LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
By Maggie Yax

It seems a bit difficult to rouse myself from mid-summer drowsiness, but I'll try...

The meeting in Seattle was a great success. The CE courses our Section sponsored were well received and attended, and our program of contributed and invited papers was interesting indeed. Our business meeting was filled with reports, discussions and plans that you will read about in the minutes printed in this issue. Before proceeding to new business, however, I need to take a moment here to rectify a serious omission I made. Before I adjourned the meeting in Seattle, I had intended to thank everyone for his or her interest, input, energy and enthusiasm. In particular, I wanted to thank our out-going officers, Steve Greenberg, Barb Van Brimmer and Fred Pachman for their years of effort on the Section's behalf. And to all the many others, who have contributed their energy and expertise to the Section, I again say “thank you.”

One item of new business that was discussed at our meeting was the Murray Gottlieb Award. Submissions have been low, so in an effort to encourage folks to send their essays in, this issue of *Incipit* contains information about the award and some testimonials from previous winners. I hope you will read and enjoy them and most of all, I hope you will think seriously about submitting your research essays for consideration.

Also in this issue you will find the absolutely final version of the bylaws. We are now in full compliance with MLA HQ and owe a big thanks to Pat Gallagher for working so hard and so long on what, no doubt, was a rather tedious task.

As we enter our Centennial year, our Section is much in demand for co-sponsoring programs as well as a number of other activities. There will be opportunities throughout the year for involvement and I encourage you all to seek them out and offer your help and expertise where and when you can. As one of our members said, “History will be the flavor of the month for a while.” So, let’s all enjoy and celebrate!
Section Activities: The Section sponsored two one-half-day CE courses this month: Introduction to Archival (Yax), and History of Medicine Resources for the Small Library (Gallagher/Greenberg). Both have been reauthorized for next year. Since the focus of the next annual meeting is on history, we need to promote our Section Maggie Yax reported on the program we jointly sponsored this year with the Research Section which involved three contributed papers and one invited paper. Gallagher and Gallagher have been approached about a Bikbit for History of Medicine. Gottlieb Award: Yax stated no award was given this year since nothing appropriate was submitted. She solicited suggestions on how to promote interest in the award. Oral History Committee: Diane McKenzie, project manager, stated that the Committee now reports to the Board and not Section Council. A motion was carried to appoint the immediate past chair as ad hoc liaison with the Oral History Committee. This requires no bylaws change. Section Web Page: For $10.00/month (which covers only computer maintenance) MLA can provide a minimum of 10 megabytes of space for Section use. Gallagher offered to provide maintenance of the Web site. After discussion on potential benefits, a motion to establish a Web site was carried. Then consideration was given to an internal list-serve which would be especially important to increase visibility and ease of communication during our centennial. The motion was passed to empower the board to use their discretion in establishing a list-serve. We will inquire if it can live at MLA headquarters. Pat Thibodeau, Section Council Chair, is the contact person.

Centennial Activities: Van Brimmer reported we have been approached by a number of other sections, Medical Society Libraries, Relevant Issues, Education, and Nursing, as well as the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual SIG to submit proposals for a joint program. In addition, we approached Pharmacy. A discussion ensued about encouraging all activity, but not allowing ourselves to get spread too thin. Everyone was urged to participate. We need a liaison from the Section to each joint program, but this does not need to be the Program Chair.

No one has volunteered to write the section history. The names of Lucretia McClure, Robin Overmier, and Dorothy Whitecomb were mentioned as possibilities for this. Yax will consider doing a poster session. A decision was made against pursuing a skit.

New Business: Since all new business was essentially covered as part of the old business above, Maggie Yax, the incoming chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Porter
Secretary

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HHSS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
1997/98

Goal 1: Professional Development
- Objective 1: Co-sponsor a variety of programs with historical themes for the 1998 Annual Meeting Centennial Celebration.
- Objective 2: Resubmit section sponsored continuing education courses for consideration as offerings at the 1998 Annual Meeting.
- Objective 3: Follow-up on proposal for MLA BiBit in the History of Health Sciences.
- Objective 4: Explore possibility of section sponsored poster session(s) for 1998 Annual Meeting.

Goal 2: Advocacy
- Objective 5: Mount section home page on the MLAnet web site.

Goal 3: Organization

Objective 6: Continue work with the Centennial Committee and the Oral History Committee in preparing for the 1998 Centennial Celebration.

Objective 7: Prepare a history of the section for the MLA Centennial.

Objective 8: Prepare and distribute a minimum of two newsletter to members.

Objective 9: Prepare an article about the section for inclusion in MLA News.

Goal 4: Research
- Objective 10: Encourage submissions for the Murray Gottlieb Award by publishing personal accounts and testimonies from past recipients in the section newsletter.

Maggie Yax, Chair

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1998 MURRAY GOTTLEIB AWARD DEADLINE: NOV. 1, 1997

The Murray Gottlieb prize is awarded annually by the McGill Library Association for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and related sciences written by a health sciences librarian. The Gottlieb Prize was established in 1956 by Ralph and Ina Grimes of the Old History Bookshop, Brinklow, Maryland, in order to recognize and stimulate the health science librarian's interest in the history of medicine. The author of the winning essay receives a cash award of $100 and a certificate at the Association's Annual Meeting. Deadline for submission is November 1, 1997 and should be submitted to: Thomas Williams, Director, Biomedical Library and Learning Resources, University of South Alabama, College of Medicine, BML 322B, Mobile, AL 36688.
even third time, after first being rejected. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Stephen Greenberg:

Each year, the Medical Library Association recognizes excellence in the field of medical librarianship by awarding various prizes, medals, and fellowships. Of particular interest to members of this section is the Murray Gottlieb Prize.

The prize is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and the allied sciences written by a medical librarian. The prize was established in 1956 by Ralph and Jo Grimes of the Old Hickory Bookshop in Brinklow, Maryland, in memory of Murray Gottlieb, a New York dealer of antiquarian books. Past winners of the prize include Edwin Walls, Glenda Wiese, Thomas Horrocks, Susan Rishworth, and (oh, yes) me.

What makes the prize such fun (to me, anyway) is that you are writing for a select audience who actually understand how you are working: what your sources were and what you went through to find them. The money is nice, too, and you get to sit at the big table at the Awards Luncheon. There is also the possibility of publication in BMLA.

At any rate, it's a great venue to show off that little project you've been nursing along for all these years. A panel of your professional peers makes a great captive audience.

For further information, contact the professional development folks at MLA HQ.

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PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL'S RATHER INFAMOUS TUMOR
by
Susan K. Anderson, Archivist

The Mutter Museum of the College of Physicians does not have the corner on medical oddities and unique pathological specimens in Philadelphia. House in the controlled environment of the Archives of Pennsylvania Hospital (and displayed on special occasions) is a seven-pound tumor suspended in a jar of alcohol. What follows is a case record from almost two hundred years ago, which describes the patient James Hayes, his unusual "tumor," and the operation he had to remove it.

"James Hayes (sic) aged 50 years was admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital on the 21st of November 1805. He had a large tumour on his face which had been growing about twenty years. During the last twelve months of that time the tumour increased in bulk very rapidly and was sometimes extremely painful. Its base, which was 23 inches in circumference covered one half of the lower jaw and extended from the lobe of the left ear nearly to the eye and the angle of the mouth on the same side. The circumference of the largest part of this tumour was 25 ½ inches - It was moveable and did not appear to have any immediate attachment to the bones of the head or face. This tumour was extricated by Dr. Physick on the 25th of December 1805. It weighed seven pounds - In the course of the operation the parotid duct was divided. The dressings were removed on the fifth day after the operation. There was no discharge of saliva from the wounded duct. The greater part of the divided integuments had re-united by the first intention. At the end of the seventh week the wound was entirely healed and on the 2nd of March 1806 the patient was discharged in good health." (from A Collection of Cases, 1803-1828, vol. I, pp. 52-53)

A later entry in the case book (p. 74) notes that Hayes' ordeal had not ended with the removal of the tumor; another trip to the "circular room" or amphitheater was in store for him. A year later Dr. Physick removed a second tumor that had grown in place of the first, this one weighing two pounds. However, after the "extrication" of the second growth, there were no future recurrences.

We hear more about the individuals involved in this incident through an excerpt from Poultin's American Daily Advocate (December 27, 1805). The following is taken from a clipping that was tucked into the Collection of Cases, near Hayes' entry.

"On Wednesday the 25th instant, a WEN was extracted by Dr. Physick, in the circular room, from the cheek and neck of James Hayes, of Dauphin county, in the state of Pennsylvania, in the presence of Doctors Wister and Cox, Physicians of the Hospital; and about 80 students of medicine from different parts of the Union, who were privileged to attend the practice of the house... It is supposed the patient might have lost about ten or twelve ounces of blood. This operation he bore with the greatest fortitude, and there is a reasonable prospect of his doing well."

The post-operative fate of the original seven-pound tumor was chronicled one hundred and thirty-three years later in Dr. Francis R. Packard's Some Account of the Pennsylvania Hospital from its First Rise to the Beginning of the Year 1938 (Engle Press, Philadelphia: 1938, page 56).
HISTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

NEWS

The Waring Library Society at the Medical University of South Carolina (friends of the library group) is sponsoring a Tribute to Joseph Ioor Waring, M.D. and his contribution to Medicine and the History of Medicine on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth with a lecture by Dale C. Smith, Interim Chairperson and Assistant Professor, Department of Medical History, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The lecture will be held on September 5, 1997, at 4:30 p.m. in the Basic Sciences Auditorium of the Medical University of South Carolina. The title of Dr. Smith’s talk will be “The Art is Long”. Dr. Waring, History and the Medical Profession.

Dr. Joseph Ioor Waring was the first director of the Waring Historical Library and distinguished himself as a pediatrician, an editor, a historian and a writer. He served as editor of The Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association from 1954 to 1970 and was author of a three volume History of Medicine in South Carolina. He was an active member of the American Association for the History of Medicine and hosted two meetings of the organization in Charleston in 1963 and 1974. Both times he served as Local Arrangements chairman.

“A Hall and a Library” is the new exhibition in the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine. It is the fifth exhibition in a series of six celebrating the 150th anniversary of the New York Academy of Medicine. “A Hall and a Library”. The Architecture of the New York Academy of Medicine will be on display from June 30 through October 3, 1997. The exhibition focuses on the design of the many buildings which have served as homes to the Academy over the past century and a half, and includes photographs, blueprints, and artifacts which demonstrate the elegance and style of these old New York edifices.

SECTION MEMBER NEWS

The Section boasts yet another member to win the Marcia C. Noyes Award. Erich Mervosh won MLA’s prestigious Noyes award, which each year goes to an individual who has made a lasting and significant contribution to the profession of health sciences librarianship. Congratulations, Erich!

Steve Greenberg and Pat Gallagher have been informed that the proposed MLA BibKit for the History of Medicine has been accepted. Pat and Steve report: “We’re already started working.”


Visitors are invited to visit the exhibition, which will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in Woeshoffner Hall, the Academy Library’s reading room.

The National Library of Medicine/Faculty of Medicine Seminars for 1997 include:

June 18th – Dr. Ben Z. Swanson, “Illustrated Presentation on the New National Museum of Dentistry”

Aug. 7th – Dr. Russell Maulitz, “A Pilot Project to Digitize the Surgeon General’s Catalogue”

Sept. 30th – Dr. Need Howell, “Information Technology in the Early 20th Century Hospital”


For more information, contact Dr. James H. Cassidy at 301-496-5405 (phone) or James_cassedy@acchihost.nlm.nih.gov

The History of Medicine Division at NLM announces that the new Images from the History of Medicine website is now available. All links from the NLM Home Page and subsidiary pages have been changed to the new address. Please change any bookmarks to the new NIH website address: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ Should you need any assistance, please contact the HMD Reference Desk at 301-496-5405 or hmdref@nlm.nih.gov

SECTION BYLAWS

(final revised version)

by Patricia E. Gallagher

The History of the Health Sciences Section of the Medical Library Association

Bylaws

THE HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES, A SECTION OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
B. Dues shall be payable on joining the Section and thereafter at the same time as are the Medical Library Association dues.

C. Dues shall be assessed on an annual basis for the period of the fiscal year.

D. The fiscal year for the Section shall be the calendar year.

E. If dues are unpaid two months after the renewal date, the dues shall be considered in arrears and the member will be suspended from all rights and privileges.

Article IV Officers

Section 1 Officers and Terms of Office

A. Officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Representative and Alternate Representative to the MLA Section Council.

B. The term of office of the Chair shall be two years as Chair Elect and two years as Chair. Chair Elect shall be elected in odd numbered years. The term of office shall begin at the end of the annual business meeting.

C. The term of office for the Secretary Treasurer shall be for two years, beginning at the end of the Annual Business meeting in even numbered years.

D. The term of office of the Section Council Representative shall be three years, except that if the Representative's term be made shorter by action of the Council or Bylaws of the Medical Library Association, the term shall coincide with that action.

E. The term of the Alternate Section [Council] Representative shall be the same as that of the Representative.

F. Officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting following their election and serve (unless they resign, die, or are removed) until the close of the Annual Business Meeting at the end of their term of office, or until their successors have been chosen and assumed their duties.

G. Elections shall be by written mail ballot mail ballot which will be returned at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting. If any elected officer cannot fulfill his/her term, the Chair shall appoint a Section member to fill the position until the next election.

Section 2 Duties

A. The duties of the Chair shall be to preside over all meetings, to represent the Section at all times, to plan the annual meeting, to assist the Program Chair in planning the program, and to perform all other duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Section.

B. The duties of the Chair Elect shall be to preside as Chair whenever the Chair is not able to do so, and to perform all other duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Section.

C. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be to take minutes of all meetings, to handle correspondence, to distribute notices, to receive and account for all monies due the Section, to prepare the Section annual report for the membership and the MLA headquarters by April 1 of each year, and to perform all other duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Section.

D. The duties of the Representative to the Section Council shall be to report the Section on the MLA Section Council by attending the meetings of the Council, to transmit to the Council recommendations that have been approved by the Section, to communicate Council business to the officers and members of the Section, to report on Council Activities to the Section Chair, and to perform all other duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Section.

E. The duties of the Alternate Representative to the Section Council shall be to attend the meetings of the Section Council, to serve as Representative whenever the Representative is unable to do so, to assume the office of Representative and serve out the unexpired term should the Representative become unable to complete the term of office, and to perform all other duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Section.

Section 3 Elections

A. The Nominating Committee shall prepare annually a slate (of at least one, but more are preferred) nominee(s) for each elective officer whose term expires.

B. Ballots shall be mailed to the voting membership by the Nominating Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the Section's Annual Meeting and shall be received by the Nominating Committee by the date previously announced for counting ballots. Candidates shall be declared elected upon receiving a majority of the votes cast. Where there are more than two candidates, a plurality shall elect.

Section 4 Candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee Membership

A. The name of one Voting Member of the Medical Library Association, chosen by the Nominating Committee, shall be submitted every year to the Section Council as a potential candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee; this submission shall be made to the Council before its final assembly at the MLA Annual Meeting. The potential candidate shall prepare a biographical statement and a signed statement of willingness-to-serve if elected as a member of the MLA Nominating Committee. This statement shall accompany the name submitted.

B. No person shall be a candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee who is already a MLA Nominating Committee member for membership from some other unit of the Medical Library Association; no candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee shall also be a candidate for an elective office of the Medical Library Association, vice versa.

C. No one shall serve on the MLA Nominating Committee as a voting member for more than one term during a period of five years.

Article V Meetings

Section 1 Meetings

At least one meeting shall be held in each fiscal year. Additional meetings may be held. All meetings shall be held at a time and place convenient for members. Notice of all meetings shall be disseminated to the membership at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date. The Section's Business Meeting shall be held during the same period and at the same location as the Association's Annual Meeting. Notice of all meetings shall be held at the same time that General Sessions or Business Sessions of the Association's Annual Meeting are conducted.

Section 2 Quorum

Fifteen (15) percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI Executive Committee

Section I Executive Committee
The elected officers of the Section plus the immediate past-chair shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Duties
The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its Business Meetings, fix the time and place of the meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and shall perform other duties as are specified by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by this Section.

Article VII Committees

Section 1 Standing Committees

Standing committees of this Section shall consist of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, and Membership Committee.

Nominating Committee

The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates. The nominees must consent to their nomination in writing. The Committee shall mail ballots to Section members no later than ten (10) weeks before the Annual Meeting, and shall conclude the ballot no later than one (1) month before.

Membership Committee

The Chair shall appoint a Membership Committee to develop and implement tactics for increasing membership, and for promoting the renewal of memberships. The Committee shall work from membership lists provided by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2 Other Committees

The Section Chair may appoint such other committees and representatives as are necessary with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 Committee Chairs

Chairs of Committees shall be Voting Members of the Medical Library Association.

Section 4 Committee Reports

Each committee shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Section Chair, who will submit it to MLA Headquarters as part of the Annual Section Report.

Article VIII Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 Rules

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Section in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, and special rules of order the section may adopt.

Section 2 Parliamentarian

A parliamentarian may be appointed by the Chair to serve a term concurrent with that of the Chair. This person may be re-appointed to serve additional terms.

Article IX Archives

A permanent record of all meetings for the preceding two years shall be kept by the Secretary-Treasurer, with duplicates held by the Chair. Yearly deposits of archival materials will be made to the MLA Archives.

Article X Amendments

These bylaws may be amended or rescinded by two-thirds of members voting at any regular meeting of the Section, provided that the amendment has been submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

Amended June, 1996
Amended May, 1997