

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



I am very pleased to present yet another packed issue of *The Watermark*. The willingness of so many of you to submit interesting and stimulating articles or short pieces is very much appreciated. I feel that this is one of the important ways in which our organization communicates with each other, teaches and learns from each other and develops our sense of community. Every community has its elders and leaders. One of them, Lucretia W. McClure, has written a remembrance of one of the ALHHS founders, Lisabeth Holloway, who died earlier this year. We all continue to benefit from the work of these dedicated people.

Continuing education is one of the key aspects of being a professional, one which ALHHS has embraced in its programming for the Annual Meeting and in the pages of *The Watermark*. There are numerous other opportunities to improve ourselves, one of which is featured in this issue. Our President, Stephen Greenberg, has been involved with the Rare Book School for a long time in a number of capacities. His humorous article spells out the benefits of endeavours like this, and the hard work that it requires of both organizers and participants. I hope that other examples of positive professional development opportunities are presented in future issues, so I encourage you to consider sharing your experiences.

This is my last issue as editor. I feel that I can't take up my new responsibilities as President-Elect and keep on with *The Watermark* simultaneously, so I am stepping down. I have had the great fortune of working with Steve Novak, Steve Greenberg and Jonathan Erlen to bring you what we hope has been a relevant and interesting publication. Of course, the primary creators of *The Watermark* have been the contributors. Your work, your interesting projects, your thoughts and insights and your willingness to take the time and trouble to write about them are what really make *The Watermark* the publication that it is. Thanks also go out to you the readers, who have been the focal point of all our work. Your kind words of appreciation and encouragement have really made putting this out a labour of love. I am very pleased to say that everyone else involved in *The Watermark* is staying on, and that Stephen Novak has agreed to be the Editor. We are currently looking for someone to do the layout, which is

not really difficult (heck I was able to do it). If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Steve. I look forward to reading the upcoming issues and wish everyone the best of luck.

Chris Lyons

Associate Librarian

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

McGill University

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Are You Serious?



I went up to New York recently for a weekend, and while there I picked up a copy of a new book by Simon Winchester entitled *The Alice behind Wonderland*, an inquiry about the relationship between Charles L. Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll) and Alice Pleasance Liddell. Alice Liddell is, of course, the inspiration for the Alice books, but was also the daughter of Henry George

Liddell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, which made him Dodgson's boss. The focus of the book (if I may be allowed a gratuitous pun) is Dodgson's interest in photography, particularly his portraits of very young girls, and most especially the famous (in some circles notorious) picture he took of Alice when she was five, dressed as a beggar.

Winchester's book is sloppy, to say the least. It is full of factual errors on Dodgson's biography, on the terminology of rare books and manuscripts, and on the history of photography. To give but a few examples: he states that Dodgson's contemporaries during his student days at Oxford (1851-1854) included Robert Peel, Lord Rosebery, and the Duke of Wellington. Peel had graduated in 1809 and died in 1850, Rosebery

didn't arrive until 1866, and while it is true that the Iron Duke was chancellor of the university from 1834 until his death in 1852, by 1851 he was ill and mostly deaf and played little part in the intellectual life of Oxford. Winchester's photographic knowledge is little better. He doesn't understand the difference in use between colloidion for negatives and albumen for prints; the picture in question is a colloidion "wet-plate" negative but an albumen print. This becomes especially noticeable when he writes (p.8) that the negative is "torn," leaving a flaw on the print. The negative may have been damaged, and the emulsion may be flawed, but it is hard to "tear" a sheet of glass, which is what the negative is, after all. I could go on, but I think the point is made.

Yet Winchester is a widely-published and successful author, with twenty books to his name, including four *New York Times* best-sellers. He was made an OBE in 2006, and *The Alice behind Wonderland* was published by the Oxford University Press, hardly a press with a reputation for sloppy scholarship. What is going on here?

The fact of the matter is that Winchester has never seen the original negative (which may be lost), nor has he seen an original print, and therein hangs the point of my little tale. Winchester did his research mostly at Princeton, which holds photographic albums mounted by Dodgson, with his holographic notes, in the Morris Parrish Collection. The albums are extremely fragile. Winchester was given a high-resolution digital copy of the photograph, and permission to reproduce it on the dust jacket and as the frontispiece of his book, but he never saw the actual albumen print in its album. He complains (rather acidly) about the fact on page 98, which is the last page of his acknowledgements: the curator (Winchester writes) "does not wish the Alice picture itself to be seen, ever."

I have a few acquaintances at the Firestone Library, and this piqued my interest, so I made some calls. Princeton's version of the events is quite different. I am not in a position, nor have I any intention, to make judgments of who did what to whom, but this whole business does raise a question very relevant to us: who gets to see the original, fragile item, who sees the surrogate, and why. As professionals, we give access to qualified scholars doing serious work. But how do we know who is serious?

Is Simon Winchester a serious scholar? Twenty books, four bestsellers, an OBE? Would seeing the albumen print have made his book any better? There's no additional information to be had there; no secret inscription on the back, etc. The "torn" negative business is rather a distraction, although Winchester does go on a bit about it. It turns out, however, that Princeton has more than one copy of the picture, including one

without a flaw that was reproduced in another book about Dodgson's photographs, edited by Anne Ligonet and published by Phaidon in 2008. What does one do about the Simon Winchesters of the world? On the same trip to New York, I happened to catch an excellent revival of Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," a play that has a lot to say about sloppy scholarship, and how easy it is for historians to make fools of themselves. Should we let them fall into their own traps, dug by their faulty scholarship?

By the time you read this, the deadline for annual meeting registration will have passed, so I need not urge you to come to Philadelphia. But I will anyway: it's a fine city for thinking, walking, and eating. With the possible exception of Boston, I can't think of another US city that's more congenial to a historian. The photo with my remarks is of Elfreth's Alley, alleged to be the oldest original street in Philadelphia, unchanged since 1763.

I hope to see you there.

Stephen Greenberg

President

Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Silver Spring, Maryland

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ALHHS ANNUAL MEETING 2011: PHILADELPHIA

**Wednesday, April
27**

Chemical Heritage Foundation (315 Chestnut Street)

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ALHHS Steering Committee Meeting

Garden Room 1, Chemical Heritage Foundation

4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**Chemical Heritage Foundation Museum open for visiting
(self-guided)**

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Open Bar Reception

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Dinner

Thursday, April 28 College of Physicians of Philadelphia (19 South 22nd Street)

- 7:45 a.m. First bus leaves conference hotel (Sheraton Society Hill) for the College of Physicians
- 8:15 a.m. Second bus leaves conference hotel for the College of Physicians
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks & Introductions** (Stephen Greenberg, ALHHS President)
- 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. **Telling Tales In and Out of School**
Robert Hicks (Director of the Mütter Museum and the Historical Medical Library)
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. **Digital Collections: New Audiences, New Challenges, New Opportunities**
Joanne Murray (Director, Drexel University School of Medicine Legacy Center)
Melissa Mandell (Project Manager for Education)
Matt Herbison (Archivist)
Margaret Graham (Managing Archivist)
- 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Teaching with Primary Sources from Medical History Libraries**
Janet Golden (Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University/Camden)
Evan Laine (Asst. Professor and Director of Law & Society, Philadelphia University)
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. **Business Meeting** (ALHHS and MeMA will meet separately)
- ALHHS Updates:
- *Megan Curran* (Norris Medical Library, University of Southern California)
 - *Christopher Lyons* (Osler Library, McGill University)

- *Joan Echtenkamp Klein* (Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia)
- *Barbara Niss* (Gustave L. and Janet W. Levy Library, Mount Sinai School of Medicine)

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Tours** of museum storage, Mütter Museum and the College of Physicians Library

4:30 p.m. First bus leaves to return to conference hotel

5:00 p.m. Final bus leaves to return to conference hotel

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REMEMBERING LISABETH HOLLOWAY



Lisabeth Holloway (left) with Jonathan Erlen and Jodi Koste

work together to further our profession.

Lisabeth Holloway, one of the founders of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS), died in Durham, NC, on February 3, 2011. Today's ALHHS members may not remember her or know about her early involvement in our organization. I knew her as a warm friend and an enthusiastic librarian deeply involved in medical librarianship. She worked hard to help medical librarians organize and

Lisabeth wrote about the origins of ALHHS in the summer, 1991, issue of the *Watermark*. The impetus that gave librarians the need to organize this organization were first, that many already attended meetings of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), but had no formal affiliation with the organization. Second, the History of the Health Sciences Section of MLA proposed several ideas that the group wished to pursue. At that time the Medical Library Association (MLA) was discussing a new structure and focusing on the introduction of the computer and its ramifications for libraries. The decision by the MLA to reject the group's requests, including the proposal

to publish the directory of medical collections was a major disappointment. This was a time of change at MLA and the history librarians felt strongly that MLA was not interested in the history of medicine and, therefore, a separate organization was needed. That took place in 1975 in Philadelphia when an informal group agreed to form an organization and meet in conjunction with AAHM.

Lisabeth was the chair of the new organization and later became editor of the *Watermark*, a position she held from 1977 to 1987. At this time the *Watermark* was produced on her typewriter at home and the production was totally in her hands. She guided the newsletter through its first decade. Her first library position was at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia where she became Curator of Historical Collections in 1964. She reorganized the stacks, cleaned the collections, cataloged and provided access to the books and major manuscript collections. Her activities there were described by W. B. McDaniel, a former curator:

Never before in the long history of the College has its library's historical collection been served so absolutely and comprehensively as they have since the advent of Mrs. Lisabeth M. Holloway. It seems accurate, in short, to characterize her varied activities ...as 'phenomenal' (1).

Her next appointment was as Director for the Center for the History of Footcare and Footwear at the College of Podiatric Medicine, now a part of Temple University. She retired from that post in 1992.

Lisabeth was a cataloger, author, editor, and conservator. She was author of a number of significant publications, including:

- Philadelphia Resources in the History of Medicine; compiled for the History of Medicine Group, MLA. Philadelphia: 1975
- Directory of Libraries and Information Sources in the Philadelphia Area. Lisabeth M. Holloway, ed. 12th ed. Philadelphia: Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia, 1968.

She also published many papers in the *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, including "The Oslers and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Some further footnotes to a twice-told tale". 43:64-8, 1975.

Perhaps her best-known publication was *Medical Obituaries: American Physicians' Biographical Notices in Selected Medical Journals before 1907* (New York: Garland, 1981). This is an enduring publication, affectionately called "Dead docs" used by reference librarians and others throughout the world.

In honor of her long years of service, the ALHHS established the Lisabeth M. Holloway Award in 1992. It continues to honor librarians who also served health sciences libraries in exceptional ways.

Lisabeth served her home community and the library community. She was a member of MLA and served as chair of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter in 1969/70. She was archivist of the Germantown Historical Society and edited the Society's newsletter *Crier*.

Her determination to support and advocate for the medical librarian is a lasting legacy that ALHHS will continue to honor. Her friendship, dedication to library service, her willingness to help colleagues will remain as a standard for this organization and provides librarians an example to follow.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and two grandsons.

Lucretia W. McClure

1. Annual report of the Library. Historical Collections. Trans Studs Coll Phys, Philadelphia, 4th series, 1967/68;35:222.

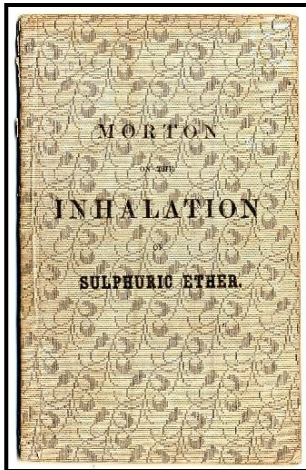
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PROFILE: HARTFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The Hartford Medical Society Historical Library is a small but pleasant space, tucked inconspicuously in the sub-basement of the monolithic University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, Connecticut. It has its own story, but more important are the stories it contains.

The Hartford Medical Society (HMS) was founded in 1846 by 15 physicians. Its mission was to "maintain the practice of Medicine and Surgery in this City upon a respectable footing; to expose the ignorance and resist the arts of quackery; and to adopt measures for the mutual improvement, pleasant intercourse, and common good of its members."

The “respectable footing” upon which the reputation of Hartford physicians rested included a library with then-current books and journals. The core of the Hartford Medical Society library collection came from the local Hopkins Medical Society which had disbanded in 1844, and members of the Hartford Medical Society donated books from their personal collections. In 1889 the library was strengthened with the acquisition of the library of the Hartford Medical Library and Journal Association which disbanded that year. From these beginnings, and with an active acquisitions budget, the collection grew to 27,445 volumes by 1965. In the late 1960s the University of Connecticut Health Center was built in nearby Farmington. Their library began to outpace the HMS collection in scope and accessibility and eventually the HMS library became “historical”. In 2009 the HMS library was carefully weeded, and around 5,000 of the best volumes were moved to the Health Center as the Hartford Medical Society Historical Library.



If one had to pick a time in medical history to capture in a “screenshot”, the 19th century would be a good choice. The HMS library has books, pamphlets and journals that document the development of anesthesia, genetics, germ theory, medicine during and after the Civil War and x-rays, among other things. Our collection of materials on anesthesia is particularly strong since Horace Wells, a Hartford dentist, pioneered the use of nitrous oxide in that fair city in 1844. The ensuing controversy over who was the “first” to use inhalants for anesthesia is well documented here, with Crawford Long, William T.G. Morton, and Wells all vigorous contenders.

One of the charter members of the Hartford Medical Society, Gurdon W. Russell (1815-1909), was a larger than life civic figure in 19th century Hartford. He graduated from Yale Medical School in 1837 and was an active physician in Hartford for over seventy years. At age 38 he was a survivor of a horrific train accident in which over 40 people died. He was the Medical Director of the Aetna Life Insurance Company from its beginning in 1850 until his retirement in 1902. He was Director of the Retreat for the Insane in Hartford, (now the Institute of Living,) and was influential in the founding of Hartford Hospital. Dr. Russell’s presence is felt throughout the library; in the pamphlets he wrote and the books he donated; in the artifacts belonging to him; in his portrait hanging on the wall; and in his donation of rare manuscripts created by Gershom Bulkeley, a prominent clerical physician in 17th century Connecticut.

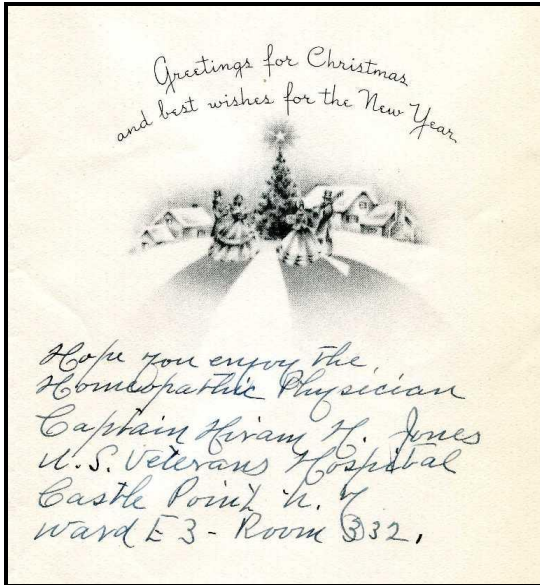
The HMS library is also blessed with a small but select number of artifacts. These have been culled from the much larger Historical Museum of Medicine and Dentistry once supported by the combined efforts of the HMS and the Hartford Dental Society. This museum was housed in the former HMS building in Hartford and was visited by tourists and school groups. When the Society moved their library to the Health Center, the museum was largely dispersed. What remains are surgical kits and cupping sets, medicine chests and sets of glass eyes (brown and blue), arrayed in glass display cases as one enters the library.

The library is slowly being discovered by local schools and colleges as a repository of primary sources on topics such as epidemiology and Civil War medicine. Although the new space will not easily accommodate a whole class of students, artifacts and



materials from the library can be transported to classrooms in the area. Original charts of data from the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793 have been entered into Excel spreadsheets. This data can be sorted and graphed and, when combined with items such as scarifiers and bleeding cups, make a very effective lesson. It is hoped that area teachers will find the library a rich resource for original materials and creative teaching ideas.

There is no question that digitized materials are convenient and useful. Many of the monographs in the HMS collection are available online and, in fact, this was quite useful in the lesson on yellow fever in 1793. The original tables were readily available to anyone with an internet connection. Every once in a while, however, a story unfolds that could only come from the book itself. Recently a patron visited the library interested in homeopathic medicine. One of our books: [Pulte, J H. *Homoeopathic Domestic Physician: Containing the Treatment of Diseases; Popular Explanations of Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene and Hydropathy, a Treatise on Domestic Surgery, and an Abridged Materia Medica*. Cincinnati: Moore, Wilstach, Keys & Co, 1858,] was found to contain two letters, a newspaper clipping and a Christmas card. The two letters give the history of how the book came to the HMS library. It was donated in 1946 by a retired Navy captain then living in a veteran's hospital. The clipping states that he had been given the



book when he was a pharmacist's mate on the USS Marblehead during the Spanish American War. He was told at that time that the book had been used as a reference in treating sailors on the USS Hartford during the Civil War. Is this hard proof that the book saw naval action aboard the Hartford? Not quite, but the book was published in 1858, so it's not out of the question. The captain clearly treasured it. He writes that "for 49 years . . . I have kept and guarded this old book from harm," and the card says "Hope you enjoy the Homeopathic Physician."

Technology has changed both how we do medicine and how we access information. Forward thinking is primarily a good thing, and something to be celebrated, but we can also use technology as a lens to look back and see that we are not so very different from our 19th century counterparts. Online catalogs and digitized materials show evidence of the same concerns with professional achievement, civic improvement and intellectual discovery that we have today. Our fear of the uncontrollable and the unknown is no less than that of 200 years ago; we're just focused on different concerns. You can reach out digitally across the centuries and find someone pretty much like yourself. But if you really want to shake hands with a sentimental sea captain, visit the library.

The URL for the Hartford Medical Society Historical Library is

<http://library.uchc.edu/hms/hmslibrary.html>.

Jennifer Miglus

Librarian, Hartford Medical Society Historical Library
University of Connecticut Health Center

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FEATURE ARTICLES

Medical Heritage Library Progress Report

One year ago, we reported on the newly funded Medical Heritage Library, a digital curation collaborative (see: “A Digital Library for Medical Heritage,” [Watermark Summer 2010](#)). The MHL is digitizing 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 and is exploring with these and other partners how best to deliver and support use of such digitized resources. The MHL’s mission – “to provide the means by which readers and scholars across a multitude of disciplines can examine the interrelated nature of medicine and society, both to inform contemporary medicine and strengthen understanding of the world in which we live” – is user-centered and thus furthers the respective missions of partners as well as the interests of the history of medicine community.

Digital Content and Use

Over the past twelve months, the MHL has made progress on a number of fronts. As of this writing, 9,245 monographs have been uploaded to the [Internet Archive](#) (IA); nearly 5,000 more have been digitized and are awaiting processing and deposit. Subject areas include general public health topics, psychiatry, popular medicine, medical directories, forensic medicine, and therapeutics, as well as surgery, anatomy, and physiology. The ‘browse list’ of topics on the MHL’s IA homepage (<http://www.archive.org/details/medicalheritagelibrary>) demonstrates the breadth of the history of medicine, ranging from ‘Abattoirs’ to ‘Zulu War, 1879.’

IA does not track use of content, so we don’t know how many items have been discovered or studied online. However, IA does count downloads; copies that are made by users. MHL content has generated 187,000 downloads since the first deposit in early 2010. The single most downloaded book (currently at 702 downloads) is volume 2 of *Per il XXV Anno Dell’Insegnamento Chirurgico di Francesco Durante nell’Università di Roma, 28 Febbraio 1898*, edited by Roberto Alessandri (if the name Francesco Durante doesn’t ring a bell, see the MHL blog: <http://www.medicalheritage.org/?p=175>).

Digitization Process and Preservation

MHL partners continue to monitor the digitization process and hope to learn more about

the most effective practices. We view analysis of these experiences to be an important part of our project deliverables. For example:

- Participants have taken two approaches to digitization: scanning in-house and sending books to IA scanning centers. The cost comparison makes clear that in-house digitization incurs higher costs per volume; however, the non-monetary factors – the value, condition, and size of materials— must also be weighed. A hybrid solution, as employed by the Columbia University Libraries, where medium rare books in good condition are sent out for digitization, while fragile and oversized materials are scanned in-house, may be the most effective approach for many libraries.
- It is a well-known secret that the cost of digitization doesn't begin or end with the expense of scanning. The Countway Library's Center for the History of Medicine estimates that those non-digitization tasks (selection, preparation for scanning, post-scanning quality control, and return of the volume to the shelves) require 23 minutes of staff time per volume. This number is directly influenced by a several factors, including the number of books that must be examined to identify each volume that is selected for scanning.
- The MHL partners have been concerned about duplicative scanning, either within the MHL or with other projects. The MHL has considered the relative benefits of manual versus automated de-duplication. An automated solution is considerably more resource-intensive than the MHL can accommodate; instead we are combining manual de-duplication against IA holdings with assigned scanning focus areas— for example, NLM has volunteered to take responsibility for pre-1866 American imprints.
- The digital collections will be maintained by the Internet Archive, but partners are considering additional approaches to preservation. Several libraries will deposit digital collections locally to ensure their preservation; others are members of the Hathi Trust and may place copies in that preservation repository.

Outreach

The MHL has established two-way communications with peer and user communities in a number of ways. Our webpage, www.medicalheritage.org, and Facebook presence (Medical Heritage Library) are frequently updated and we communicate with a broad base of peers and users via a group of nine relevant listservs.

In November 2010, to better understand how peer activities should influence its future projects, the MHL distributed a survey via listservs seeking information about digitization of medical heritage materials. There were 62 unique complete responses from different types of repositories, mostly medical school or college and university libraries. Nearly 80% had digitized some materials, though these materials were not necessarily publicly accessible. Prints and photographs were the most common type of materials digitized, followed by archives. Nearly all the respondents wanted to digitize more, both because of user demand and because they now had the internal capacity to do so. Those that did not want to continue digitizing cited lack of staff and funding. Other questions concerned locations of digitized files (mostly local or institutional), possession of regional or subject area collections that were good candidates for digitization, and funding sources. The MHL will be pursuing additional information about public availability of digitized materials, regional or subject area collections, and degree of involvement in interface development, as well as seeking more respondents throughout the U.S. and Canada. Summary analysis of survey results can be found here:

<http://www.medicalheritage.org/?p=413>.

Partner representatives will present a lunch session at the American Association for the History of Medicine annual meeting at the end of April. This is an opportunity for us to place the MHL resources in the context of digital resources in the history of medicine and the research needs of scholars. We have also established a Scholarly Advisory Committee comprised of academics in the digital humanities, history, and history of medicine (see: http://www.medicalheritage.org/?page_id=2). Their expertise will be particularly helpful in guiding the MHL in developing delivery strategies and tools, content selection, and communications with users.

A user survey is now available on the MHL's home page in IA and our website (http://www.medicalheritage.org/?page_id=281), and is being distributed to users at MHL partner repositories. It will shortly be sent to peers and users via listservs. The numbers of books digitized and downloaded are important output measures; still more critical are *outcomes* – the impact digital resources have on the work of users. We are continuing to think about how to assess these benefits.

Future Projects

this week we learned that the MHL is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-up grant. Rather than focusing on additional digitization, this funding will allow us to begin exploring three areas critical to the long

term usefulness and sustainability of the MHL: development of an innovative, expanded (and expandable) partnership that has both sufficient structure *and* flexibility; incorporation of significant collaboration and scholarly engagement as business-as-usual methodologies; and planning for the development of digital tools and approaches that have utility for scholars using digital medical heritage resources. The latter will include interviews with scholars about their research and teaching methods and preferences, information that is key to improving discovery and increasing the impact of digital resources. More information about this project, and other initiatives, will be available shortly on the MHL website.

Your thoughts on any aspect of the MHL would be gratefully received; please email medicalheritage@gmail.com or leave a comment on our website or Facebook page.

Kathryn Hammond Baker

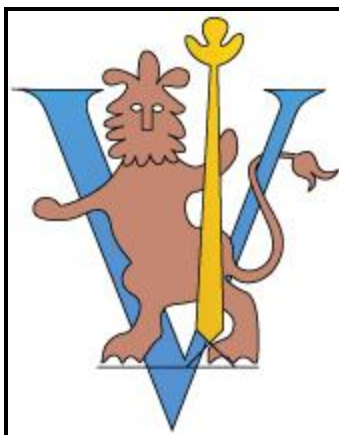
Deputy Director

Center for the History of Medicine

Countway Library of Medicine

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Rare Book School: An Appreciation



The RBS lion logo is based on a 19th century English Watermark.

Our illustrious editor has asked me to write something on training and continuing education for rare book librarians and archivists. I agreed, but on reflection I realized that the only program that I knew ANYTHING about was Rare Book School; its origins at Columbia and in its present home in Charlottesville. OK, said our editor, write about that.

I was first introduced to Terry Belanger and his works in the Spring of 1989. I had decided to go back to earn a library degree, and was talking to Carol Learmont, the Associate Dean of the Columbia University School of Library Service (it was Library SERVICE, never Library SCIENCE; it had been Library ÆCONOMY when first founded by Melville Dewey in 1887, before he got on the simplified spelling bandwagon). Since I was not quite the average applicant - - - I was 39, and had already earned two MAs and a PhD - - - I had been ushered into Dean Learmont's office. She was pushing me a bit to do their

archives track, but I demurred, quoting Henry Stimson's remark: "Gentlemen do not read each other's mail" (I fancied myself a gentleman in those days). No, I had heard that Columbia had a Rare Book major, and I wanted to go there.

Dean Learmont looked up slowly. "Oh," she said, "You need to meet Terry Belanger."

And so I did. Terry was having an Open House in his cramped and over-crowded Press Room in Butler Library, and I listened to his description of his program. After his presentation, I introduced myself, and made the ultimate faux-pas of calling him "Professor Belanger," which elicited the growl that I would hear often over the years.¹ We agreed that he would put up with me if I could put up with him, and he thought there was even a chance of my finding gainful employment if I managed to graduate.

The status of Rare Book School when I got to Columbia was complicated. It had its origins in a decision in 1972 to create, in Terry's oft-repeated phrase, "a bibliographic laboratory" for the study of books as physical objects. Terry's approach to teaching has always been relentlessly hands-on, and not the least of his many accomplishments over the years has been the gathering of an unbelievable collection of teaching materials and realia. Originally, this collection was called the Book Arts Press (a name inherited from a much earlier operation at Columbia founded by Helmut Lehman-Haupt). BAP was never a terribly descriptive term: as Terry has written, "we weren't much concerned with the book arts, nor were we a press." Still, it was a convenient name for an increasingly large pot of activities, including public lectures and the growing collection of materials that could actually be handled, and not just gazed at behind glass. Terry coined the phrase "Book Arts Press condition" for materials far too battered to be of interest to conventional collectors, but were pure gold in the classroom.

The first Rare Book School classes were offered in the Summer of 1983. They were then, as they are now, non-credit courses, taught by the very best instructors that Terry could find, and they were backed by the BAP teaching collection. Courses lasted for one week, but what a week! In 1983, eight courses were given; by 1990, my first Summer as a Columbia SLS student, the number had risen to nineteen. At that time, the names "Terry Belanger," "Rare Book School," and "Book Arts Press" could be used interchangeably, without changing the meaning of a sentence.

The relationship between SLS students and Rare Book School courses was not without its own issues. As I have mentioned, the courses were not eligible for degree credit, and

some of them overlapped with courses in the Columbia curriculum (in particular the courses in descriptive bibliography and illustration processes that Terry taught). More significant, however, was that Terry did not wish SLS students to simply register and pay to take RBS courses. We had to work for them as Teaching Assistants.² So I was able to TA for such people as Don Krummel and Michael Winship: at age 40 with my doctorate, I suppose that I was a bit over-qualified for some TA duties.³ Don was a particularly gracious person to work with. When we first met the day before class started, he requested that, as soon as possible during the first class meeting, I ask him a question - - - ANY question - - - and refer to him as "Don," so that the students would realize what class etiquette and protocol would be. RBS courses were as informal as the subject matter would allow. After all, it was Summer in New York, and not all of the classrooms were air-conditioned. But some policies were strict: you DIDN'T miss a class unless you had a note from the coroner.

The days were (and are!) long. Continental breakfast in the Press Room with all of the students and instructors, Class Period 1, morning break with more caffeine and carbs, Class Period 2, lunch, Class Period 3, afternoon break with more snacks, Class Period 4, and then off to dinner and possibly homework. There were evening activities too: guest lecturers, films, museums and exhibits, and receptions.⁴ You spent a good deal of time socializing with ALL of that week's students and instructors, not just your own class mates. Rare Book School has always been as much about networking as about the courses themselves.

Oh, but what courses they are! In 2011, twenty-seven one-week courses will be offered, all but two between the beginning of June and the end of July. Many of the instructors have been teaching at RBS for years and years: Paul Needham, Sue Allen, Mark Dimunation, John Buchtel, Stephen Tabor, Erin Blake, James Moseley, Jackie Dooley, Alice Schreyer, Martin Antonetti, Albert Deroloz, David Seaman, Eric Holzenberg, Richard Noble, and of course the aforementioned Michael Winship, who I believe holds the record for number of courses taught. The courses themselves range from Latin codicology to the preservation of born-digital materials, with stops along the way discussing type designs and production, bookbinding, lithography, rare book cataloging, provenance, history of the book, TEACHING history of the book - - - this list goes on and gets longer every year, much to the consternation of the always overworked RBS staff.

In 1990, Columbia University announced it would close the library school at the end of the 1991-1992 academic year. For a while it looked as though the entire library school

would migrate somewhere together, but this did not pan out. Terry needed to find a new home for his programs and his stuff. There were several offers, but none that could beat the University of Virginia, who, among other enticements, offered Terry the use of its Jeffersonian Rotunda for his exhibitions. It's hard to say "no" to what is arguably the most beautiful academic building in America. The decision was made, and I for one spent a lot of time that Spring packing boxes of type for the move to Charlottesville.

Rare Book School in Virginia became somewhat different animal than it had been in New York. There was no library school at UVa, so the base clientele of the program changed quite substantially. As charming as Charlottesville is, it does not offer the same distractions as New York City, so the on-campus experience intensified. One casualty of the move was the name "Book Arts Press," which was dropped as Terry built a far more systematic and protective structure around his programs and collections.⁵ The name "Rare Book School" now denoted everything. No classes were offered in 1992, but everything was open for business in the Summer of 1993.

I attended my first Rare Book School course in Charlottesville in 1996: Peter Blayney (an incomparable scholar) talking about the Stationers' Company. I am a big city kid, with limited experience of dorm life and college towns, so living in the Academical Village was unbelievably exotic. When I checked in, I was issued a window fan and a rocking chair by the UVa dorm people, with some sage advice about how to use the chair on the uneven cobblestone walk in front of my room without breaking either the chair or my neck. I survived.⁶

Rare Book School prospered and diversified. As many as thirty courses might be offered in a single year, and now the occasional course might be held in January, or in a place like Baltimore or California. The teaching collections grew apace, enabling Rare Book School to support a broader selection of interests than ever before. A case in point was a course I took in 2008 on the identification of photographic processes, taught by James Reilly and Ryan Boatright. As if by magic, Rare Book School had multiple examples of even the most obscure photographic materials. I have attended eight courses between 1996 and 2010, and each seemed better than the one that preceded it.

A sort of climax was reached in 2005, when Terry received a McArthur Fellowship for his work. On the heels of this came whispers that Terry might retire. That was a difficult concept for some folks to get their heads around (do gods retire?!?!?!), but in 2009 the rumors proved true as Terry stepped down. One can't actually say he was "replaced"

(do gods get replaced)?!?!?!), but the new and current director is Professor Michael F. Suarez, S.J., D.Phil (and co-editor of the wonderful *Oxford Companion to the Book*), a learned, exceptionally charming, and very savvy gentleman who fully recognizes the burdens he has shouldered. One of the oldest Book Arts Press/Rare Book traditions is the annual Valentine's Day greeting, which are so witty and acerbic that they rarely evoke much in the way of hearts and flowers.⁷ Michael seized the concept immediately, with a quotation from Irene Porter as the 2010 greeting:

"Just because everything's different doesn't mean anything's changed."

Under Michael's leadership, classic courses have been retained while new courses have been developed at a rate that threatens to exhaust the RBS. The program overall is in excellent hands, and I cannot wait to go back.

Is Rare Book School all that you need to educate yourself in the ways of Rare Bookmanship? No, nor was it ever meant to be. No degrees are offered, and it does not pretend to be a library school surrogate in any comprehensive way. But no one with an abiding interest in rare books and all of the related subjects can call his or her education complete without balancing tea, juice, and a bagel in the depths of the Alderman Library on a misty Summer morning, waiting for the hand-struck chimes that sends one off to class.

Rare Book School's website is www.rarebookschool.org. You need to go there.

Stephen Greenberg

President

Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Silver Spring, Maryland

¹He was ALWAYS just Terry; never "Professor" or "Doctor," although he had a PhD from Columbia. Interestingly, he has no formal training in librarianship.

²Another thing we could not do was to become dues-paying members of the Friends of the Book Arts Press. I tried, but Terry returned my check to me - - - cut into a daisy-chain of paper dolls.

³My duties did include opening a lot of champagne bottles, but that is a story for another day.

⁴Receptions meant wine, and Terry is quite particular about wine.

⁵There had been some squabbles with Columbia around the organizational structure of the Book Arts Press in New York, which intensified as Terry prepared to move what he saw as his collections to Virginia. He was not about to let that ever happen again.

⁶As pleasant as the experience was, I have not stayed in The Lawn rooms again. I prefer my plumbing closer to hand.

⁷In the midst of the move to Virginia, the greeting read “Mess is Lore.” My personal favorite: “If you play with something long enough, it WILL break.” Hallmark would be appalled.

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The Picture of Health: Digitizing and Preserving South Carolina’s Medical Artifacts

The Waring Historical Library (WHL) is the rare books and special collections library of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Established in 1969, the Waring’s collection includes bound volumes, manuscript collections, photographs, journals, pamphlets, and artifacts documenting the history of the health sciences. Sub-units of the Waring include the MUSC University Archives, the Macaulay Museum of Dental History, and a digitization project known as MEDICA. MEDICA is a part of the Lowcountry Digital Library, which is a regional hub of South Carolina Digital Library collaborative digitization program.

The Project

In 2008, The Waring’s Curator approached the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation with a grant proposal to catalog, re-house, preserve and photograph a selection of five hundred artifacts from the Waring’s holdings. The photographs would be included in MEDICA, and fifty of the artifacts would be presented as Quicktime movies offering a 360-degree view of the object. The 18-month project, entitled “The Picture of Health: Digitizing and Preserving South Carolina’s Medical Artifacts”, included six staff members: the Waring curator, a contract cataloger, an object curator, photographer, photo editor, and a digital archivist.

The project was completed in several overlapping stages: cataloging, preservation, photography, photo editing, and finally, adding the photographs, metadata, and movies to MEDICA.



Preservation

Duties for the Object Curator included: organizing current collection of artifacts, creating museum grade re-housing, selecting items for photography in addition to scheduling, transferring, and overseeing photography. The Waring's artifact collection included approximately 1,450 medical history related objects dating from the mid 18th century through the 20th century. The objects represent all aspects of the health sciences in South Carolina, from patent medicine, bloodletting instruments, and surgical tools to anesthesia equipment, electrotherapy units, teaching models, and MUSC commemorative items. Prior to the Picture of Health Project, artifacts within the Waring's collection were on display in the Waring or stored within various boxes in the MUSC University Archives. Items in storage were simply accessioned and then added to various boxes. The Object Curator's first step was to conduct an updated inventory for the entire collection.

The boxed collection had been exposed to various temperature and humidity levels during moves of the objects. The only protection for the artifacts included old newspapers and bubble wrap. Overall the collection was in decent condition. Several

issues due to storage included dry rotting of rubber, seen in stethoscopes, and cracking of glass or mirrored items, including head mirrors.

The re-housing component of the project was done according to subject type with concerns for material type. Due to space and safety concerns the decision was made to re-house everything in acid-free record storage cartons. Interior trays and tray lids were purchased to provide organization and save space by stacking trays within each box. Trays were lined with Ethafoam (a closed cell polyethylene sheet) to provide padding and when necessary acid-free tissue was also used to wrap artifacts. Silver items were wrapped in silver cloth before being added to the trays. Larger items of the collection were either left on display or housed within the Archives on shelves that were also lined with Ethafoam. All items were given a Tyvex tag including handwritten accession number, name, date, material types and donor information in archival grade ink intended for acid free environments. B-72, B-67, Sharpie, and white acrylic paint were used for items not previously marked, including new acquisitions or those found in the collection.



Re-housing and Photography

Re-housing of the collection and photography were simultaneous with a total of 571 objects photographed. Items from the same subject area were located and pulled together and then researched and evaluated. Objects selected for photography represented various dates, different models, and those in the best condition. When necessary, experts were consulted in the selection process, including two pharmacists,

an obstetrician/gynecologist, a College of Nursing instructor and former MUSC nurse. Items from the College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and the Macaulay Dental Museum had already been pre-selected for photography and only transport was needed.

Professional MUSC photographer Tim Roylance conducted all photography for the project with a Fuji Film FinePix S2 Pro camera in the studio and a Nikon 300D when on location. The majority of the photography was conducted within MUSC's Digital Imaging Department Studio. Items were placed on a Cambo Shooting Table with white, seamless background paper and two Calumat 750 Travelite's with Softboxes attached. 360 degree photography was conducted for approximately 50 artifacts with the use of a Manual Turntable for Photographic VR Objects. The items were placed in the exact center of the turntable and thirty-six shots were taken in increments of 10 degrees.



On site photography was required for items that were too large or fragile for transport, such as dental chairs, exam tables, and a pharmacy counter. To capture these items, photography was conducted at the Waring Historical Library, Macaulay Dental Museum, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and the MUSC University Archives. For each of these shoots a make-shift studio was created with background paper and lights. Sheets were used when necessary to create a clean background that would save time during the editing process.

Photo Editing

The grant photo editor used adobe Photoshop CS5 to make exposure adjustments and remove any spotting from the backgrounds. The objects themselves were not edited so

that the photographs were as accurate a representation of the original as possible. Objects photographed in 360 degrees were extracted from their backgrounds and digitally placed on a uniform white background. While most of the corrections were simple, the background extraction was often very labor intensive due to the intricacy of many of the objects.

To create “movies” of the objects, the set of thirty-six photos for each object was processed using VR Worx software. The software “stitches” the photos together, and outputs a Quicktime movie in the .mov file format. The user places their cursor on the object, then clicks and drags with their mouse to turn the object.



The Digital Collection

Each object has a set of Dublin Core metadata created by the contract cataloger, and based on the standards established by the South Carolina Digital Library. The metadata includes the object title, creator, date of manufacture, and MESH subject headings. The Object Curator added donor information, physical dimensions, and a narrative description with composition and use information.

The metadata was created as an MS Office Excel spreadsheet for ease of use and portability into different management systems such as Past Perfect. The spreadsheet is

also easily converted into the tab-delimited file format for uploading into OCLC's CONTENTdm software, the digital asset management system used by the South Carolina Digital Library.

Many objects included in the project required multiple views to give the user a full picture. Some objects include as many as nine photographs in order to show all individual components or details. Additionally, "Zoomify" software is used to present the photographs with a full screen view, zoom, and pan options for the user.

Unexpected Outcomes

Several positive unexpected outcomes arose from the Picture of Health project. The first was the development of a De-accession Policy that was later approved by the Waring's Executive Board. The policy allows for items to be released from the collection based on damage, relevance, repetition, and/or authenticity. De-accessioning items helped to streamline the artifact collection, which currently includes approximately 1000 items that correspond with the WHL's mission.

Several de-accessioned items were selected to build a Study Collection that can be handled and used during presentations and other outreach activities. Finding non-accessioned items within the collection also led to the creation of a Found Object Collection.

The Donnelley Foundation awarded additional funding for the project to continue the efforts started by the Picture of Health project. The new grant allows for time and resources to create files for every artifact, continue to re-house any items not included in the first grant, handle the identified de-accessions, catalog artifacts and create exhibition plans for the Macaulay Dental Museum and to develop educational tools and spread awareness of the Waring's collection through tours and speaking engagements.

Conclusion

The project has provided numerous benefits to the Waring. Administratively, the objects are organized and can be easily located. The photographs also provide documentation of the objects for security purposes. Inclusion in MEDICA provides much greater access to the artifact collection for users, and the digital collection serves as an outreach tool for the Waring. This project has led to other collaborative ventures for the Waring with the MUSC Department of Pathology and the MUSC College of Pharmacy Museum.

The completion of the Picture of Health Project has provided the Waring Historical Library with a well maintained and preserved artifact collection that, through digitization, is now accessible to MUSC faculty, staff, students, and the general public.

The Waring's artifact collection can be viewed online at:

<http://lowcountrydigital.library.cofc.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/wac>

Sophia Vasilos

Object Curator

Waring Historical Library

Jennifer Welch

Archivist

Waring Historical Library

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

National Museum of American History Highlights Civil War Nurses

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will open a special display titled "'So Much Need of Service'—The Diary of a Civil War Nurse," telling the story of Civil War nurse Amanda Akin. On loan from the National Library of Medicine, the display includes Akin's personal diary and the published account of her experience as a nurse in the book, *The Lady Nurse of Ward E*. "So Much Need of Service" will be on view in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery April 22 until July 31. The exhibit has a companion website at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/civilwardc/> and a mobile map application for visitors to find Civil War sites in Washington, D.C.

In April 1863, Akin traveled from her home in Quaker Hill, N.Y., to serve as a nurse at the Armory Square Hospital in Washington. The hospital was built adjacent to the Smithsonian's landscaped grounds, where the National Air and Space Museum stands today. During her 15 months at Armory Square, Akin was eager to document her new experience as a nurse. By writing letters to her family and keeping a journal about her personal moments in the hospital, Akin left behind a history that provides a glimpse into

the daily life of the several million men and women who left their families and communities behind to contribute to the Civil War effort.

“It is fascinating how much our understanding of the war is enhanced by just one woman’s account,” said Brent D. Glass, director of the museum. “By looking at Amanda Akin’s story, the museum gives the public an opportunity to learn about not only the laborious, but emotional, challenges of nurses during that time in history.”

Because nursing was not yet established as a profession, most men and women came into hospitals with no specialized medical training or preparation. Instead, they were expected to learn as they went about their daily activities. Administering medicines and distributing special diets were daily tasks for Akin and other nurses at Armory Square. Nurses spent time doing nonmedical tasks too, including writing letters for the men, tending to hospital visitors and entertaining the patients by singing and playing music. Akin also managed to find time to visit the Smithsonian nearby, attending lectures and visiting exhibitions. As she wrote to her sisters in 1863, “The Smithsonian grounds opposite are such a treat to us. We can run there for a few moments, and the complete change renovates mind and body.”

“Amanda Akin’s writings vividly bring the Civil War to life,” said NLM Director Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD. “The fact that she herself visited the Smithsonian heightens the feeling of immediacy as we read her words in a setting nearby. We are pleased to share items from our collection, to add depth and breadth to her story.”

Also on display within “So Much Need of Service” are two copies of the hospital in-house publication, the *Armory Square Hospital Gazette*. During the Civil War, some hospitals published their own newspapers as a way to chronicle events in the hospital and communicate with distant friends and family. Akin submitted several pieces to the Gazette, including accounts of religious services and concerts, a verse on spring and death notices for several patients under her care. The Gazette, like other in-house hospital newspapers, was edited and printed by staff and patients. For more information please see <http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/national-museum-american-history-highlights-civil-war-nurses>.

National Library of Medicine Announces New Traveling Exhibition, "Life and Limb: The Toll of the Civil War"

The National Library of Medicine announces a new traveling banner exhibition, "Life and Limb: The Toll of the Civil War." An expanded version of the traveling exhibition, which opens in the 150th anniversary of the

start of that war, is also on display at NLM, on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, through July 1, 2011, in the History of Medicine Division.

More than three million soldiers fought in the Civil War (1861-1865). More than half a million died and almost as many were wounded, but survived. Hundreds of thousands were permanently disabled by injuries or surgery, which saved lives by sacrificing limbs. These men served as a symbol of the fractured nation and remained a stark reminder of the costs of the conflict for long after the war. This exhibition brings their experiences to light.

"Life and Limb" describes the damage caused by the weapons of the time, the treatment of wounds, and their consequences for the young men who survived. The narrative highlights aspects of life after the amputation of a limb, from military service in the Veterans Reserve Corps to civilian life and the use of artificial limbs. The exhibition Web site features digitized images and documents, as well as educational resources for high school and undergraduate students and references for further research:

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

Information on the current schedule and details about booking the exhibition can be found at:

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

The Public Health Film Goes to War: 18 Rare and Wonderful World War II–Era Movies: An online audiovisual resource of the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine.

NLM presents eighteen films from its Historical Audiovisual collections on public health in wartime. The films range from the Private McGillicuddy cartoons that promoted personal cleanliness and urged caution about consuming local foods, to documentaries on domestic public health efforts as war industries expanded rapidly and overtook local

The Public Health Film Goes To War

Eighteen rare and wonderful
WW2-era health movies...



sanitation efforts. Many of the films are on tropical diseases—such as malaria and yellow fever—and their prevention, while some focus on soldiers and venereal disease, and others on the stress of war. All the films have short commentaries and searchable transcripts, as well as full bibliographic data; and Dr. Michael Sappol, curator of the project, has also provided an essay on “Public Health and War.” The site also includes 9 public health posters of the era, from the Library’s Prints & Photographs collections, and a bibliography on motion pictures in medicine. All the materials on the site are in the public domain, free of copyright. “The Public Health Film Goes to

War” is found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/digicolls/phfgtw/index.html>, while the individual titles are also part of the Library’s Digital Collections at <http://collections.nlm.nih.gov/muradora/>.

For further information about this resource, please contact Michael Sappol, curator, at sappolm@mail.nih.gov, or Paul Theerman, Head, Images and Archives Section, at theermp@mail.nih.gov. Question related to film digitization may be directed to John Rees, Archivist and Digital Resources Manager, at reesj@nlm.nih.gov.

Acquisition of the Medical Stamp Collection of Dr. Adolf Woldemar Schwartz, M.D., D.D.S., Ph.D. (1928-2006)

On December 13, 2010, NLM received the donation of a collection of medical stamps, compiled by Dr. Adolf W. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D., from Dr. Schwartz’s daughter, Ms. Nicolette Schwartz, of Tarzana, California.

The collection consists of approximately 700,000 stamps with in medical themes, and is the result of 60 years of collecting by Dr. Schwartz, who was born in Hamburg, Germany, received his M.D. at the University of Heidelberg, and studied at the Mayo Clinic. He practiced medicine in Bakersfield, California. Subjects on the stamps include doctors, nurses, military medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, folk and mythical medicine, plants and herbs, inventors of surgical instruments, doctors serving in

Congress, places named for physicians, and more. The stamps are cancelled, non-cancelled, commemorative, in postcard form, first-day issue, proofs, tax stamps, tobacco stamps, postal cancellations, and legal tender. Stamps feature, for example, Elisabeth Blackwell, Marie Curie, Wilhelm Roentgen, and Florence Nightingale, among thousands of others. The collection includes a series on the Nobel Prizes from the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as a series of special oversized cigar bands from the Canary Islands featuring Nobel Prize winners in Medicine or Physiology for the years 1901-1970, including Joshua Lederberg, James Watson, Francis Crick, and Marshall Nirenberg. The collection also includes 16 books that Dr. Schwartz compiled containing biographical and historical information about the stamps and their subjects. The collection is currently being processed, and will then be open to the public.

NLM Announces New Resource on How to Stabilize, Salvage and Recover Library Collections in a Water Emergency

The NLM announces a new Web site, "[Emergency Preparedness and Response: How to Safely Stabilize Library Collections in the Event of a Water Emergency.](#)"

First responders in library or museum emergencies frequently address a multitude of risks, both to themselves and to cultural objects in the stewardship of their institutions. In addition, responders may be called upon to recover items that normally would fall outside their areas of expertise and require immediate attention. Emergency Preparedness and Response: How to Safely Stabilize Library Collections in the Event of a Water Emergency will assist responders with readily-accessible onsite training as they engage in disaster situations affecting cultural heritage items.

The Web site includes links to short instructional videos that provide a visual training for institutional staff tasked with stabilizing collections affected by water. Building recovery, disaster preparedness, and health risks are also covered on the Web site. In the spirit of NLM's Mobile MedlinePlus and other mobile programs, "Emergency Preparedness and Response: How to Safely Stabilize Library Collections in the Event of a Water Emergency" is [accessible via handheld devices](#) in order to facilitate remote access.

This NLM Web site was [a collaborative effort](#) of the History of Medicine Division, National Network Office and Preservation and Collection Management Section (Library Operations), the Office of High Performance Computing and Communications (Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications) and the Office of Computer and Communications Systems, among others.

NLM History of Medicine Division Announces New Volunteer Internship Program

The National Library of Medicine, the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health, has launched a new [volunteer internship program](#) in its History of Medicine Division.

Offering practical, hands-on, results-oriented experience under the direct supervision of permanent Library staff, the program commemorates [NLM's 175th anniversary](#) by celebrating the spirit and legacy of the Library's service to the public and its stewardship of one of the world's most treasured history of medicine collections. The program also celebrates public service overall through its connection to the [President's Volunteer Service Awards](#), an initiative of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#).

The NLM History of Medicine Division volunteer internship program welcomes applications from:

- Undergraduate students in any discipline;
- Current graduate students in library science or information studies, archival studies, cultural studies, film studies, history of medicine and science, museum studies, preservation, public health, or related programs; and
- Other qualified individuals of any age and background who wish to offer their experiences and skills.

Internships are available in the following programmatic areas:

- Archival arrangement and description
- Cataloguing and bibliography
- Collection management
- Exhibitions, public programs and outreach
- Preservation
- Digitization initiatives

Please visit the [Web site](#) of the program for complete details, including eligibility requirements.

Jeffrey S. Reznick

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

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NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life



The latest exhibition in Wellcome Collection takes a closer look at something that surrounds us but we are often reluctant to confront. *Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life* travels across centuries and continents to explore our ambivalent relationship with dirt.

Following anthropologist Mary Douglas' observation that dirt is "matter out of place," the exhibition introduces six very different places as a starting point for exploring attitudes towards dirt and cleanliness: a home in seventeenth century Delft in Holland; a street in Victorian London; a hospital in Glasgow in the 1860s; a museum in Dresden in the early twentieth century; a community in present-day New Delhi; and a New York landfill site in 2030.

Like many of the previous exhibitions held in the Wellcome Collection, *Dirt* draws strongly upon the collections of the Wellcome Library: items featured in *Dirt* include such titles as Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* (1665), *On an Inquiry into the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain* (1842-3) and William Heath's etching ***Monster Soup (1828)*** (shown above).

Dirt: the Filthy Reality of Everyday Life runs from 24 March to 31 August 2011, Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London

Papers of the Population Investigation Committee Available for Consultation

The records of the Population Investigation Committee (PIC) have been catalogued through a grant from the [Nuffield Foundation](#) and are now available for consultation in the Wellcome Library (Ref. [SA/PIC](#)).

On 16 February 1935 Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, Charles Booth Chair of Social Science at the University of Liverpool, and Chairman of the Positive Eugenics Committee, delivered the Galton Lecture of the Eugenics Society entitled "Eugenics in the Light of Population Trends." Carr-Saunders drew attention to the falling birth rate and concerns over the fertility of married women and a decline in the size of the family. He argued that "some organisation, with the whole population situation under review and desires to construct an adequate programme, should examine all the proposals made to deal with these difficulties, and weave them into a coherent population policy." As a result, the Council of the Eugenics Society met to discuss the formation of an independent research body – the Population Investigation Committee.

The first meeting of the PIC was held in June 1936. Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders was elected Chairman of the Committee, C.P. Blacker the General Secretary, and David Glass the Research Secretary. One of the first publications of the new committee discussing the concerns facing the population was published in 1936 and entitled *The Future of Our Population?* ([SA/PIC/H/4/7](#)).

Today the PIC is known for publishing the journal *Population Studies* as well as providing scholarships. However, the original purpose of the PIC, as stated in its first annual report ([SA/PIC/B/1](#)), was "to examine the trends of the population in Great Britain and the Colonies and to investigate the causes of these trends, with special reference to the fall of the birth-rate." Its remit was research, not the formation of policy. As such the PIC had a prominent role in several national surveys to investigate the economic and

social factors affecting changes in the population.

A large proportion of the records of the PIC include correspondence and papers relating to research projects on vital statistics, foreign population policies, birth control, marriage, fertility, maternity services, social mobility, and the health and development of children ([SA/PIC/F](#)). Surveys involving the PIC include the Maternity Inquiry of 1946 in collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, which developed into the National Survey of Health and Development ([SA/PIC/F/7](#)); the Scottish Mental Survey of 1947 in cooperation with the Scottish Council for Research in Education to examine the trend of intelligence in children aged 11 years old ([SA/PIC/F/8](#)); a national survey concerned with marriage and divorce in 1959-1960 ([SA/PIC/F/14](#)); and a national survey of fertility and birth control practice in 1967-1968 ([SA/PIC/F/15](#)).

As well as involvement in research projects, the collection documents the broadening interests of the Committee and their concern with the encouragement of research in the field of demography. The proposal to establish a journal devoted to demographic research was first mentioned in 1945 ([SA/PIC/C/2](#)). Volume One of *Population Studies* was published in 1947 as the first English language journal exclusively concerned with demography. Whilst the PIC was actively involved in research, the Journal often reported the results. In 1963, David Glass, then Chairman of the PIC, applied to the Ford Foundation for a grant to fund a postgraduate demographic training programme in collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) with special reference to students from developing countries. The grant was approved and the first students began their studies in September 1965. Although LSE took over complete responsibility of the programme in 1980, some staff continued to divide their time between the Population Studies department of LSE and the PIC.

The 52 boxes of papers of the Population Investigation Committee, now available in the Wellcome Library, are a testament to the influence and contribution of the Committee and its members to the field of demography. They not only demonstrate the social context and development of the PIC, but they contain detailed information relating to research projects which continue to have significance for the study of epidemiology today, such as the National Survey of Health and Development.

To celebrate the launch of the historical archives of the PIC at the Wellcome Library, the Population Investigation Committee hosted an afternoon symposium at the Wellcome

Conference Centre on Friday 18th February. For further information see

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/PIC/>.

Author: Toni Hardy

Recently Catalogued Archive Collections

Now available for research are the papers of the influential psychiatrist Henry V. Dicks (1900-1977) (ref. [PP/HVD](#)). Dicks' papers cover two highly contentious topics: sex and fascism. In the aftermath of the Second World War Dicks interviewed many former Nazis as part of research into questions about authoritarian psychology and collective psychopathology. Later, his work at the Tavistock Institute centred on marital dysfunction and the couple as a unit of therapy. His papers comprise 14 boxes and are analysed in a recent [Wellcome Library blog post](#).

The archive of Action on Smoking and Health (ref. [SA/ASH](#)), has been held at the Wellcome Library since the early 1990s. The organisation is still an active one and thus, of course, generates new material: recent transfers have now been catalogued and the result is a doubling in size of the collection, now comprising 167 boxes and including material up to the early 21st century. The new material documents a period when the tobacco industry was very much on the defensive, striking back against attempts to restrict its advertising and sponsorship activities. Again, a recent [blog post](#) describes these additions in greater detail.

Guides and Video Tutorials: British Medical Journal

In the previous *Watermark* we announced the launch of a new section of our website: [Guides and Video Tutorials](#) - which offers introductions to Wellcome Library's online catalogues and full-text resources.

Another video tutorial has now been added to this section: so, joining videos on how to make the most of the Library catalogue, the Archives and Manuscripts catalogue, and Wellcome Images, is a video on [how to access the British Medical Journal historical archive, from 1840-2008](#).

The video demonstrates how to access this online archive using [PubMed Central](#). It also shows how to browse for specific articles when you have a citation and also find

obituaries, advertisements and biannual indexes.

For regular updates on the work of the Wellcome Library, see our Blog:

<http://wellcomelibrary.blogspot.com>

Ross MacFarlane

Research Officer

Wellcome Library

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MEMBER PROFILES

Jeffrey S. Reznick



Home town: Rochester, New York

Current employer and position: Deputy Chief, National Library of Medicine. History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine

Education:

- BA, (History/Political Science), University of Rochester
- MA, (History), Emory University
- PhD, (History), Emory University

Professional interests: As a social and cultural historian of medicine and war, I am author of two books, *John Galsworthy and Disabled Soldiers of the Great War* (2009) and *Healing the Nation: Soldiers and the Culture of Caregiving in Britain during the Great War* (2004), as well as numerous book reviews, articles for the popular press, and entries in major reference works. I have also lectured nationally and internationally on a variety of historical and contemporary health subjects.

Other facts, interests or hobbies: I live in Rockville, Maryland, with my wife and two daughters.

Annie Brogan

Home town: Wilmington, DE, currently Philadelphia

Current employer and position: I'm the College Librarian at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Education:

- BA, History and French, Drew University, 2002
- MLIS, University of Pittsburgh, 2006

Professional interests: women's public health movements, home health manuals, Marie Curie

Other facts, interests or hobbies: My yoga practice takes up most of my spare time, and I'm about to embark on a 200 hour yoga teacher training program. I also knit and am a huge fan of 30s and 40s screwball comedies and love early Renaissance painting, especially the work of Fra Angelico and Giotto.

Lori M. Jahnke

Home town: Albert Lea, MN

Current employer and position: S. Gordon Castigliano CLIR Fellow, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Education:

- BA, Anthropology, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
- MA, Biological Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- PhD, Biological Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Professional interests: Research in paleopathology, skeletal morphology, human variation and adaption, human population genetics, biological impact of colonization and social stratification, the biological and cultural dimensions of human health, mortuary behavior and practice, the skeletal biology of ancient Peru, Andean Archaeology, cultural

implications of information economies, emerging technologies and their impact on scholarly communication and teaching.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: Hiking (urban and wilderness), gardening, bicycling, or just about any activity outdoors, especially if it involves food somehow.

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EXHIBITIONS

Flowers to Pharmacy: Exhibition at the Pennsylvania Hospital

Sprig of thyme. Pinch of rosemary. Peppermint leaf.



**“Roses” Robert Thornton,
Temple of Flora, (London: 1805)**

Flowers to Pharmacy showcases the unique botanical volumes that are part of the Pennsylvania Hospital Historic Library, including works by Linnaeus, Catesby, Bartram, and Barton. Come learn about medicine from the eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, see an inventory of the Pennsylvania Hospital Apothecary, and view original recipes written by medical students. Other items of note on display include an old medical kit, Phillip Syng Physick’s tonsil guillotine, and early stethoscopes.

The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Pine Building Center, Pennsylvania Hospital, outside and inside the Historic Library. Of note to horticulturalists, on display is Benjamin Smith Barton's *Elements of Botany, or Outlines of the Natural History of Vegetables*, the first American textbook on botany (1803) which includes William Bartram's illustrations; *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes* by John Gerarde (1633); notebooks of Benjamin Horner Coates and Benjamin Morris with recipes for various ailments, and more. Also view Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas Islands*; and William P. C. Barton's *A Flora of North America. Illustrated by Coloured Figures, Drawn from Nature*, and more.

The exhibition runs from March 7, 2011 through June 1, 2012. For more information, please contact Curator-Lead Archivist Stacey Peeples at 215-829-5434 or peepless@pahosp.com. You may also find information on our website: <http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/collections/exhibits/flower-to-pharmacy/>

Guided tours are available by appointment Monday, Thursday and Friday (please call at least 48 hours in advance). Please call 215-829-3370 to schedule a tour. Self-guided tours are available Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. All tours are a suggested \$4.00 donation.

Stacey C Peeples

Curator-Lead Archivist
Pennsylvania Hospital

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MISCELLANEA

Lisa Mix Moves East

ALHHS Past President Lisa Mix is the new Head of the Medical Center Archives at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical College. Lisa came to her new position from the University of California, San Francisco, where she had served as Manager of Archives & Special Collections since 2002. Prior to her job at UCSF, she worked in the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives at Johns Hopkins. Lisa and her husband Keir are enjoying their new life in New York.

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Yale's Cushing/Whitney Medical Library Honors William H. Helfand with Exhibit and Reception.



William H. Helfand viewing “Fin de siècle Visual Culture of Medicine: Posters, Prints, and Illustrated Newspapers from Paris,” an exhibit of selections from his gifts to the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library.

More than 100 faculty, students, staff, and friends gathered to celebrate the gifts of collector and scholar of medical visual culture William H. Helfand at an opening reception on January 31. Among the guests were undergraduates and their teaching assistant from the popular “Media and Medicine” course who came to talk with Mr. Helfand after having written term papers on historical public health posters which he had donated. Appreciations offered by Jon Butler, Interim University Librarian, R. Kenny Marone, Associate Librarian and Director of the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library John Warner, Avalon Professor and Chair History of Medicine, and Curator Susan Wheeler gratefully acknowledged the rich collections of posters, prints, books and ephemera

given over more than three decades. Forty-five posters, prints, and illustrated newspapers advertising patent medicines, promoting public health campaigns against tuberculosis, and informing the public about medical celebrities of the era such as Louis Pasteur and Madame Curie, are on view through May 15.

Susan Wheeler

Curator, Prints and Drawings

Cushing/Whitney Medical Library

Yale University

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ACOG Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists announces that the recipient of the year 2011 ACOG Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology is Wendy Kline, PhD, whose research project is, "Birth in Transition: a History of Midwifery and Childbirth in Modern America."

The award carries a stipend of \$5,000 to be used to defray expenses while spending a month in the ACOG historical collection, and other medical/historical collections in the Washington, DC area, performing research into some area of American obstetric-gynecologic history. Applications for the year 2012 award will be accepted until October 1, 2011.

For further information and application forms contact:

Debra Scarborough, History Librarian/Archivist

[The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)

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Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History Launches Blog

A new blog that highlights information of historical interest in the health care field has been launched by the Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History. The blog is designed to disseminate information on and stimulate interest in collections, publications, exhibits, and other materials related to the development of hospitals and health care delivery in the United States. For more information, visit the blog at <http://chhahblog.com/>. To keep up with new information on the blog, you can subscribe by e-mail or as an RSS feed.

The Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History was established by the American Hospital Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives and is coordinated by the AHA Resource Center in collaboration with the Health Research & Educational Trust. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit the website at <http://www.aha.org/chhah> or contact Jeanette Harlow, director, at (312) 422-2050.

Jeanette Harlow

Director, Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History
American Hospital Association Resource Center

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New Website: The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology

The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology launched its revised website, which will provide worldwide access to digitized gallery objects, rare book items, multimedia files, archival collections, and spectacular artwork. The website is being designed to create a unique experience for each visitor, linking all digitized collections for an interactive, optimal online learning environment.

Through its vast collections, the WLM continues to preserve the past and promote the future of the medical specialty of anesthesiology. Much additional content will be added in the upcoming months. Please visit <http://www.woodlibrarymuseum.org/>.

George Bause, M.D.

Honorary Curator, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
American Society of Anesthesiologists

Karen Bieterman, M.L.I.S.

Manager, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
American Society of Anesthesiologists

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New Release from the Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History

The Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History announces a new publication in the Hospital Administration Oral History series: *John R. Griffith in First Person: An Oral History*.

John R. Griffith is the Andrew Pattullo Collegiate Professor Emeritus, having retired last year after teaching for 40 years at the University of Michigan. John Griffith's father was the long-time CEO of the Delaware Hospital; but, young John was not interested at first in a career related to health care administration. Instead, he went to Johns Hopkins University to study industrial engineering, from which he acquired a way of thinking about work processes that guided him for the rest of his professional life. Because he enjoyed writing, he also became a reporter and eventually editor in chief of the *Johns Hopkins Newsletter*.

Early industrial-engineering-related assignments counting people coming through the entrance to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and telephone calls coming into to the hospital's multi-wire switchboard, led to an interest in health care that John Griffith pursued through graduate study at the University of Chicago in the MBA program. Soon after graduating, he went into teaching, becoming a full professor at Michigan in 1968.

An important early task at Michigan was to build the graduate health administration program by developing the curriculum and recruiting faculty and a diverse group of students. Part of that development process led to Professor Griffith's first major text, *Quantitative Techniques for Hospital Planning and Control* (1972), and eventually to his well-known, *The Well-Managed Community Hospital*, which was first published in 1987, and is now in its 7th edition, retitled as *The Well-Managed Health Care Organization*. Professor Griffith has written many other books and articles.

Another of Professor Griffith's interests has been fostering the quality movement in hospitals, among other ways through his work as an examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. In his oral history, he comments, "We've grown to the point where the quantitative measures of quality really matter emotionally, at least in good hospitals. It's part of the culture now that you will follow the protocol. Fifteen years ago,

there was a lot of yack-yack about ‘cookbook medicine’ and so forth. I haven’t heard that lately.”

The full text of this new oral history is available at no charge on the Center website at <http://www.aha.org/chhah>. Other recent oral history interviews that can be found on the website include that of Richard J. Davidson, Gail L. Warden, Ruth Rothstein, and Wade Mountz.

The Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History was established by the American Hospital Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives and is coordinated by the AHA Resource Center in collaboration with the Health Research & Educational Trust. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit the website or contact Jeanette Harlow, director, at (312) 422-2050.

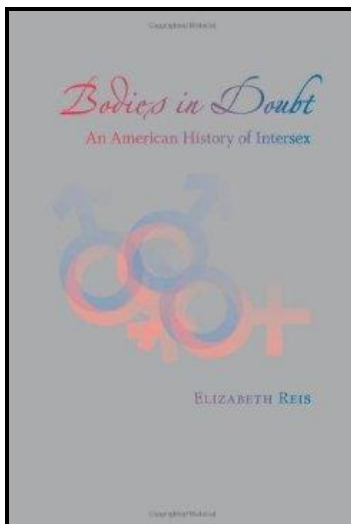
Jeanette Harlow

Director, American Hospital Association Resource Center
Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History

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BOOK REVIEWS

Reis, Elizabeth, *Bodies in Doubt: an American History of Intersex* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)



How many Americans are born with disorders of sex development (DSD)? Elizabeth Reis, associate professor in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the University of Oregon, notes that figures range widely, depending on the precise definition used, and can range from one in 1,000 to one in 4,500. Intersex, or DSD, is indicated by a wide variety of symptoms, which include, but are not limited to, sex chromosome abnormalities; ambiguous or unusual appearing genitalia at birth; undescended testes (which may turn out to be ovaries) in boys; labial or inguinal masses (which may turn out to be testes) in girls; delayed or absent puberty; or unexpected

changes during puberty. Reis, who prefers to use the term "divergence of sex development," has written a remarkably readable book. Setting intersex in cultural and historic contexts, Reis's approach relies neither on academic theoretical jargon nor on dry medical facts, and she explicitly states she does not explore transsexuality, transgenderism, or gender dysmorphism. She traces the history of Americans who were born into what might be termed "differently sexed" bodies, their doctors, and the historical periods in which they lived.

In her Introduction, Reis states that she "examines the changing definitions, perceptions, and medical management" of individuals with DSD, and she begins with what were known as "monstrous births" for which the mother was blamed. The 1629 case of Virginia indentured servant Thomas/Thomasine Hall is the first case that the author could find of explicit "ambiguous sex;" on visual exam, some doctors or matrons believed Hall to be a female; others, a male.

As society changed, and as medicine became more professionalized, physicians changed the ways in which they thought of and treated people with DSD. By the early 19th century, the American public and their doctors tended to see them as deceptive or fraudulent. Reis draws some fascinating parallels between physicians' suspicions of the perceived duplicitous nature of intersex individuals on one hand, and the general public's suspicion about anyone who may have "transgressed" boundaries of class or race.

The "age of the gonads" (late 19th and early 20th centuries) and the availability of more surgical procedures and lower mortality rates led physicians to begin to consider sexual desire as a factor in determining the patient's "true sex." Sometimes, a physician would ask what the patient wanted; more often, the physician would do what he thought would be in the patient's best interests. Fears were many: what if a "pseudo-hermaphrodite" (one with external genitalia of one gender and internal organs of another gender) had sexual relations with both men and women? Doctors placed the utmost importance on enforcing heterosexual norms, with marriage always as the goal.

But by the late 1940's, gonads and hormones took a backseat to psychology testing and patients' sense of themselves. Around this time, Johns Hopkins psychologist and sexologist John Money (once revered, later reviled) posited that in order to raise children appropriately, the genitalia that the parents saw on the outside must match the internal organs, and the earlier the surgery was done, the better for all concerned. This was called the "optimum gender of rearing" model. A half-century of treatment that was

finally found to be wrong-headed at best, and dangerous and despicable at worst, came to an end around the same time as the rise in patient-centered care, evidence-based medicine, and the 1993 founding of the activist group Intersex Society of North America (ISNA). All pointed the way to treating DSD with the same matter-of-fact professionalism as any other medical diagnosis, intervening – or not – in the way most suited for each individual.

There have been many articles written on intersex in the historic medical literature; a quick keyword search in IndexCat (<http://indexcat.nlm.nih.gov>) using the now-archaic and pejorative terms hermaphrodite or hermaphroditism yields well over 1,000 hits; hundreds more can be found using the term genito-urinary. One of the most recent articles on the topic, “Is there a right not to know one's sex? The ethics of 'gender verification' in women's sports competition” in the April, 2011 issue of *The Journal of Medical Ethics* (PMID 21367768) argues for the abolishment of genetic “gender verification” in sports.

Bodies in Doubt includes a small number of black-and-white images from historical medical journals, as well as a selective index. The lengthy, annotated bibliography runs to almost 50 pages, and this clearly and thoughtfully written book is thoroughly recommended for any history of medicine collection.

Martha E. Stone, M.S., AHIP

Coordinator for Reference Services
Treadwell Library, BHX - I
Massachusetts General Hospital

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Szabo, Jason, *Incurable and Intolerable: Chronic Disease and Slow Death in Nineteenth-Century France* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2009)

Jason Szabo is a medical doctor and historian involved in AIDS care and clinical research at the Montréal General Hospital. He has an enviable vocabulary and liberally sprinkles French phrasing throughout his book. Pages of words were written on topics that I felt would have been a lot easier to absorb and learn from if less words were used. Daunting sub-headings such as *The Therapeutic Ethos of Deceit* and *Professional*

Precarity and Radical Uncertainty added to the complexity. Needless to say I found this book challenging.



The main conditions referred were tuberculosis, tuberculosis and tuberculosis, with a few cancers thrown in the mix. Physicians were portrayed in various lights, but for the most part seemed rather helpless in the care and treatment of patients who were unlucky enough to suffer from these chronic and sometimes deadly diseases. Some physicians were frustrated and annoyed that they could not cure these illnesses and in some instances actually abandoned the patient, or at least made themselves very difficult to find. Because medicine was supposed to be a healing art, attempting to treat incurables was not popular among the medical profession. Not only were these unfortunate patients straddled with a dire prognosis but on top of that they were avoided and treated like untouchables by the general

public and in some cases even friends and family members.

By the 1860s tuberculosis was not automatically equated with incurability and death. A suitable climate or hydrotherapy was thought to be helpful and “taking the waters” became popular. Koch’s discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882 dramatically affected perceptions. Shifting attention away from the patient’s body to a foreign pathogen made it seem reasonable to assume that the body was somehow healthy.

In the chapter “Death, Decay, and the Genesis of Shame” Doctor Szabo writes that “consumption was an important literary vehicle and a potent romantic symbol.” He likens this thinking to the pale emaciated models that resembled heroin addicts seen in some of the fashion magazines of the 1990s. These deadly diseases were certainly nothing to be romanticized. There were odors, open sores and all manner of effluvia.

Opiates were the mainstay of 19th century pharmacopeia, the best known being laudanum. Unfortunately addiction became a major problem and in 1875 Levinstein’s study found that nearly two-thirds of abusers were people suffering from painful chronic

illness. No formal training in the treatment of pain and suffering was given at that time. Textbooks recommended that physicians “do what you can.” It was left up to the physician to decide which patients were given morphine for their pain. Unfortunately this decision depended on the physician’s own “emotional barometer” which seems a precarious and frightening way of treating pain.

The kind of medical care a patient could look forward to depended largely on income. The wealthier patients, despite having the same outcome, at least were afforded some measure of dignity and compassion. The less affluent were mainly left to their own devices, depending on family, and sometimes just themselves, in a rather depressing downward spiral.

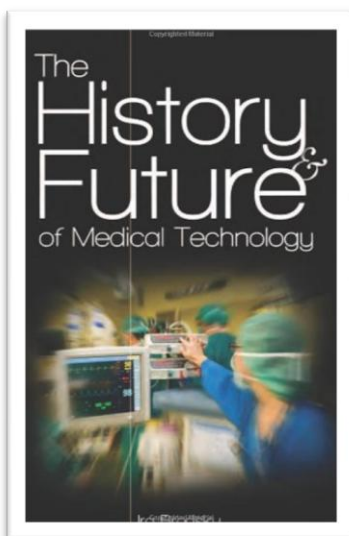
I came away from this book with a feeling of gratefulness at not having been alive during this period in the history of medicine. While there are still incurable diseases, chronic illness and difficult medical conditions, palliative care and pain management have come a long way in making the care and quality of life for end-stage diseases a lot better.

Hilary J. Lane

History of Medicine Coordinator
Mayo Clinic Libraries

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Brodsky, Ira, *The History & Future of Medical Technology* (St. Louis: Telescope Books, 2010)



Ira Brodsky has over thirty years experience with technology. He was the president of Datacomm Research Company, a business that researches technology to promote company growth, for 19 years. Prior to publishing *The History & Future of Medical Technology*, he wrote numerous publications about technology, as well as three books on wireless technology. Brodsky is not a historian or a clinician, and yet he has written a history of medicine text. He is an experienced researcher, however. This book includes a bibliography of monographs and journal articles, as well as interviews with a few experts and inventors of medical technology. He also includes in-text references to original publications in which the inventors

presented their breakthrough findings.

In the book, Brodsky groups similar technologies into chapters and then discusses the evolution of each device chronologically. Brodsky not only explains each instrument's history but also current innovative research, offering a glimpse into the future of medicine. At times, the order of the chapters seems disorganized. For example, he discusses x-rays and computed tomography in Chapter Three, but before he explains MRI technology in Chapter Six, he describes electrocardiograms and pacemakers in Chapters Four and Five.

Brodsky's purpose was not to convey any new historical discoveries about medical technology, but rather to create a comprehensive text of the evolution of medical instrumentation. He focuses on mechanical and electrical equipment and does not include pharmaceutical innovations, genetic engineering, or clinical laboratory instrumentation. In addition to exploring groundbreaking technologies, Brodsky explores the lives of the inventors, providing mini-biographies throughout the text. These inventors ranged from the intrigued scientists, like the "hobbyists" who perfected the microscope, to the caring physicians, such as John Gibbon who developed the heart-lung bypass machine after watching a woman die while having a simple operation.

Brodsky begins his book with the microscope, which was considered insignificant compared to the telescope at the time they were developed. The telescope had obvious functions (exploration and military uses), while microscopes could only offer a magnified, distorted view of small objects. Two hundred years later, the distortion was drastically reduced, and the microscope was used to prove that microscopic organisms caused disease rather than an imbalance of the humors. This discovery defined medicine as a science and led to drastic changes in medical care. Next, Brodsky groups x-rays, CT scans, and endoscopy into a single chapter to discuss the technology used to look inside the body. Another chapter describes sound wave technology, starting with the stethoscope and concluding with ultrasound advancements. Artificial organs, kidney dialysis, and the heart-lung machine are grouped together as machines that function for the body. He devotes entire chapters to ophthalmological and dental technologies. Other chapters discuss electrocardiograms, pacemakers, defibrillators, MRI technology, nuclear medicine, and cochlear implants. His final chapter explores information technology, including mobile devices, the internet, and electronic medical records.

By writing this book, Brodsky wants to “inform and inspire,” but he also takes the opportunity to defend expensive medical technology and animal experimentation. While more high-tech instrumentation means more expensive health care, Brodsky states that businesses are creating these technologies to meet the needs of both patients and health care providers. He also argues that animal experimentation has saved many human lives and attributes the success of medical technology to animal and human test subjects by calling them the “unsung heroes of modern medicine.”

Brodsky’s lack of medical knowledge is demonstrated in his varied language throughout the book. When discussing anatomy and diseases, the writing is easy to understand, but his explanations of the technologies are more complex. Then again, explaining the quantum mechanics behind the MRI cannot be a simple task. To his credit, Brodsky includes effective illustrations, a glossary, and in-text definitions. Speaking of his absence of a medical background, a few minor inaccuracies were noted in his brief history of blood transfusions, namely that plasma does not need to be type-matched. Since this reviewer is a licensed clinical laboratory professional, that section was thoroughly analyzed. Therefore, health care professionals may find other inaccuracies throughout this text.

Although the author is not a medical historian, he is an expert in technology and research. Brodsky provides an interesting overview of the evolution of groundbreaking technology that changed medicine, as well as a look into the future of medicine. However, at times the text seems a bit disorganized, and a few medical inaccuracies may be present.

Deidra Woodson, MLS, MA, MT (ASCP)

Metadata & Digitization Librarian

Medical Library

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