

ISSN 1553-7641

WATERMARK

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

Volume XXXV

Number 4

Fall 2012



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Cover Image: Serviceman having leg x-rayed by Captain Edwin C. Ernst, who is shown holding X-ray plate over the patient's leg. Base Hospital No. 21, Rouen, France. See page 10.

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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.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Our members have not been idle over this past Summer as evidenced by this Fall issue of *The Watermark*. There are eight – count 'em, eight – book reviews included in this issue, perhaps a record for the publication. Kudos go to Book Review Editor Patricia Gallagher, Associate Book Review Editor, Jon Erlen, and of course to our reviewers who have provided thoughtful insights on several important recent titles in the history of the health sciences.

My hope is that more members will be inspired by the example of their peers and provide *The Watermark* with a copious stream of articles on their activities– as well as, of course, even more book reviews.

Best wishes,
Stephen E. Novak

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

A short time ago I sent out a survey to the ALHHS listserv on behalf of the Programming and Local Arrangements committees to help us plan for the upcoming annual meeting. I would like to thank the number of people who took the time to write back – your input is very much appreciated. The results will be used to plan a meeting that, by addressing the issues of greatest concern, will be as useful and stimulating to the membership as possible. This exercise has made me realise that professional meetings and conferences can be an interesting way to get a handle on the zeitgeist of our profession. If well planned, meetings will address the most pressing concerns of our times and hopefully provide useful guidance and advice for dealing with them. Some of our institutions see the value in these and not only provide opportunities for us to attend, but also ask that attendees report back to colleagues so that others can benefit as well. I would ask that those of you who attend conferences and meetings that you find interesting consider doing

something similar with your ALHHS colleagues. I have discussed this with Stephen Novak and he would be happy to consider submissions of reports to The Watermark. It would be really great if those of you attending the either the large annual meetings of groups like the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL, the Society of American Archivists, the Medical Library Association or other interesting learning experiences would take some time to share what you discovered with your colleagues. This would help to strengthen the ALHHS as a community of professionals helping each other.

And speaking of sharing, I would like to share with you a comment we received from our survey. Almost everyone indicated that what they liked best about the meetings was getting to know and talk to colleagues working in our specialty. Dawn McInnes, a rare book librarian at the Clendening History of Medicine Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center, put it nicely when she wrote that the “ALHHS meetings are one of my few opportunities to meet with librarians (and archivists) employed in similar libraries. Because of ALHHS, I have numerous professionals I can use as sounding boards or for reference help when I need them. I use these connections to personally contact librarians when I need to ask for specific favors.” Regardless of the way in which we get to know each other, it is nice to know that we are there for each other.” So, whether it is in person, in The Watermark, or volunteering to help out with the ALHHS, please feel encouraged to take an active part and contribute to our community.

Speaking of volunteering, I am happy to announce that Lisa Mix (lim2026@med.cornell.edu) has agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee and Tim Pennycuff (tpenny@uab.edu) as Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee. Please contact them if you are interested in serving on one of these. A detailed call will be posted on the listserv, but information about these committees can be found in the ALHHS Procedures manual on our website <http://www.alhhs.org/>. One encouragement for getting involved is that this would count as service to the profession for those of us going for tenure or promotion.

Best wishes,

Chris Lyons

Head Librarian

Osler Library of the History of Medicine

McGill University

christopher.lyons@mcgill.ca

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

History of Medicine Division Announces New Deputy Chief



National Library of Medicine Acting Associate Director for Library Operations Joyce Backus has announced the appointment of Kenneth Koyle to serve as deputy chief of the History of Medicine Division.

Mr. Koyle is a retired Army officer with more than 25 years of service. Since 2010, he has served as deputy chief of the US Army Medical Department's Center of History and Heritage (AMEDD) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In this capacity, he has been the executive officer of the Center and the sole active duty historian in the Army Medical Department, responsible with the chief of the Center for supervision of an 18-person staff of history, archives, and museum personnel and administration of a \$2.1M annual budget, as well as historical research in support of AMEDD and the Office of the Surgeon General.

Prior to his tenure at AMEDD, Mr. Koyle was a Medical History Fellow at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he received his Master's degree in history. He holds a second master's degree in adult education, from Penn State University.

NLM to Participate with Partners in “Shared Horizons: Data, Biomedicine, and the Digital Humanities” Symposium

NLM is pleased to announce its first initiative as part of its recently-established partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news/partnership_nlm_neh.html), which lays groundwork for the two institutions to cooperate on initiatives of common interest. NLM, a component of the National Institutes of Health, is the world's largest biomedical library.

Working in cooperation with the NEH's Office of Digital Humanities (<http://www.neh.gov/odh/>); Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities at the

University of Maryland (<http://mith.umd.edu>); and Research Councils UK (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/>), the NLM will be a part of "Shared Horizons: Data, Biomedicine, and the Digital Humanities," an interdisciplinary symposium exploring the intersection of digital humanities and biomedicine.

Scheduled to take place April 10-12, 2013, Shared Horizons will be a unique forum through which participants and their institutions will be able to address questions about collaboration, research methodologies, and the interpretation of evidence arising from the interdisciplinary opportunities in this burgeoning area of biomedical-driven humanities scholarship.

Shared Horizons will create opportunities for disciplinary cross-fertilization through a mix of formal and informal presentations combined with breakout sessions, all designed to promote a rich exchange of ideas about how large-scale quantitative methods can lead to new understandings of human culture. Bringing together researchers from the digital humanities and bioinformatics communities, the symposium will explore ways in which these two communities might fruitfully collaborate on projects that bridge the humanities and medicine around the topics of sequence alignment and network analysis, two modes of analysis that intersect with "big data."

For more information, including the call for attendees, please visit:

<http://www.mith.umd.edu/sharedhorizons/>

HMD to Launch IndexCat User Survey

The History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine is planning a major update of its IndexCat database, the online version of the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office. To maximize the usefulness of this update, interested parties may take part in a brief survey so HMD may better understand current use of IndexCat and what new features might be offered in the future. Access to the survey will be made available via appropriate listservs, including ALHHS-L

For direct access to IndexCat, please visit <http://indexcat.nlm.nih.gov/>

For more information about IndexCat, including its contents and development, please visit: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/indexcat/aboutic.html> Questions concerning the survey can be directed to Stephen Greenberg at greenbes@mail.nih.gov.

***“Pick Your Poison: Intoxicating Pleasures and Medical Prescriptions”*: New Exhibit**

The National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce a new special display, *Pick Your Poison: Intoxicating Pleasures and Medical Prescriptions*. This unique project, featuring items from the National Library of Medicine’s historical collection as well as from the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, will open to the public in the History of Medicine Division Reading Room, on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, August 27, 2012 to April 12, 2013.

Mind-altering drugs have been used throughout the history of America. While some remain socially acceptable, such as alcohol, others, like heroin and cocaine, are now outlawed because of their toxic, and intoxicating, characteristics. These classifications have shifted at different times in history, and they will continue to change.



Advertisement for Vin Mariani, a tonic containing red wine and cocaine, from the “Pick Your Poisons” exhibit.

The transformation of a particular drug, from an acceptable indulgence or medical treatment to a bad habit, or vice versa, is closely tied to the intentions and their status in society of those endorsing its use. Yet these substances have often served the same ends whether administered for prescription or for pleasure—to treat pain and illness, to ease the hardships of work and daily life, or to feed an addiction.

Pick Your Poison explores some of the factors that have shaped the changing definition of some of our most potent drugs in a special display featuring rare books and ephemera from the collection of the National Library of Medicine, historic artifacts from the National Museum of American History, and photographs from the Library of Congress.

For a tour of the special display at NLM in Bethesda, please contact: NLMExhibition@mail.nih.gov or call 301.594.1947.

HMD Adds Collections in World War I Ephemera and Latin American Public Health

The History of Medicine Division has made major additions to its collections in the areas of World War I ephemera and Latin American public health.



Enlisted Staff of Army Nurses – American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 1, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, from the Sheetz-Nguyen donation

1917 to 1919. The hospital was put together by Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. The album documents the activities of field X-ray unit. Ms. Ginny Roth, Curator of the Prints and Photographs Collection, is the point of contact for further information about these materials.

Dr. Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen donated 788 items to the Library's Prints and Photographs Collection, consisting of World War I-era photographs, postcards, and ephemera. The materials were created and collected by her grandfather, Roy Bard Sheetz, during his time in the war. This collection complements a recently-purchased

photographic album of World War I Base Hospital No. 21, located in Rouen, France, from

The Historical Audiovisuals Collection has received the first of a continuing donation of films from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), a constituent of the World Health Organization, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Almost one hundred titles have already been received, with additional donations expected over the next several years. Most are public health films in Spanish. Because the bulk of the collection is film-based, reformatting will be necessary to ensure preservation and access. Queries about the PAHO film collection may be directed to the Archivist of the Historical Audiovisuals collection, Dr. Nancy Dosch, at: doschn@mail.nih.gov

NLM Adds Rare Horse Veterinary Book to Turning the Pages Interactive Interface

The National Library of Medicine announces the release of a new Turning the Pages virtual book on its Web site (<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/ttp/v2/books/#!/andrew-snapes-anatomy-of-an-horse/>), as well as in kiosks at NLM. The new project features selections from *The Anatomy of an Horse*, by Andrew Snape, farrier to King Charles II of England.

Andrew Snape's *The Anatomy of an Horse*, printed in London in 1683, is one of the most comprehensive and beautifully illustrated books about the horse published in Britain in the 17th century. Little is actually known about Andrew Snape (1644-1708), who appears to have been the "junior farrier to His Majesty," King Charles II, and claims in his preface to be a member of a dynasty of farriers to the king stretching back over two centuries.

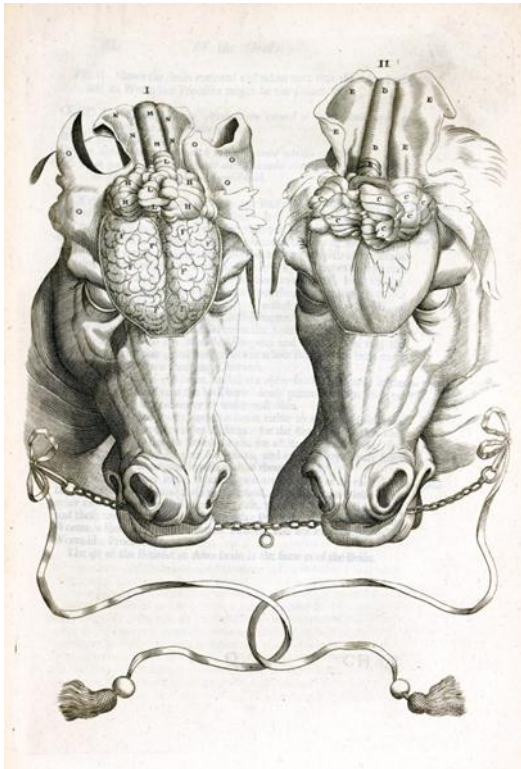


Illustration from Snape's "Anatomy of an Horse."

The *Anatomy* contains numerous beautiful engravings of horses, mainly on the dissecting table, as structures from the digestive system, heart, brain, musculature and the skeleton are artfully displayed along with curatorial text by NLM's staff.

Farriers were generally blacksmiths whose primary duty was making shoes for horses and applying them to the animal's feet, but they often took on other tasks in horse care as well, including treating illnesses such as the glanders (a common equine sinus infection), the botts (a parasite), or lameness. They also applied surgical remedies for horses such as purgatives and bloodletting. Farriers were usually illiterate tradespeople who learned

their craft through an apprenticeship and "practiced" in the military's cavalry, on a gentleman's estate, or in a village or town. Until the prevalence of the automobile, horses were some of the most important animals to humans, providing transportation, battle power, and heft, and horses were often the most valuable possession of a middle

class family or were often a powerful symbol of prestige among the wealthy, nobility, and gentry.

The NLM holds one of the largest collections of early books relating to veterinary medicine dating before the year 1800, and the huge majority of these relate to the care and healing of horses. Those with an interest in the history of veterinary medicine or in the history of horse care are welcome to visit the History of Medicine Division of the Library to view or use these materials. For more information, please contact the History of Medicine Division at 301-402-8878.

Launched at NLM in 2001, Turning the Pages is part of a continuing collaboration between the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications and the History of Medicine Division.

Jeffrey S. Reznick

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

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NEWS FROM THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

Papers of Roger Altounyan Available for Research

We are pleased to announce that the [papers of Roger E. C. Altounyan \(1922-1987\)](#) have now been catalogued and are available for research. His life and career bring together self-experimentation, medical breakthroughs and a classic of British children's literature.

Roger Altounyan was a member of a distinguished Anglo-Armenian medical dynasty. His grandfather, born in Turkey, undertook medical education in the USA and Germany in the early twentieth century and founded a hospital in Aleppo, Syria. His father, Ernest, took over the running of this hospital and after qualifying in medicine Roger Altounyan worked there for a few years until changes in the political situation meant the family had to leave in 1955.

During his childhood, the family enjoyed a sailing holiday in the Lake District with [Arthur Ransome](#), a friend of his mother's family, an association which led Ransome to write the much-loved children's classic [Swallows and Amazons \(1930\)](#) and its sequels, in which Ship's Boy Roger Walker was based on Roger Altounyan, who remained very keen on small boat sailing in later life.

After education at Abbotsholme School (where he suffered from severe eczema), Roger Altounyan returned to Aleppo in 1939, and on the outbreak of World War II joined the RAF. He became a bomber pilot with particular responsibility for the development of low-level night flying procedures, and received the Air Force Cross in 1945. He then studied medicine at Cambridge and the Middlesex Hospital, qualifying in 1952, when he returned to Aleppo. After the family had to leave, he returned to England and found a job working for Bengers, a subsidiary of Fisons Pharmaceuticals and subsequently absorbed by them. He also undertook clinics in the chest departments of Manchester hospitals.



Altounyan had developed asthma while a medical student and was particularly interested in finding a remedy. In order to examine the effects of various substances in a human subject he would induce attacks in order to record his response. The collection includes a substantial series of spirometer readings he took of these experiments using the equipment illustrated, recently, as part of an exhibition at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland on the [history of asthma](#).

This led to the development of Intal (disodium cromoglycate) from a Middle Eastern folk remedy, Khellin. Although Altounyan and his colleagues were told to stop pursuing the line of research they had begun, they continued in secret with such success that Intal was passed through the necessary processes of approval and put into production with unusual alacrity.

Altounyan's papers are particularly strong on work on Intal and other products during his period at Fisons; they also reflect his increasing international profile, in a series of files relating to talks and lectures given at a geographically broad range of venues. There is also a substantial amount of correspondence with colleagues as well as some material on working at Fisons generally.

Altounyan's daring yet careful and responsible risk-taking in the interests of advancing understanding of asthma and its relief recalls the famous telegram that opens the action of *Swallows and Amazons*: "Better drowned than duffers if not duffers won't drown."

Wellcome Film Added to the Medical Heritage Library

We are delighted to announce the Wellcome Library has become a content contributor to the [Medical Heritage Library](#), with [Wellcome Film](#) being added to the Medical Heritage Library's online content.



An online digital collection of moving images from the collections of the Wellcome Library, Wellcome Film chronicles the history of medicine over the last hundred years and has been freely available in Internet Archive since 2010. The content of Wellcome Film includes [rare footage of Sir Henry Wellcome \(1853-1936\)](#) filmed at the archaeological digs he funded in the Sudan in 1910s, alongside films exploring the development of medicine in the twentieth century, including specific [surgical techniques](#) and [drug treatments](#).

As a content provider, the Wellcome Library becomes the latest historical institution to make its collections available through the MHL. The MHL was established in 2010, with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation via the Open Knowledge Commons, to digitize 30,000 rare medical books. Now, over two years later, nearly 40,000 books, videos, and audio recordings are freely available online, with content provided from many of the leading history of medicine libraries (a full list of the MHL's content providers is available on their [website](#)).

Online Access to UK Medical Registers

The printed volumes of the UK Medical Registers are one of our key research resources, and are particularly utilised by genealogical researchers. After a successful trial period, all registered Wellcome Library users now have [online access](#) to the Registers through our new subscription to Ancestry Library Edition.

The Medical Registers were published annually, and list all the doctors who were licensed to practice in the UK, including foreign doctors who qualified here. Residence, qualification and date of registration are also included. The online version contains the Registers at four-yearly intervals from 1859-1959, and is available to our registered readers both within the Library and offsite.

The Registers are part of a suite of family history sources on Ancestry Library Edition, including census records, births marriages and deaths, and parish records – all now available online to our registered readers.

More details on how to access the Registers online are available through the [Library catalogue](#).

New European Library Portal Goes Live

The [European Library's](#) new portal has recently gone live.



Designed to meet the needs of the research community worldwide, the portal means you can now cross-search nearly 10 million digital items from 48 of Europe's national and research libraries – including the Wellcome Library.

Through its portal, the European Library makes the resources of Europe's libraries, including many [special collections](#), accessible to the public. The European Library is also the library aggregator for [Europeana](#) - an internet portal that acts as an interface to millions of books, paintings, films, museum objects and archival records that have been digitised throughout Europe.

For regular updates on the work of the Wellcome Library, see our Blog (<http://wellcomelibrary.blogspot.com>) or follow us on Twitter

(<http://twitter.com/wellcomelibrary>)

Ross MacFarlane

Research Officer

Wellcome Library

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MEMBER PROFILES

MAIJA ANDERSON

Member of ALHHS since: summer 2012

Hometown: Auburn, California



Current Employer and Position: Head of [Historical Collections & Archives](#), Oregon Health & Science University

Education: B.A. Art History, University of Oregon; M.A. Art History, University of Chicago; M.A. Library and Information Science, University of Missouri-Columbia

Professional interests: I direct a busy special collections department that incorporates the university archives, manuscript collections, rare books, and a museum collection. I also manage a long-running oral history program, and coordinate a public lecture series on the history of medicine. The primacy of access, outreach, and service to the researcher guide my daily work in the department, as well as my professional service and scholarship.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I have a background in art history, and working with medical history collections has turned out to be a wonderful complement to my interest in visual culture, and how we use images to communicate. I moved to Portland about 2 years ago, and take every opportunity to enjoy its culture and outdoor beauty.



SCOTT GRIMWOOD

Member of ALHHS since: 2005

Hometown: Dearborn, MI

Current Employer and Position: Corporate Manager of Archives, SSM Health Care, St. Louis, MO

Education: BA (History) University of Michigan-Dearborn, 1986; MLIS (with Certificate in Archival Administration) Wayne State University, 1995

Professional interests: As the sole archivist for a Catholic health care system consisting of 17 hospitals, plus other entities, in four states (not including the facilities we used to operate but no longer do) requires me not only to wear many hats but also to be able to shift gears quickly. The Corporate Archives acts as a historical resource center for SSM Health Care not only providing access to the archival collections but also helping our entities find ways to use their heritage. I also provide guidance to those entities that chose to maintain an on-site archival collection. In addition, I create

temporary exhibits for several events each year. Along with paper-based items, we also collect film, videos, artifacts, and increasingly, born-digital material.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I have been in the archives and records field for 25 years: starting out in local government records and archives, moving to commercial records storage, and then a non-profit foundation before coming to SSM 8 years ago. I am involved in several archival organizations, currently serving on the Program Committee for the 2013 Midwest Archives Conference's Annual Meeting and as chair of the Business Archives Section of SAA. Outside of the archival profession I have been an American Red Cross disaster volunteer for more than 7 years. I also enjoy travel, photography, and a good hard cider.

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COLLECTIONS

Franklin Martin Papers Open at American College of Surgeons



After a 10-year effort, archivists at the American College of Surgeons have completed the 54-page finding aid to the papers of ACS founder, Franklin Martin, MD, FACS, and his wife Isabelle. The 95 box collection includes:

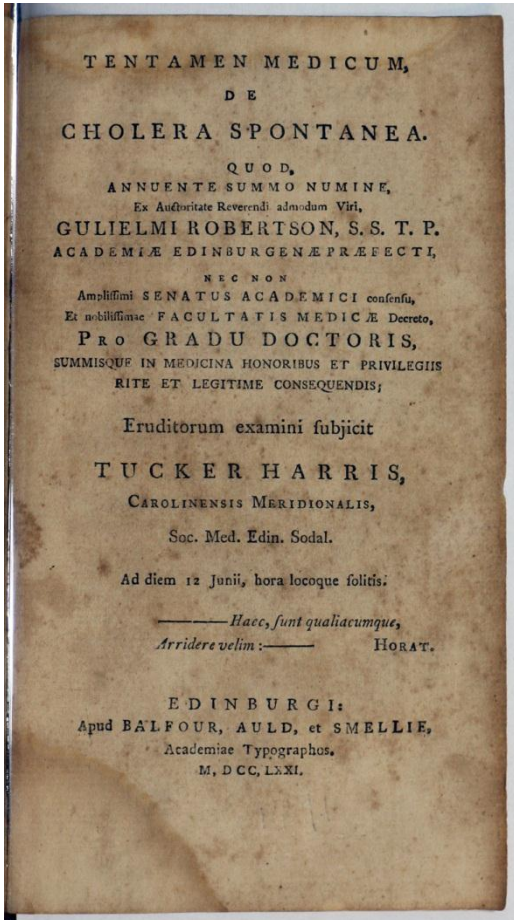
Records of Dr. Martin's early career, such as casebooks (1891–1917) and records of the Chicago hospitals and medical schools with which he was associated; Martin's diaries and scrapbooks (1901–1934), which the Martins called their "Memoirs," including 10 volumes documenting his experiences as Medical Director of President Woodrow Wilson's civilian arm of the Council of National Defense; and Martin's correspondence and hundreds of sympathy notes from after his death.

The downloadable pdf finding aid can be accessed at:

<http://www.facs.org/archives/martin-finding-aid.pdf>

For additional information about the Franklin Papers contact the ACS archivist, Susan Rishworth at srishworth@facs.org

An Old Treasure, Newly Discovered: Edinburgh Theses at the Waring Historical Library



Among the special collections and rare books housed in the Medical University of South Carolina's Waring Historical Library are 101 volumes of bound theses, most of them written by graduates of the University of Edinburgh and generically referred to as the Edinburgh Theses. Many of these volumes were bound specifically for Charleston physician (and Medical Society of South Carolina president) Dr. Tucker Harris, himself a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. The library's set includes 645 theses, published between 1678 and 1846 as a graduation requirement of the University of Edinburgh's medical school. Although they are collectively called the Edinburgh Theses, there are dozens of theses written by graduates of the University of Pennsylvania and the Medical College of South Carolina.

A small number (87) are written in English; the majority of the theses are in Latin. The Latin used is the classical Latin which the students would have learned in their education in European and American schools. Of special interest to the local community are the theses of forty-nine Edinburgh medical students identified as residents of either *Carolinensis Meridionalis* or *Carolinensis Australis*, both terms used to describe South Carolina. However, with the exceptions of New Hampshire and Connecticut, all of the original colonies are represented in these writings, as are Jamaica and San Salvador (Bahamas).

While most of the doctors dedicated their thesis to one or several of their medical professors, there are two dedications worth specific mention. Dr. Caspar Wistar

dedicated his thesis in 1786 to Benjamin Franklin with obvious affection. In that same year, Dr. George Bachmetiev from Russia, who wrote his thesis about smallpox, admiringly spoke of his patroness, the Empress Catherine the Great. Nine years before, Catherine had read a medical paper by Dr. Thomas Dimsdale, himself a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, about the new procedure of inoculation and its use in preventing smallpox. She brought Dr. Dimsdale to Russia and provided him with equipped hospitals. In 1768, she and her son Paul were inoculated against smallpox themselves, despite much opposition, including harsh letters from Fredrick the Great. Dr. Bachmetiev chose to honor his ruler's forward thinking in his dedication.

Subject matter among the theses is as interesting as it is broad. Fever and its treatment is the most popular subject; smallpox is the second. More modern concerns, such as diseases associated with tobacco usage and with lead-based paint are also addressed among the writings. Numerous theses address issues concerning pregnancy, childbirth, and illnesses occurring at those times in the lives of women. Cholera, pulmonary diseases, tetanus, rickets, and scurvy are also studied. One doctor studied the nature of freckles, while another illustrated his thesis on childhood fevers with an ink drawing of a mother cradling her sick child.

Although those diseases and conditions continued to be themes in the theses into the nineteenth century, there is a noticeable shift in subject matter as the 1800s begin. The scientific discoveries of the late 18th century are reflected in the writings of the Edinburgh doctors. Subject matter begins to focus on such topics as the chemistry of oxygen, the effect of light on respiration, atmospheric forces, and the nature of heat. Human senses were studied in writings about the sensations of music, how humans see color, and the burning effect of wine and spirits. A few theses touch upon the nascent science of psychology, with texts about hysteria, hypochondria, insanity, and personality. The next step in the Edinburgh Theses project is to update the catalog records both at the Medical University and in OCLC, so that people on and off campus know what riches can be found in our collection. Many of the theses in our collection are unique or rare and we look forward to sharing them with the world.

Cheryl Ann Ewing

Cheryl Ann Ewing is a volunteer at the Waring Historical Library. She is a retired Latin teacher who received her MA from Catholic University of America.

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Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology Expands Redesigned Website

Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WLM) is completing its most ambitious digitization project to date. The Museum remains the preeminent Internet source on anesthesiology's history. With its long established physical location and extensive collection, the [WLM website](#) expands online availability of their rare book collections, living history videos, museum pieces, and archives to the worldwide community.

"Our digitization efforts support our WLM mission by preserving our collections and providing worldwide access to those who would not be able to visit us otherwise," said WLM Librarian Karen Bierterman. "We've recently begun to add free digital copies of our WLM publications on our web site."

Notably, free for download PDF [e-books](#) and living history videos have been added. Originally published by WLM in 1998, *The Genesis of Surgical Anesthesia*, by Norman Bergman M.D., provides an expansive and complete survey of the history of anesthesiology from antiquity. Before 1846, when anesthesia was first demonstrated in surgery, the march toward modern anesthesia depended on prior developments in anatomy, chemistry, and physiology. An anesthesiologist himself, the author uses a modern perspective to explain how ineffective anesthetic-like substances ultimately led to practical applications.

Also added to the online literature is volume one of *Careers in Anesthesiology: Autobiographical Memoirs Series* (1997 to 2008) and parts one through five of *The History of Anesthesiology Reprint Series*.

Careers in Anesthesiology is a primary source for historians. Edited by B. Raymond Fink, this volume is an anthology of autobiographical memoirs of the field's leaders. A newer generation will draw inspiration and gain an appreciation of this rich heritage. Likewise, *The History of Anesthesiology Reprint Series* has authoritative topical articles illustrating specific historical themes.

Continuing the tradition of maintaining film and video archives, the [John W. Pender Living History Series](#) has expanded its online presence. Visitors can instantly view titles of outstanding anesthesiologists speaking about their lives and profession.

Located within the American Society of Anesthesiologists' headquarters in Park Ridge, IL, the medical library has over 14,000 books, biographies, journals, newsletters, digital

photos and images. The multimedia collection includes extensive audio, film and video content providing historical insights of anesthesiology's history. The museum has hundreds of items on exhibit with equipment, devices, awards, and memorabilia covering every era.

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EVENTS

Ivy Farr McIntyre Wins 2012 W. Curtis Worthington, Jr., Research Paper Competition

The Waring Historical Library at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) announced that the winner of the 2012 W. Curtis Worthington, Jr. Research Paper Competition is Ivy Farr McIntyre, a history Ph.D. candidate at St. Louis University (Missouri), for her paper, "I Thought Mamma Would Like to Hear": Elite Women's Preservation of Medical Knowledge in the Antebellum South."

McIntyre graduated summa cum laude from Wofford College with a B.A. in History and a B.S. in Psychology in 2008. She served as a Presidential International Scholar and traveled the world alone for a year on fellowship. In 2010, she earned her master's degree in History from the College of Charleston.

The W. Curtis Worthington Research Paper Competition is named for Dr. W. Curtis Worthington Jr., director of the Waring Historical Library. The Award was established to encourage students to contribute to the scholarship about the history of medicine and to reward those whose work is truly exemplary. This is the sixth year for the awards.

Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, Announces Heberden Society Lectures 2012-2013

September 27, 2012 Curtis W. Hart, M.Div.
Thursday Lecturer in Public Health, Medicine, Psychiatry
6 p.m. Weill Cornell Medical College
"Franklin Delano Roosevelt: a Famous Patient"

Co-sponsored with NYAM's Section on the History of Medicine and Public Health
New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue

Watermark

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November 1, 2012 Alfred Tauber, M.D.
Thursday Professor of Philosophy Emeritus,
5 p.m. Zoltan Kohn Professor Emeritus of Medicine
Boston University
"Requiem for the Ego: Freud Pushing against the Postmodern
Tide"

Co-sponsored with the WCMC Division of Medical Ethics
Weill Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, Room A126

January 23, 2013 David B. Levine, M.D.
Wednesday Emeritus Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
4:30 p.m. Weill Cornell Medical College
Director of Alumni Association & Archives, Hospital for Special
Surgery
"The Civil War and its Casualties"
Weill Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, Room A126

Followed by a reception at the WCMC Medical Library in conjunction with NLM's
travelling exhibit "Life and Limb: The Toll of the American Civil War"

May 14, 2013 Ellen Cohn, Ph.D.
Tuesday Editor-in-chief of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin
4:30 p.m. Yale University
Title TBA
Weill Cornell Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, Room A126

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, or see the website for additional
information.

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

Parascandola Publishes Papers

Ashgate Publishing recently published a collection of selected papers of John
Parascandola on the history of modern pharmacology and drug therapy in their *Variorum*

series of collected papers. The book brings together 19 of Parascandola's most important papers on these subjects.

The volume is divided into three topical sections. The first group of articles, devoted to pharmacological science and theory, focuses on the history of such key pharmacological concepts as receptor theory, structure-activity relationships, and the role of stereochemistry in physiological action. The second section focuses on the discipline of pharmacology, including the pivotal role played by John J. Abel in the shaping of the field, the development of pharmacology in schools of pharmacy and in the Federal Government, and the national pharmacological society's membership ban on pharmacologists working in industry. The final section on drug therapy discusses various drugs from antibiotics to sulfones and their use in the treatment of diseases such as leprosy and syphilis.

The bibliographic information on the book is as follows: John Parascandola, *Studies in the History of Modern Pharmacology and Drug Therapy* (Farnham, UK: Ashgate Variorum, 2012) (Variorum Collected Studies Series: CS991). The book is sold at a discount on the Ashgate website: <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409419761>

Susan Rishworth Publishes Article on Early African-American Physician

Susan Rishworth, Archivist at the American College of Surgeons, has published an article in the *Journal of the National Medical Association* on her research into the life of Verina Morton Jones, a pioneer woman African-American physician. Rishworth was able to discover significant new information on this now-obscure physician who was a leading figure in Brooklyn's African-American community in the late 19th and early 20th century. The article can be found in the JNMA, v. 104, n.3-4, p. 224-228:

http://www.nmanet.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=262&Itemid=389 and click the download icon.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists sponsors one \$5,000 fellowship in the history of American obstetrics and gynecology each year. The recipient

of the fellowship spends one month in the Washington, DC area working full-time to complete his or her specific historical research project.

Although the fellowship will be based in the College's History Library, the fellow is encouraged to use other national, historical, and medical collections in the Washington, DC area. The results of this research must be disseminated through either publication or presentation at a professional meeting.

Applications and further information about the fellowship can be obtained by contacting:

Debra G. Scarborough, Special Collections Librarian
Resource Center
The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
P.O. Box 96920
Washington, DC 20024-6920
(202) 863-2578
(202) 863-5401 (fax)
dscarborough@acog.org

The application form and additional information is also posted on the College website under "About ACOG" – "ACOG Departments" – "Resource Center" at <http://www.acog.org>

Applications must be received **by October 1, 2012**

Selection will be made and the recipient notified as soon as possible after the deadline so that the fellowship may begin as early as late Fall 2012.

Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Fellowship

The Moody Medical Library of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is pleased to offer the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Fellowship to support research related to the history of medicine conducted at the Moody Medical Library.

The Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Fellowship will provide between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for the period from January 2013 through December 2013. Upon completion, the recipient will deliver a paper at the University of Texas Medical Branch outlining the research, provide an

expense report, and deposit a copy of the final research product. The University of Texas Medical Branch also reserves the right to post excerpts from the work, a photograph and biographical material of the Fellow on our website <http://www.utmb.edu/>

The fellowship proposal must demonstrate that the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Collections contain resources central to the proposed topic. These collections consist of over 18,000 titles and 10,000 pamphlets and reprints documenting the development of Western medicine and allied sciences. The Moody Medical Library's holdings of books printed prior to 1501 place it among the top medical sciences libraries in the United States. Collection strengths include fundamental and secondary works in anatomy and surgery, anesthesiology, immunology, and occupational medicine. The Titus Harris Collection of the History of Psychiatry maintains over 4,500 volumes and is considered one of the most comprehensive accumulations of works on the subject.

The archival collections housed at the Moody Medical Library are among the largest and most significant in the history of the biomedical sciences in the southern United States. These collections provide records of state and national organizations, and professional societies in medicine and related fields in addition to the private and professional papers of University of Texas Medical Branch faculty, staff, students and alumni. An inclusive list of these archives may be found at the Texas Archival Resources Online website: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/index.html>

While preference will be given to applicants who live beyond commuting distance of Galveston, all are encouraged to apply, including graduate students. Applicants should submit a fellowship proposal outlining the subject and objectives of the research project and historical materials to be used (not to exceed 2 pages), a project budget including travel, lodging and research expenses, curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation by December 15th, 2012. Award decisions will be made by December 31st, 2012.

Applications should be mailed to:
Robert O. Marlin IV, Archivist
Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Collections
Moody Medical Library
University of Texas Medical Branch
301 University Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77555-1035

Waring Historical Library Announces W. Curtis Worthington, Jr., Undergraduate and Graduate Research Papers Competition

The Waring Library Society and the [Waring Historical Library](#) at the Medical University of South Carolina invite entries for the W. Curtis Worthington, Jr., Undergraduate and Graduate Research Papers Competition.

Papers entered in the Competition should represent original research in the history of the health sciences. They may cover any historical period and any cultural tradition. Paper topics may include – but are by no means limited to – public health policy and the social context of disease and health; the construction of the medical profession and medical institutions; gender and medical theory or practice; learned medical practitioners as social, political, and economic agents; notions of the human body as the subject of health, disease, and therapeutic intervention; medicine and natural philosophy/science; medicine and the humanities; and the development of health science disciplines such as nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and allied health fields.

Entries may not have been published previously, nor be submitted more than once. A person may submit only one entry each year. The same person may not win first prize during two consecutive years. This competition is open to any degree-seeking individual attending an accredited college or university. Additionally, interns and residents in accredited programs are eligible in the graduate category. Entries must be not fewer than 2,500 words nor more than 5,000 words (not including notes and bibliography). Photographs or illustrations should be included whenever possible or appropriate. Manuscripts should be submitted as a Word document or as an unformatted ASCII-preferred document. Send the completed application form as an attachment with your submission; do not include any personal identification information in the text of your submission. Entries must be received by May 31st in each contest year.

Winners agree to grant the Waring Historical Library and Waring Library Society both initial and subsequent publication rights in any manner or form without further compensation. Except as provided above, copyright ownership otherwise remains with the author.

One first prize of \$1,500 will be awarded each year to the winner in each category: undergraduate and graduate. The winning papers will be published in the Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association, subject to the review and requirements of its editor.

The WLS Awards Committee reserves the right to not give any or all awards in a particular year.

For more information about this competition, please contact the Waring Historical Library at 843-792-2288 or waringhl@musc.edu

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BOOK REVIEWS

Frank Boulton. *Still Counting: The Life, Times and Continuing Influence of Dr. Thomas Addis, M.D. 1881-1949.* York, England: William Sessions Limited, 2010. 316 pp. \$65.51. ISBN: 978-1850724032

Thomas Addis was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. His parents were Rev. Dr. Thomas Chalmers Addis, a Presbyterian minister, and Cornelia Beers-Campbell, who was born in New Orleans. Addis, therefore, had many American relatives. The Addis family appeared to be comfortably situated, as they had servants in the home. His mother home-schooled Thomas and his two younger siblings; Thomas was eight years old before he entered public school. The Addis children were raised in a disciplined, religious family with a strong work ethic.

Addis graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1908. He spent over a year in Germany learning urinalysis and studying hemophiliacs. In 1911 he was recruited by Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford University's School of Medicine, San Francisco, to study metabolic disorders. Over the next 30 years he developed a combined clinic and laboratory service for patients with renal disease, and stayed there until his death in 1949.

Addis was not only a clinical scientist and brilliant hematologist, he was also a pioneering nephrologist who made many contributions to renal physiology. One famous patient was Linus Pauling who, in 1941, was diagnosed with kidney disease and sought out Addis for help. Pauling was restored to full health after Addis devised a special diet for him.

A champion of the underdog and the poor in America, and a supporter of the Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War, Addis was chairman of the San Francisco chapter of the Spanish Refugee Appeal, which helped refugees from Franco's Spain. He visited the Soviet

Union in 1935, and was impressed with communism and the medical accomplishments he found there. He definitely had strong left-wing views but never joined the Communist Party. Apparently the FBI kept a file on him and it was probably fortunate he died before the “McCarthy Witch Hunts” of the 1950’s. As an enthusiastic proponent of socialized medicine, Addis made himself very unpopular with the American Medical Association.

In 1942 the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh honored Addis with The Cullen Prize “for the greatest benefit done to Practical Medicine,” a fitting tribute to a brilliant clinician and dedicated humanitarian.

This book contains a great deal of clinical information, and lengthy explanations on the genealogy of the Addis clan, which made it difficult to stay focused on the narrative. There were many aunts, uncles and cousins, lengthy descriptions of personalities and family intrigue, not to mention more than one male member named Thomas Addis.

Hilary J. Lane

Coordinator, History of Medicine Library
Mayo Clinic Library

Marilyn Gasman, with Louis W. Sullivan. *The Morehouse Mystique: Becoming a Doctor at the Nation’s Newest African American Medical School*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. 200 pages. \$35.00. ISBN 9781421404431

It must be difficult to write an even-handed history of a relatively new institution when most of its major players are still on the scene, but Marilyn Gasman, author of *Envisioning Black Colleges: A History of the United Negro College Fund* (2007), has succeeded admirably with *The Morehouse Mystique*. She carried out numerous interviews, consulted the archives, and put it all together – without getting bogged down by the technical details – in a highly readable fashion.

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, about a dozen medical schools had been established expressly for the medical education of African Americans (1). However, Abraham Flexner’s *Medical Education in the United States and Canada: A Report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching* (1910), usually known as “the Flexner Report,” found most of them seriously lacking, and following its recommendations, all but two (Howard, in Washington and Meharry, in Nashville) were closed. Morehouse School of Medicine has the distinction of being the first medical school established in the twentieth century at a Historically Black College and University

(HBCU), on the grounds of Morehouse College, a HBCU in Atlanta. Although the Charles Drew University (CDU) of Medicine and Science was incorporated in 1966, as an affiliate of UCLA, it was not, at that time, for a variety of political reasons, considered a HBCU (2).

Morehouse School of Medicine's integrated charter class of 24 students was charged with establishing practices for rural and urban underserved minorities. They entered a two-year basic sciences program in September, 1978 and thanks to a partnership with five area medical schools, continued on for their medical degrees. By 1981, Morehouse School of Medicine had been transformed into a four-year school.

Gasman does an excellent job of situating Morehouse School of Medicine's founding within, as she stated, "the larger expansion of medical education for Blacks and of race relations in Atlanta and the nation." There's much to be learned about the genuine assistance given by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter and influential members of Congress in the 1970's, as well as competing desires of several Georgia colleges and universities to house a medical school. Louis Sullivan – who was named Morehouse's first dean and director in 1975 and is credited with Gasman as the co-author of *The Morehouse Mystique* – doesn't shy away from less-than-complimentary anecdotes about his management style or his politics. A man who began to accumulate "firsts" early in his career, Sullivan was Massachusetts General Hospital's first African-American fellow in pathology, in 1960-61, and the first African-American to complete a clinical fellowship in pathology (3). Later, as the appointee of a Republican administration (of which more later), he paved the way for more pioneering appointments at the National Institutes of Health and at Health Care Financing Administration, among other governmental departments.

In 1982, when Morehouse's Basic Medical Sciences Building opened, President Reagan declined Sullivan's invitation to speak at its dedication. Looking back, Sullivan reflected that " 'Reagan had done a couple of things after we had invited him [e.g. slashing education and housing budgets, which disproportionately hurt African- American communities and HBCUs], which concerned me to the degree that I said if he accepts and comes, I am going to have to follow him right onto the plane when he leaves.' " Luckily, Sullivan was able to offer the invitation to Vice President George H. W. Bush. Partisan differences were put aside, and to quote Sullivan again, " '[...] all these Black Democratic politicians were fighting to get their picture taken with the Republican vice president.' " Thereafter, Sullivan and Bush became friends, going on a brief tour to Africa

together, and Mrs. Barbara Bush accepted Sullivan's request to join the Morehouse Board of Trustees. She headed up a multi-million dollar fundraiser, and was influential in enlisting the aid of corporate donors who may not otherwise have cared about the cause, as co-author Marilyn Gasman puts it, of Black medicine. Then, after Bush won the 1988 election, Sullivan became the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Gasman follows through Morehouse's history with tribulations and successes of the post-Sullivan presidents.

The Appendix includes brief biographies of well-known alumni (such as current Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin). There are over 30 pages of bibliographic notes, and a judicious number of images of Morehouse directors, students, and campus buildings.

The Morehouse Mystique will be of value to many readers: those interested in twentieth century American history and American medical education, African-American medical schools, and health care inequities. It can also be thought of as a case study in how to start up a medical school, how to develop a board of directors, and how to work with strong and nationally-known personalities.

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3. <http://www.massgeneral.org/news/assets/urmhistoryslideshow.pdf> The Untold Story: URM Pioneers at MGH. 2011. Accessed July 18, 2012

Martha E. Stone, M.S., AHIP

Treadwell Library

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Jeremy A. Greene & Elizabeth Siegel Watkins. *Prescribed: Writing, Filling, Using, and Abusing the Prescription in Modern America*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. 329 pages. \$65.00. ISBN: 1421405067

Prescription drugs are a daily part of life in the United States. We hear about them on TV; read about them in magazines, newspapers, and on-line; we discuss them with family and friends; and of course many of us take one or more daily. We have all heard the phrase “Better living through chemistry” and there is no doubt that modern pharmacology has greatly improved our lives by helping to control or eradicate diseases that used to kill or disable millions. But as with everything, along with the positives there are negatives such as addiction, overdosing, and over- use.

Social, political, and economic issues are also part of every discussion relating to modern medicine, as we have seen in the past several years with the Affordable Care Act, and prescription drugs are no different. Providing a scholarly historical background and context to these issues as they relate to the pharmaceutical industry in the U.S. is the focus of *Prescribed*. Through ten chapters, each by different authors, the book examines various aspects of the role and impact of prescription drugs in American life in the last half of the 20th century. The first chapter looks at barbiturate abuse in the 1940s and how it led to increased government regulation of medication. Chapter two examines the prescribing and over-prescribing of antibiotics. The conflict between physicians and pharmacists over providing less expensive generic medications instead of the pricier name brands is the focus of chapter three. The battle over providing patients with detailed drug information in the 1970s and early 1980s is highlighted in chapter four. How nurse practitioners gained the ability to write prescriptions is chapter five’s topic. Chapters six and seven are devoted to the establishment and role of women’s health clinics in Northern California in the 1970s and the campaign to allow over-the-counter sales of birth control and morning-after pills – both with the goal of giving women more control over their own health. The complex issue of patients with chronic severe pain and opioid use is examined in chapter eight. Chapter nine looks at prescription mills through the rise and fall of Quaaludes in the 1970s and early 1980s. The final chapter of the book is on the collection and use of prescription drug data.

While each chapter looks at different topics, some common themes appear throughout the book. The strong desire of physicians to maintain control over the prescription process, despite pressure from pharmacists, legislators and others to limit or modify that control, is the most prominent theme in the book. Two other major themes are the

economic and political aspects of prescriptions and their influence on America's medical system.

Sometimes physicians are portrayed as wanting to maintain control of the prescription process no matter what, giving the reader the impression that doctors are the black-hatted villains of the old-time westerns. Whether or not this is true, it shows a bias that detracts from the book's otherwise scholarly nature.

The historical role of prescription medication in American life is an important topic, and one that has been thoroughly researched, especially in its examination of the areas outside of illegal and inappropriate drug use. *Prescribed* provides the reader with a much better understanding of how we have gotten to our current system of managing, and mismanaging, prescription drugs in the United States. While one hopes that in-depth research will be done and published on America's relationship with prescription drugs, this book is a great starting point for that future work.

Scott D. Grimwood

Corporate Manager of Archives

SSM Health Care Corporate Archives

Joseph November. *Biomedical Computing: Digitizing Life in the United States*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. xvi, 344 pages. \$60.00. ISBN 1421404680

Today, biomedical research necessitates computer-assisted data procurement, analysis, storage, and retrieval. Joseph November, currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, reminds us in *Biomedical Computing: Digitizing Life in the United States* that during the dawn of the digital age, the connections between biomedicine and computers were anything but solid. Likewise, he makes clear that the computer-enabled advances in our understanding of life have been anything but inevitable.

In his introduction, November clearly articulates the aims of his book. Chiefly, he looks to document the evolution of scientific biomedical thinking and the "conditions that made possible the computerization of biology and medicine" [p. 7]. November analyzes a diverse assortment of primary materials including journal and magazine articles, government and professional organization reports, along with personal communications and oral histories to build and support his argument. Primarily concerned with the 1950s

and 60s, *Biomedical Computing* is arranged topically, with concurrent contemporary developments discussed over the book's five chapters. While a bit disorientating at first, this choice of arrangement nicely highlights the multitude of developments that defined this era of biomedical research.

Chapter one grounds the reader in operations research (OR), a collection of mathematical methods developed in Britain during WWII to enhance the reliability and utility of radar and weapons within theaters of war. Using methods of OR, scientists such as crystallographer John Kendrew, dentist/computer scientist Robert Ledley, and physician/computer scientist Lee Lusted, applied the precision of military research to their early biomedical computing activities. Chapter two follows Ledley and Lusted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where they led (respectively) the Advisory Committee on Computers in Research during a divisive era when the potential of biomedical computing (most often defined by punch-card programming and time-sharing of machines) was actively debated across both the NIH campus and the country as a whole. Chapter three moves to the activities of Wesley Clark, the creator of the LINC (**L**aboratory **I**Nstrument **C**omputer), an early personal computer popular amongst biologists and one of the first to offer the more immediate, interactive computing experience necessary to properly analyze and collect biomedical data. Chapter four explores the labs, clinics, and foundations that made use of the NIH-supported LINC, reporting on the ways computers spurred changes in biomedical research. Finally, the fifth chapter looks to Stanford University, tying together the previous chapters, with the story of the high-tech gamble that took that institution from stagnation to the front lines of the American biomedical computing revolution, ripe with NIH-funding and a culture that respected computing resources.

Across these chapters, the emergent theme is one of intellectual cross-pollination. Computers enabled biomedical research to be conducted in quality and fashion never before possible. To make adequate use of computers, scientists refined the way they viewed biomedical phenomena. With more refined analysis of human EEGs, deeper understandings of operant conditioning, and the genesis of protein sequencing, biomedical research became ever more invested in computer technology. Yet, with each discovery, computers also evolved to better serve the life scientists. The visual monitor of the LINC, which reported events in real time, allowed for instantaneous data modification. Likewise, computer programming became ever more adaptive to the rapidly changing language and research agendas of biomedical researchers. In all, November holds that computers and biomedical researchers evolved into the symbiotic

professional relationship of today only through coupling human ingenuity and tenacity with the speed and reliability of 0's and 1's.

Overall, *Biomedical Computing* is a well-written, engaging piece of historical scholarship. Although the technical information can be a bit dense at times, with several read-throughs necessary to completely grasp the complex subject matter, the story never gets bogged down in specialized jargon or minutia (a useful glossary of acronyms helps in this regard). In fact, one cannot help but appreciate November's talent at synthesizing and distilling a vast array of highly technical subject matter, making it accessible to not only polymaths, but also any intelligent, dedicated reader. The stories of human ambition, computer capabilities, and biomedical discoveries that converge in *Biomedical Computing* deliver a cogent history that, like its subject matter, develops both organically and logically. Graduate students, historians, physicians, life scientists and computer scientists interested in the intellectual and technical evolution of biomedical research will learn much if they take the time to delve into November's work.

Keith Mages, PhD, MLS, MSN

Assistant Librarian, History of Health Sciences Collection
Reference & Education Services
University of Buffalo

Benjamin A. Rifkin, Michael J. Ackerman, and Judith Folkenberg. *Human Anatomy: A Visual History from the Renaissance to the Digital Age*. New York: Abrams, 2011. 343 pages. \$16.95. ISBN 9780810997981 (pbk)

Anyone with an interest in the history of anatomy and the ways in which art and anatomy are intertwined will find this book enjoyable to flip through, if not read. The number of illustrations and images contained in such a fairly concise book are impressive. Based on the title, the trim size of the actual book was a bit surprising. There are both pros and cons to having a 500-year history of anatomy packed into 343 pages measuring - about 24 cm. One might expect something more the size of a coffee table book or a folio. However, this book packs a lot into its size. Not surprisingly, those who work with historical medical materials, especially historical anatomical atlases, will be quite familiar with the images and names peppered throughout the book. Yet, if you really enjoy working with and examining historical medical materials, especially anatomical atlases, you never tire of seeing such images.

An introduction by Benjamin Rifkin provides an overview of the relationship between anatomists and artists over the past 500 years. Beginning with a discussion of early scientists such as Aristotle and Galen, Rifkin chronicles many of the famous anatomists and the artists who worked with them. Sprinkled throughout his discussion of how the roles of art and science have evolved over the centuries are full-page images from well-known, significant texts.

Rifkin's overview ends in the nineteenth century. It is here where the biographies of famous anatomists/physicians and artists begin. Biographies provided by Judith Folkenberg start with Vesalius and end with Christian Wilhelm Braune. The concise descriptions of a handful of the most well-known anatomists and their works include the expected names: Valverde, Bidloo, Ruysch, Smellie and Hunter (combined), Joseph Bell, and Gray just to name a few of the almost 30 anatomists discussed. Following a succinct description of each anatomist and an acknowledgment of the artist with whom they were paired (if any), are numerous illustrations, many in black and white, some in color.

Human Anatomy begins by describing early anatomists and wraps up with the nineteenth century before focusing on the "digital age." With a discussion of x-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, Michael Ackerman gives a very brief description of the impact of digital anatomy, ending with a discussion of the Visible Human Project. His incredibly brief discussion (only seven pages) of the digital age touches on the growing emphasis of 3D anatomy for education, as well as treatment and diagnosis by practitioners.

Criticisms of the book include a lack of information about where some of the most notable quotes can be found. Quotes are attributed to certain anatomists in Rifkin's summary, but without an understanding of the source from which they came. The lack of footnotes stands out in such a text. Particular references to specific images by Rifkin are frustratingly easy to miss because the reader has to continuously flip back and forth to the illustrations in the biographical mid-section of the book. Illustrations lack detailed captions, making it somewhat vexing to determine the particular author's work. However, the full-page illustrations are impressive, and the evolution of techniques by artists, including those who were also anatomists, is well-described.

Although the images in this text are nothing new to many working with historical medical materials, this is a good reference book to have on hand. Many historical medical collections may already have this work as it was originally published in hardback in

2006. I found myself comparing it to Michael Sappol's *Dream Anatomy*, largely because of the magnificent illustrations both contain. However, perhaps it is unfair to compare the two works as both have different, distinct goals. *Human Anatomy* will appeal to a general audience interested in learning more about the relationship between art and medicine as well a more specific audience who will enjoy the visual charm found in such anatomical atlases.

Rachel Ingold

Curator, History of Medicine Collections
Duke University

Jacqueline Wolf. *Deliver Me from Pain: Anesthesia and Birth in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. 296 pages. \$30.00. ISBN: 1421405725

As the title suggests, this book is specifically about the history of anesthesia in childbirth, not the history of childbirth itself which already has a rich body of literature devoted to it. This work builds on and adds to the wider writings about the history of childbirth and in the process illuminates the peculiarities of childbirth customs in the twentieth-century North American history.

In my own birthing experiences in the 1970s, the natural childbirth movement was in its heyday. We felt that we were part of an underground movement, conspiratorial, to be on guard against obstetricians and nurses and hospital regulations which might restrict the kind of experience we wanted. Even with the most like-minded health care practitioners, certain medical and technical routines, procedures and interventions, we were told, might be automatically applied through no one's fault in particular. Long curious about the apparent change in birthing customs that occurred between my own experiences and those of younger friends and colleagues whose experiences occurred in the 1980's and 1990's and after, I was delighted with the opportunity to read and review Jacqueline Wolf's book.

Decades later, and after reading this book, I can now place my experiences in context. Wolf's history engagingly explains how the medicalization/mechanization and specifically the anesthetizing of childbirth is a natural outgrowth of societal and cultural influences in society. If blame is to be ascribed, she asserts, no one group is responsible.

Early in the book, Wolf makes the observation about how curious it is that over centuries, pain has been regarded by physicians as a by-product of pathology and therefore not worthy of nearly as much concern as the pathology, while the pain of a “normal physiological process,” childbirth, has acquired its own medical and surgical specialty, the “object of such complex treatment and philosophies” (p. 8). She thus places this work in an appropriate context, to try to explain how this juxtaposition came to be.

Women and obstetricians generally love to share their childbirth and delivery experiences, so this was one large resource available to the author. She also found some 19th and early 20th century women’s diaries and correspondence relating to the subject, although the mere presence or absence of discussion of the topic where she expected it to be was instructive. Another major resource was the History Library of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and its collection of obstetrical textbooks from which one can trace developments and trends over the century. She was able to draw out nuances of meaning beyond merely reporting findings, thus making the work all the more fascinating. I was tickled to notice, for example, that she included an anecdote about the 1976 and 1980 editions of *Williams Obstetrics*, the most well-known North American ob/gyn textbook throughout the century used in its various editions. I was familiar with the mischievous entry in the index between “chancroid” and “chemotherapy” of “chauvinism, male, variable amounts, 1-923,” in the 923-page book, but learned from her that it was the editor’s wife who clandestinely slipped it in, as very reflective of attitudes at the time.

Wolf captures the curious ironies which sometime reach the level of absurdity. For example, women wanting pain relief so they could participate more fully in the birth process at one period of history found that they were totally unconscious at the time. Doctors wanting to relieve pain and make the delivery more efficient discovered that unconscious women could not push the baby out, so it often had to be extracted by forceps. The solution to pain relief in the earliest decades of the twentieth century was to administer medicines causing amnesia, or loss of memory. The conjoining of obstetrics and gynecology in most medical schools in the 1930s and 1940s reinforced the notion that the “salient characteristic of birth is its potential for pathology” (p. 84).

Wolf observes how the complexities surrounding so much of the history of obstetric anesthesia has to do with such historical movements as women fighting for their rights, the consumer movement, the medico-legal environment and the changing view/role of

women in our society. Regional and socio-economic levels add a further variable as well as simply personal expectations and preferences.

Most of the women Wolf writes about are typically middle or upper class white women and there is an implication that her women are representative of all women. Although Wolf does make brief note of the fact that different ethnic groups and classes had different experiences, a little more attention to this fact would be welcome.

The gradual change from births occurring in homes to happening in hospitals affected classes differently, as poor women were more often isolated, “while women of means were afforded a certain amount of the social birth that had sustained women in the past” (p. 99/100). Wolf observes how many historical eventualities are the result of vicious cycles, e.g. the demands by women and provision by their obstetricians of mechanisms and medicines for pain, which cause certain side-effects which may need to be managed by more medication. More technology and drugs require more technology plus drugs. One example is the rise of fetal monitoring apparatus, which can alert the physician to fetal distress, but can also lead to more unnecessary cesarean-sections, antibiotics and pain medication.

As might be expected, Wolf devotes a chapter to the increasing rates of cesarean-sections. It is neither entirely the result of women requesting them, nor of obstetricians supplying them or encouraging them. This phenomenon is again the result of historical forces at play, of social and cultural imperatives Wolf convincingly demonstrates.

While Dr. Wolf doesn't hide her clear preference for childbirth free of medical interventions, she has done an admirable job in gathering all the relevant data and presenting it in such a readable, enjoyable way. She uses both women's positive and negative experiences, sometimes for the same procedure/ drug/process, sometimes almost diametrically opposed. She documents both obstetricians' wise and short-sighted responses to what was happening to the women in childbirth. This book will be of great interest to scholars in the field, to young men and women researching their birth options, and to veterans of childbirth, wanting to understand their place in this fascinating history.

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Guenter B. Risse. *Plague, Fear, and Politics in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012. 395 pages. \$39.95. ISBN: 9781421405100

In 1900, San Francisco became the focus of national economic and cultural anxieties when Wong Chut King died of plague in Chinatown. The medical and political powers of the day were stalemated as they grappled for control of the situation. Public fear of a pandemic provided the corrupt ample cover for settling petty political and personal scores. From the local board of health to the City Board of Supervisors, up the ladder to California's governor and the Surgeon General, all had a stake in the "Plague of San Francisco's Chinatown, 1900-1906."

The practical power of the boards of health – local, state, national – ebbed and flowed with the changing political players. In this medical saga there's room for everyone – the Chinese minister in Washington, DC, local Chinese and American trade companies, and ambitious medical men of all stripes. Real or imagined collusion between Chinese merchants to smuggle suspected victims of the plague out of the district in an attempt to diminish the death toll frustrated medical inspectors. A clash of cultures developed when the Chinese ritual of returning bones of the dead to their ancestral home in China interfered with the Western science protocol of autopsy and quick burial. Twist in some medical dissension regarding the untried field of microbiology and germ theory to produce a Gordian knot, further tightened by xenophobia.

Both Chinese and American mercantile associations deployed powerful lobbies to stymie efforts to locate suspected plague cases in Chinatown. Absentee American landlords and Chinese tenants had an interest in influencing legislation that attempted to mandate demolition and rebuilding of Chinatown in another location – freeing up its valuable acreage for future development. The conflict was further complicated by the relationships between nationalist Chinese immigrating to the Northwest, the Boxer Rebellion in China, and the greed of merchants on both sides of the Pacific. Western fear was reflected in the renewal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

Again and again the author clearly outlines the real motivator in many of the steps taken (or avoided) in the process of ridding Chinatown of its "filthy Eastern vices and lifestyle": interstate and international trade. Fear of trade restrictions informed many of the earliest political responses to San Francisco's epidemic and ultimately expanded the mission and power of the US Public Health Service.

Dr. Risse deftly teases out a timeline using public health reports, private correspondence, telegrams, newspaper articles, and minutes from myriad meetings, to untangle the five seemingly wasted years before the start of real cooperation between health authorities and the political machine. In 1905, with the invaluable assistance of intrepid Chinese translators and Chinatown community leaders, an organized, systematic, wholesale cleaning operation and coordinated campaign to eliminate rats – long suspected of carrying plague germs to humans – was underway. Cases of plague in Chinatown quickly dropped to zero.

What finally cut through the distrust, misinformation, and conflict between science and culture was an act of nature called the Great Earthquake of San Francisco, 1906 – and the fires that followed. The book does stop abruptly after the earthquake. My only criticism is that I wanted a little more debriefing – how did it all shake out in the decades that followed?

The author's painstaking research leads the reader to a simple truth: San Francisco plague cases were sought solely in Chinatown. This raises the question – who else died of the plague? The number of fatalities can never be known. Rampant racism, fear and greed led to the manipulation of information to conform to those very racist and nationalist fears and concerns.

The outbreak of plague in San Francisco's Chinatown claimed around 200 known victims and altered future federal response to public health emergencies by authorizing the US Public Health Service to have direct involvement in setting policy, and the power to convene health officials and issue resolutions with respect to quarantines or other measures across the entire country. Anyone interested in the history of public health – with a generous dose of scrappy political brawl – will love this book. As I read the last lines, I had one of those “the more things change, the more they stay the same” moments. Or was it “there's nothing to fear but [the plague] itself”?

Elizabeth Schexnyder

Curator

National Hansen's Disease Museum

David G. Schuster. *Neurasthenic Nation: America's Search for Health, Happiness, and Comfort, 1869-1920*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2011. 224 pages. \$42.95. ISBN: 9780813551319.

What defines good health? Is it being a certain weight? Is it eating right? How do we know when we are in good physical condition? These are questions frequently asked by physicians and patients in the search for effective treatments to extend and improve one's quality of life. Today there are numerous medicines and therapies available to treat a variety of conditions such as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and depression, as well as a host of other disorders that leave individuals feeling sick and unhappy. This, however, is not a new concern experienced only by people living in the early twenty-first century. The pursuit of health, happiness, and comfort is central to the history of America and its citizens. So, how did people in earlier generations achieve their goals?

At the end of the late nineteenth century, the United States was going through a period of rapid modernization. Industrial, manufacturing, and technological advances were occurring faster than Americans could physically and emotionally handle them. People were experiencing "feelings of overwhelming physical, emotional, and mental helplessness manifesting in depression, irritability, insomnia, lethargy, indigestion, a lack of ambition, an inability to concentrate, anxiety, headaches, muscle and joint pain, weight loss, impotence, amenorrhea, and both mental and physical collapse" (p. 1). In 1869 physicians testified that rapid modernization caused these illnesses and named the condition neurasthenia. Derived from the Greek, neurasthenia roughly translates to "lack of nerve energy" (p. 2). In *Neurasthenic Nation: America's Search for Health, Happiness, and Comfort, 1869-1920*, author David G. Schuster discusses the rise and decline of neurasthenia and its influence on Americans' understanding of health and wellness as well as its impact on popular culture.

According to Schuster, "the popularization of neurasthenia took place in four phases, each representing an expansion of the public discussion and knowledge of nervous illness" (p. 37). Using archival and manuscript collections, as well as surveying medical and popular literature of the time, Schuster provides ample examples to support his theory that neurasthenia arose when Americans linked their personal health with modernization. In chapters analyzing the publication of domestic medical and popular health manuals written by physicians, and the incorporation of neurasthenia into the marketing of health care products, Schuster successfully proves the interrelationship that

developed between the medical community, businesses, and the public in the goal of health and happiness.

He shares the stories of physicians who figured out how to integrate their treatments into the lives of those suffering from the condition; the pharmaceutical companies that lucratively advertised medicines, therapies, and medical devices; and the journalists who wrote news articles and feature stories about neurasthenia.

Schuster's most successful chapter incorporates the stories of those suffering from of neurasthenia, and their personal accounts of treatments. He argues that gender and defined gender roles influenced the types of therapies men and women used. Through these varied perspectives the reader comes away with an understanding of how each shaped aspects of American society, culture, and medicine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. "In a larger sense, the story of neurasthenia is indicative of American's struggle to create a more perfect union through the pursuit of health, happiness, and comfort. The intolerance of unhappiness and discomfort associated with neurasthenia, and the expectation that good health could be attained through therapeutic activities and purchases, left an indelible impression on the United States that has continued to exist long after the neurasthenia diagnosis faded into academic obscurity" (p. 6).

Neurasthenic Nation is a well-researched and enjoyable read that provides a look into a specific time in American history when people went to great lengths to be happy and healthy. In addition to those interested in medical history, the book should be of interest to social historians and those with a general interest in U.S. history and culture.

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The Watermark (ISSN 1553-7641) is the quarterly publication of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS). It was founded in 1976 to serve as the newsletter of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences, but changed its subtitle in 1992 when ALHHS changed its name. OCLC records are # 11902760 (1976-1992) and # 40676801 (1992-present).

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