudenberg (née Vorster) has now been added to our on-



line catalogue. These papers relate to psychiatric practice at Netherne Hospital, Freudenberg's involvement with various professional bodies, and his writings on psychiatry, 1930s-1970s. (PP/RKF).

In addition, further detail has been added to the catalogue description of our material relating to the Austrian writer Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (1836-1895), whose novel *Venus in Furs*, exploring themes of sexual domination, led to his name being applied to the concept of Masochism. Detailed information about correspondents, previously only available in a hard-copy list in our Rare Materials Room, has been added to the catalogue record relating to Sacher-Masoch and his wife Aurora. (MS.6909)

The papers of the various organisations that combined in 1982 to form the British Thoracic Society (SA/BRT) have also now been catalogued. They include: minutes, printed material and some administrative records; correspondence and other papers relating to the training and examination of tuberculosis nurses; a small amount of material relating to the formation and early activities of the British Thoracic Society; and a 1932 London County Council post-mortem examination book of unknown provenance.

Another small collection relating to tuberculosis was released at the same time as SA/BRT: the papers of Alexander Stephenson Hall (1904-1995). Hall was a Tuberculosis Officer in Middlesex in the 1930s and consultant chest physician for a group of hospitals in Buckinghamshire from the 1940s to the 1960s; he was heavily involved in the activities of the British Tuberculosis Association and gathered material for a history of the organisation (never published). His papers include this historical documentation as well as various writings on the social impact of tuberculosis. The catalogue can be found under the reference PP/HAL.

Finally, the papers of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) have now been catalogued. The collection includes: minutes and other organisational and business records; corporate records; membership directories and some photographs; general and Officer's correspondence; printed books, conference programmes, proceedings and abstracts. All this new material can be found in the database under reference SA/IEA.

The catalogues for these papers can be viewed by entering the references given above in the reference field of the search interface of the Wellcome Library's Archives and Manuscripts online catalogue (<http://archives.wellcome.ac.uk>).

All of these papers are available subject to the usual conditions of access to Archives and Manuscripts material, after the completion of a Reader's Undertaking.

### *Korean Manuscripts Week*

During the 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June, the Wellcome Library hosted a study course based around its Korean manuscripts. Developed in association with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, this was the latest in a series of courses which consist of detailed study of our Non-Western manuscript collections.

For our Korean week, our guest tutor was Beth McKillop, Director of Collections, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. The course attendees undertook practical sessions in studying the Wellcome's Korean manuscripts and also visited the exhibition galleries of the British Library, British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum.

### *Administrative Records of the Medical Society of London*

The Medical Society of London was founded in the 18th century by John Coakley Lettsom (1744-1815) as a forum in which medical practitioners from different disciplines could meet; it continues to this day.

#### **The inaugural meeting of the Medical Society of London (Wellcome Library no. 545991i)**



1815) as a forum in which medical practitioners from different disciplines could meet; it continues to this day.

Last year the Society deposited its administrative archive at the Wellcome Library and the catalogue of this is now visible in the archive database under the reference SA/MSL. The collection includes: constitutional records; minutes of Council, committee, general and ordinary meetings; membership records; financial material; records of books owned and lent by the society's library; Fothergillian Prize committee

records and prize essays; and a small group of committee minutes, attendance books and other records generated by societies with which the Medical Society of London was associated (notably the Westminster Medical Society with which the society merged in 1850).

It should be noted that the Society's administrative records are joining its manuscript collection, transferred here some years before (and visible by searching for references beginning MS.MSL); in addition, papers created by John Coakley Lettsom himself are available as MSS.3245-3249, 5370 and 8684.

**Ross MacFarlane**

Research Officer

Wellcome Library

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## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

*Jennifer D. Miglus***Home town:** Wethersfield, Connecticut.

**Current employer:** The University of Connecticut/The Hartford Medical Society (HMS). HMS has been in existence since 1846. Last year they sold their building and moved the best of their collection of books, journals, archival materials and artifacts to the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT. I was hired in April of 2009 as their librarian.

**Education:**

- B.A. in Zoology; University of Washington, Seattle, 1979.
- MLS with a concentration in archives; Simmons College, Boston, 2008.

**Professional interests:** I am working one day a week in a book conservation lab, learning to repair old books. There is much to learn. I also enjoy processing archival collections, especially personal papers.

**Other facts, interests or hobbies:** I enjoy working in my garden when I have the time. I like classical music and worked in a community music school for 10 years. I joined a community

chorus last spring; my first active singing exercise in 20 years. My husband and I renovate old houses. My skills include the demolition of old plaster and stripping paint.

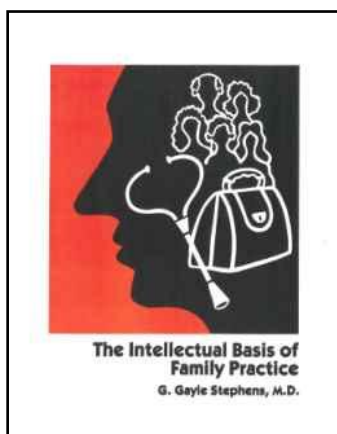
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## COLLECTIONS

### *The CHFM Obtains the G. Gayle Stephens, M.D. Collection*

This spring, the Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) has obtained a significant new donation in the form of the papers of G. Gayle Stephens, M.D.

Widely regarded as one of the pioneering leaders in the specialty, Dr. Stephens was the founding director of one of the nation's first Family Practice residency programs in Wichita, Kansas, and was instrumental in the formation of a residency program at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



A prolific writer and recognized scholar in the specialty, Dr. Stephens' 1982 book *The Intellectual Basis of Family Medicine* has been hailed by many as one of the most influential works on Family Medicine ever written. According to family physician and Family Medicine scholar Dr. Joseph E. Scherger, "the history of family practice has been chronicled by many writers, notably John Geyman and Robert Taylor, but the clearest description of the theoretical basis of the new specialty belongs to Gayle Stephens. Always a humble man from Kansas who counted his blessings as a witness to history, Gayle became the towering voice for family practice as a reform specialty within medicine."

The G. Gayle Stephens, M.D. Collection at CHFM consists of approximately 4 linear feet of material relating to Dr. Stephens' career and service in Family Medicine, and includes correspondence and professional papers, published and unpublished works, speeches, awards and other materials. His collection also includes files related to his work establishing residency programs in Wichita and Huntsville.

The donation, a generous gift to the Center from Dr. Stephens, is one of the most significant major collections from a past leader in the specialty to be donated to the Center in its more than two decades of operation. "As one of the premier leaders in the specialty, we are very excited to receive the papers of Dr. Stephens and include them in our permanent collections," said CHFM Manager Don Ivey. "I cannot emphasize enough how important preserving these papers will be to the future; in fact, I don't believe that we could truly tell the story of the history of the specialty of Family Medicine in America without them."

Housed at AAFP headquarters and administered by the AAFP Foundation, the Center for the History of Family Medicine serves as the principal resource center for the collection, conservation, exhibition and study of materials relating to the history of Family Medicine in the United States. For more information on the Center, please contact Center staff via telephone at 1-800-274-2237 (ext. 4420 or 4422), via fax at (913) 906-6095, via e-mail at [chfm@aafp.org](mailto:chfm@aafp.org), or visit our web site at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/chfm>.

**Don Ivey**

Manager

Center for the History of Family Medicine

American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

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## EXHIBITIONS

### *Taking the Waters: 19<sup>th</sup> c. Medicinal Springs of Virginia*

This new exhibit opened concurrently in the lobby of the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library and online at ([www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/exhibits/springs/home.cfm](http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/exhibits/springs/home.cfm)). The physical exhibit will be on display from July 1 to October 30, 2010. This exhibit is inspired by *The Mineral Springs of Western Virginia* by William Burke, the first volume purchased by the Weaver Family Endowed Rare Book and Medical Materials Fund. Published in 1846, the book describes the setting and development of eleven springs in what are now Virginia and West Virginia.

Dr. Burke, a one-time owner and resident physician at Red Sulphur Springs, remarks on the usefulness of the various mineral waters in certain diseases as well as contra-indications to their use. The springs range from those that are well known today such as the White Sulphur Springs,

currently the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia, to the Blue Sulphur Springs, once able to accommodate several hundred people and now represented by a lone Greek Revival pavilion in the middle of a field near Smoot, West Virginia.



**“Red Sulphur Springs” by Edward Beyer. Merritt T. Cooke Memorial Virginia Print Collection, 1857-1907, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library.**

from an “exceedingly pleasant place” with “many pleasant acquaintances” to “dull and uninteresting” and “that sink hole of extravagance, gambling & vice for many young & unmarried men.”

Selected information from Burke’s book is enhanced by dozens of images and transcriptions of nineteenth-century letters and documents from the University of Virginia’s Special Collections Library. These reflect the experiences of visitors to the springs. For example, one writer finds his health “greatly improved” while another

describes himself as “much weaker & more reduced than I ever was before.” Assessments of the various establishments and clientele vary

In addition to the written documents, ten of the eleven springs are illustrated by etchings or paintings from the nineteenth century. Links to relevant websites provide more recent information such as National Register of Historic Places data, photos, and current use. A Google map gives the location of the springs and recent photos.

The Weaver Family Endowed Rare Book and Medical Materials Fund was created in honor and memory of Edgar Newman Weaver, M.D., Evelyn Richards Weaver, and David Delmar Weaver, M.D., by Margaret Carr Weaver Crosson, Evelyn Dabney Weaver Dwyer, and Edgar Newman “Wink” Weaver, Jr., M.D. Dr. Burke’s book is housed in Historical Collections, The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia. The URL for the online exhibition is

### **Joan Echtenkamp Klein**

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

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## CONFERENCES

### *Pharmaceuticals in Historical Context*

Registration has opened for the second Madison Medicines Conference, entitled Pharmaceutical in Historical Context. It will be held in Madison, WI, on October 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pharmaceuticals—whether from natural sources or research laboratories—have been central to the treatment of disease throughout human history. The conference theme places medicines into social, political, economic and philosophical context using the tools of history.

The keynote panel *Mapping the Differences: European Drug Ecologies in the 20th Century* will discuss some of the recent issues that have arisen in the European scientific community. Funded by the European Science Foundation, a large network of scholars has been established linking working groups throughout the continent. Recent research within this joint research program has concluded that the European ecologies in the history of drugs seem to differ in a few but remarkable aspects from the models presented in the standard historiography. In order to contrast these differences, these issues will be presented to North American researchers at this conference.

Papers will be presented in plenary sessions over two days in a workshop-style format that seeks to foster and reflect the growing body of pharmaceutical scholarship across historical disciplines. The Preliminary Program and the Registration Form for the Conference can be found at [www.aihp.org](http://www.aihp.org).

Co-Sponsored by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy and the UW School of Pharmacy. Organized by the Pharmaceuticals History & Policy Center

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## MISCELLANEA

### *The Supercourse: Its Role in the History of Medicine and Science*

The Supercourse is a global repository of lectures on public health and preventive health care that targets educators and students around the world. Based out of the great electronic library in Alexandria, Egypt and funded by the government of Switzerland, the Supercourse was created by Professor Ronald Laporte of the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of



Pittsburgh. This ongoing educational project has grown to include free web based lectures presented by over 58,000 scholars representing 174 countries. Currently the Supercourse contains nearly 50,000 PowerPoint based lectures in 26 languages. The oversight committee of the Supercourse who control quality control of these presentations include nine former Nobel Prize winners, a former United States Surgeon General, and sixty-one members of the Institute of Medicine. The lectures in the Supercourse are available for free either on the internet or as free CDs. The Supercourse web page has received over seventy-five million hits this past year. You can view this website at <http://www.bibalex.org/supercourse>.

One of the growing components of the Supercourse is the increasing number of lectures/PowerPoint presentations on history of medicine/public health/science topics. The Supercourse is actively searching for top quality scholars who are willing to share their scholarship with the world by providing their presentations through the Supercourse. You can view this part of the Supercourse at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/History/history.htm>.

Working with the History of Science Society, the American Association for the History of Medicine, and other national and international history of medicine, science and technology societies, the Supercourse hopes to add a wide variety of lectures/PowerPoint presentations on various topics within the broad scope of the history of medicine and science to those already available through the Supercourse. If you are interested in this effort to provide free history of medicine and science annotated PowerPoint presentations to scholars and students world wide contact Dr. Jonathon Erlen at [erlen@pitt.edu](mailto:erlen@pitt.edu) or 412-648-8927 for more information on how to get involved in spreading the message of the history of medicine and science to a world-wide audience.

**Jonathon Erlen**

History of Medicine Librarian  
Health Sciences Library System  
University of Pittsburgh

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## *Special Collections at UNC Health Sciences Library Awarded Digitization Grant*

[Special Collections](#) at UNC Health Sciences Library has recently been awarded \$42,675 for year two of a three-year [NC ECHO](#) digitization grant project for the creation of the **North Carolina History of Health Digital Collection**. Funded by the State Library of North Carolina through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the 2010-11 awards were announced June 10, 2010 and totaled \$4.9 million for [statewide library projects](#); the complete list of awards, including others at UNC, is available at the [LSTA web site](#).

Work on the North Carolina History of Health Digital Collection commenced with a pilot project over two years ago, and through year one of the grant project (FY 09-10), over 130,000 pages of core journals and books in medicine, public health, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing from 1849 to the present have been digitized. The digital collection will eventually grow to over 800 volumes and approximately 300,000 pages. This material thoroughly documents the development of health care and the health professions within North Carolina and is thus a significant part of the state's cultural heritage and history.

While digitized content is also being made available via the [Internet Archive](#), the project is actively developing an integrated web site that will provide consolidated online access and advanced searching functionalities. The digital collection will provide historical context for the resources in various health disciplines and K-12 educational materials for selected content. A glimpse of public health images from the digital collection is available via [flickr](#).

Daniel Smith, Special Collections Librarian at UNC Health Sciences Library, is the principal investigator and project manager, and has coordinated each phase of the grant. Partners in the project include the [Carolina Digital Library and Archive](#) and [Learn NC](#).

### **Daniel Smith**

Special Collections Librarian

UNC Health Sciences Library

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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## Elizabeth “Beth” White Retires

After 37 years of preserving medical history, Elizabeth “Beth” White recently retired as associate director of the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center at the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library. She leaves behind a legacy rich with collections on public health and the history of medicine, including papers from Texas Medical Center notables, the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, and area institutions. “Beth White devoted her time, energy and expertise to develop an impressive collection of materials and to make the McGovern Center one of the country’s outstanding venues for biomedical history,” said L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., the library’s executive director.

**Philip Montgomery**

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Cassedy, James H. *John Shaw Billings: Science and Medicine in the Gilded Age* (Bethesda, MD: Xlibris, 2009)



The late James H. Cassedy was a historian at the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine, thus making the present study a natural for this seasoned scholar. At the outset Cassedy is careful to warn his readers not to expect a standard biography of this iconic figure but rather a detailed examination “upon the thirty-year time span of Billings’s career as a medical officer in the Washington office of the Army Surgeon General between 1865 and 1895, a period in which he was no longer providing medical care to the troops” (7-8). Instead of reviewing all

the contributions and achievements of Billings (e.g. his work at designing Johns Hopkins Hospital) or summarizing his routine activities at the Surgeon General’s Library, Cassedy has instead “emphasized the library’s importance to professionals in medicine and the health sciences as well as Billings’ roles as the library’s builder and continuing publicist.” He also emphasizes “the library’s critical role in medical change, particularly as a prime agent in circulating the impulses of the medical revolution in the United States” (9).

While this is not a comprehensive examination of the private life or public career of John Shaw Billings, Cassedy unquestionably succeeds in demonstrating how this military physician-turned-professional innovator led the way in securing scientific medicine in the new age of bacteriology, how his interest in building design contributed greatly to improved military housing and better hospitals in the post-Civil War era, and how his tireless commitment to medical bibliography and library development established the critical foundation upon which an emergent research-based modern medical science would be built. If we can see in Billings' career another "great man" among many giants who walked the earth with him—William Osler, William S. Halsted, William Henry Welch, S. Weir Mitchell, and Howard A. Kelly to name a few—we can also see hints of the missteps of late nineteenth-century "scientific" medicine in Billings' support for the establishment of what would eventually become Charles Davenport's Eugenics Record Office at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. We are all, alas, products of our time. All in all one gets a very clear picture of the importance of Billings to his generation.

This easy and informative read supported by a large body of substantive footnotes was, however, marred by a few typos. For example, the note on page 16 incorrectly gives "Bradfoot" instead of the correct "Broadfoot" as the publisher of the important primary resource *Medical and Surgical History of the Civil War* (Billings would have cringed!). Then there is the top paragraph on page 65 that ends its last sentence with "his [Billings'] relentless drive to bring scientific information and methods into every aspect of medicine. and medicine." One can only assume "science and medicine" is the intended wording here. Other minor transgressions such as "newmedical" on page 77 and "physians" on page 79 tend to have a cumulative effect on the reader. Nevertheless, it would be churlish and petty to condemn an otherwise excellent book for such inadvertent errors. They are merely pointed out for a more careful proofing should a new edition be issued.

Taken altogether this is an important and valuable contribution to the history of American medicine. It is unfortunate that this is a posthumous publication. Cassedy displays the best of the historian's craft in giving the public a wellresearched and eminently scholarly assessment of the rise of science and public health with Billings as the focal point. Future investigators into late nineteenth/early twentieth-century medicine who ignore this book will do so at their own peril. For librarians and archivists this book also places Billings among a different species of giant, those of American librarianship like Charles Coffin Jewett, Ainsworth Spofford, Charles Ammi Cutter, William Frederick Poole, and Justin Winsor. In the final analysis, this book tells several

stories of how one man could make significant contributions to medicine, public health, architecture, librarianship and education. For medical librarians this is a must-read; for medical libraries this is a must-own.

**Michael A. Flannery**

Associate Director for Historical Collections

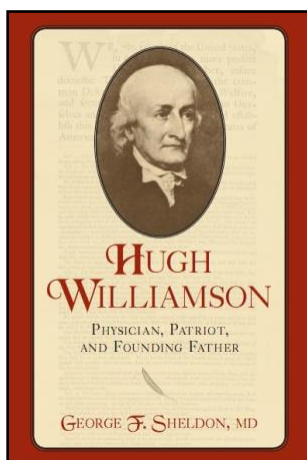
UAB Historical Collections

University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Sheldon, George F, *Hugh Williamson: Physician, Patriot, and Founding Father* (Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 2010).



The subject of this book, Hugh Williamson, is one of the lesser known of the founding fathers, but he had a broad range of interests and accomplishments which extended over science, medicine, politics, and commerce. Williamson (1735-1819) was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, of parents who had emigrated from Ireland. In 1757 he earned a BA degree in the first graduating class of the College of Philadelphia, which would become the University of Pennsylvania. He undertook theological studies for a period of time and later received an MA degree in mathematics from the College of Philadelphia. After serving as chair of mathematics at his alma mater for three years, he studied medicine for a year at the University of Edinburgh and then at the University of Utrecht, where he received a doctor of medicine degree. He then studied in London with John Hunter for twelve months.

In 1760s Pennsylvania Williamson was a political opponent of Benjamin Franklin. Later he would become friends with Franklin and serve as a courier for him during the Revolutionary War. In 1768, Williamson was elected to the American Philosophical Society, and in 1769, he served on commissions studying the transits of Venus and Mercury. Williamson also collaborated with Franklin, John Hunter, and Jan Ingenhouze in experiments on electricity and electric eels.

Williamson maintained a life-long interest in science and in education. At different times in his life he held faculty positions at the institutions that would become University of Pennsylvania,

University of Delaware, Princeton University, and Columbia University. He was a trustee for several universities and academies. He went on several fund-raising trips for Newark Academy, which became the University of Delaware. He was on one of these trips to England when the Revolutionary War began.

Although “physician” is the first word in the sub-title of the book, there is less information on his work as a physician than on his other roles. He practiced medicine for nine years in Philadelphia preceding the Revolutionary War. When the British moved their war effort to the south in 1779, Williamson became surgeon general for the North Carolina militia. Williamson also administered the new smallpox inoculation treatment when there was an outbreak of that disease in New Bern, North Carolina in 1779.

Williamson’s political and patriotic activities are emphasized in the book more than any of his other areas of work. Williamson served terms in the North Carolina legislature. He held a seat in the Continental Congress from 1782 to 1785 and from 1788 to 1789. In 1787, he was one of the 39 signers of the United States Constitution. He was a member of the U.S. Congress from 1790 to 1793. Williamson was an advocate for those who had served in the Continental Army, was opposed to slavery, proposed a bill that was “an early forerunner to current copyright law” (p. 137), suggested a survey of national lands, and was in favor of a strong federal government.

Williamson was also involved in land speculation and the production of maps. He published several scientific papers, as well as books entitled *Observations of the Climate in Different Parts of America* (1811) and *History of North Carolina* (1812). Most of his retirement years were spent in New York, where he founded the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York. Williamson outlived his wife, whom he married in his 50s, and his two sons.

This book offers many more details of the life and works of Hugh Williamson, along with the historical context. After a fourteen page chronology, the main text of the book consists of thirteen chapters organized around Williamson’s different activities. The titles of those chapters are: Early Years; Scientist; Revolutionary War Spy; Continental Congress and Secret Committees; The War for Independence in North Carolina: The Revolutionary War in the South: State and National Legislator: Williamson in the Continental Congress: The Constitutional Convention: The Struggle for Ratification of the Constitution: Educator: Entrepreneur: and Williamson the Man.

The book also contains a foreword by William Friday, President Emeritus of the University of North Carolina; an eight page section of figures; the text of Williamson's 1788 document *Remarks on the New Plan of Government*; a list of Williamson's publications in the New York Historical Society; twenty-five pages of reference notes; a fifteen page bibliography; and an index. The author is Professor Surgery and Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina.

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