

ISSN 1553-7641

THE WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences

Volume XLV

Number 1

Winter 2022



VIEW IN CONGRESS SPRING PARK.

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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 LAMPHHS. 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 at least 300 dpi if possible. Copyright clearance for content and visuals are the responsibility of the author.

Cover Image: "View in Congress Spring Park" from Charles H. Posson, *Saratoga Springs, Camera Slivers from the Famous Spa* (Glens Falls, N.Y., 1887)

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of *The Watermark* contains information on something we haven't had for a while: an actual, honest-to-God on-site meeting where we can actually rub elbows with our fellow members. Though Omicron is currently raging throughout the world, an annual meeting in the flesh this spring is a consummation devoutly to be wished. So fingers crossed, please read what the Local Arrangements Committee has in store for us when we meet in Saratoga Springs in late April. Though this will be a hybrid meeting, I hope to see many of you face-to-face.

On a more somber note, I want to acknowledge the passing of long-time LAMPHHS member Pat Gallagher. Among her many contributions to medical and history of medicine librarianship in general and to LAMPHHS/ALHHS in particular, Pat served for many years as *The Watermark* book review editor. Her behind-the-scenes efforts in this position were legion, including soliciting books from publishers, finding reviewers, and actually mailing the books to those reviewers. We would not have had such a robust book review section without Pat. We are now seeking a replacement for Pat as book review editor. If you think you'd like to take on this position, please read the job description on page XX or feel free to contact me for more information

Stephen E. Novak

Editor, *The Watermark*

Correction: The author of *An Organ of Murder: Crime, Violence, and Phrenology in Nineteenth-Century America*, reviewed in the Fall 2021 (v. 44, n. 4) issue of *The Watermark* is Courtney E. Thompson, not "Country."

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all my LAMPHHS colleagues! I hope that the holiday season was good to everyone and that we are all now energized to take on the New Year. As we stumble through the winter season keep in mind that spring is just around the corner (trying to be positive, here!) and our

annual meeting is something to look forward to. The LAMPHHS 2022 Local Arrangements Committees have been working hard to prepare a lively annual meeting with sessions that educate and motivate. We are still planning on a hybrid format with in-person and virtual sessions, tours, and social events. You'll find meeting information within this issue of *The Watermark* and on the LAMPHHS website. If there are any updates members will be notified through the LAMPHHS listserve.

The chosen program theme explores projects and initiatives at our member institutions that have positively impacted the commitment we have towards our chosen professions. This got me thinking about a project at the Dittrick Museum that has consumed us since late 2019, before COVID was such a concern in our area. This project was simply a means to document (photograph and refine catalog records) and clean oversize artifacts that had to be stored in the museum gallery during repair to a portion of the building above the oversize storage area. The plan was to clean an adjacent storage area (we all know how insidious cement dust can be) and return the objects to storage in spring 2020. Fast forward a year and a half after working remotely, the Dittrick staff returned in August 2021 faced with a huge cleaning project. Since we would be handling almost every object in the collection we decided to turn this into a full-fledged inventory. While we have just scratched the surface of a project that may take us years, I am humbled by the connections to important medical innovations. This has inspired a renewed drive to make our collections accessible both in-person and virtually.

Well, this is not intended to be a presentation, just an example of work that has inspired me and will hopefully spur some interest among members to present their own projects. LAMPHHS members represent some amazing collections and we want to experience them all!

See you in Saratoga Springs!

Jennifer K. Nieves

President

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LAMPHHS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

Welcome to Saratoga Springs, New York, for our 2022 annual meeting on April 20th and 21st! This year's meeting will be unique in that not only will it be held in-person at Saratoga, but we are also streaming the meeting virtually for those not able to attend physically.

Highlights

The Wednesday evening reception will be held at the historic [Longfellows Hotel](#). Formerly a dairy farm dating to the early 20th century, Longfellows is now an award-winning boutique hotel, restaurant, and special events venue. With a view of the Adirondack Mountains and situated between the Saratoga State Park and Saratoga Lake, Longfellows' picturesque location is only a few miles from downtown Saratoga Springs and the conference hotel. Dinner will be shared stations style and will feature delicious Italian cuisines. Kosher and vegan options will be provided, and a cash bar may be enjoyed.



Tours for Thursday afternoon will be offered at: the Saratoga Spa State Park, the New York State Military Museum (with a focus on medical history), the Skidmore College Special Collections and Archives, and the Saratoga Springs History Museum.

Meeting Venue Information

The meeting venue for Thursday is still being determined at this time. After reaching out to a number of local meeting places, several were not able to accommodate us due to size and COVID-19 restrictions. We do currently have a couple of options we are working with, and as soon as our venue is confirmed we will notify the LAMPHHS group.

Accommodations

Rooms have been reserved for LAAMPHS members at the [Saratoga Hilton Hotel](#), which is attached to the Saratoga Springs City Conference Center, right in downtown Saratoga. The conference room rate is \$199 with a 7% New York sales tax and a 6%

occupancy tax. Parking is available for \$10 per vehicle per night. The conference rate is available Wednesday through Saturday, April 20-23 through the online registration portal: <https://book.passkey.com/go/AAHM2022> If you would like to make reservations for Tuesday, April 19th or Sunday, April 24, the conference rate is available but please make your reservations by phone: 888-866-3596. Be sure to mention AAHM2022 to obtain the conference rate. The cut-off for reserving rooms at the conference room rate is March 21, 2022.



There are also plenty of other downtown hotels to choose from, including:

- Courtyard by Marriott Saratoga Springs
- Hampton Inn and Suites Saratoga Springs Downtown
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs

If bed and breakfasts are more your style, you can find several in the downtown area as well.

Directions to Saratoga

Saratoga Springs is not far from the state capital of Albany, NY. The closest airport is Albany International Airport, which is about a 35 minute drive to our hotel in Saratoga. Uber and car rentals are available to get from the airport to Saratoga. If you are coming from New York City instead, there are also Amtrak train connections that make direct stops in Saratoga.

Getting Around Saratoga

Since our hotel is located right in the downtown area, it is within easy walking distance of most restaurants, shops, and other attractions. Saratoga is a small city, so public transportation is limited, but Uber and Lyft do serve the area.

More Info about Saratoga and Sightseeing

Saratoga is known as the city for health, history, and horses—and there is plenty to do and see because of this! Some of the main attractions you can also check out include:

-Congress Park, located right in downtown Saratoga, where you can take a leisurely walk among the gardens and mineral springs.

-Saratoga Racetrack; their open season is not until July, but spring training begins in mid-April at the Oklahoma Training Track, which is right across the street from the racetrack. Visitors are welcome to watch the horses' morning workouts each day.

-Just down from the track is the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, where you can learn about the history of thoroughbred racing from colonial times up to the present day.

-Other local historical attractions include the Saratoga Automobile Museum, National Bottle Museum, the Tang Museum at Skidmore College, and the Saratoga National Historical Park, where you can visit the site of battles from the Revolutionary War.

If you're interested in learning more about Saratoga Springs, there is an excellent tourism website with plenty of information about visiting the area:

<https://www.discoversaratoga.org/>

We hope to see you soon for the 2022 annual meeting!

The Local Arrangements Committee

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS, 2022 PROGRAM

A reminder to please consider submitting a proposal to present at the annual 2022 LAMPHSS conference in Saratoga Springs, New York. **Submissions are due Friday, February 4, 2022.**

Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHSS) invites you to submit a proposal for its annual meeting to be held in

Saratoga Springs, New York, April 20-21, 2022. We welcome all proposals, but we are especially interested in hearing about how a recent project fostered a renewed commitment to your career working with historical health sciences collections.

If you are interested in presenting but are having trouble thinking of topics for your proposal, here are the titles of some past presentations about interesting projects that might inspire you:

- “Merging popular culture and historical medical evidence: Downton Abbey and rare book collections”
- “Documenting ‘a disaster for society’: AIDS and the Office of NIH History
- “The death and resurrection of a medical museum”
- “Partnering with patrons to uncover mystery collection: story of a glass eye”

Session Formats: The Program Committee encourages submission of proposals that may include, but are not limited to, the following formats:

- **Individual Presentations:** Speakers should expect to give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Individual papers will be combined into panels.
- **Panel Discussion:** Open session with a panel of 3 to 4 individuals informally discussing a variety of theories or perspectives on a common topic. Please confirm participation with all panelists before submitting the panel proposal.
- **Traditional:** Open session with two to three fully prepared papers of fifteen (15) minutes each and a comment and discussion period after the presentations.
- **Special Focus Session:** 60-minute session designed to highlight innovative archives or museum programs, new techniques, and research projects. Audience participation is encouraged.

NOTE: Panels and sessions are limited to 60 minutes: 12-15 minutes for each panelist + 12-15 minutes for Q&A.

Please submit your proposal via this submission form <https://tinyurl.com/47er2ymx>

The deadline for submitting session proposals is **Friday, February 4, 2022.**

This will be a hybrid conference. Please note if you plan to present virtually or in person.

You must be a LAMPHHS member to submit a proposal. Not a member? Join for only \$15.00 at [LAMPHHS Membership](#).

If you have any questions please email Dan Cavanaugh: dmc7be AT virginia.edu

LAMPHHS Program Committee 2022

- Dan Cavanaugh, University of Virginia, chair (dmc7be AT virginia.edu)
- Brooke Fox, Medical University of South Carolina
- Brooke Guthrie, Duke University
- Nancy Dupre Barnes, Independent Consultant

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LAMPHHS PUBLICATIONS AWARDS

Call for Submissions, the LAMPHHS Publications Award

Do you know of an article, book, catalog, bibliography, or electronic resource related to the history of the health care sciences or management of historical collections in the health care sciences that was significant or spectacular?

The Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) Publication Awards Committee is **actively seeking submissions for its 2022 slate of winners until February 25, 2022.**

These awards will be presented at the 2022 LAMPHHS annual meeting. Works must have been published within three years of the award date. Re-nominations are allowed if the publication date falls within the current three-year period. Nominated authors must be LAMPHHS members in good standing. Self-nominations are encouraged.

More submission and qualification details can be found here: <http://iis-exhibits.library.ucla.edu/alhhs/index.html>, under "Publication Awards"

All nominations, along with any questions, should be sent to the 2022 Publication Awards Committee chair, Carrie Meyer, at carrie.meyer@unmc.edu.

LAMPHHS Publication Awards Committee

Carrie Meyer, Chair

Toby Appel

W. Bruce Fye

Erin Torell

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LAMPHHS RECOGNITION AWARDS

Call for Nominations, LAMPHHS Awards

Lisabeth M. Holloway Award

Librarians, Archivists and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) is seeking nominations for the **Lisabeth M. Holloway Award**.

This distinguished service award for members of the LAMPHHS and its predecessor organizations was named in honor of Elisabeth M. Holloway, who was a founder of ALHHS, served as president pro tem in 1975, and was for many years the editor of *The Watermark*. The award recognizes significant contributions through leadership and service to LAMPHHS/ALHHS/MeMA and the profession.

Nominations Procedure:

Nominations should be submitted as a one- to two-page letter describing the nominee's outstanding professional achievements and the impact of his/her contributions on LAMPHHS/ALHHS/MeMA and the profession. A current *curriculum vitae* as well as letter(s) of support (a limit of 2) are not required but provide helpful additional information to the Awards and Recognition Committee. All submission materials should be in Word or PDF format. The Committee may also seek additional information on a nominee from the nominator or other sources as needed.

Criteria for evaluation:

- Membership in LAMPHHS (ALHHS/MeMA).
- LAMPHHS (ALHHS/MeMA) office(s) held.
- LAMPHHS (ALHHS/MeMA) committee(s) chaired or served on.
- Outstanding service to one's institution.

- Contributions to the profession, *i.e.*, history of health science librarianship/archival administration.

The Lisabeth M. Holloway Award will be announced at the annual meeting of LAMPHHS in April 2022.

Submit nominations (including self-nominations) and any accompanying materials to the Committee Chair Megan Keller Young at megank@uic.edu by **Friday, 21 January 2022**. For further information, please contact the committee.

Recognition of Merit Award

Librarians, Archivists and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) is seeking nominations for its **Recognition of Merit Award**.

There are two categories of recognition:

The first category of recognition: either members or non-members who make gifts of an extraordinary nature to health sciences libraries. Gifts of magnitude would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Materials such as rare/historical books, journals, or items in other formats, of significant value, book collections by author or subject, or furniture, computers, or other kinds of equipment.
- Artwork such as portraits, posters, paintings, photographs, sculpture, instruments, or medical objects.
- Monetary gifts sufficient to establish memorials or endowments or significant donations.

The second category of recognition: non-members of LAMPHHS who have provided long-time excellent service to health sciences libraries. Examples include:

- A supporter of a library over a long period of time.
- A person who has made an intellectual contribution to a library by surveying or indexing a collection.
- A person who has given extraordinary support to a library by serving as an advocate to the administration of the institution.

Nominations Procedure:

Nominations for the Recognition of Merit should originate from a current LAMPHHS member and be submitted as a one- to two-page letter describing the nominee's outstanding scope of donations, for the first category; and his/her achievements and the

impact of his/her contributions on health sciences libraries, for the second category. Letter(s) of support (a limit of 2) are not required but provide helpful additional information to the Award and Recognition Committee. All submission materials should be in Word or PDF format. The Committee may also seek additional information on a nominee from the nominator or other sources as needed.

The Recognition of Merit will be announced at the annual meeting of LAMPHHS in April 2022.

Submit nominations (including self-nominations) and any accompanying materials to the Committee Chair Megan Keller Young at megank@uic.edu by **Friday, 21 January 2022**. For further information, please contact the committee.

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WATERMARK SEEKS NEW BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

With the passing of long-time Book Review Editor Pat Gallagher, *The Watermark* is looking for a LAMPHHS member to take on this important position.

The Book Review Editor. Please contact the Editor if you are interested:

sen13@cumc.columbia.edu

- Solicits books for reviews from publishers with assistance of the Associate Book Review Editor
- Informs LAMPHHS members of books available for review via the LAMPHHS listserv
- Mails books to reviewers
- Sends reminders to reviewers regarding deadlines for their reviews
- Does preliminary editing of reviews
- Sends reviews to *Watermark* editor

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IN MEMORIAM PAT GALLAGHER



Pat in 2019. The smirk is because, at age 65, she had just been carded while ordering a glass of wine.

Patricia Gallagher, MA, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, passed away on 1 December 2021 after a ten-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 67 years old.

To those who knew her best, Pat was always the quintessential New Yorker. She was born in the old Metropolitan Hospital on Welfare (now Roosevelt) Island in the East River, where her mother worked as a nurse, and her father managed the hospital telephone system. Her parents took her home to their apartment on 22nd Street, between First and Second Avenues in Manhattan, and she lived on that city block for over fifty years.

Pat attended Catholic schools in New York City, including Cardinal Spellman High School, where a classmate was Supreme Court Justice Sonia

Sotomayor. After completing her BA (cum laude) at Lehman College and her MLS at Queens College, she entered medical librarianship in 1978 at the Helen Fuld School of Nursing Learning Center. In 1987, Pat took a position at the Seymour Philips Library at the Beth Israel Medical Center (walking distance from her apartment). It was at Beth Israel that Pat became active in the Medical Library Association (MLA), both with her local chapter and nationally. She began producing a long series of articles, presentations, CE classes, and websites touching many areas, from urban health to the history of the health sciences. She joined the Academy of Health Information Professionals in 1989 and reached distinguished status in 1994, which she maintained for the rest of her life. She co-wrote two editions of the MLA BibKit on the History of the Health Sciences and almost single-handedly maintained the History of the Health Sciences section's web-links page for over two decades.

In 1995, she left Beth Israel to work at the New York Academy of Medicine. It was at the Academy that she became involved with NOAH, "New York Online Access to Health," a groundbreaking public health resource database that she would eventually lead as managing editor. Among other distinctions, NOAH was a pioneer in offering parallel English and Spanish content. NOAH was awarded the MLA Frank Bradway Rogers

Information Advancement Award in 2006 for “distinguished professional contributions to the application of technology in the delivery of health care information.” Accepting the award on behalf of the contributors and editors was one of her proudest professional moments.

Her activities at NYAM were not limited to NOAH. Starting in 1998, she worked with Drs. Peter Wyer and Barney Eskin to coordinate a national course, *Teaching Evidence-Based Medicine*, which was held annually at NYAM. She recruited librarian tutors and librarian students for the program, developed the Evidence-based Medicine Resource Center web site as part of a three-year National Library of Medicine Information Systems grant, led initiatives supporting the role of librarians in evidence-based medicine including a series of CE sessions, and convened an EBM special interest group at MLA annual meetings. In recognition of her tireless efforts to foster EBM training, she was made a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine in 2010.

Although Pat’s job responsibilities never officially encompassed the history of the health sciences, her personal interests led her inexorably in that direction and into activity with ALHHS/LAMPHHS. She approached these activities with her usual drive, serving as ALHHS treasurer, *Watermark* book-review editor, and on numerous committees and task forces. She had a particular knack for writing (and re-writing, ad infinitum) by-laws and procedure manuals. In 2011, she was awarded the ALHHS Publication Award for an article she co-wrote on the NLM IndexCat database. And she did not miss annual meetings.



Field trip, with Micaela Sullivan Fowler, Judy Chelnick, and Arlene Shaner, ALHHS in Cleveland, 2009.

Pat’s personal interests were deep and varied: theater (she remained, after all, a sophisticated New Yorker, even after she left the city); Shakespeare (although she thought him unfair to Richard III); *Star Trek* (Kirk was her captain of choice); old movies (especially films starring Miss Barbara Stanwyck and the less-remembered Kay Francis); baseball (the Mets, never the Yankees); travel (although she

had limited faith in the physics of airplanes); England (being of Irish descent, there were some limitations); tea (Earl Grey, hot, as per Captain Picard) and, of course, knitting. These interests would interact in strange and wonderful ways, sometimes in evidence at ALHHS annual meetings. When ALHHS met in Madison in 2004, Pat went back and forth to Milwaukee to catch a Brewers game: 80 miles each way, after being assured (correctly) by Micaela Sullivan-Fowler that Milwaukee would be hard to miss—if you drove too far, you would fall into Lake Michigan. The 2014 Atlanta meeting allowed her to visit the “Gone with the Wind” museums (one part dedicated to the book, one to the movie). Pat hated inequality, but she admired the toughness of Scarlett O’Hara, and was well-aware that in real life, Margaret Mitchell subsidized local HBCU students. She had a keen awareness of how gender roles were represented in movies as opposed to “real life,” and did a number of papers and presentations on how women doctors were portrayed by Hollywood.

In 2012, Pat was finally lured away from New York (marriage was part of the deal) and relocated to Maryland, where she took up a position at NLM’s National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR, now subsumed under NLM’s Public Services Division). Although her duties and location were now very different, she maintained her MLA links at both the local and national level. In 2018, she became a Fellow of the Medical Library Association. She was also deeply involved with the merger of the New York/New Jersey and Philadelphia MLA chapters into the new Liberty Chapter; in one of its first official acts, the Liberty Chapter granted Pat a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her decades of service.

Pat is survived by me (her husband) and two step-children, Ilana Greenberg-Sud and Evan Greenberg, all of whom will miss her deeply.

Stephen Greenberg

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MEMBER PROFILES

Name: Stefana Breitwieser

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2020

Hometown: I'm originally from Massachusetts, and I currently live in New York, NY.

Current Employer and Position: Digital Archivist at the Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Education: MLIS from Simmons University School of Library and Information Science (2017); BA from Smith College (2015)

Professional interests: I'm interested in user access to born-digital material and processing born-digital archives—I'm really excited about software preservation and emulation and all the possibilities it will bring with accessing more complex material. I'm currently working on our migration to our [new AtoM instance](#) and I'm the reference archivist for the Mount Sinai Beth Israel collection.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I've been cycling through a lot of new hobbies recently—in the last year, this has included bread baking, training for a 5k, and taking an art class. I love big cooking projects and taking care of my many houseplants.



Name: Charles (Alex) Welborn

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2015

Hometown: Wichita, KS

Current Employer and Position: Head Archivist of the KUMC Archives, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS

Education: BA History, University of Kansas; MLIS with concentration in Archival Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Professional interests: KUMC/University of Kansas institutional history, reference, arrangement and description, archival information management systems

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I enjoy being outdoors and hiking with my wife, our dogs Angus and Emmi, good food, local breweries, and Kansas Jayhawks basketball (Rock Chalk!). I picked up [disc golf](#) as a pandemic hobby and I am obsessed – so much so that played 123 rounds and walked nearly 300 miles last year!

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

The NLM Web Collecting and Archiving Working Group continues to [identify and select web and social media content](#) documenting the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as part of NLM's [Global Health Events web archive collection](#).

Now including 14,000+ publicly available Seed URLs representing 3.3 terabytes of data, the collection includes federal, state, and local government COVID-19 pages, websites of aid organizations and NGOs, and content documenting life in quarantine, prevention measures, vaccines, the experiences of healthcare workers, patients, and more. The group is actively reviewing recommended content for inclusion in the archive (16,100+ URLs nominated to date), scoping and running crawls of content using Archive-It and Conifer (formerly Webrecorder), reviewing archived sites for quality, and adding metadata. The group continues to engage with other cultural heritage organizations archiving the history of COVID-19, including a group spearheaded by the leadership of the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History](#), as well as the group of federal agencies who meet regularly to discuss their respective initiatives. The NLM Web Collecting and Archiving Working Group also continues to engage with the Society of American Archivists Web Archiving Section, the Archive-It community, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, and is contributing to and following the growing list of institutions collecting COVID-19 related content maintained by the [Documenting the Now](#) project.

Nominations for content to include in NLM's Global Health Events collection remain welcome via nlmwebcollecting@nlm.nih.gov. NLM also continues to participate as an

institutional contributor to a broader [International Internet Preservation Consortium \(IIPC\) Novel Coronavirus outbreak web archive collection](#). Learn more about NLM's efforts in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* article "[The National Library of Medicine Global Health Events web archive, coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic collecting](#)," and the broader context of documenting the pandemic published in *Nature* on December 17 "[What are COVID archivists keeping for tomorrow's historians](#)," and in July 2021 in *Knowable Magazine*: "[What Will History Say about Covid](#)." A *Circulating Now* [blog post](#), published in January 2021, reflects on one year of collecting on this important topic.

NLM Launches a New Online Exhibition and Profile in Science

[A People's History of Pandemic: AIDS, Posters, and Stories of Public Health](#) is a new online exhibition which covers the NLM archive of public health posters about AIDS rooted in the cultural output of artists, activists, and community workers. Their work, specifically the use of personal narrative as a visual-art strategy, along with language and the collective process of creating AIDS posters, continues to broadcast the message that, 40 years after the crisis began, attention to AIDS has not diminished.

[Profiles in Science](#) now includes a curated collection of digitized primary source materials related to the United States National Commission on AIDS, dating from the mid-1980s through the early 1990s.

NLM Announces 2022 History Talks

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) announces its [2022 History Talks](#). All talks are free, live-streamed globally, and [archived](#) by NIH VideoCasting.

- **Alexandre White, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Sociology and the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University and School of Medicine, will speak on "[Narratives of Pandemics Past: Archival Approaches to Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)." Dr. White's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, January 27, 2022.
- **Deirdre Cooper Owens, PhD**, The Charles and Linda Wilson Professor in the History of Medicine & Director of the Humanities in Medicine Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will speak on "[What History Reveals: Slavery and the Development of U.S. Gynecology](#)." Dr. Cooper Owens's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

- **Patricia Palma, PhD**, Assistant Professor at the University of Tarapacá, Arica, Chile, will speak on "[George Deacon and the Circulation of Homeopathic Therapies in Peru \(1880-1915\)](#)." Dr. Palma's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, March 17, 2022.
- **Rana A. Hogarth, PhD**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will speak on "[The Measure of Black \(Un\)Fitness: Legacies of Slavery in the Early Eugenics Movement](#)." Dr. Hogarth's talk will be co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the [NLM/NEH partnership](#) to collaborate on research, education, and career initiatives and will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, April 28, 2022.
- **Matthew Stibbe, PhD**, Professor of Modern European History, Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, and 2019 NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellow, will offer the 6th annual Michael E. DeBakey Lecture in the History of Medicine, "[A Laboratory of Humanitarianism: Military and Civilian Captivity during the First World War](#)." Stibbe's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, May 5, 2022.
- **William D. Adams, PhD**, Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Former President, Colby College, will speak on "[Merleau-Ponty, Descartes, and the Meaning of Painting](#)." Dr. Adams's talk will be co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the [NLM/NEH partnership](#) to collaborate on research, education, and career initiatives and will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, June 23, 2022.
- **Samuel Thrope, PhD**, Curator, Islam and Middle East Collection, National Library of Israel, Islamic Medical Manuscripts in the National Library of Israel Collections, will speak on "[Islamic Medical Manuscripts in the National Library of Israel Collections](#)." Dr. Thrope's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 11am ET on Thursday, July 14, 2022.
- **Farren Yero, PhD**, Postdoctoral Associate, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, Duke University, will speak on "[Atlantic Antidote: Race, Gender, and the Birth of the First Vaccine](#)." Dr. Yero's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, August 11, 2022.
- **Kylie M. Smith, PhD**, Associate Professor, 2021-2022 President's Humanities Fellow, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow for Nursing & the Humanities, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, and recipient of a 2019 NLM Grant for Scholarly Works (G13), will offer the 13th annual James H. Cassedy Lecture in the History of Medicine, "[Jim Crow in the Asylum: Psychiatry](#)

[and Civil Rights in the American South.](#)” Smith’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, September 15, 2022.

- **John Mathew, PhD**, Associate Professor of History of Science, Krea University, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, India, will speak on “[Socio-Cultural Responses within India during Times of Pandemic Disease.](#)” Dr. Mathew’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, October 27, 2022.
- **Michele C. Weigle, PhD**, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Old Dominion University, will speak on “[What’s in a Web Archive Collection? Summarization and Discovery of Archived Webpages.](#)” Dr. Weigle’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm ET on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

NLM History Talks promote awareness and use of NLM and related historical collections for research, education, and public service in biomedicine, the social sciences, and the humanities. The series also supports the commitment of the NLM to recognize the diversity of its collections—which span ten centuries, encompass a range of digital and physical formats, and originate from nearly every part of the globe—and to foreground the voices of people of color, women, and individuals of a variety of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds who value these collections and use them to advance their research, teaching, and learning.

Interviews with the speakers in this series are published in *Circulating Now*, the blog of the NLM History of Medicine Division.

Explore <https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/tag/nlmhisttalk/> on the blog and stay informed about NLM History Talks on Twitter at [#NLMHistTalk](#).

Complete details of all [NLM History Talks](#) are available from the NLM History of Medicine Division website at <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/index.html>.

[History with Heart—and Impact: The National Library of Medicine Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine](#)

Learn about the brief history and burgeoning success of the NLM DeBakey Fellowship, including the origins of the program, outcomes from the nearly two dozen scholars who have received fellowships so far, and the impact the fellowship has had on both the fellows and the history of medicine community.

NLM Announces 2022 Michael E. DeBakey Fellows in the History of Medicine

Following its April 26, 2021, call for applications to the [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\) Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine](#), NLM is pleased to announce its 2022 DeBakey Fellows:

Ogechukwu Williams, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Medical Humanities
Creighton University

Research Project – Dying to Bring Life: A Social History of Maternal Deaths in Nigeria

S.J. Zanolini, LAc

PhD candidate, Johns Hopkins Medical School, History of Medicine

Research Project – Everyday Medicine: Prescribed Diets in Early Modern China

In addition to undertaking their research projects, NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellows will be expected to:

- Consult with NLM staff to improve on the Library's existing finding aids and related resources by enhancing the Library's knowledge of its collection and ability to provide informed access to it;
- Meet the terms of the [NIH Public Access Policy](#) for NIH-supported work, and acknowledge the NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine in any resulting publications;
- Respond to NLM Office of Communications & Public Liaison and History of Medicine Division requests for interviews;
- Author at least one guest article for NLM's [Circulating Now](#) blog, based on their research.

The NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine is made possible through a gift from The DeBakey Medical Foundation.

Michael E. DeBakey (1908-2008) was a legendary American surgeon, educator, and medical statesman. During a career spanning 75 years, his work transformed cardiovascular surgery, raised medical education standards, and informed national health care policy. He pioneered dozens of operative procedures such as aneurysm repair, coronary bypass, and endarterectomy, which routinely save thousands of lives each year, and performed some of the first heart transplants. His inventions included the roller pump (a key component of heart-lung machines) as well as artificial hearts and

ventricular assist pumps. He was a driving force in building Houston's Baylor University College of Medicine into a premier medical center, where he trained several generations of top surgeons from all over the world. Michael DeBakey was instrumental in bringing NLM to the NIH campus and served for many years on NLM's Board of Regents.

For more information about materials available for historical research at NLM, as well as the NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine, visit <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd>, or contact the NLM via [NLM Customer Support](#).

ICYMI - [History Matters: In the Past, Present, and Future of the NLM](#)

Learn how—since the release of the 2015 report of the NIH's Director's advisory committee on the future of the NLM—history continues to matter at the NLM with its History of Medicine Division achieving many collaborative contributions toward the advancement of the library in the 21st century, indeed for the benefit of historical research today and tomorrow.

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REPOSITORY NEWS

News from the Library and Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health, The New York Academy of Medicine

NYAM Turns 175—and we celebrate with an online timeline.



The New York Academy of Medicine was organized on January 6, 1847, and the Library began a week later with the donation of Martyn Paine's *Medical and Physiological*

Commentaries. To launch our year-long celebration, the Library Team created a [timeline](#) highlighting 30 milestones from NYAM's history, imaginatively rendered by our Communications Department, with a Spanish-language version.

Winter/Spring Library Events

Bibliography Week 2022 will feature Dr. Andrew Curran, Wesleyan University, speaking on "The Bordeau Academy of Sciences and the Great Race Contest of 1741," an Enlightenment exploration of blackness, Saturday, January 29. On Wednesday, March



Dr Andrew Curran

30, with the Heberden Society of Weill Cornell Medicine the Library will present Dr. Susan Ball of Weill Cornell, speaking about her book *Voices in the Band* (2015) and her experiences as an AIDS doctor at that disease's 40th-anniversary mark. Register for both events [here](#); previous events—such as Nancy Tomes on “Managing the Modern ‘Infodemic’”—are available through the [Library YouTube playlist](#).

From the Blog



The Beurre
D'Amalise pear,
from the Natural

On the Library's blog, “Books, Health, and History,” we recount the [founding](#) of the New York Academy of Medicine in 1847 and the ways the Library will celebrate in 2022; consider how the COVID-19 pandemic may leave a legacy of [mass disability](#); look again at a classic work, the [Natural History of New York](#); post an update on our [Robert Matz Hospital Postcards Collection](#); and commemorate Banned Books Week with a look at [19th-century books on birth control](#).

Color Our Collections



Make 2022 the most colorful one yet! [Add your coloring book](#) to the hundreds that the Library hosts during [Color Our Collections](#) week, February 7–11, when we feature coloring books from libraries, archives, and museums around the world. This image is from our [2020 coloring book](#): the Lyceum of Natural History, where the New York Academy of Medicine first met.

At Home with the NYAM Library

At Home with the
NYAM Library

Our monthly e-newsletter highlights our collections, digital and otherwise; Virtual Visits; and our blog, [Books, Health, and History](#). Sign up for the e-newsletter [here](#)

and peruse earlier issues: [At Home with the NYAM Library.](#)

McMaster University's Health Sciences Archives Acquires Records of Pioneering Physician

On August 8, 1988, Dr. May Cohen, a Canadian family physician, women's rights activist, and faculty member in McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences, wrote a letter chastising the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, for stating he was opposed to abortion "on demand":

"As a practicing physician, I find that no medical service is available "on demand", nor do I enter into any therapeutic decision...without careful consideration of the indications as well as the risks and the benefits...At no time has any patient whom I have counselled entered into this decision lightly and without very carefully weighing all the issues and their implications... I would hardly consider this type of medical care reflective of a decision made "on demand"...I would like to believe that our elected officials have carefully thought through the meaning of phrases they use when speaking to the public."

McMaster University's Health Sciences Archives (HSA) is thrilled to make this letter, along with other records in Cohen's fascinating collection, available to researchers.



Dr. May Cohen, Aug. 1991.
FHS Public Relations
Department fonds. Health
Sciences Archives,
McMaster University.

Cohen (b. 1931) attended medical school at the University of Toronto in the early 1950s, at a time when less than ten percent of medical students at the University were women. In 1955, she graduated at the top of her class.

For twenty years, Cohen practiced family medicine in Toronto with her husband, Dr. Gerald (Gerry) S. Cohen. Abortion was illegal in Canada when Cohen began her career. It became clear to her that the law was problematic when one of her patients died from complications of an illegal abortion. After the law was amended in 1969 to allow abortion under certain circumstances, she joined the abortion decision committee at Branson Hospital and fought for access to legal and safe abortions for Canadian women. She became a prominent voice in the pro-choice movement.

In 1977, Cohen joined the Department of Family Medicine in McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences.

Between 1987 and 1988, Cohen travelled to Australia on a sabbatical. While there, she was inspired by an ongoing study investigating women's health needs in each state. Upon returning to Canada, Cohen spearheaded the development of the Women's Health Office (WHO) at McMaster. Founded in 1991, WHO was the first of its kind in any Canadian medical school. Its mandate was to research and raise awareness of diseases that affect women differently. Several other Canadian medical schools subsequently created similar offices.

A pioneer of women's health and a champion of gender-based healthcare, Cohen has called on the medical profession to reconsider its approach to women's health concerns and to recognise the particularities of women's health. She has advocated the right of a woman to make decisions regarding her own health. She has also played an important role in raising awareness and advancing the treatment of women's health issues ranging from cancer to domestic abuse.

Cohen has advocated gender equality within the medical profession and has broken down barriers for women physicians. She has challenged the male-centric paradigm in medicine and has called on medical schools to include women's health in their curricula. She is also a pioneer in teaching medical students and physicians about healthy sexual practices and eliminating sexual taboos and gender stereotyping.

Cohen's collection includes both personal and professional material spanning her life from medical school to the present. Included are presentation and teaching materials, writings, speeches, reports, minutes, video recordings, photographs, correspondence, flyers, research material, McMaster University Women's Health Office records, and records related to Cohen's involvement in various professional associations. Among the many highlights in the collection are pro-choice letters Cohen exchanged with editors, politicians, journalists, and corporations. Also of note are journals she maintained during her sabbatical in Australia. These detailed journals offer a fascinating look at the sexual health and women's health landscape in Australia at the time.

Cohen's collection reflects a wide range of topics related to history of women's health care, gender differences in the medical profession, and sexual health education. Please

contact us for more information at hslarch@mcmaster.ca (a finding aid is available here: <https://www.archeion.ca/may-cohen-fonds>)

Melissa Caza

Archivist

Health Sciences Archives

McMaster University

News from the Mt. Sinai Medical Center Aufses Archives

Celebrating Barbara Niss, As She Retires!

The archival staff of Mount Sinai's Arthur H. Aufses, Jr, MD Archives would like to celebrate the career of Barbara Niss, MA, Director of the Archives and Records Management Program, and her efforts to document and preserve the history of the many Mount Sinai entities, which date back more than 200 years. Barbara retired December 1, 2021, after 35 years of service to Mount Sinai and the archival community.

Barbara joined Mount Sinai in 1986 as a lone arranger tasked with establishing an archives program to preserve the historical legacy of Mount Sinai Hospital. She organized the Hospital and Medical School records and answered all reference requests, averaging 300-350 requests a year. In 2009 she hired a records manager to organize a records management



program. In 2011, she established a digital archives program, adding a digital archivist to the team. With the 2013 Mount Sinai/Continuum Partners merger, an additional four hospitals and one additional archivist came under her supervision. Currently the Archives collects records from eight hospitals in the Mount Sinai System. A highlight of her career was the recognition the archives received in 2017 when the Aufses family endowed the program, renaming it The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives and Mount Sinai Records Management Program.

Additionally Barbara co-authored two books with Dr. Aufses on the history of The Mount Sinai Hospital, *This House of Noble Deeds*, in 2002, which was awarded the Arline

Custer Memorial Award for Best Book or Monograph in 2003, and then a Mount Sinai School of Medicine history, *Teaching Tomorrow's Medicine Today*, in 2005. She also collaborated on the 100-year history of the Alumni Association, *100 Years...A History of the Mount Sinai Alumni*, in 1996.

In 2021, Barbara and digital archivist Stefana Breitwieser launched a digital catalog for the Aufses Archives, which pulls together all the various descriptive tools to our collections into one online platform, including some collections that were formerly unpublished. She also created an online image database to display Mount Sinai images which will be moved into this new catalog. There are now more than 1,800 images online and counting. Her diligence has also ensured that our collections appear in world-wide databases such as WorldCat, the National Library of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium, the Internet Archive, and the Medical Heritage Library so that broader audiences are able to find the resources available through the Aufses Archives.

Barbara was active in professional societies throughout her career, serving on various committees for the Society of American Archivists; the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference; the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York; the American Association for the History of Medicine; and the METRO Conservation/Preservation Advisory Council. Within the former Archivists & Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences Barbara served on the Steering Committee; the Program Committee; the Awards Committee; and most recently as Treasurer.

Before coming to Mount Sinai, Barbara was an archivist at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center (now New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center) and the LaGuardia Archives. She received her Master of Arts in History/Archives Management from New York University.

Please join the Archives staff and Hospital Administration in a hearty *Hip Hip Hurray and Well Done!* in wishing Barbara all the best in the future. Barbara's Mount Sinai email will remain active for a few months as she provides support to the transitioning leadership; if you wish to reach out and send greetings you may reach her there.

A new Director for the Archives at Mount Sinai Health System

J.E. Molly Seegers, former Archivist of the Brooklyn Museum, has joined The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr. MD Archives as its Director following the retirement of Barbara J. Niss. Molly holds a MLIS and a MA in the History of Art and Design, both from the Pratt Institute.

Her ten years of experience in the field includes a number of digital archives positions,



which will be a great support for Aufses Archives' growing digital program and online catalog, implemented last summer. Molly's creative talents and leadership abilities are proven in the many community and archives-related special events she led or supported and her enthusiasm for problem solving. They exemplify the new Mount Sinai Health system's motto, 'We Find a Way.'

Welcome to the team, Molly!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship at the Center for the History of Family Medicine

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) is proud to announce its eleventh annual Fellowship in the History of Family Medicine. Named in honor of former American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation executive director Sandra L. "Sandy" Panther, the Sandra L. Panther Fellowship in the History of Family Medicine encourages interested family physicians, residents, students, other health professionals, historians, scholars, educators, scientists and others to apply.



The Sandra L. Panther Fellowship provides a \$3000 award distributed to the fellow upon completion of their research at the Center for the History of Family Medicine.

The project should involve an aspect of the history of General Practice, Family Practice, or Family Medicine in the United States. The fellowship will be awarded directly to the individual applicant and not to the institution where he or she may be employed.

The deadline to apply is by 5:00 PM (CDT), Sunday, March 31, 2022. All applications will be reviewed in April, with the fellowship award announced by May 31, 2022.

Complete fellowship rules, application forms, and instructions are available online through the Center's website at the following link:

<http://www.aafpfoundation.org/chfmfellowship>

Housed at the national headquarters of the American Academy of Family Physicians and administered by the AAFP Foundation, the mission of the CHFM is to serve as the principal resource center for the collection, conservation, study, exhibition, and dissemination of materials relating to the evolving history of the specialty of Family Medicine in the United States for the benefit of the specialty and the public. The CHFM collection includes decades of documents, photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia that are professionally cataloged and preserved in a climate-controlled environment.

For more information, please contact:

Veronica Roberts

Program Specialist

Center for the History of Family Medicine

11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway

Leawood, KS 66211

E-mail: vroberts@aafp.org

Maude Abbott Symposium, March 17-18, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

We are pleased to announce a day-long symposium on **Friday, March 18** that will bring together individuals interested in the life and work of Maude Abbott, former Curator of the McGill University Medical Museum. It will showcase research from a variety of disciplines and topics, including Abbott's medical innovations, museology experience, publications, teaching, exhibitions, role as a pioneering female doctor, and relationships with other individuals.

The event will open the evening of **Thursday, March 17** with a lecture by **Dr. Sam Alberti**, Director of Collections, National Museums Scotland and Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, on the history and current relevance of museums in the university setting. This will also be an Andrew F. Holmes Dean of Medicine Distinguished Lecture in conjunction with McGill University's bicentennial celebrations.



Both the Holmes Lecture and the symposium are free of charge. The lecture will take place in person in McGill's Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry Building and via Zoom. The symposium will take place in person at the McGill Faculty Club and via Zoom.

The preliminary program, symposium updates and registration can be found at

<https://www.mcgill.ca/medicalmuseum/activities/maude-abbott-symposium-2022>

For questions or more information contact:

Prof. Annmarie Adams, Social Studies of Medicine/Architecture,

annmarie.adams@mcgill.ca

Dr. Richard Fraser, Maude Abbott Medical Museum, richard.fraser@mcgill.ca

<https://www.mcgill.ca/medicalmuseum/activities/maude-abbott-symposium-2022>

SPONSORS

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, McGill University

Department of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University

Maude Abbott Medical Museum, McGill University

SSHRC, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Dr. Clyde Partin, Gary W. Rollins Professorship

Paul W. Seavey Comprehensive Internal Medicine Clinic

Emory University School of Medicine

Society of American Archivists Donald Peterson Student Travel Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2022 Donald Peterson Student Travel Award.

Established in 2005, this award supports students and recent graduates from graduate archival programs within North America to attend SAA's Annual Meeting. The goal of the

scholarship is to stimulate greater participation in the activities of SAA by students and recent graduates. This participation must include either a presentation of research during the Annual Meeting or active participation in an SAA-sponsored committee, section, or roundtable. [Click here](#) to preview the application and/or to apply. All applications must be submitted online and include the following:

1. A 500-word essay describing the applicant's career goals and potential impact on the archival profession.
2. Unofficial transcript to verify student status or copy of graduate diploma.
3. Two letters of recommendation from individuals having definite knowledge of the applicant's qualifications.

Nominations will be accepted until **February 28, 2022**.

If you have any questions regarding the award or the application process, please contact Danielle Sangalang, Donald Peterson Student Travel Award Committee Chair, at dsangalang@massart.edu

For more information on the details on awards from previous years, please visit the Donald Peterson Student Travel Award on the [SAA webpage](#). Please feel free to pass along this announcement to colleagues.

Donald Peterson Student Travel Award Committee:

Helen Conger

Jessica Hornbuckle

Danielle Sangalang (Chair)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Jim Downs. *Maladies of Empire: How Colonialism, Slavery, and War Transformed Medicine*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2021. 272 p. \$29.95. ISBN 9780674971721

The history of medicine is often dominated by a list of Great Names who brought some sort of seismic change to the field: John Snow for demonstrating that contaminated water was linked to cholera, Walter Reed for establishing the role of mosquitos in transmitting malaria, and so forth. But while the work carried out by these physicians is undoubtedly significant, the historical record often obscures the means by which they acquired their data—which was often the people ground under by the titular forces of colonialism, slavery, and war.

In *Maladies of Empire*, Jim Downs sets out to reveal the history of medicine that lies in the space behind the famous names and deconstruct the mythology of medical discoveries being the purview of a few great physicians. Using historiographical techniques developed by Black feminist scholars, Downs' well-crafted narrative shifts the focus from the actions of individual physicians to the scaffolding that their research was built upon. It carries us from the crowded conditions on slave ships and prisons to filthy battlefields to plantations, reminding us that the data physicians used to develop theories of disease transmission, develop medical procedures, and recommend public health measures was built on a scaffolding of unacknowledged bodies belonging to soldiers, colonial subjects, and enslaved persons.

Medical advancement does not always arise out of altruistic impulses, and that does not make for an easy read. The doctors on slave ships who recommended fresh air for the enslaved people were not acting out of concern for their comfort and well-being—they wanted to keep them healthy in order to protect an investment. When smallpox outbreaks threatened soldiers in the Civil War, doctors inoculated young, healthy Black children, not because they wanted to preserve their health, but because they wanted to use their bodies as a source for harvesting lymph. In these and other cases, disadvantaged people were essentially used in large medical experiments without their consent, and their unwitting contributions have been mostly erased from the historical record.

Medicine has also been used as a tool for justifying the subjugation of certain groups. The intersection between race and medicine is a theme that runs throughout the work, but it is perhaps most prominent when discussing the actions of doctors employed by the United States Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. While British physicians studying the spread of infectious disease in colonized territories tended to emphasize environmental factors rather than racial characteristics as the most important factor behind the spread of disease, American physicians took the opposite approach. While Civil War field hospitals were by no means bastions of cleanliness, physicians emphasized Black soldiers' bodies as the fundamental cause of ailments such as tuberculosis, rather than focusing on their living conditions. They also engaged in projects to catalogue and measure Black soldiers' body parts, creating data that could be later be used to justify the subjugation of Africans and people of African descent based on their supposed "inferiorities."

The names of the individual people who were used as tools for medical research are, for, the most part forgotten. Their agency has also been removed; in the narratives told by physicians, they are often referred to simply as "cases" or "healthy Blacks," descriptions that erase the reality of their situation. Although the recovery of each name is beyond Downs's power, *Memories of Empire* is a valiant effort to restore their place in the history of medicine. Each chapter is structured to remind the reader of how physicians gathered their research material and which voices were silenced in this process. At a time when the library and history professions are reevaluating their presentation of the past and the narratives they choose to favor, Downs's work is certainly an important, valuable addition to our shelves. It is also worth noting that while the subject alone makes it a worthwhile read, it is also compelling. Downs is a skillful author, and the work reads smoothly even as the content can be difficult to grapple with. It is highly recommended for those with a broad interest in global history and the history of medicine.

Elisabeth Brander

Rare Book Librarian

Bernard Becker Medical Library

Washington University in St. Louis

Michael R. Kronenfeld and Jennifer Jacobs Kronenfeld. *A History of Medical Libraries and Medical Librarianship: From John Shaw Billings to the Digital Age*. Latham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021. 365 p. Hardcover: \$125; e-book: \$45. ISBN: 978-1538118818

In their new book, *A History of Medical Libraries and Medical Librarianship: From John Shaw Billings to the Digital Age*, Michael R. Kronenfeld and Jennifer Jacobs Kronenfeld have created a work of great utility to students of the field, particularly those focusing on the last forty years. This time period is virtually untouched by any comprehensive scholarship. However, the authors' choice of focus, to a significant degree, undercuts their title, will perplex some readers, and likely anger not a few others.

The Kronenfelds chose to focus their work on the activities of the National Library of Medicine, and its predecessor institutions: the Army Surgeon-General's Library, the Army Medical Library, and the Armed Forces Medical Library. NLM did not receive its present name until 1956 and did not become part of the National Institutes of Health until 1968, although the current building, located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, opened its doors in 1962. The Kronenfelds' treatment of this complicated, often politicized, history is exemplary, bringing the story up to date (the last comprehensive history of NLM, by Wyndham Miles, was published in 1982), and adding a wealth of statistical data on NLM's activities as it evolved from being a simple bookcase for army doctors to a national library and then an international resource in such fields as medical indexing and nomenclature. All the usual suspects are present: John Shaw Billings, Robert Fletcher, Fielding Garrison, Frank Bradway Rogers, and a few more names now less remembered, such as Scott Adams, Estelle Brodman, and Seymour Taine. The discussion of more recent directors Martin Cummings and Donald A.B. Lindberg is disappointingly brief, and they are not listed at all in the seemingly truncated index. This is odd, as it was Cummings and Lindberg who planted NLM firmly in the forefront of the digital era.

Another useful and interesting focus of the book is the attention the Kronenfelds pay to the growing professionalization of the medical library field. The role of the Medical Library Association in this context is paramount, along with its long interaction with NLM (it should be noted here that this book was published under the auspices of the Medical Library Association Books Panel, and the Kronenfelds were the recipients of NLM funding under the Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship Program). As the Kronefelds note, the field of medical librarianship was dominated by "gentleman physicians" for a very long

time. Librarians without medical degrees are referred to as “lay” librarians in this book, and their upward career paths were limited. It was not until its seventh president, Charles Perry Fisher (1912), that MLA had at its head a working librarian who was not a physician. And although several women were instrumental in the creation of MLA, it was not until 1933 that MLA had its first woman as president: the redoubtable Marcia Noyes. For the record, NLM has never had a library school graduate as its permanent head, with the exception of Frank Bradway Rogers, who actually earned his degree at Columbia (studying under Estelle Brodman) *after* he had been named deputy director of the Army Medical Library. Rogers was, of course, an MD, as has been every permanent director except for the current incumbent. Of course, this also raises the question of defining “trained librarian” in the era before library schools (the first American library school was founded by Melvil Dewey at Columbia in 1887). It’s rather like defining “trained nurse” before Nightingale. As MLA approaches its 125th anniversary, with plans afoot to intensively re-examine its own history, the Kronenfelds have provided an up-to-date starting point, reminding us that it was MLA that pressed for professional training and levels of certification for medical library professionals.

However, there is a caveat to this book, and it is quite a serious one. Essentially, the book is misnamed: it is *not* a history of medical libraries; it is a contribution to the history of *one* medical library that grew up to be NLM. And that is not the same thing. The National Library of Medicine may have become the mothership, but it is not now, nor has it ever been, the only medical library out there. Very early in their book, the Kronenfelds present a list, compiled by John Shaw Billings himself, of the “Principal Medical Libraries in the United States in 1876.” There are thirty entries, fourteen of which predate the Army Surgeon-General’s Library. Not a single one is put under any kind of historical scrutiny. Major figures in the field who were not primarily affiliated with NLM or its predecessors (Gertrude Annan, Louise Darling, Janet Doe, Archibald Malloch, Mary Louise Marshall, Marcia Noyes, and surely many more) are only mentioned when their professional paths intersected with NLM’s development, or are not mentioned at all. Such institutions as the New York Academy of Medicine, the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the Boston Medical Library, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Duke, and so many others are either mentioned only in passing or not at all. Alternative medicines, such as homeopathy, chiropractic, and osteopathy, and their libraries, are also omitted, which seems odd, given Michael Kronenfeld’s long career with the last field.

It is appropriate to accept this book for what it does best: as a new evaluation of the roles of NLM and MLA in the professionalization of medical librarianship. But a far-reaching account of the history of medical libraries has yet to be written.

Stephen J. Greenberg

Retired

Alisha Rankin. *The Poison Trials: Wonder Drugs, Experiment, and the Battle for Authority in Renaissance Science*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2021. 329 pages. Paperback, \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-226-74485-8.

In the manner of the most learned of Renaissance physicians, Alisha Rankin, associate professor of history at Tufts University, exhibits an encyclopedic and carefully examined knowledge of experimentation on poisons spanning from the ancient tests by King Mithridates (135-63 BC) through the seventeenth century, with a more concentrated focus on poison trials on condemned criminals in the sixteenth century. Her effective utilization of primary documentation in multiple languages is impressive, but even more significant is her thoughtful assessment of the implications of these sources, questioning historical assumptions and looking at them from a fresh perspective. The author provides extensive information, detail, and context in a clear and concise narrative. And all of this is set against the enchanting backdrop of Renaissance court culture amidst a time of poison hype in which treasure chambers and cabinets of curiosities displayed rare, exotic, and New World poison antidotes, sometimes encased in gold and jewels. It was a time when a fascinating cast of alchemists, apothecaries, and street-performing mountebanks peddled their magically concocted or exotically imported cure-alls to prince and public, competing with learned physicians of the day. *The Poison Trials* is an enjoyable read, but most noteworthy is what the work says about the place of poison trials in the overall development of experimental science.

The book is arranged chronologically with the compact first chapter focusing on antiquity through the fourteenth century. Ancient poison trials such as Mithridates' test on human criminals and Galen's test of the theriac antidote on separate treatment and control groups of roosters are described in this chapter but recur throughout the book. Rankin explains that they "cast long shadows," being still referenced in the 17th century, even by such critics of medical authority as Medici physician Francesco Redi (p. 229). Then, in a significant revelation about the medieval period, Rankin uncovers drug testing on poisons during this time, including a successful self-experimentation by Guido da Vigevano (c. 1218-1349) with the poisonous aconite using his own worm theriac

antidote, which managed to “demonstrate clearly that medieval doctors were not merely tied to their texts” (p. 38).

Rankin also questions the assumption that the conservatism of medieval physicians can explain their use of theriac as a treatment for plague. Instead, she argues, Black Death physicians observed the plague sweeping through the population in a manner more like a poison than as a disease of humoral imbalance. This brought forth accusations against Jews poisoning wells and theories about the role of poisonous miasmas spreading the disease. This connection of plague to poisons resulted in the conflation of their treatments with poison antidotes (p. 43-46). Theriac had been a tried and proven poison antidote since antiquity, and likewise unicorn horn, emerald, terra sigillata, and a variety of other drugs became known as cure-alls that worked against poisons and what Gentile da Foligno called “the most venomous of all poisons,” the plague (p. 45).

Rankin notes that this conflation of poisons and plague further justified the trials on condemned criminals that had begun with Pope Clement VII’s test of the antidote oil concocted by surgeon Gregorio Caravita in 1524. In a pamphlet published a few days afterwards, the trial was validated as of public benefit, since it demonstrated the effectiveness against poison of this oil which had already proven useful in curing those infected with the “most terrible pestilence” that devastated Rome under Pope Adrian VI (p. 67). This association with the plague epidemic that affected everyone so memorably appealed to a wider public. That the tests were performed on condemned criminals, the same demographic increasingly used for anatomical dissection at that time, likewise also cast the procedure as more conventional and acceptable (p. 52-53).

Rankin draws attention to the desire of 16th century learned physicians to distinguish their poison trials from the dubious performances of traveling mountebanks, quacks, or “empirics.” This motivation, she argues, sparked the development of experiment modeling, systematic documentation, timekeeping, and symptom by symptom case accounts, thus spearheading the notion of experimentation as a scholarly endeavor (p. 82). In a book that describes many trials conducted by order of kings and popes, Rankin emphasizes the bottom-up role of these empirics in compelling learned physicians to take steps to ensure that their trials were viewed as scholarly, which became the impetus behind their centrality to scientific development.

Another significant revelation is Rankin’s recognition that the consideration of ethical issues such as informed consent in trials on condemned criminals as early as 1580,

“believe the notion that human experimentation was a free-for-all before the late seventeenth century” (p. 115). In early sixteenth century poison trials, prisoners were not informed, and their subject-ness was hidden from them. Attention to the prisoner emerged out of trials in the 1560s, and by the time of the experiment on the criminal Tümler in southwest Germany in 1580-1581, ethical considerations had become important to the process. Tümler was expected to have given prior consent and to have actually made the request for participation in the trial himself. Also, he was expected to have wanted to participate “for the help and benefit of all Christendom” (p. 137), a concept emphasized several times. He also was subjected to the experiment publicly, so that the socio-spiritual function of public execution would “bring him a good death while serving the public good” (p. 137). Though the notion of public benefit continued to appear in accounts of medical tests thereafter, Rankin points out that informed consent did not take hold again until the nineteenth century (p. 140), which also places the poison trials ahead of their time in regard to experimental protocol.

Rankin found Tümler's case to be the last extensive poison trial on a condemned criminal, but two additional chapters of the book concern the continual morphing of poison antidotes into panacea wonder drugs in the sixteenth century, which eventually decreased the role of trials. After all, these tests could only prove the antidotes effectiveness against poisons, whereas dramatic accounts by learned physicians of their healing properties at the bedside benefited the wonder drug hypothesis (p. 182). Also, the increase in availability of the rare, exotic, and sometimes mythical (unicorn horn) substances following the discovery and exploration of the New World and expanded trade with India and other far-off places, raised more concerns about authentication than their effectiveness against poison.

Likewise, panaceas concocted through secret alchemical processes were best defended by testimonials, and especially in the case of terra sigillata seals, questions of authenticity were rampant. Some learned physicians like the “father of chemistry,” Andreas Libavius (c. 1550-1616), attempted to use the alchemists' own techniques of chemical analysis to disprove their panaceas (p. 186; 216). Here again learned physicians were driven to distinguish themselves as experts and to advance scientific knowledge while non-traditional competitors enticed the public with mysterious alchemical cure-alls that made them wealthy.

In conclusion, Rankin argues that though trials on condemned criminals ended with the sixteenth century, poison self-experimentation and animal experiments reoccurred as

part of the drug licensure applications of the seventeenth century. And poison experiments continued to influence science. For example, Robert Boyle's poison tests on animals sparked his discussions of the extent to which results derived from animals could be applied to humans (p. 229). Thus, by presenting these ideas with documented and persuasive evidence, Rankin offers a fresh perspective on the development of modern science, effectively making a case for placing poison trials at the center of this shifting paradigm. At the same time, she accomplishes this while still embracing the magic and intrigue of Renaissance society, culture, and medicine.

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The Watermark (ISSN 1553-7641) is the quarterly publication of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHSS). It was founded in 1976 to serve as the newsletter of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences, changed its subtitle in 1992 when the name of the organization was changed to ALHHS. The subtitle was changed again in 2020 when the present name was adopted. OCLC records are #11902760 (1976-1992) and # 40676801 (1992-2020).

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