

THE WATERMARK

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"OTHER" USES OF HISTORY OF MEDICINE COLLECTIONS

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In the past few years, a variety of scholars--many of them inspired by new theoretical approaches to knowledge--have found history of medicine collections to be an exceptionally fertile area for primary source materials. The result has been an explosion of articles and books using traditional collections in new ways. In some cases, scholars employing newly forged theoretical techniques have become the average users of special collections divisions, very nearly replacing more familiar users, who usually either trace the evolution of medical techniques or write biographies of the great white men of medicine. Scholars and students of literature, gender studies, lesbian and gay studies, and women's studies are increasingly using history of medicine materials. These scholars provide not only the promise of greater use of our collections, but also the opportunity to evaluate our operations and improve our collections and services.

Since I came to the Special Collections Section at the Columbia Health Sciences Library two years ago, I have met with a diverse group of faculty, mostly in the arts and humanities, suggesting they encourage both graduate and undergraduate students to use the under-utilized collection. The results have been exciting. Some of the most interesting topics have been brought to me by students well-versed in the works of such theorists as Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. I have begun to see opportunities for the use of the collections that go far beyond anyone's original assumptions.

The Special Collections Section contains approximately 15,000 volumes printed between 1476 and 1876, nearly 75 manuscript collections, prints, slides, and a small group of instruments. It is especially strong in the history of plastic surgery, housing

the Jerome P. Webster Collection of nearly 8,000 books on plastic surgery, surgery, and texts on the aesthetics and depiction of the human form. Other large collections include the John G. Curtis Collection of books on physiology and the George Huntington Collection of books on comparative anatomy. The Louis and Lena Hyman Collection on the History of Anesthesiology, the Hugh Auchincloss Collection of materials relating to Florence Nightingale, a portion of Sigmund Freud's library, and a substantial general collection of historical titles round out the holdings. Following are examples of a few alternative uses of medical collections taken from work in progress by students who have used the Special Collections Section of the Columbia University Health Sciences Library and from published works by scholars.

New Scholarly Methods, New Uses for Old Books

Elaine Showalter's *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture in the Fin de Siècle* (1) and Ed Cohen's *Talking on the Wilde Side: Toward a Genealogy of a Discourse on Male Sexualities* (2) are two excellent examples of how literary scholars are using medical collections to understand the contexts in which the literary act occurs and the relationship language has to our understanding of the body and the perceptions of the body in specific cultural milieus.

Gender Studies and Special Materials:

Showalter traces the development of several late 19th-century English sexual types, including the "New Woman" and the "decadent," or "aesthete," through their representations in literature and the commentary about them produced by doctors. The "New Woman" who was independent, active in society, and often a feminist, became a common target of the medical establishment, which labeled her as neurotic and sterile, accusing her of contributing to the downfall of the race. Showalter cites Dr. William Withers Moore in his presidential address to the British Medical Association in 1886 when he warned that the "New Woman" eventually becomes "more or less sexless. And the human race will have lost those who should have been her sons. Bacon, for want of a mother, will

not be born." (Showalter, p. 40.) Doctors sought "cures" for such "New women," including Weir Mitchell's rest cure, so painfully described in Charlotte Perkins Gillman's story "The Yellow Wallpaper." They also developed unprecedented examinations of women's bodies. Showalter's research includes discussion of the development of the speculum for examining the female body without surgery; the development of an extensive literature about the clitoris, which was blamed for homosexuality, masturbation, depression, marital dissatisfaction, and nymphomania; and the use of the clitoridectomy and ovariotomy to cure newly described sexual and emotional "problems" in women. Her explanation of the commonality of "anatomical Venuses," the use of the speculum, and the horrors of Jack-the-Ripper in the English understanding of women's bodies in the period are a tour-de-force. Showalter's use of a large variety of original materials, not just books and manuscripts, to unlock the mindset of the period suggests that ephemeral materials, realia, objects, and popular culture materials in our collections are vital research tools.

Gay and Lesbian Studies and Medical Collections:

The history of homosexuality is inextricably intertwined with the history of medicine. It was in or about 1869, when the term "homosexuality" was coined by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, that homosexuality as a social construct was born. To be sure, same-sex sexual acts can be traced well into ancient history, but in the mid-19th century the creation of the "homosexual" as a type of person coincided with an attempt to understand same-sex attraction. At the same time, medicine claimed the homosexual for its own to study, pathologize, diagnose, and cure, shifting the homosexual from merely a "species" designation to a diseased individual. It follows that with the current explosion of gay and lesbian studies in academia, history of medicine collections are proving fertile ground for lesbian and gay scholars. Ed Cohen's book *Talking on the Wilde Side: Toward a Genealogy of a Discourse on Male Sexualities* is one example of this kind of scholarship.

Cohen, coming from a contemporary literary and social theoretical tradition, proposes in his text to re-evaluate the trials of Oscar Wilde by dislodging the "now canonical rendering" presented by H. Montgomery Hyde in *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Cohen, p. 3). Cohen sees the trials as "a public renegotiation of the boundaries within which 'private' behaviors were determined as (in)appropriate in order, conversely, to stabilize the very ground of the 'public' itself" (Cohen, p. 2). He hopes "that by reinterpreting the (con)textual nexus from which the prevailing narratives about Wilde's 'tragedy' have emerged, [he] might be able to elucidate the ways in which Wilde became a crucial figure both for what it meant to be an 'English homosexual' at the end of the nineteenth century and for whom 'English homosexuality' has subsequently come to be figured in this one."

Reinterpreting the "(con)text" for Cohen means not only the social milieu in which Wilde lived and was convicted, but also the language, the "texts," that explained/constructed that milieu. Each section of the book examines a dialogue that informs the Wilde case. Cohen explores the legal, religious, and aesthetic constructions of gender in the 19th century, leading to a discussion of the Wilde trials. An in-depth analysis of the language used in the newspaper account of the trials employs these earlier exegeses to understand how the representation of the modern homosexual was linked to Wilde. Of interest here is the section on male sexuality, where Cohen relies on contemporary medical texts to explain the late 18th- and early 19th-century developments in male sexuality. The works of Havelock Ellis, R. von Krafft-Ebing, and other early sexologists are fairly standard holdings in most special collections and play an important role in the social construction of homosexuality. Cohen cites these works as well as Max Nordau's *Degeneration*. The first and second edition of Malthus's *Essay on the Principles of Population* are compared to show how Malthus added a moralizing section in which a "virtuous" check on population growth was possible. Most interesting is Cohen's

section on the proliferation of 19th-century English literature on masturbation. He notes that "perhaps the most amazing fact about the writings on masturbation is that they did not just emanate from one or two institutional contexts, but were produced in incredible quantities by and for doctors, educators, evangelists, mothers, fathers, adolescents, military officers,



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quacks, and alienists alike" (Cohen, p. 35). Citing Samuel Tissot's *Tentamen de morbis ex manu struprione*, which first appeared in 1758, before being expanded and translated into French in 1760 as *l'Onanisme, ou Dissertation physique sur les maladies produites par la masturbation*, Cohen argues that the medical discourse on male masturbation complemented the pedagogical practices disciplining the adolescent male body. Doctors, in their expanding role as the guardians of 'public health,' increasingly supported teachers and parents in the efforts to raise and educate healthy future generations of middle-class Britons. Masturbation, which was portrayed as undermining not only the reproductive potential of this future, but also the productive capacities of the individual adolescents, provided an opportunity for parents, doctors, clergy, and teachers to act in concert in order to guarantee the health and the perpetuation of their class. (Cohen, p. 45).

He notes that Tissot's text was published throughout the 19th century, hardly ever being out of print until 1905. Cohen further supports his thesis with other texts, such as William Acton's *The Functions and Disorders of the Reproductive Organs* (1857), noting that the work "which was so instrumental in advancing the medicalization of sexual behavior, is devoted exclusively to the examination of male sexual function" (Cohen, p. 48). Further, Acton divides his text into two sections, "normal functions," those which are "healthy," "reproductive," and "generative," and those that are "disorders"—"not natural," "unhealthy," "debased," and a real "danger to middle-class society." Further bolstering of the idea comes from G. J. Barker-Benfield's article, "The Spermatic Economy," and the works of David Skae, president of the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals, who wrote extensively on masturbation. Masturbation led to "degeneracy" and, eventually, to "unmanly" behavior. Cohen argues that in the case of Oscar Wilde, the construction of the masturbatory "type" of person informed the construction of the homosexual "type," which Wilde came to symbolize.

Medical texts helped to create the social milieu in which Wilde would at first thrive, playing off the stereotypes. Ironically, the same society that had raised Wilde to fame would later turn and use the stereotypes to pillory Wilde. The popular press would compress all of these stereotypes in their coverage of the Wilde trials and impress them into the minds of the public, where Oscar Wilde would come to symbolize the "typical" English homosexual, a position he would retain until the modern gay movement began to develop in the 1960s.

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Rethinking the Uses of Plastic Surgery Collections:

Jerome Webster was an avid collector of books on plastic surgery, which he construed in the largest possible way to include not only the medical aspects of surgery but also the aesthetics of the human form. In his collection, for instance, are many early texts on art and medicine, books on perspective as shown in the human body, and books on physiognomy. A number of art history students have used the Webster collection to study anatomy and the representation of bodies in anatomy texts in relation to other artistic portrayals of the body. One of the most interesting examples was a graduate student studying 16th-century Italian painting who examined early physiognomy texts, comparing the depictions of the various types of characters and their descriptions to the allegorical figures in oil paintings of the period.

The collections contain significant groups of books on transsexualism, tattoos, nudism, and a variety of other subjects. Recent scholarly articles such as Bernice L. Hausman's "Demanding Subjectivity: Transsexualism, Medicine, and the Technologies of

Gender"(3) suggest that there are vital uses in other fields for what were once mere medical texts. Hausman's article investigates how medicine and medical technology helped to create the transsexual and to define the possible constructions for sexuality. The idea of the transsexual and the need to develop surgical techniques that would alter the male body to a female body is predicated on the belief that the transexual is a specific type in which the male psyche is trapped in a female body or, conversely, a female psyche trapped in a male body. This view of gender and sexuality seems to be founded on an essentialist presumption about the nature of gender, a presumption that has recently been called into question. By examining the autobiographies of the early transsexuals, Hausman shows how doctors, steeped in the essentialist tradition, listened to transsexuals who believed they were really trapped in the wrong body type. These doctors then treated the problem as a medical one. Hausman highlights the important role Harold Gillies played in the development of transsexual surgery when he performed the first female to male surgery in the 1940s. Beyond being "the founder of British plastic surgery in this century," Hausman notes that Gillies believed that "surgeries that would improve the psychological functioning of the individual legitimately could be provided, even if there were not pressing physiological need" (Hausman, p. 286). By providing a complex reading of Gillies' text in relation to his technological advances in plastic surgery, Hausman exposes the link plastic surgery has played in the construction of gender in the 20th century. (While Hausman did not use our collection for her research, it is exciting to see Gillies figuring so prominently in her work: he was a personal friend of Jerome Webster and our collection contains correspondence, paintings, and inscribed copies of books that Gillies sent to Webster.) Hausman's research suggests but one of the myriad possible research topics that the Webster Collection could support.

Construction of Women's Bodies in the 19th Century:

Michel Foucault expressed his desire to write a "history of bodies" that would:

show how deployments of power are directly connected to the body—to bodies, functions, processes, sensations, and pleasures; far from the body having to be effaced, what is needed is to make it visible through an analysis in which the biological and the historical are not consecutive to one another, as in the evolutionism of the first sociologists, but are bound together in an increasingly complex fashion in accordance with the modern technologies of power that take life as their objective. Hence I do not envisage a 'history of mentalities' that would

take account of bodies only through the manner in which they have been perceived and given meaning and value; but a 'history of bodies' and the manner in which what is most material and most vital in them has been invested.(4)

Following Foucault's idea a student came to Special Collections searching for medical texts written by male doctors about women's bodies that had been published in major medical journals or separately as monographs. The intended audience for these publications was other male doctors. At the same time, she hoped to find lay texts by the same doctors written for women about their own bodies. Her research explored the differences in discourse that doctors employed when writing about women's bodies for other men, and when writing to the women themselves. The student's goal was to show that the different discourses about women's bodies really represent the constructions of different bodies for the women from those held by the men. Because of the so-called "research" nature of our collection, we were very strong in "scientific" works by 19th-century doctors writing about women's bodies, but lay texts written by the same doctors were rarely ever held. I provided the student with the "scientific" texts we had and helped her locate other copies of the lay texts at other institutions. I then pursued the question further, seeking texts by women written for women about their bodies, but such texts were virtually non-existent in our holdings. Upon reviewing our collection development policy, it became clear that lay texts were considered not to be of sufficient scholarly value to be added to the collection. What we are doing, in other words, is privileging the 19th-century "scientific," male discourse about women's bodies and not considering that other dialogues might be held concurrently by women. The collection development policy, which rarely allowed for the inclusion of the doctor's lay discourse, labeled the women's discourse about their bodies as "ephemeral" and chose not to preserve it in the collection. Our collection development policy is a fairly standard one, comparable to the policies followed by other large medical collections.

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This example of the privileging of "scientific," male medical discourse around women's bodies raises the question of how many other possible medical dialogues are missing from our understanding because libraries privilege the male, "scientific" dialogue.

When Theories Collide: Some Problems when Medical Libraries Confront New Theoretical Approaches to Knowledge.

Librarians, including special collections librarians, necessarily must make assumptions about who uses library collections. Many special collections librarians have built major collections to support biographical research, textual editing and preparation of definitive texts for scholarly use, and the history of the book arts. Similarly, librarians working in the history of medicine have assumed we are amassing original materials to provide resources for the research into the history of medicine, its discoveries, advances, and major figures. The increasingly complex uses of history of medicine collections by scholars in a large variety of "other" fields pose several questions for what medical librarians collect and how we collect, organize, and provide access to materials. The wide variety of materials—from texts to manuscripts, ephemera, instruments, and realia—used by Elaine Showalter questions the scope of our collections. Should we actively collect instruments, which have often been excluded from libraries? And if we collect these objects, what kind of processing and description is needed to provide adequate access to them? The work of Ed Cohen and Bernice Hausman highlights the expanded uses of medical materials by new theoretical approaches. While these scholars relied on standard, "canonical" texts from medical collections, they also made extensive use of more "ephemeral" materials. What is our role in collecting these odd corners of collections, such as popular culture books on masturbation or biographies of transsexuals? Do we remain a passive partner in the scholarly process, merely providing canonical texts already listed in Garrison-Morton and other bibliographies, or do we take a proactive approach to collecting these "odd" materials? If we take the latter approach, how do we determine what is a legitimate path of research from a passing fad?

The student investigating doctors' constructions of women's bodies raised what are perhaps the most pressing questions: Are medical collections excluding of "other" knowledge, privileging so-called "research" materials that, in fact, are mostly written by middle-class, white males? Do medical subject headings inhibit the kinds of information that can be derived from medical texts in order to perpetuate an approach to western medical knowledge? Is the term

"research" materials in medicine misleading in that it is used to exclude materials from collections instead of allowing their inclusion as potential scholarly resources? Following Cohen's reasoning, do we collude with the medical tradition, helping to perpetuate the development of medicine as an upper middle-class white male discipline by our collection development policies and our services?

Keeping abreast of the current developments in critical theory has proved a valuable endeavor for me in anticipating the kinds of materials scholars may need from the collections. I am more likely to add "ephemeral" titles to the collection if they suggest research potential in a broader sense of "research." (Such materials have the added advantage of being less expensive.) Assisting users as they read "against the grain" of the medical subject headings (and Library of Congress subject heading) has called to my attention the biases of those systems and their shortcomings. It has made me question the nature of those systems and the implicit political agenda that informs them. We stand to gain not only greater use of our collections, but also a more complex understanding of our collections and services from supporting "other" uses of history of medical collections.

1. Elaine Showalter. *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture in the Fin de Siecle*, (New York: Penguin, 1990).
2. Ed Cohen. *Talking on the Wilde Side: Toward a Genealogy of a Discourse on Male Sexualities*, (New York: Routledge, 1993).
3. Bernice Hausman, "Demanding Subjectivity: Transsexualism, Medicine and the Technologies of Gender," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 3 (1992): 270-302.
4. Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality*, (New York: Vintage Books, 1990)

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ALHHS in LOUISVILLE

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday Night Informal Dinner---Dutch Treat at The Rudyard Kipling, a pub with Kentucky burgoo and English and vegetarian food, good beer and home-made breads.

Thursday Meeting---At Stairways, a renovated old riverfront commercial building three blocks from The Galt House (the convention headquarters)

8:00 meet in hotel lobby to walk to Stairways
8:15 - 8:30 welcome and assemble at Stairways
8:30 - 10:00 business meeting
10:00 - 10:30 coffee/tea/pastries break
10:30 - 12 program: Androcles and the Lion, or, the Rare Affairs of a Bookseller and Librarian
12:15 - 1:30 lunch in the Stairways Atrium
1:45 - 3:30 bus tour of historic Louisville sights led by local historian and archivist, Tom Owen

ANDROCLES AND THE LION, OR, THE RARE AFFAIRS OF LIBRARIAN AND BOOKSELLER

Antiquarian collectors, librarians, and booksellers are all keepers of books, and all share concerns in common. Yet sometimes these essential components are seen as adversarial, and unacquainted. This leads in many instances to a lack of trust of the parts, rather than sympathy for the whole. Collections assembled by individuals, through their book sellers, and later presented to, or purchased by, institutions, account for the larger share of rare book holdings both here and abroad. If this fact alone did not suggest the necessity of our mutual sustenance, our organization itself, uniquely composed of just these three components (apologies to the archivists), then perhaps we need to explore the relations and the reciprocal advantages that exist for our respective interests.

Particularly when university libraries are facing retrenchment, and rare book funds are so diminished, the acquisition of titles becomes difficult to make, and more difficult to defend. It is the discriminating collector, bookseller, and librarian, who can buy "wise books." We can all profit by learning from one another.

The speakers of the program, Edwin V. Glaser, Barbara Rootenberg, Jeremy Norman, and Joan Echtenkamp Klein, will talk on ferreting out and valuation of antiquarian books, what does one buy with

no money, what is a "wise book," where have all the collectors gone, and reflections of the trade and its relationships to its audience.

It is hoped that the membership will bring any and all questions they have been burning to ask about any of the above, and others that they have not yet dared to formulate. If there is anything you might like to add, do let me know. I hope you will enjoy it.

Susan Alon
Program Chair

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ALHHS SPONSORS AAHM WORKSHOP

The ALHHS will sponsor a lunch-time workshop on electronic networking at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Louisville, KY, May 13-16. Organized by Inci Bowman, PhD, the workshop will explore how the changes taking place in the network environment may affect the AAHM membership. Special attention will be given to using electronic mail, participating in discussion lists on Bitnet, transmitting texts via the networks, and publishing electronically. The use of the resources available on the networks will be examined from the perspectives of a researcher and a librarian. The principal speakers are Joel D. Howell, MD, PhD, of the University of Michigan and Peter B. Hirtle, MA, MLS, of the National Archives (formerly of the National Library of Medicine). Peggy Steele, Acting Director of the Office of Library Systems, the University of Louisville Libraries, will also participate as a network services specialist.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 24, 1993

Nearing the mid-point of my two-year hitch, I finally made it up to Philadelphia last week, and so got a chance to look at the ALHHS archives. Although the transfer of materials to the College of Physicians is not yet complete, Tom Horrocks and Jack Eckert were able to show me the presidential papers of my two immediate predecessors, Phil Teigen and Glen Jenkins. I'm pleased to say that the archives has found a good home. On the other hand, I found out that I have been operating with little idea of the annual schedule or of the standard procedures of the organization. Improvising as I have, I hope that things don't turn out too messy. Fortunately, I have great support from the steering committee and from the chairs of the various other committees.

I'm quite pleased to see that our electronic bulletin board, CADUCEUS, operated by Inci Bowman with support from the Galveston medical school, is thriving. There was a period last summer when it appeared that Peter Hirtle and I were sustaining it with our seemingly endless debate over subject headings. Now Peter has left the NLM for the national archives and has become a somewhat less active ALHHSer, and I haven't transmitted a word to Inci in at least two months--yet other people find they have queries to post, opinions to voice, spleen to vent, answers to give, and news to transmit. Congratulations to Inci and to all who help maintain CADUCEUS.

Speaking of Peter, I think we all owe him great thanks both for his superb work as Curator of Modern Manuscripts at the NLM, and for his exemplary collegiality in the ALHHS. We will hear from him to be sure, but we will miss him. The NLM will miss him indeed!

The NLM. Last year we donated \$500 to the Friends of the History of Medicine Division, in honor of the HMD's fiftieth birthday. Now Edwina Walls reports that we received an invoice for another year's membership in the Friends group. I think that \$500 is excessive as an annual commitment, but I also think that it would be appropriate for our organization to show at least nominal financial support for the largest repository of medical history in the country. Several steering committee members like this idea. At the annual meeting in Louisville, I will entertain a motion to continue our support of the Friends of the HMD. If you have thoughts on this matter, let me know. I think fifty or a hundred dollars would be fine.

The Louisville meeting seems to be shaping up into a proper ALHHS bash. Sherrill Redmon, with the assistance of Louisville native Jon Erlen, has been doing a bang-up job of lining up local color. Susan Alon's program promises to be useful and enjoyable. I trust that further word about the Louisville meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Watermark*.

The Nominations Committee, through its chair, Beth White, has informed me that their deliberations are almost complete as of this date. We are approaching the deadline for mailing out ballots, and I hope that the ballots will at least be in the mail by the time our members receive this issue of *The Watermark*. Beth's advance word makes me very hopeful about the future leadership of our organization.

The Awards Committee is also hurrying to get its work done in time for the Louisville meeting. Committee chair Barbara Irwin is in regular touch with me. Within a short time, there should be a decision on the winner of the first Holloway Award for distinguished service and curatorship. I believe that award presentation will be a highlight of our meeting this May.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in just a couple more months, I remain,

Your President.

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REFERENCE BOOK REVIEWS

By Phil Teigen

Bruce Fye's "The History of Medicine: An Annotated List of Key Reference Works" appears in a recent issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* (1993, 118:59-62). This is a fine piece of work and interesting for several reasons. First, it is fun to browse any such list and debate with the compiler over the inclusion or exclusion of this work or that one. Second, it is important to identify the lists' underlying historiographical commitments, in this case, commitments to biographical and internalist approaches to medical history. I pun on the word internalist, referring to a focus on internal medicine and also to a type of medical history which emphasizes the development of disciplines in linear fashion while devoting less attention to the social, political, and economic milieu in which disease and health care occur. Third, it is interesting in demonstrating how important typographical design is to effective reference works. In this one authors' names (but not corporate authors' names) are in bold face and the rest of the entries are in roman. This choice underlines the biographical approach of the list but also directs our eyes away from where I think they should be, namely, the titles. I'm sure the compiler had nothing to do with this decision and that the journal's editor(s) applied the same rules to this contribution as to every other one. Last, Bruce includes only printed sources in his list. Can any reader prepare a list of online or CD-Rom sources of value for research in medical history?

In recent weeks I have browsed through some new reference books, among them:

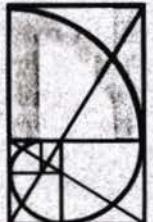
- Margaret K. Fresco, *Doctors of St. Mary's County [MD] 1634-1900*, published by the author (38 Wynne Road, Ridge, Maryland 20680) in 1992
- Anne J. Gilliland-Swetland, *The History of the Health Sciences in Michigan: A Guide to Research Sources* (Historical Center for the Health Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1991)
- Jean S. Gottlieb, *A Checklist of the Newberry Library's Printed Books in Science, Medicine, Technology, and the Pseudosciences, ca. 1460-1750* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1992)
- Judith A. Overmier and John Edward Senior, *Books and Manuscripts of The Bakken* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1992)

I mention these four because they are representative of the varied and valuable medical historical reference books being published today. They deserve more than the brief note or notice which they are likely to get in historical journals. It seems to me that *The*

Watermark could fill an important gap if it would regularly review medical history reference books. The members of ALHHS and the readers of *The Watermark* are, by virtue of their training, experience, and interests, in a unique position to provide this critical function. To help get us going have your publishers send review copies to me at the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD, 20894. They will be reviewed promptly. In addition, readers of *The Watermark* who are interested in writing short but substantive reviews and submitting them promptly should let me know of their interest.

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The National Library of Medicine (NLM) invites applications for the position of Chief of the Library's History of Medicine Division. This is a U.S. Civil Service position that will be filled at the GM-15 level. The History of Medicine Division/(HMD) is responsible for programs and services related to NLM's pre-eminent historical collection of printed works in medicine and related sciences and its special collections of manuscripts, pictures, photographs, oral histories, early films, etc.

The Chief of HMD oversees the complex acquisition, cataloging, indexing, reference, preservation, publication, and other activities of the Division and develops programs to encourage and facilitate use of NLM's rich historical resources. As NLM's principal authority on the history of medicine, the Chief initiates and coordinates historical exhibits, lectures, symposia, and other programs; carries on original historical research; and serves as NLM's principal contact with all segments of the historical and learned community. In addition to having appropriate knowledge of the history of medicine and related sciences, applicants must have demonstrated ability to plan and administer a historical program of considerable magnitude and must be able to understand and oversee applications of automated information systems. Applicants must have demonstrated broad professional competence in historical works of high quality. NLM is an equal opportunity employer.

Interested individuals should contact Constance Mantzurans, Office of Personnel Management, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, tel. (301) 496-4943, to obtain an application package. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is April 19, 1993.



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WORKSHOP ON CATALOGING HISTORICAL MEDICAL ARTIFACTS

This April 29th workshop will provide an introduction to the principles and practices of cataloging historical medical artifacts with special emphasis on cataloging using the MARC format and OCLC. It will be held in the Dittrick Museum of Medical History of the Cleveland Medical Library Association. The Museum is headquarters for the Ohio Medical Artifact Cataloging Project and is located in the Allen Medical Library, 5 miles east of downtown Cleveland. The workshop is sponsored by the Historical Division of the Cleveland Medical Library Association and the Ohio Network of Medical History Collections. For additional information and a registration form please write to Patsy Gerstner, Allen Library, 11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-1714 or call (216) 368-3648.

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MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Chicago, Illinois
Business Meeting
History of the Health Sciences Section/MLA
Tuesday, May 18, 1993
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Sandburg 3, 7th floor Palmer House Hilton

Program
Monday, May 17
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Dearborn 1, 7th floor Palmer House Hilton

**MEDICINE AND MANUSCRIPTS: RESOURCES FOR
MANAGING HOSPITAL ARCHIVES**
Moderator: Barbara Smith Irwin, Head, Special Collections, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Speakers: Anne P. Diffendal, Executive Director, Society of American Archivists; Michael McCue, Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History, American Hospital Association.

Hospital libraries frequently serve as the archives of the institution. Faced with the special requirements for administering hospital records, the hospital librarian may wish to seek specialized training and/or advice. The two speakers at this session will address the resources (publications, training courses, consultation, etc.) available from the Society for American Archivists and the Center for Hospital and Healthcare Administration History. The presentations will be followed by questions from the audience and general discussion.

Newberry Library

Tuesday, May 18, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
(advance registration required; limited to 20 participants; contact Dorothy Whitcomb)

Papers Sought for the Gottlieb Prize

Papers in the history of the health sciences are being sought to compete for the Murray Gottlieb Prize. The Gottlieb Prize is awarded annually by the Medical Library Association for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences written by a health sciences librarian.

Since its inception in 1956 by Ralph and Jo Grimes of the Old Hickory Bookshop, Brinklow, Maryland, 28 awards have been made to health science librarians for their papers. The winner in the current

competition will receive a cash award of \$100 and a certificate at the Associations' 1994 Annual Meeting.

The deadline for submission is September 1, 1993. For information on the standards for judging, and instructions for preparation and submission, contact: Professional Development Department, Medical Library Association, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 300, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

**FROM THE ANTIQUARIAN
BOOKDEALERS' PERSPECTIVE**

By Edwin V. and Peter Glaser

If there is one critical area that is of mutual importance both to librarians and antiquarian book dealers, it is the public's opinion and understanding of the importance of rare and retrospective book collections.

Now this is probably a classic case of preaching to the already converted. Obviously, (we would hope), those of us who read *The Watermark* don't need any convincing of the significance and importance of the materials we handle. But are we doing a good enough job of conveying that to our constituencies and the world around us? In the case of librarians, how vigorous and successful is their outreach to their university communities? In the case of book dealers, how successfully do they convey the importance and excitement of rare books to non-collectors?

One of us frequently lectures to various groups on antiquarian books and is frustrated and dismayed by just how alien the concept of an old book or rare book or beautiful book is to even well-educated Americans. Years ago when Ed Glaser first went into the book business an old family friend, an attorney and an educated, decent, civic-minded chap, came by to see what this was all about. He blankly skimmed the shelves and said to him quizzically, "And from this you expect to make a living?"

Just recently Ed appeared on a television panel show along with a talented paper marbler to help promote an upcoming book fair. The hostess of the show, a Tammy Fay Baker lookalike, listened uncomprehendingly while Ed spoke enthusiastically about the first edition of Newton's *Principia* he was holding up to the camera for the audience to

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see. Then she oohed and aahed about the paper marbler's work, and said: "That paper is much too beautiful to use on a book."

Many times we have spent hours in the special collections departments of large university libraries, with all manner of hustle and bustle going on in the rest of the library, but with not a single soul entering the rare book room. How many medical students go through their entire college career without investigating the rare book collections at their institution? Is this a contributing factor to why budgets for rare books and special collections have suffered so dramatically over the past few years? Over and over again we wrestle with the question, how do you get people interested in antiquarian books?

Why, right here in our cousin organization, the American Association for the History of Medicine, only a surprisingly small percentage of the membership is truly interested in the physical book. Given seemingly analogous demographics, of ten physicians with the same socio-cultural background, the same education, the same income, perhaps only two will relate to books with passion and excitement. The others will be content with the modern reprint or secondary sources. And it isn't a question of available money. Now obviously we're not dealing in food, shelter, or clothing, and we do depend on discretionary income, but an interested person can surround himself or herself with a representative collection of books in their field of interest for a relatively modest amount. Sure, first editions of great books in immaculate condition are often expensive, but later, though contemporaneous, editions can often be had for much less.

One would think that someone with either a professional or avocational interest in a particular area would want to possess the historical artifacts relating to that field. But, again, here we are preaching to the converted. The question is, what can we do to increase interest in the world of antiquarian books? We have often been struck by the fact that a relatively large proportion of physician collectors come from relatively few medical schools. Obviously, in either a history of medicine course, or through an active, outreach special collections department, they were infected with the love of old books. Public health deals with the control and elimination of viruses and infections; library and antiquarian bookdealer health must vigorously deal with the spread and proliferation of the old book bug.

The need for action is further exemplified by the increasing threat that technology will make the physical book obsolete. At the recent Symposium at Harvard on Rare Book and Manuscript Libraries in the 21st Century, it was reported that a program is now in progress which will store the text of every western book printed before 1800 in databases. I shudder to think of the consequences to historical understanding if future scholars derive their information solely from databases without access to the actual physical objects. Contrast your response to a magnificent Chippendale chest in a museum, to that of a photograph of the same piece. We all know how it feels to experience the excitement of actually holding a rare or important book in our hands. Increasingly, we must make it our responsibility to convey that to others.



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