

THE WATERMARK

Newsletter of
The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

Volume I, Number 1
October, 1976

A Message from the Chairman

Membership in the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences now totals 29 (see list of names and addresses that follows). The Constitution and Bylaws are appended for your final ratification. The preliminary draft evoked three criticisms, no two alike, so we left the draft very much as it was.

Twelve members favored the name we finally selected (eight preferred The Solander Society, and three independent suggestions were received, one being for The Garrison-Morton Society). *The Watermark* received 14 votes as the name of our newsletter; several other suggestions were made. Foundation-funding for *The Watermark* was favored by fourteen members, eight preferred funding from dues, and four proposed acceptance of the bookseller's offer (which implied some editorial control). Since our hoped-for foundation-funding has dried up, we are going ahead with *The Watermark* on the basis of dues, but we'll still keep our eyes open for another oasis.

Twelve persons attended the Association meeting on May 12, 1976, in Galveston prior to the meeting of the AAHM and enjoyed the very liberal hospitality of the University of Texas Medical Branch, as arranged by Emil Frey. A full account of this meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

At the "business meeting" we discussed possible activities and projects for the Association in keeping with our avowed intent to be a *working* organization. (Actually, of course, no "business" is to be transacted at meetings, since many of us cannot attend any given meeting, but opportunities for an informal exchange of ideas would seem to be most helpful.) Among the suggested projects were:

- Publication in *The Watermark* of articles such as the following, which would be designed as contributions toward a manual of medico-historic librarianship:
 - Sources and search protocols for pictorial illustrations.
 - Sources and search protocols for medical biography by place and period.
 - Bookbinding and restoration of rare materials, including criteria for the professional librarian to evaluate such work.
 - "Kitchen-table" techniques for prevention of further deterioration.
 - Standards of description for unique written materials (archives, manuscripts, letters, documents) at varying degrees of detail; i.e., for directories, published catalogues, card catalogues, tables-of-contents.
- Columns for *The Watermark* on such topics as:

General news in such areas as major gift collections, personnel changes, appearance of special reference sources.

Preservation news.

Museum and exhibit techniques.

Organizations of related interest, their national and regional meetings, etc.

Public relations techniques ("Friends of the Historical Collections," etc.).

- An exchange mechanism for secondary out-of-print materials not valuable in the monetary sense and for odd volumes of journals or sets. (One possibility might be setting up a bank that would permit direct exchange between two institutions, eliminating the problems of equating values.)
- Pressure on manufacturers of photocopy machines to produce at least one model with a planetary camera so that handling of books, manuscripts, etc., would be much reduced, to the benefit of fragile originals. Obviously, we don't have enough clout to accomplish this ourselves, but we could try to stir up interest among larger and more influential groups.

You will notice that space has been left on your ballot for further suggestions for projects and activities. Please write in any additional concerns you may have, and also *please indicate in which area of activity you would be willing to serve*. The Association will serve us only if we are willing to serve on its projects.

Please submit any further nominations for officers and members of the Steering Committee to me at 58 W. Tulpehocken Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

— Lisabeth M. Holloway, Chairman *pro tempore*

Historical Interests Highlight 1976 MLA

Association members participated in the many activities related to librarianship in the history of medicine that appeared on the program of this year's annual meeting of the Medical Library Association, held June 12-17 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

These activities included the continuing education course (CE 17) on Preservation of Library Materials, which was offered again this year, with the Saturday section emphasizing rare book and archival collections. Those particularly interested in binding enjoyed a sherry party at the Owen H. Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, where they heard Miss Carol McCraney, British-trained

fine binder and paper conservator, speak on 19th century bindings.

Owen H. Wangenstein, noted surgeon, teacher, and scholar, spoke to the History of Medicine Group's Luncheon on Tuesday, June 15. Dr. Wangenstein described the inception and growth of the 23,000 volume historical collection named in his honor. The Medical Society Libraries Group heard Mark A. Graubard, Ph.D., speak on "Magic, Herbal Medicine and Witchcraft" at its dinner meeting on Monday, June 14. The Murray Gottlieb Prize for a paper on the history of medicine written by a medical librarian was presented at the Honors and Awards Luncheon to Joan Campbell for her paper "The Library of Richard Mead."

The Poster/Panel Sessions held on Wednesday included "Graduate Students in the History of the Health Sciences: Approaches to Library Instruction" by Nancy W. Zinn, Librarian, History of the Health Sciences, University of California; "More Than Tea and Sympathy: Creative Support for the Medical Historian" by Lisabeth M. Holloway, Curator, Historical Collections, Library, College of Physicians of Philadelphia; "Librarians as Academicians: A New Method to Promote Special Collections" by Jon Erlen, Ph.D., History of Medicine Librarian, University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas; and "Oral History in a Medium-Sized Medical School Library" by Nancy Ekstrand, Archivist, and Michael D. Sprinkle, Director, Bowman Gray School of Medicine Library, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The panel session was moderated by Judith Overmier, Curator, Owen H. Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, University of Minnesota.

The final major convention session, held on June 17 and entitled Health Sciences Librarianship: An Anniversary, included a witty and informative speech on "America's Bicentennial of Medicine and Books" by William K. Beatty, Professor of Medical Bibliography, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois.

Holloway Begins New Projects

Lisabeth M. Holloway recently resigned her post as Curator of the Historical Collections at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. She is now working on historical and bibliographic projects, including the completion of the much anticipated directory, which will provide librarians with a useful guide to collections in the history of the health sciences.

ALHHS May Meeting Held in Galveston

Members of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences met in Galveston, Texas, on May 12, 1976. The meeting was arranged by Galveston librarians under the direction of Emil F. Frey. The morning session opened at the Rosenberg Public Library with a talk on preserving and storing archival materials by the Library's Assistant Archivist, William Sumner. The Rosenberg Library is one of the largest repositories of local historical materials in Texas; it houses an excellent collection pertaining to the history of Galveston and the upper Texas coastal area. Dr. Chauncey D. Leake of the University of California, San Francisco, was the second speaker. In a spirited talk, "Standing on the Shoulders of the Giants,"

Dr. Leake highlighted the medical sources and libraries of ancient Egypt and Greece.

The 30 librarians and book dealers who attended were the guests of the University of Texas Medical Branch for a luncheon held at Gaido's Pelican Club, where Dr. E.N. Brandt, Dean of Medicine, officially welcomed the group to Galveston. (Gaido's is the island's famous sea-food restaurant. You can't say you've been to Galveston if you haven't been to Gaido's!)

The highlight of the meeting was the afternoon session held in the Moody Medical Library of the University of Texas Medical Branch. Dr. Truman G. Blocker, President Emeritus, spoke about the University's past and present efforts to develop the rare book collection. The steady growth of the collection in recent years has been possible through privately raised grants and gifts. Since Dr. Blocker has been the major force behind this phenomenal expansion, it was most interesting to hear his first-hand account of the development of the Southwest's largest collection in the history of medicine. After Dr. Blocker's talk, the participants had an opportunity to indulge an appreciation for rare books: 50 some were on display for the occasion.

The preconference meeting of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences ended with a business session held in one of the cocktail lounges of the Flagship Hotel. Librarians talked about common concerns and future plans while sipping sherry and enjoying a view of the Gulf of Mexico.

Nominations, Ideas Called For

Thus far the following nominations for officers and steering committee members of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences have been made: President: Nancy Zinn, Ruth Mann, Bill Beatty; Secretary/Treasurer: Doris Thibodeau, Bill Beatty, Nancy Zinn; Editor: Judith Overmier; Steering Committee: Lisabeth Holloway, Jon Erlen, Ferenc Gyorgyey, Terry Cavanagh, John Blake, Nancy Zinn, Doris Thibodeau, Bill Beatty, Judith Overmier. Members are invited to submit further nominations to Lisabeth Holloway, 58 W. Tulpehocken Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144 on the following form. A slate will be prepared and the final ballot will appear in the next issue of *The Watermark*.

Nominations:

President _____

Secretary/Treasurer _____

Editor _____

Steering Committee _____

Suggestions for Association activities: _____

Proposed Constitution and Bylaws, ALHHS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to serve the professional interests of librarians, archivists, and other specialists actively engaged in the librarianship of the history of the health sciences by promoting an exchange of information and by improving standards of service.

Its aims may be achieved in the following ways:

- a. by identifying and making contact with persons similarly engaged,
- b. by providing opportunities to hold meetings on appropriate occasions,
- c. by issuing a newsletter and such other materials as may seem appropriate to the Association's interests, and
- d. by cooperating with other similar organizations in projects of mutual concern.

II. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Voting membership shall be limited to persons actively engaged in the librarianship of the history of the health sciences. (Members shall be encouraged to belong to other groups with related interests, such as the American Association for the History of Medicine, the Medical Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries and its Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the Special Libraries Association, etc.). Possession of a degree in library science or possession of a similar title shall not be required for membership.
- B. Nonvoting memberships, including subscription to the newsletter and invitations to meetings, shall be open to persons interested in the concerns of the Association, such as professional and amateur historians; physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, and other health professionals; booksellers; private collectors; and publishers.
- C. Dues, including subscription to the newsletter, shall be \$10 per year for voting members and \$15 per year for nonvoting members.

III. ORGANIZATION

The Association shall discourage the growth of an elaborate internal structure or of any considerable social or ceremonial emphasis. Rather, it shall strongly encourage active participation by all of its members in its efforts toward the achievement of its primary goals. To this end, internal structure shall be kept to a minimum.

A. Steering Committee

The principal authority of the Association shall reside in an elected Steering Committee consisting of six persons. The Committee shall include three officers: President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor of the Newsletter, who shall be chosen for 2-year terms in such fashion that all three officers will not be replaced simultaneously, from the members of the Steering Committee; and of three persons elected from the voting membership-at-large, who shall also serve for 2 years each, except as voted into the three offices above. All six candidates shall be nominated by the Steering Committee, which shall submit the nominations to the voting membership with a call for additional nominations. After an appropriate period, the nominations shall be declared closed. The revised slate of nominees will be offered to the voting membership, who shall vote by mail, sending unsigned ballots in signed envelopes to the President, who shall retain the envelopes, sending ballots to the Secretary-Treasurer to be recorded. The President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority, the others by a simple plurality.

B. President

The President shall not be eligible to succeed herself/himself immediately, although she/he may be nominated and elected after an intervening term. The President shall act as the Executive Officer of the Association with respect to any projects, publications, cooperative ventures, and so on, with the prior consultation and approval of the Steering Committee, and shall take the initiative in arranging for meetings by appointing a Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee. The President shall call for nominations, receive ballots, and report the results, as confirmed by the Secretary-Treasurer, to the Steering Committee and thereupon to the membership.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the correspondence and records of the Association, recording votes and decisions, and shall receive dues and pay the Association's bills, submitting a statement of the accounts to the Steering Committee every 6 months. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take note of changes of addresses, reporting these to the Editor for publication, and shall take the initiative in inviting eligible persons to become members.

D. Editor of the Newsletter

The Editor shall edit and produce the Newsletter, with the assistance of such other persons as he/she shall deem appropriate, such as Regional Editors, regular columnists, and so on, if such be thought advisable by the Steering Committee. The Editor shall send the Newsletter accounts to the Secretary-Treasurer and shall accept instructions from the Secretary-Treasurer as to the financial commitments the Association can afford with respect to the Newsletter.

IV. ACTIVITIES

A. Newsletter

The primary means of communication of the Association shall be its newsletter, which shall appear at stated intervals, as established by the Steering Committee. It shall contain professional news as deemed appropriate by the Editor and shall carry regular columns on topics of continuing importance, with special articles as

(continued)

requested. A column of letters is to be open to the members — voting and nonvoting — as are the newsletter's other departments, subject to the Editor's approval.

B. Other publications

As opportunity offers, and upon the approval of the members, the Association may publish or sponsor or endorse materials considered of importance to its members. All such projects shall have the endorsement of the Steering Committee before submission to the voting members.

C. Special projects

The Association may establish such internal projects, under *ad hoc* committees if necessary, as it considers appropriate to its objectives and may combine, upon approval of its members, with other similar societies in projects of mutual benefit.

V. AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended and the organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members, by mail or at a meeting, on a resolution set before it by a two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee.

Current List of Members, ALHHS

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