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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 Stephen Novak, 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.

Cover Image: National Library of Medicine staff commemorating the organization's 175th year.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I hope all our readers have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer, but judging from the level of activity reflected in this issue's articles it's clear that members of ALHHS weren't just sunning themselves at the beach. The news of busy lecture series, new exhibitions, and celebrations of major anniversaries demonstrates the vitality and vigor of the history of medicine scene in the US, Canada, and the UK.

I trust that those who faithfully send in news of your libraries and archives will continue to do so, while hoping to hear from others who have so far been reluctant (or is it just librarianly modesty?) to share your activities with us.

Good reading!

Stephen Novak
Editor

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's nothing like an exhibit to make one stop and think about what we do, day in and day out, as librarians, archivists, and historians. We rethink our collections, their scope and content, and how we present them to audiences old and new. We might borrow something that we lack to strengthen our presentation, or try to get a better handle on barely-understood items we already own. It's how we learn about our own stuff, and other folks' things as well. I can recall borrowing a stuffed dog some years ago for an exhibit here, to say nothing of the

time we needed to borrow a brain for another show. That was harder than you might think—the designer was quite demanding in his requirements.

It has been new exhibit time here at the Mother Ship, with a vengeance. The new exhibit mixes high tech with traditional Native American crafts; sea-going canoes with tablet computers. The scope was so vast that it outstripped our usual exhibit venues, leading to the renovation of inside spaces and the re-purposing of outside areas. Opening events took nearly three days. Just take a look at the [website](#).

Exhibits don't always have to be grand to serve the institution's purposes. While preparations went ahead for the big guy, I have been working on a far smaller exhibit, scheduled for 2013, on the history of medical photography, and more specifically the crossover between medical photography and the medical book. Target the era from the invention of photography to the development of half-tones and gravures and you have an intellectual framework ready to go. Add a dash of post-modernist sensibility (a little deconstructionism, anyone?), *et voilà!* My place pretty much has the stuff I want to show, but there were a few things I will need to borrow. I want artifacts; we don't DO artifacts. So I had the fun of rummaging through another institution's basement, with the advice and consent of the curator. Some basement, indeed. Now it's a matter of registrars—have your people call my people.

An exhibit can call attention to a new accession, or remind your constituency of stuff you already have. Find an anniversary; there's always one hanging around. The Civil War Sesquicentennial! The 250th anniversary of the first veterinary college! Honoring some local person and/or event! That last one might even bring in some funding.

In tough economic times, exhibits may seem to be an extravagance, but in fact they are not. They bring in a new public, refresh the old friends, and remind everyone involved that we are here and why. If there is money to spend (especially if it's from someone else), don't hesitate to do so, but keep in mind that the sensibility displayed in many of the Judy Garland/Mickey Rooney musicals still lives. Let's put on a show!

There is of course one place you CANNOT scrimp, and that is making sure that the materials are properly displayed. But acid-free mounts can be simply made, and (with a deeply-felt sigh) light levels can always be lowered, unless your exhibit is on your front lawn. Can anyone ever really see anything at five foot-candles? But we owe it to our own collections, to say nothing of the lenders who expect proper attention to be paid the THEIR stuff.

So go forth, and put on a show.

Steve Greenberg

President

Silver Spring, MD

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FEATURE ARTICLES

NLM at 175: A Fantastic Voyage

2011 marks the 175th anniversary of the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM) which traces its origins to 1836 and the commitment of the second US Army Surgeon General, Thomas Lawson, to purchase books and journals for active duty medical officers. However, it was John Shaw Billings, director of the library from 1865 to 1895, who first envisioned a national medical library that could provide the collection and services so often taken for granted today. The occasion affords an opportunity to focus on the contributions of NLM to the history of medicine and public health, and to look forward into the digital world



of the twenty-first century as NLM joins with like-minded institutions and individuals to expand knowledge of medical and public health history for the advancement of scholarship across the disciplines and for the education of the general public.

An agency of the United States government, NLM is a component of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) which consists of twenty-seven institutes and centers which together employ nearly 20,000 individuals and involves an annual budget of \$31.2 billion. Its 320-acre campus in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside of Washington DC, is part of the US Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS). NLM itself is the

world's largest biomedical library with a collection of over twelve million books, journals, manuscripts, audiovisuals, and other forms of medical information. Under the directorship of Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD since 1984, NLM has global influence through developing electronic information services that deliver trillions of bytes of data to millions of users every day. Scientists, scholars, educators, health professionals, and the general public in the United States and around the world search NLM's online information resources more than one billion times each year.

NLM's History of Medicine Division (HMD) serves as the Special Collections branch of NLM. Including material from the eleventh century to the present, and standing among the richest of any institution in the world, these collections encompass:

- All monographic material in NLM printed before 1914; thousands of later pamphlets and dissertations; and all pre-1871 journals; approximately 70,000 of these items were printed before 1801, and about 580 before 1501;
- One hundred early Western manuscripts (before 1600) and microfilm copies of approximately 600 manuscripts held by European libraries;
- Over one hundred and twenty Islamic manuscripts in Arabic and Persian relating to science and medicine dating from the eleventh century to the nineteenth century;
- Over 17,000 linear feet of modern manuscript collections, including an extensive oral history collection;
- Over 100,000 prints and photographs illustrating social and historical aspects of medicine, including portraits, images of institutions, caricatures, genre scenes, posters, and graphic art;
- Over 16,000 historical audiovisual titles – produced between 1910 and the present – including films, videocassettes, slide-tape programs, film strips, and audiocassettes;
- Over 5,000 printed books, manuscripts, and visual material in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Tibetan, and Mongolian dating from the seventeenth century to the twentieth century.

Through its commitment to provide open and free access to these and other historical collections, HMD maintains a family of websites and databases, including:

- [IndexCat](#), the digitized version of the printed Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, which contains in searchable formats over 4.5 million online references to over 3.7 million bibliographic items, encompassing material dating from Antiquity through to the middle of the twentieth century;

- [Directory of History of Medicine Collections](#), a continuously updated site which reveals to users the depth and variety of history of medicine collections in libraries, archives, and museums around the world; and
- [Images from the History of Medicine](#) (IHM), which provides access to nearly 70,000 images in the collections of HMD.

[PubMed Central](#) (PMC) is another resource of tremendous value to researchers, writers, educators, and students. Developed and managed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the- NLM, PMC offers users free full-text and full-search access to approximately two million full-text articles in biomedical and life sciences journal literature. Complementing PMC is NLM's digital repository, [Digital Resources](#) that currently features monographs and films held by HMD and allows users to perform full-text and keyword searching within each collection or across the entire repository. The first release of *Digital Resources* - includes a newly expanded set of *Cholera Online* monographs, a portion of which NLM first published online in PDF format in 2007. The version of *Cholera Online* now available via *Digital Resources* includes 518 books dating from 1817 to 1900 that address cholera pandemics of that period. *Digital Resources* also includes a selection of eleven historical films, all created by the US government and in the public domain. The films have been digitized in a variety of video formats, to accommodate a wide range of playback devices, including mobile devices. *Digital Resources* also includes an integrated, Flash-based video player which allows full-text search of a film's transcript and graphically displays when the searched word or phrase occurs within the timeline of the film. Additional HMD holdings will be added to *Digital Resources*, making this resource even more valuable for scholarship across the disciplines and for the education of students and the general public.

HMD also actively promotes, conducts, and facilitates scholarly inquiry and public education through a variety of initiatives, including lectures, symposia, film series, and – most importantly – its award-winning exhibition program and its many web sites. HMD's exhibition program develops exhibitions based upon original scholarly research and – through its travelling exhibition services – provides these and other professional exhibitions to libraries across the United States. Since the birth of the program in the late 1990s, hundreds of thousands of individuals in communities across forty-four states and at more than 247 institutions have seen NLM's travelling exhibitions, and hundreds of thousands more have experienced these exhibitions through companion websites enriched with educational resources designed for different interests, learning levels, and academic goals. Additionally, NLM's exhibition program has an active presence on

Facebook – as does NLM overall – thus enabling connections between new generations of students and the history of medicine and public health. HMD is also home to a team of technology professionals who are dedicated uniquely to creating websites that feature HMD collections and exhibitions.

New sites appear regularly alongside a variety of projects which have included "Consumptive Disease: Chinese Anti-Tuberculosis Posters, 1950–1980," "An Iconography of Contagion: A Web Exhibition of Twentieth-Century Health Posters," "Most Horrible & Shocking Murders: Murder Pamphlets in the Collection of the National Library of Medicine," and "An Odyssey of Knowledge: NLM's Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books."



John Shaw Billings

Additionally, HMD develops websites in collaboration with colleagues across the institution, particularly in the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical communications (LHNCBC), a research and development division of NLM. [Turning the Pages](#) refines original technology used by the British Library to enable users at kiosks, online – and now on an iPad – to touch, turn, and explore in visual and intellectual depth the pages of virtual books, such as the Edwin Smith Papyrus, Hanaoka Seishu's Surgical Casebook, and Hieronymus Brunschwig's *Liber de Arte Distillandi*, among other notable and rare works. [Profiles in Science](#) – a research product of the digital library research program of the LHNCBC, conducted in collaboration

with the digital manuscripts program of HMD – makes available the rich archival collections of leaders in biomedical research, clinical medicine, and public health, including C. Everett Koop, Virginia Apgar, Rosalind Franklin, Francis Crick, Barbara McClintock, and Linus Pauling, among many others.

As technology has informed the recent past and immediate present of the history of medicine, so too will it shape the future of the field – as well as scholarship, teaching, and learning overall – through advances such as mobile computing, open content, electronic books, and augmented reality. NLM stands at the forefront of this future in

many ways, especially as the institution embarks with other leading medical libraries in developing the [Medical Heritage Library](#). This collaborative project aims to digitize and make freely available through the Internet Archive tens of thousands of medical materials from earliest times to the present. Comparable opportunities abound for history of medicine and public health manuscripts and audiovisuals, and NLM looks forward to participating in such ventures with institutional partners. HMD also looks forward to expanding its travelling exhibition program and associated online resources in co-operation with interested libraries in the United States and around the world.

As a lasting remembrance of the event, NLM will shortly publish *Hidden Treasure: the National Library of Medicine*, a book that reveals NLM's historical treasures to the world. Opening with an essay that will explore the history of NLM, *Hidden Treasure* will feature canonical books as well as pamphlets, trading cards, diaries, glass "magic lantern" slides, news clippings, handbills, stereograph cards, scrapbooks, film-stills, water-colors, and posters. Each "treasure" will be accompanied by a one-page essay on a facing page, written by a scholar, artist or Library historian, sounding important themes in the history of medicine and print and the larger field of cultural studies.

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Grace Whiting Myers (1859-1957): Library Director, Reference Librarian, Archivist, and Records Manager All in One!

The job description and requirements for a medical librarian have drastically changed since the 19th century. It had been a discipline that required a high school diploma and/or a bachelor's degree. Today, medical librarianship requires a Master's degree in library science from an ALA accredited institution, and preferably a background in science and/or health sciences. In the past, the major job functions required an enthusiasm to classify and catalog books, provide basic reference, retrieve books from the closed stacks, and manage acquisition and circulation. Currently, a medical librarian's duties include reference work with a variety of hand-held electronic devices, managing staff, and cataloging paper and born-digital collections. Our functions also include having archival training, health informatics/evidence based research skills, reading raw data, and being knowledgeable in e-science. Collaboration with other fields, such as records management – whether it's patient records or research records – is unavoidable.

What does the future hold for medical librarianship? What can the 19th century job description teach us? What lessons can we learn from the past leaders in this field? This article will address the above questions by exploring Grace Whiting Myers's (GWM) background, education, employment, and professional activities. Her legacy can serve as model for future medical librarians.

Background

Grace Whiting was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 14, 1859. Her father, Charles B. Whiting, was a collector of coins, minerals, and photographs and was an owner of a rather large private library. Her mother Martha was a homemaker; their surviving children were GWM and two younger sons. In GWM's autobiography, she credits her father for her love for organization since he enjoyed arranging his collections. One of her childhood chores was to clean the family library and she enjoyed developing her own system to classify the books. There is brief mention that she married and then "life reverses" took over. I find it a vague statement and there is no other mention of Mr. Myers in her book or of any children resulting from that marriage.

Education

Educated in Worcester, MA at Classical High School, GWM was highly interested in rhetoric, English literature, and Latin. After graduation she spent time at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; her parents desired she become an artist.

Employment

GWM once cataloged the private library of a Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) trustee. Her reputation gained her the position of "Assistant Librarian" at MGH's Treadwell Library in October 1897, working under Dr. Arthur T. Cabot, chairman of the Library Committee. Her responsibilities included organizing over 80 years of patient records from Hospital admission ledgers and keeping a tally of journal subscriptions. One of her first projects was to compile medical and surgical statistics stemming from patient admission ledgers. "Mrs. Myers started a diagnosis catalogue and a name catalogue. She notes that 'Previously the only means of locating a re-entry was through the Admission File in the General Office [kept in a huge book with one line to each patient], then going to the Record Room and hunting it up by Service and date.' " (1)

When GWM joined Treadwell, the library contained 4,872 volumes which she cataloged using the Dewey Decimal Classification system, and subscriptions to 28 domestic, British, French, and German journals. GWM was heavily involved with documenting the patients that were admitted to the Massachusetts General Hospital Tent Wards during

the Spanish-American War. "In 1898, during the Spanish American War, the MGH accepted patients who were suffering from typhoid fever and malaria contracted in the semitropical climate of Cuba and Puerto Rico. A tent ward had been erected on the Bulfinch lawn and nurses were assigned to care for them. Most patients recovered and were able to go home." (2) By 1909 her title became "Librarian" and she managed a staff of 7 assistants. By 1912 her job title changed again to Medical Record Librarian. Between 1914 and 1918 she served the United States during World War I by supplying the American Red Cross with a weekly bibliography on the medical and surgical aspects of the war, compiled from journals received at the Library. Her contribution was published as the *War Supplement of Index Medicus*. (3) In 1917, she took on her first pupil to instruct in record librarian functions. Her title of Medical Records Librarian was recognized by the American College of Surgeons in 1922.

From 1897 to 1924 she assisted various hospitals around the US in standardizing their methods of caring for medical records. Although she had diverse job functions, records management and the oversight of patient institutional records such as administrative, financial and surgical records were the most fascinating for her.



By June 1928 various titles were used: record librarian, medical statistician, curator of records, medical historian, librarian and record clerk. Currently, a librarian holding her responsibilities would be entitled an Informationist, Medical Records Librarian or Registered Record Administrator.

She kept a work diary in which she documented Library staffing changes and her involvement with the Hospital staff. One of her entries which struck me was "Attended meeting of Association of Medical Librarians at Atlantic City, June 3, 1907." (4) This entry is an example of how she was involved in conferences and networking with her peers in other states.

"I could quote a long list of possible circumstances in which a hospital superintendent depends upon his record librarian for immediate and reliable assistance." (5) This quote shows how GWM was involved in outreach and marketing the librarian's role. She also encouraged her staff to constantly show how they could be useful to the physicians. Today we would consider that to be part of embedded librarian services.

Professional Activities

At 66 years old and after working 25 years for one institution, GWM had what today we would call "institutional knowledge." In 1928, she wrote *History of Massachusetts General Hospital, 1872-1900*. On October 11, 1928, after attending the American College of Surgeons meeting, Dr. Malcolm T. MacEachern, Director of Hospital Activities, suggested that GWM formalize the "local" meetings she was having with Boston area records clerks. The organization, the Association of Record Librarians of North America (ARLNA) was the result and was established with the following charter members: Mrs. Grace Whiting Meyers, MGH; Florence G. Babcock, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; Leona M. Corcoran, Boston City Hospital; Molly C. Bisbee, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and G.L. McCabe, Carney Hospital. In 1938, ARLNA was renamed the American Association of Medical Records Librarians (AAMRL). GWM was the founder, president, and honorary president emeritus of AAMRL from 1928-1929.

The AAMRL's purpose was to raise standards for clinical records in hospitals and to ensure that Medical Records Librarians' contribution to the welfare of patients would be valued the same as other sciences. Another purpose was to increase educational training in order to place trained record keepers in medical records departments. In 1934, the visionary leader of the Health Information Management (HIM) profession, Grace Whiting Myers, recognized the moral imperative to protect patient privacy and wrote a pledge which indicated that no clinical information should be given to anyone, except as authorized (6). Interestingly enough, in 1929 MGH formally established a Medical Records Department completely separate from the Library.

The early work of Grace Whiting Myers, a pioneer in the field of medical library science, laid the foundation for clinical record indexing and disease documentation. Today, HIM professionals have a direct role in disease classification, registry coding, and data reporting. AHIMA, the American Health Information Management Association, is also concerned with electronic patient health records, certification and continuing education. They provide 7 types of certifications: 1) Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA), 2) Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT), 3) Certified Coding

Specialist (CCS), 4) Physician-based (CCS-P), 5) Certified Coding Associate (CCA), 6) Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS), and 7) Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA).

Lessons from Grace Whiting Myers

The field of medical librarianship has undergone vast changes. From the reference desk, card catalog, and retrieval of books from closed stacks, to taking on duties such as records manager, archivist, health informatician and having tenure-track position for librarians: we are called to wear many hats and to be flexible. Grace Whiting Myers recognized that the skill set that medical librarians possess are invaluable and that the medical field is constantly evolving; the involvement of skilled health information professionals is crucial. Her organization, quick thinking, creativity, confidence and ability to think two steps forward provide us with a model of excellence. She was able to tease out a part of her job function and see how it could be developed into its own separate field. In the 2010 May/June issue of *Harvard Magazine*, Dr. Isaac Kohane, Director of Countway Medical Library at Harvard Medical School, follows in Mrs. Myers' footsteps by developing a distinct path for medical librarians. "It is becoming so clear that medicine and medical research are an information-processing enterprise, that there's an opportunity for a library that would embrace that as a mission...to be again a center of the medical enterprise." (7) Dr. Kohane developed a biomedical informatics center "embedded" at Countway Library. In this center, the Harvard Medical community can take courses on relevant databases and learn how to sift through the overwhelming amount of biomedical information. Although Grace Whiting Myers didn't have the resources and support to develop a center for patient medical records/health informatics at Treadwell Library, she was well aware of the need to form an association where such training could be offered. Mrs. Myers' contribution to the Medical Library community and the history of medicine is invaluable. On October 10, 1952 she admitted herself to McLean Hospital; she died on August 20, in 1957 at the age of 97.

Gwendolyn Fougy Henry, EdM, MSLIS

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**Special thank you to Jeff Mifflin, Archivist and Curator, Massachusetts General Hospital, Archives and Special Collections for his mentorship and access to a rich collection.*

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

National Library of Medicine Opens New Interactive Exhibition: Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health

A new exhibition, the first of its kind to examine concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, has opened at the National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health. "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness," explores the connection between wellness, illness, and cultural life through a combination of interviews with Native people, artwork, objects, and interactive media.

Opening events were held Oct. 5, 2011 and included ceremonial dancing and the blessing of a healing totem pole that was created for the exhibition and installed in front of the Library. The program began in the auditorium of the Lister Hill Center on the NIH campus and moved to the front of the library for the blessing of the healing totem pole and the exhibition, and for the exhibition ribbon-cutting. "Native Voices" opened to the public Oct. 6.



Traditional Hawaiian voyaging canoe

The National Library of Medicine has a history of working with Native communities as part of the Library's commitment to make health information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work. The Native Voices exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders in Alaska, Hawaii and the contiguous United States.

"This exhibition honors the Native tradition of oral history and establishes a unique collection of information," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, director of the National Library of Medicine. "We hope visitors will find Native Voices educational and inspirational, and we hope Native people will view it with pride. The Library is excited to open this exhibition, and to do it during our 175th anniversary year."

Topics featured in the exhibition include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health; the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities; economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities; efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions; and the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

In addition to the collection of interviews, some of the objects visitors will find in the exhibition include:



Healing totem pole

- In the lobby of the Library, guiding people into the exhibition, is a 10-foot model of the Hokule'a, a traditional Hawaiian voyaging canoe used for long-distance travel. Visitors will learn how the mission of the Hokule'a has spurred a Hawaiian cultural and health revival.
- Inside the exhibition, in a section that explores Native games for survival, strength and sports, visitors will find a vintage surfboard and learn about Native Hawaiian sportsman Duke Kahanamoku, who won Olympic medals in swimming and revived the sport of surfboarding.
- Ceremonial drums, pipes, and rattles from the Upper Plains Indians grace a section on healing.
- A World War II radio is one object that helps tell the story of Navajo and other American Indian Code Talkers. Visitors will learn about their service to the country and the ceremonies performed by traditional healers to help relieve combat-related stress experienced by returning veterans.
- The 20-foot healing totem pole created by master carver Jewell Praying Wolf James and the House of Tears Carvers of the Lummi Nation in the Pacific Northwest is located in the herb garden in front of the Library. Visitors will discover the meaning of the stories, symbols and colors on the totem pole and two benches that accompany it. In the weeks preceding the exhibition opening, the totem received blessings from a number of tribes as it was transported across the country to be permanently installed at the Library. Previous work by

carver Jewell James includes healing totems to honor the victims of the September 11th attacks. Those totems are now installed in Arrow Park in New York, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC.

To make the Native Voices information accessible to people who can't travel to the Library, there is an [online version of the exhibition](#). The Library hopes to develop a travelling version consisting of a series of informational banners.

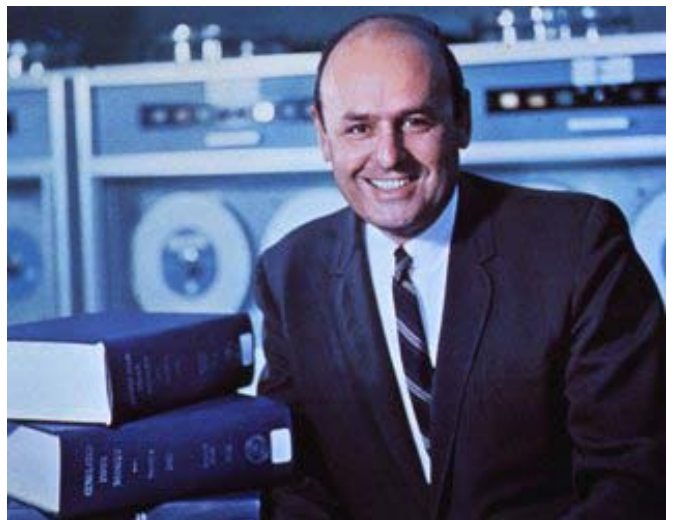
For people interested in Native health issues in general, the Library's collection of free online information contains material on Native health including:

- An [American Indian Health portal](#) to issues affecting the health and well being of American Indians
- An [Arctic Health website](#) with information on diverse aspects of the Arctic environment and health of northern peoples
- A [Native American Health page](#) on MedlinePlus.gov, the Library's consumer health website

Martin M. Cummings, Former NLM Director and Friend of American Health Sciences Libraries, Dies at Age 90

Dr. Martin Cummings, a scientist, medical educator, scientific administrator and former director of the National Library of Medicine, died on August 31. He was 90.

During his two decades of leadership of NLM, from 1964 to 1983, the Library's mission was broadened as a health information resource. It emerged as a leader in the computer age and it became a major biomedical communications center, transforming a national resource into a unique international force and one of the most advanced scientific libraries in the world. Also, during this fertile period, NLM was established as a new, civilian entity on the National Institutes



of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Cummings was born in Camden, New Jersey on September 7, 1920. He received his bachelor of the arts degree from Bucknell University in 1941 and his doctorate in medicine from Duke University in 1944. His medical research interests included the treatment of sarcoidosis and tuberculosis. In 1946 Cummings completed a US Public Health Service internship and residency at the Boston Marine Hospital, after which he became a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service. In this capacity he received extensive training in bacteriology and tuberculosis at the Michigan State Health Department and the Serum Institute of Denmark. Upon completion of his training he served as Director of the Tuberculosis Evaluation Laboratory at the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1949 Cummings joined the US Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine and Surgery. He served from 1949 to 1953 as chief of the Tuberculosis Section and Director of the Tuberculosis Research Laboratory at the VA's Lawson General in Chamblee, Georgia. In 1953 he became director of research services at the VA's Central Office in Washington, DC, serving until 1959.

During his time at the VA, he also taught at several medical schools. In 1948, he took as post as instructor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, rising to the positions of assistant professor of medicine and associate professor of bacteriology by 1953. While at the VA's Central Office, he taught at the George Washington School of Medicine, lecturing in microbiology there until 1959. From 1959 to 1961, he was chairman and professor of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

In 1961, Cummings accepted the position of chief of the Office of International Research at NIH, serving until 1963. Over the next year, he served as associate director for research grants there, before becoming the director of the National Library of Medicine in 1964.

One of Dr. Cummings' first NLM successes was the Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA) of 1965, legislation of vital concern to health sciences librarians. When the idea of a grant program for medical libraries was proposed, one senior health official predicted that four years was a realistic estimate of the time needed for passage through the Congress. Dr. Cummings enlisted the support of Senator Lister Hill of Alabama and

other influential leaders and, in little more than a year, the Act became a reality. Its influence on the medical library profession has been profound: it was the basis for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), a "nervous system" of some 5,800 libraries in all US states and territories, and the District of Columbia. Through the MLAA, thousands of institutions and individuals have received grant support for library resources, training, research and publications.

An able administrator, Dr. Cummings could also summon courage and tenacity in fighting for what he believed to be the best interest of the health professions and the nation's health. As William D. Mayer wrote in the January 1984 *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, "He knew how to marshal support within the health professions and was an articulate and forceful defender-in print or on the podium-of medical libraries and their essential services." The historic seven-year battle in the courts to defend the concept of "fair use" photocopying for scholarly purposes is a prime example. As Mayer recounts, "It took a ruling from the Supreme Court to win the day, but Cummings never wavered."

NLM added its groundbreaking Toxicology Information Program during Dr. Cummings' tenure. Another major achievement was the planning and construction of the Lister Hill Center building, to house the research and development arm of the Library.

After his retirement as Director, Dr. Cummings continued to be a firm friend and enthusiastic supporter of the National Library of Medicine and its programs, never refusing any request from NLM's current director for advice or assistance. For example, Dr. Cummings carefully reviewed and provided invaluable suggestions for improvements to the initial versions of NLM's Web information services for the general public and assisted with outreach to seniors and the low vision community.

"Marty Cummings was a very effective leader of NLM, as well as advocate for its programs," noted NLM Director Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD. "After his retirement, he became a good friend to my wife, Mary, and me. In his community in Florida, he became a conduit for all the information services NLM had to offer the residents. Through his group on low vision, we, too, learned how better to serve this public. Essentially, he never gave up. I'm proud to have known Marty Cummings."

Dr. Cummings was unquestionably a visionary. Through his leadership, the National Library of Medicine became an indispensable resource for the world's biomedical

information making that information readily available to researchers, educators and health professionals throughout the world.

Scheduled to open in early November 2011, a new NLM Web exhibition, "Martin Cummings, MD, and the National Library of Medicine: Documents Online," will provide access to digital documents of the director of the National Library of Medicine from 1964 to 1983. The site is based upon the work of independent scholar Cheryl Dee, PhD, of Florida State University and San Jose State University. This digital collection will feature selected speeches and congressional testimony of Dr. Cummings, conveying his vision for the Library at a crucial time in its development.

Upcoming HMD Seminars

All HMD seminars are open to the public. For more details, go [here](#).

October 27, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A

Stephen J. Greenberg, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, NIH, "NLM at 175: A Librarian's View."

November 1, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., NLM Visitor Center, Building 38A.

Hispanic History Month Lecture

Johanna Fernandez, Baruch College, CUNY, "The Young Lords and the Struggle for Racial Justice and Public Health in New York."

December 1, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., NLM Visitor Center, Bldg 38A

Dan Cohen, George Mason University, "The Future of Digital History."

Jeffrey S. Reznick

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

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NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

Historic Arabic Medical Manuscripts Go Online

The Wellcome Library is pleased to announce the launch of [Wellcome Arabic Manuscripts Online](#), a digital manuscript library created in partnership with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and King's College London Department of Digital Humanities.

This unique online resource, based on the Wellcome Library's Arabic manuscript collection, includes well-known medical texts by famous practitioners (such as Avicenna, Ibn al-Quff, and Ibn an-Nafis), lesser-known works by anonymous physicians and rare or unique copies, such as Averroes' commentaries on Avicenna's medical poetry.



“Providing global access to our collections is at the heart of our mission to foster collaborative research, and we are delighted to see these particular treasures become freely accessible online,” said Simon Chaplin, Head of the Wellcome Library. “We are grateful to the Library of Alexandria and Kings College London, whose partnership in this project has enabled us to extend the availability of these rare materials to the countries of their origin.”

Funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JSIC) and the Wellcome Trust, the Wellcome Arabic Cataloguing Partnership (WAMCP) was [initiated](#) in 2009 with the aim of making the Wellcome's Arabic manuscripts available and to establish a standard in Arabic manuscript cataloguing and display.

This began with the creation of the “cataloguing tool.” A [schema](#) was adapted from the existing ENRICH schema to allow for non-Western manuscript description. The tool, the repository, and the website were developed by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with direction from the Wellcome and King's College London team members.

Digitising the Wellcome Library's European Printed Books

As part of the Wellcome Digital Library pilot project, we are joining forces with [ProQuest](#) to digitise over fifteen thousand volumes from our rare book collection. They will be made available through ProQuest's new [Early European Books](#) (EEB) database – a sister project to the long-established and successful [Early English Books Online](#).

As its name suggests, EEB will trace the history of printing in continental Europe from its origins up to 1700. A number of other libraries have already contributed to the project, including the [Kongelige Bibliotek](#) in Copenhagen and the [Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze](#). The Wellcome Library will be contributing



Wellcome Images

our entire collection of pre-1700 non-English printed books – including many rare or obscure texts on subjects ranging from alchemy to zoology, as well as some of the most spectacularly illustrated books of the period. Landmark works include the first edition of anatomist Andreas Vesalius's [De humani corporis fabrica](#) (1543), the complete works of surgeon [Ambroise Paré](#) (c.1510-1590), Rabanus Maurus's encyclopedia [De sermonum proprietate](#) (1467) (the medical section of which is sometimes called the first printed medical book) and a beautiful coloured copy of Hartmann Schedel's [Liber chronicarum](#) ("The Nuremberg Chronicle," 1493), formerly owned by the artist William Morris (1834-1896). In addition, the project will also provide access to important continental editions of works by famous English medical authors, such as William Harvey's seminal work on the circulation of the blood, [De motu cordis](#) (1628), which was first published in Germany.

Unlike other parts of our project, which are being fully funded by the Wellcome Library, this partnership will involve a significant investment from ProQuest. In return for access to our collection, ProQuest will make the entire collection freely available to all UK-based users, and to users in the [HINARI](#) group of developing countries. Wellcome Library

members will, of course, have free access to the collection from anywhere in the world. In addition, ten percent of the collection – about 1,500 books – will be selected by the Wellcome Library to be made freely available to any user worldwide via the Wellcome Digital Library portal. There will be other benefits too: as part of the project, we are taking the opportunity to make sure that previously uncatalogued (and hence unavailable) material is also included, giving the new database complete coverage of our pre-1700 European holdings.

Why choose to work with a commercial partner? The Wellcome Library recognises that for some parts of our holdings, high-quality research access will depend on material being made available within bigger collections of related material. Our early European books are not only of interest to historians of medicine but also to a wider scholarly audience, for whom the ability to search across a comprehensive database rather than a subject-specific portal is important. We also recognise that a one-size-fits all approach to book digitisation is not always best. By partnering with ProQuest, we hope that users of our collection will benefit from the ability to see works in a broader historical context, and from the development of tools such as text recognition that are adapted to the challenges of early European printing – benefits that we are unlikely to be able to replicate, at least in the short term, within our own digital library.

New Video Tutorial: Remote Access to Full- Text Databases, e-journals and e-books

The final video tutorial of our video tutorial project has now been uploaded to the Wellcome Library website.

[“Remote access to full text databases, e-journals and e-books”](#) comprises part of the “Using the Library Catalogues” section of our [Guides & Video Tutorials](#) pages, offering introductions to the Wellcome Library’s online catalogues and full-text resources.

Other video tutorials included in this resource are advice on how to order Library material online, how to browse our digitised 18th Century recipe manuscripts, searching Wellcome Images, and guidance on how to access the historical archive of the *British Medical Journal*.

Papers of Tim Lang Now Available for Consultation

The Wellcome Library is delighted to announce that the papers of Professor Tim Lang are now freely available for consultation and research (catalogue reference [PP/TLA](#)).

Of major importance with regard to public health issues in the UK, Lang's work has been in the field of public understanding of the food supply chain and the issues raised by what we eat and how we get it. His archive, totalling seventy boxes, documents his extensive involvement and role in the field of food policy, nutrition, environment and public health from the late 1970s up until 2000, and also provides a significant record of the development of food policy as a topic for discussion, notably in the UK, during this period.

Organisations such as the London Food Commission, Parents For Safe Food, the National Food Alliance and the Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment (SAFE) Alliance are documented, as well as Tim Lang's wide-ranging writings on food; subject files cover some of his interests such as meat production standards, a school meals campaigns in Lancashire (early 1980s) as well as the national school meals campaigns in the 1990s, low income and food poverty, the Food Safety Act 1990, the salmonella and the listeria "scares" in the late 1980s, and the impact of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) reform and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on the food trade, health and safety, the environment and the developing world.

Alice's Adventures in Library-land

Alice Calloway was a [Summer Intern](#) at the Wellcome Trust. Here she reflects on her time in the Wellcome Library.

My experience as a Liaison Exhibition Intern in the Wellcome Library was full of surprises: in the first week I observed the packing of items for a loan ready to be couriered to Dresden. I travelled in a lorry across London to transport this material going on loan to a warehouse.



I also travelled to Leicester, to observe an [exhibition of AIDS reproduction posters being installed at the New Walk Gallery](#). This was certainly one of my favourite days of the internship, as it was a great insight into the amount of work that is involved in collating and installing an exhibition. I travelled in a lorry for a second time, to pick up two paintings which had been sent to two external conservators for repair. I had a peek

into a world of conservation and studios which was quite incredible (I think that everybody who I've spoken to thinks that I've spent most of my time getting to know lorry drivers!). Aside from this, I have been able to observe the work of conservation and received disaster training and basic collection care training, certainly enhancing my knowledge of the paramount importance of conservation. The tour of the library was great and I will certainly be coming back to use it for my dissertation work.

Of course, I have also spent some time sitting at my desk, carrying out a range of administrative tasks; these have taught me a lot about the collection housed by the Wellcome Library. I have been developing new policy documents in order to help with the loans process; including new courier guidelines, a revised loans contract, a crate and packing specification and an exhibition display document. I have also familiarised myself with Wellcome Collection's [Medicine Man](#) gallery and have done some research into alternative ways to display the material in the gallery's plan chest.

For regular updates on the work of the Wellcome Library, see our [blog](#).

Ross MacFarlane

Research Officer
Wellcome Library

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MEMBER PROFILES



Name: Dolores J. Barber

Member of ALHHS since: January 2011

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Current Employer and Position: Assistant Archivist, American College of Surgeons

Education: MSLIS, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2004

Professional interests: metadata, arrangement and description, indexing, taxonomies, audiovisual preservation, and the history of medicine in Chicago

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: languages and linguistics, tutoring ESL (English as a second language) students, digital asset management, and family history research

Name: Michael North

Member of ALHHS since: 1995

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Current Employer and Position: Head of Rare Books & Early Manuscripts in the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine

Education: BA in Greek, Swarthmore College; MS in Linguistics, Georgetown University; MSLS with an emphasis on Book Arts, The Catholic University of America

Professional interests: I have so many professional interests that it is difficult to narrow them down, but I'll give it a try: ancient medicine, history of anatomy, history of the book and printing, rare book cataloging and bibliography, Japanese medicine in the Edo Period (1600-1868), early horse veterinary medicine, early American medical publishing, and digitization.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: Aside from reading on all of the topics above, my most favorite hobby is travel overseas, especially to Europe, East Asia, and Latin America. Most trips to these places are cultural (and history of medicine is often on my mind), though I'm not averse to taking in a nice beach, glacier, or mountain view if the opportunity arises.



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COLLECTIONS

Papers of Eleanor K. Grimm (1891-1975) at the American College of Surgeons

Eleanor K. Grimm has long been an intriguing figure in the history of the American College of Surgeons, which celebrates its centennial in the year 2012-2013. Miss Grimm, newly graduated from business school in 1913, began working for Dr. Franklin Martin, founder of the ACS, as his personal secretary during the year that the College was founded.

Throughout the years that they worked together, they initiated many of the departments and programs that currently exist at



the College. Miss Grimm edited all College publications, performed all secretarial work in connection with the business of the Regents, Governors, Councils, and Committees, handled details of the Clinical Congresses, aided in the establishment of Sectional Meetings, and presided over the medical motion pictures program. After Martin's death in 1935 she served on the Administrative Board as Administrative Executive and Secretary to the Board of Regents.

At her retirement in 1951, the ACS Board of Regents commissioned her to record her recollections of the history of the College and to document it in preparation for the College's semi-centennial. Her 26 volume *magnum opus* in typescript, the ACS History Notebooks, was the result. One volume of the Notebooks with her 59 page index to the complete work can be found in the [Digital Collections link](#) on the ACS Archives website along with the finding aid to that work. The Notebooks were the main source for the writing of the College's semi-centennial history in 1960 by Loyal Davis, *Fellowship of Surgeons: A History of the American College of Surgeons*, but Dr. Davis only tapped the surface of the wealth of material found therein. The Notebooks treat the history of surgery from ancient times, biographies of surgical leaders in the early twentieth century, histories and development of the various functions and programs of the College including surgical education, trauma, cancer, annual meetings, international relations, hospital standardization, medical motion pictures, public relations and much more.

The ACS Archives has now acquired from the family the papers of Miss Grimm in the form of two sets of scrapbooks, which shed much more light on this remarkable woman. One set of three, which we call the "retirement scrapbooks," includes correspondence with all the founders of the College and its leaders throughout the first 50 years of its existence. The other set of nine, which we call the "travel scrapbooks," details her world travels, when she visited many of the surgeons with whom she worked closely over the years and carried letters of introduction from three of Martin's successors as Executive Director. The retirement scrapbooks are available in electronic files, free text searchable; the travel scrapbooks are available in the ACS Archives in the de-acidified paper originals.

Susan K. Rishworth

Archivist

American College of Surgeons

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EXHIBITIONS

Faults and Fractures: The 1886 Charleston Earthquake Exhibit at the Waring Historical Library

On August 31, 2011, the Waring Historical Library and Medical University of South Carolina University Archives opened a new web exhibit: [Faults and Fractures: The Medical Response to the Charleston Earthquake of 1886](#). In its first day, it received more than 4,000 hits, and the number keeps growing.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, on August 31, 1886, a massive earthquake centered near Charleston, South Carolina, sent shock waves as far north as Maine, down into Florida, and west to the Mississippi River. The entire Lowcountry was devastated by the quake, now estimated to have been more powerful than the earthquake that killed hundreds of thousands in Haiti in 2010.

Among the first to respond to the earthquake were the city's doctors and nurses who cared for those killed or wounded by falling buildings as well as those left homeless amid the ruins.

This exhibit highlights the public health response to the largest earthquake to strike the east coast of the U.S. in recorded history. This 125th anniversary exhibit presents through archival records, period photographs, and newspaper engravings the ways that the Charleston health care system was affected by the state's worst natural disaster.

Brooke Fox

MUSC University Archivist

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Physician Price Fixing in 19th Century Virginia: An Online Exhibit

What would you pay for a house visit from a doctor whose office was within a mile of where you lived? How about a dollar with one prescription thrown in for good measure? Or maybe you need your tonsils out. Fifteen dollars will do it. Have a broken arm? Ten dollars will take care of setting it, unless it is a compound fracture and then it would be twice as much. A dollar will cover the extraction of a tooth.

Where are these prices being offered and who are the practitioners? The place is Charlottesville, Virginia, and the twelve doctors making such offers are some of the most respected men in town and include faculty members of the School of Medicine at the University of Virginia. Actually, all the teachers in the School of Medicine, a grand total of four, have agreed to these medical charges because the year is 1848.

What can we learn about medical practice in the mid-nineteenth century by examining the document, generally called a fee bill, which is the inspiration for this exhibit? What was like to live in central Virginia in this time period and who were the men who signed the bill? Visit the [newest web exhibit](#) from the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library Historical Collections at University of Virginia and find out. The exhibit features an essay on physician fee bills by Todd L. Savitt, Ph.D.

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AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

ALHHS Awards: Call for Nominations

Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for an ALHHS award in 2012.

The **ALHHS Publication Award**, established in 1992, is presented to the author(s) of a monograph, article, or online resource related to the history of the health care sciences, or works on the bibliography, librarianship and/or curatorship of historical collections in the health care sciences. The work must have been published in print or on the web within the three years prior to presentation of the award. At least one principal author of the work must be a member in good standing of ALHHS.

In 2012 we will present two Publication Awards:

1. Best monograph or article
2. Best online resource – website, online exhibit, etc.

Articles will be considered in category 1, even if they are published online. Nominees will be judged on the relevance/impact of the work, quality of content, and production values.

To nominate a work, please send 3 copies of a printed work (photocopies or PDFs of articles are acceptable), or the URL for an online resource, to:

Lisa A. Mix
Head, Medical Center Archives
New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center
1300 York Avenue Box 34
New York, NY 10065
lim2026@med.cornell.edu or lisamix516@gmail.com

Please include a cover letter giving the item's complete citation (including all authors, publisher, and publication date). Authors may nominate their own works.

Also, please consider nominating one of your colleagues for the **Lisbeth M. Holloway Award** or the **ALHHS Recognition of Merit**. Criteria for these awards, and procedures for nomination, can be found [here](#).

Please send all nominations to Lisa Mix at the address above no later than **January 31, 2012**.

The awards will be presented at the ALHHS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, April 26, 2012.

Thank you on behalf of the ALHHS Awards Committee:

Lisa A. Mix, Chair
NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center
Howard Rootenberg
B&L Rootenberg Rare Books
Elaine Challacombe
University of Minnesota, Wangenstein Historical Library

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American Association for the History of Nursing 2012 Research Awards

The American Association for the History of Nursing is soliciting nominations for the following upcoming awards:

Lavinia L. Dock Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing Award recognizes outstanding scholarship in a nursing history book.

Mary M. Roberts Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing Award recognizes outstanding scholarship in an edited nursing history book.

Mary Adelaide Nutting Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing Award recognizes outstanding scholarship in a published nursing history article.

Teresa E. Christy Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing recognizes outstanding scholarship in a nursing history dissertation.

The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2012. Detailed information regarding submissions can be obtained at the organization's [website](#).

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Bakken Travel Grants 2012

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

1. **Visiting Research Fellowships** are awarded up to a maximum of \$1,500; the minimum period of residence is two weeks, and preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating informally for a day or two with Bakken staff during their research visit.
2. **Research Travel Grants** are awarded up to a maximum of \$500 (domestic) and \$750 (foreign); the minimum period of residence is one week.

The next application deadline for either type of research assistance is **February 17, 2012**.

For more details and application guidelines, please contact:

Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian

The Bakken Library and Museum

3537 Zenith Avenue So.

Minneapolis, MN 55416

tel 612-926-3878 ext. 227

fax (612) 927-7265

Ihrig@thebakken.org

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Osler Library Research Travel Grant: Call for Applications

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, is inviting applications for its 2012 Research Travel Grant, which is designed to assist scholars who need to travel to and establish temporary residence in Montreal in order to use the resources of the Library.

The grant is available to historians, physicians and students interested in medical history. It carries an award of \$1,500 (Canadian), and must be held from 2-4 weeks during the calendar year of 2012. \$2,000 will be made available to those requiring 4 weeks to complete their research.

The Osler Library is a major resource centre for historical research in the health sciences and is the international centre for the study of Sir William Osler and the Oslerian tradition. The collection includes approximately [100,000 monographs](#), [200 archival collections](#), 2,500 historical medical prints and other material.

The applications are considered by a committee which gives preference to specific and clearly described projects linked to items in our collection. The application deadline is **December 31, 2011**. Candidates will be informed of the results in early 2012.

There is more information and the application form on this [site](#) or contact Christopher Lyons, Interim Head, Osler Library of the History of Medicine (christopher.lyons@mcgill.ca, 514-398-4475, ext 09847#)

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Reynolds Associates Research Fellowships

The Historical Collections unit of Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, announces Reynolds Associates Research Fellowships in the History of the Health Sciences for 2012. In conjunction with our friends group, the Reynolds Associates, we are pleased to announce the availability of short-term awards of up to \$1,000 to individual researchers studying one or more aspects of the history of the health sciences during the 2012 calendar year.

Intended to support research using the HC unit as a historical resource, the fellowship requires the on-site use of at least one of the unit's three components, which are the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, Reynolds Historical Library and UAB Archives. Anyone who wishes to use HC for historical research may apply, regardless of his or her academic status. Fellowships are awarded to individual applicants, not to institutions, as awarded funds are meant to help offset the costs associated with visiting and utilizing HC and not for institutional overhead. Information about the fellowship application process can be found [here](#).

The application deadline is **December 31, 2011**, and awards will be announced by February 28, 2012. Successful applicants will be expected to exhibit work or deposit a copy of the finished manuscript, thesis, dissertation or publication with Historical Collections. For further information on the Historical Collections unit and its three components, please visit this [site](#).

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LECTURES

Heberden Society, Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, Lectures 2011-2012

- October 4, 2011**
Tuesday
6 p.m.
Neal Flomenbaum, M.D.
Emergency Physician-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital / Weill Cornell Medical Center
“Emergency Medicine in Lower Manhattan in the late 1800's: Everything Old is New Again” Co-sponsored with NYAM's Section on the History of Medicine and Public Health
New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue
- January 24, 2012**
Tuesday
5 p.m.
Charles Bryan, M.D.
Heyward Gibbes Distinguished Professor of Internal Medicine Emeritus
University of South Carolina School of Medicine
“Medical Professionalism for Generations X, Y, and Z: Does William Osler's 'Master-Word in Medicine' (that is, 'Work') still Ring True?” Co-sponsored with the WCMC Division of Medical Ethics
Weill Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, Room A126
- March 20, 2010**
Tuesday
5 p.m.
Peter G. Wilson, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medical College
Psychiatry at NYH-WCMC 1791-2012
Weill Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, Room A126

The Heberden Society, which seeks to promote an interest in the history of medicine, was founded at the medical center in 1975. The society is named after Sir William Heberden the younger (1767-1845), who served as physician to King George III of England, the sovereign who granted a royal charter for The New York Hospital in 1771. With funding from the Office of the Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College, the society sponsors a series of lectures during each academic year.

Heberden Society lectures are free and open to the public. We hope that you will join us for one or more lectures. Please refer all questions about the Society and its programming to Lisa Mix, lim2026@med.cornell.edu.

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2011-2012 Lecture Series, UAB Historical Collections, the University of Alabama at Birmingham

September 15: "Traditional Hawaiian Healing and Western Influence," Kathryn Hilgenkamp, Ed.D., LPC-S, LPC, CHES, Private Counseling Practitioner and Academic Advisor/Associate Professor, Webster University

October 19: "Science, Identity and Southern Medicine: Spurious Vaccination during the American Civil War, 1861-1865," Shauna Devine, PhD, Duke University

November 10: "Medicine is a Man's Game?" : Women Physicians in the Movies," Patricia E. Gallagher, MLS, MA, AHIP, Reference Librarian, New York Academy of Medicine

February 3 - 33rd Annual Reynolds Lecture: "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln," Carl R. Boyd, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Mercer University School of Medicine

March 22: "The Dawning of the Great Age of Librarians: Breaking the Barriers of Time and Space," T. Scott Plutchak, MLS, AHIP, Director, UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

April 12: "Medicine and Memory in the Oral Histories of Alabama's Black Physicians," Jack D. Ellis, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama in Huntsville

All lectures are in the Lister Hill Library, 3rd floor, and begin at 12 noon, with the exception of the February 3 lecture which is scheduled for 4pm. Additional information may be found [here](#).

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BOOK REVIEWS

Cunningham, Andrew. *The Anatomist Anatomis'd; An Experimental Discipline in Enlightenment Europe* (Surrey, UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2010) xxii, 443 pages, ill., 24 cm. \$134.95. ISBN 9780754663386

This reviewer has a habit of conducting an overview of the contents of any work of non-fiction before beginning in earnest to read and was immediately struck by Andrew Cunningham's generous use of illustrations. The author intentionally printed them in small scale and black-and-white to serve as hints of the originals. He urges anyone interested, which should delight curators everywhere, "to go and seek out the physical originals in a specialised library – not on the internet – in order to appreciate their sheer size and the artistic and technical skill they embody." (p. xxii) He provides a detailed list of the 112 illustrations with full citations to facilitate such an inquiry.

Cunningham declares his intention "to provide something of a snapshot of the practice of anatomy as one of the major investigative disciplines of the period" (p.11) He clearly states that he does not plan to write a comprehensive history of anatomy, of anatomists or of anatomizing and this is clearly reflected in his outline-like table of contents. The author refers to the period covered by the book, from around 1650 to around 1800, as the "long eighteenth century" which he considers the high point of anatomy.

The first chapter reviews anatomical tradition and places it in context to provide contrast with successor disciplines in the nineteenth century. The second chapter focuses on the why, how, where, and what of anatomy and the audiences it attracted. In the process Cunningham discusses the anatomical dynasties of the Bartholins, the Albinus family, the Monros, and the Hunters as well as the schools of Horne and Malpighi. He examines the various royal institutions in Paris, primary among them the Jardin du Roi, which were the center of anatomical research and teaching during this period. Then, he briefly touches on the role of women who were principally subjects of dissection.

Cunningham devotes chapter three to experimental anatomy and its sub-disciplines: physiology, generation and man-midwifery, and pathology. An additional sub-discipline, comparative anatomy, is treated at length in chapter five. Human bodies, their acquisition, preservation, representation, and dissemination, are examined in detail in chapter four. The author carefully describes wet and dry preparations and injections for preserving bodies and the use of wax modeling to replace corpses. He describes and

compares the methods of anatomical portrayal by Albinus and Cheselden in their respective atlases. He closes with a review of a half dozen “warm” anatomical controversies.

In sharp contrast to our current sensibility that vivisection is cruel, the practice was common during the long eighteenth century. Hundreds of thousands of creatures – every kind of animal, bird, fish, and insect both domestic and exotic – were vivisected or experimented on by anatomists. The author touchingly dedicates his book in memory of Clara, the rhinoceros who was toured around Europe by a Dutchman for almost twenty years, as a representative of all animals sacrificed by anatomists. Cunningham carefully examines the meaning of comparative anatomy in this fifth chapter; however, he devotes what seems to be a disproportionate amount of space to George Stubbs and his dissection of the horse.

Cunningham concludes that while anatomical knowledge would continue to be valid to modern times, the discipline of anatomy and its status was changed within the span of several decades. Old anatomy was “no longer the star of the sciences of life.” (p. 368) The French Revolution and its aftermath ushered in the modern world in all learned fields. By the 1790s the sacred ritual purpose of public anatomical demonstration was lost and was subsequently judged solely as a teaching event. For the last two hundred years, it has been a closed event for scientific and medical experts only. The controversy surrounding the public autopsy performed by Dr. Gunther von Hagens in London in 2002 only serves to underscore this change.

Andrew Cunningham, a member of the faculty of the University of Cambridge, has written a scholarly and engaging treatment of the discipline of anatomy. This reviewer found it so enjoyable that she was especially disappointed to discover a badly garbled acknowledgement repeated a half dozen times, sometimes more than once on a page, each one slightly different, but all incorrect. (p. xvii, 357, 358, 436) The correct identification is the Yale Center for British Art which it should be noted was established by Paul Mellon, not Getty, in New Haven, Connecticut. An additional error would have escaped mention except that the author declares the image on the dust jacket, which he identifies as by Valsalva, to be his favorite in the whole history of anatomy. (p. xxii) The image is actually by Valverde and is correctly cited elsewhere. These copy editing errors aside, the author unquestionably accomplished his goals in a book that would be a fine addition to any undergraduate or graduate collection, but with special value to those interested in history of medicine.

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Freidenfelds, Lara. *The Modern Period: Menstruation in Twentieth-Century America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) 256 p., \$62 ISBN 9780801892455

Lara Freidenfelds' *The Modern Period*, based on her 2003 Ph.D. dissertation in the History of Science from Harvard University, covers a great topic that until the mid-1990s was insufficiently discussed. Those unfamiliar with the history of menstruation will find it approachable, with a length of around 200 pages. Those more familiar with the history of menstruation and women's health in 20th century America may find some gaps, particularly in its discussion of the later period. The author does a good job with the first half of the 20th century and of placing the history of menstruation within the context of early 20th century concepts of modernity and emerging middle class values. By using the term "modern period," she cleverly contextualizes popular conceptions of American modernity as she describes the dramatic shift in how women experienced their periods after the introduction and popularization of commercial menstrual products starting with Kotex in the 1920s.

She nicely integrates quotations and perspectives from her 75 interviewees, women and a few men, who describe how their experiences of menstruation related to advice of the sex education experts, menstrual product manufacturers, and advertisers. She covers the full range of the 20th century by including those who menstruated before widespread use of modern menstrual technology as well as those entering menarche after the 1970s. The racial and ethnic background of the interviewees included 17 white New Englanders, 14 African Americans from the rural South, and 31 post-1960 Chinese immigrants and their children. The 13 others included some from Jewish and Protestant white backgrounds. While a bit more racial and ethnic diversity would have been nice, Freidenfelds acknowledges the limitations of the snowball method of interview selection and explains why she chose to use the Chinese- American case study. I was more disappointed with the lack of any self-described feminist interviewees. The Chinese-American voices dominate the discussion of menstruation after 1970, and her interviewees tended to be conservative in their choice of menstrual products. That era

saw the introduction of improved modern menstrual products when adhesive tape replaced belts and new, super absorbent materials and fabrics allowed greater variety in the sizes and shapes of pads.

In her chapter on tampons, she begins with a description of the medical profession's initial reluctance in the 1930s and 1940s to accept tampons as safe. I expected a more thorough discussion of toxic shock syndrome and the case of Proctor and Gamble's Rely tampons, the brand most closely linked to TSS in the early 1980s. Freidenfelds' interviewees seemed to be dominated by reluctant tampon users rather than those who enthusiastically tried the super absorbent Rely before abandoning it in the wake of TSS. She briefly discusses use of the menstrual cup, a diaphragm-like device that collects rather than absorbs menstrual blood, and the 2003 introduction of Seasonale, the oral contraceptive which promised menstrual bleeding every 3 months. She does a nice job in her conclusion describing the FDA's reaction to Seasonale's failure to deliver as advertised.

The book's dust jacket is boring – much like the brown paper used to cover Kotex and hide their contents in grocery and drug stores during the first half of the 20th century. A book on this topic really needs to include more visual examples, especially of the menstrual product advertisements themselves. Perhaps that was a constraint from the publisher, Johns Hopkins University Press, rather than the author's decision.

The history of menstrual products and their advertising is covered in chapter 4, "The Modern Way to Manage Menstruation: Technology and Bodily Practices." The description of advertising up to 1945 was thorough and richly described yet only included two illustrations of ads themselves, the introduction of Kotex and the Modess "Modernizing Mother " campaign, both from the 1920s. The description of post-1970s menstrual advertising was thin. This is especially disappointing given that the 1970s and 1980s was the era when adhesive tape replaced belts and new super absorbent substances and fabrics allowed a proliferation of products like maxi thins, dry-weave, wings, panty liners, etc. The book also leaves out one of the more celebrated advertising campaigns, "Modess because." This campaign, advertised from the late 1940s to early 1960s, featured beautiful full color images of women in evening gowns and the simple tagline "Modess because." The answer to the "because" was left to the reader's imagination. The description of discussions, taken from corporate archives, that menstrual product executives and advertisers had about their products was fascinating, leaving me wanting to learn more about their interpretations of what women wanted from

their menstrual products. A discussion of campaigns like “Modess because” would have illustrated the transition from the era when the products educated women about how to have a modern period, to an era when menstrual control was hidden in plain sight. Some of her interviewees make a similar point, describing how products were hidden in predictable places such as under the bathroom cabinet, discoverable by male household members but not discussed openly.

The book is especially weak in its discussion of menstruation in post modern America and how the women’s health movement and feminism challenged the dominant concept of the modern period. Freidenfelds includes references to feminist histories of menstruation and women’s bodies in her footnotes, so she is well-versed in the literature. The decision not to discuss the feminist approach to menstruation seems to be deliberate. None of her interviewees are identified as feminist in their approach to menstruation, although she does include an example of environmental concerns about disposable menstrual products. Freidenfelds fails to even mention the women’s health movement, which is surprising given the role of books like *Our Bodies Ourselves* in providing a feminist sex education literature. She does discuss the implications of Title IX on girls’ participation in athletics and how changes in the “modern way to behave during menstruation” (chapter 3) evolved over the century to enable girls by the late 20th century to play sports without question.

To compare the book to the menstrual products it describes, this is a Kotex - conservative, adequate as an initial introduction, but not fully covering the needs of those who want to read a more robust history of women’s bodies. I wanted a book more comparable to the menstrual cup, post modern, innovative, of greater volume, and that meets the needs of active students and scholars of the history of women’s health.

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Blum, Deborah. *The Poisoner’s Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York* (New York: Penguin Press, 2010)

336 p., \$25.95. ISBN 978-1594202438

A friend was reading this book, and I was intrigued by the title. I found a copy at the library and checked it out immediately. This book is not what you might expect from the short title; the subtitle provides a much clearer idea of the subject matter. The author, a Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer, examines the beginnings of forensic medicine in New York City and the physicians and scientists that were pioneers in the field, but until now have remained mostly unknown to the general (and probably most of the scientific) public.

Up until the twentieth century, the easiest way to commit murder and to get away with it was by poisoning the victim. There were few tools available to detect toxic materials in a corpse, so that a murderer could use a variety of poisons without fear of being suspected. Many of the symptoms of poisoning mimicked those of common illnesses of the time such as pneumonia and tuberculosis. While New York City had a coroner's office, the job was filled by the elective process and those elected were usually party hacks who knew very little about examining a body for evidence. That changed in 1918 with the unexpected and politically charged appointment of pathologist Charles Norris, MD, as chief medical examiner. Norris believed that the city needed to hire doctors and scientists to assist in criminal investigations. Though the position paid less than research or private and hospital practice, and a less than enthusiastic mayor immediately had the office's budget cut, Norris persevered, using his own money to buy needed equipment and donating the use of his personal automobile to his work. Norris recruited forensic chemist, Alexander Gettler, to head up the new toxicology laboratory. Gettler too carried an extremely heavy workload and paid a much-needed lab assistant out of his own pocket. According to Blum, these two men created the field of forensic science as it is known today.

The book is arranged in chapters by the type of poison, with each concentrating on a particular substance, beginning with chloroform and ending with Thallium, each usually illustrated by a court case in which Norris, Gettler, or both provided evidence. Sometimes they testified for the prosecution, sometimes for the defense, their main interest being the truth, a real scientific truth. In the early years, they were ridiculed and often times the judge or the jury did not give credence to this emerging scientific field. The cases in which the court did not accept their testimony as reliable haunted them for the rest of their lives. As the years went by, the work done by Norris and Gettler became more and more accepted and their expertise was called upon by others outside New York City.

Blum writes in a readable style, meant for the lay person, not the academic scientist. Even so, she includes a lot of scientific information, including chemical compounds of the various poisons and the symptoms experienced by the victims of these substances. Woven within the narrative is a brief history of New York City, especially in regards to Prohibition.

Those who love to read murder mysteries or watch police or detective dramas on television will get a kick out of this non-fiction account of the beginnings of forensic science less than 100 years ago. Those who are interested in science and/or medicine should find this equally interesting. This is an interesting read and is as much fun as it is educational – a perfect combination!

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Thomas, Gregory M. *Treating the Trauma of the Great War: Soldiers, Civilians, and Psychiatry in France, 1914-1940* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2009) ix, 259 p. \$39.95. ISBN 9780807134368

Gregory M. Thomas attacks a very difficult subject in his monograph on the evolution of psychiatric practice in France from the onset of the Great War to the days immediately preceding the second major world war of the twentieth century. Unexplainable physical and mental symptoms began showing themselves in patients across France soon after the fighting began in the summer of 1914. Even the president of the country could not escape the effects of overwork, trauma, and exhaustion, succumbing to these by exhibiting some pretty bizarre behavior in 1920. Rest cures were prescribed; patients were expected to recover within a short amount of time.

Thomas makes a good argument that the reactions of some to the horrors of the First World War and the emergence and acceptance of the medical specialties of psychiatry and neurology went hand-in-hand. With the main purpose of returning soldiers to the battlefield, there was a need for specialists in the area of mental illness to treat those patients with physical and mental symptoms, but no obvious physical wounds. The

physicians needed a new understanding of the effects of war on individuals; they needed to use that understanding to provide better options for care and treatment; and in turn this new knowledge thrust this new specialty forward in a fashion that would not have happened under other circumstances.

From the very onset of the war, French physicians took note of those soldiers exhibiting these seemingly unexplainable symptoms. Some doctors fought to improve treatment for the soldiers and civilians alike who were traumatized by their experiences and yet did not respond to traditional rest cures. Sides were drawn between those who believed there must be a physiological reason for this and those that saw this as weakness and an attempt to avoid their duty. These opposing points of view were never fully resolved. Twenty-five years later, as World War II was approaching, the French were still treating some victims of “shell shock” as malingerers. Thomas outlines how the military, the medical profession, and the government all contributed to, as well as tried to change, this perception.

Not only does the author examine the history of psychiatry and neurology in France, he also delves into the history of “shell shock,” French political and social history, and the history of the treatment of French veterans and their families. He looks at the change in treatment of the mentally ill, the role of grief in relation to suicide attempts and diagnoses of insanity, and the eventual decentralized nature of the diagnosis and treatment of those suffering from adverse mental effects of their war experiences. This is not an “easy” read: the subject is complex and sometimes difficult to comprehend, but that is the nature of any analysis of war, psychiatry, or cultural change. By reviewing the conclusions of each chapter, this reviewer gained a new appreciation for the depth and type of the research needed to put together such a volume, on a topic that could have overwhelmed many other scholars.

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