LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
by Steve Greenberg

Amazingly enough (well, it is to me, anyway), this will be my last "Letter from the Chair." Time does fly when you're having fun, doesn't it?

It also flies when you are busy, and the section has been very busy in preparation for the 1997 annual meeting in Seattle. This year, in addition to the regular section program, we will be sponsoring two half-day continuing education courses. The first, taught by Maggie Yax of the Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center, is entitled "Introduction to Archives." In addition, Patricia Gallagher of the New York Academy of Medicine and I will co-teach a course on "History of Medicine Resources for the Small Library." Both courses are scheduled for Friday, 23 May 1997, with Maggie in the morning and Pat and me in the afternoon.

The main section program, organized jointly with the Research Section, looks fascinating as well. There will be three submitted papers (details on page 2), and a special bonus. Dr. Elizabeth Fee, Chief of the History of Medicine Division at NLM, will give a special presentation entitled "Supporting Historical Research: The Resources and Tools of the National Library of Medicine."

Work has also progressed on the Section's web page on MLAnet. The design is finished, text is being compiled, and the page should be mounted before the annual meeting.

And there's so much more. For those of you who can't get enough bureaucracy, we have our last (I hope!) Round of bylaw revisions. The revisions will bring the section into full compliance with MLA HQ, and will be voted upon in Seattle. And we have elections, too. Your ballot is enclosed in this issue.

Shall we all meet in Seattle for a cup of coffee (or tea, as appropriate)?

Plan Now to Attend!
May 23-28, 1997

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COMMITTED TO CHANGE
READY FOR THE CHALLENGE!
by Maggie Yax, Program Chair

The History of Health Sciences Section 1997 program, co-sponsored with the Research Section, is entitled "Historical Research: Foundation for Change, Preparation for Challenge." This program is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 1997 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm, and includes three contributed papers and one invited paper. The contributed papers and authors are:

Geriatric Consumer Awareness in Nutrition: An Historical Survey by Nancy Bianchi and Lucy Richards, Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont.

Evaluating Information Technology: Oral History Meets the Challenge by Joan Ash, Biomedical Information Communication Center, Oregon Health Sciences University, Charles T. Morrissey, Office of the Chancellor, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, and Linda A. Weiner, New York, NY.

Preserving the Past Through Oral History by Susan Bolda Marshall, Division of Information & Archival Services, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, IL.

The invited paper is entitled Supporting Historical Research: The Resources and Tools of the National Library of Medicine and will be presented by Elizabeth Fee, Ph.D., Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine. This presentation will briefly discuss some of the treasures of NLM's historical collection and the different ways in which these are being made more accessible to a variety of audiences through HISTLINE, Images in the History of Medicine, and online catalogs and exhibits, in addition to more traditional forms of research support such as seminars and a fellowship program.

See you in Seattle for another exciting Section Program!

HISS OFFERS CE COURSES IN SEATTLE

The History of Health Sciences Section is sponsoring two Continuing Education courses in Seattle on May 23, 1997.

Introduction to Archives (8 am - noon): Learn about the basic theories, principles, and practices of archival administration. Concentrate on developing skills for processing, arranging, and describing archival material. Study the archival techniques of reference, access, preservation, and security. Learn about appraisal and disposal of materials and receive a glossary of basic archival terminology, a resource list, and a selected bibliography. Instructor: Maggie Yax, Albert B. Sabin Archivist, Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center, Medical Center Libraries, University of Cincinnati.

History of Medicine Resources for the Small Library (1 - 5 pm): Most medical librarians are faced with history of medicine questions by patrons such as practitioners looking for the history of a disease or a genealogist searching for a medical forebear. Even if you don't have a large history of medicine reference collection, there are solutions. Learn to identify important print resources and reference books, to seek out other specialized collections, and to find free or low cost Internet and Web resources. Instructors: Patricia E. Gallagher, New York Academy of Medicine and Stephen J. Greenberg, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 1996 - December 1996

by Frederic C. Pachman

Balance in account - June 1, 1996 = $1,902.08

Summit Bank #5253001191

Receipts

Dues from MLA Aug. 1996 = 278.84
Interest = 29.23
Newsletter Refund = 20.48

Disbursements

Newsletter = 150.00
Money Orders = 4.00

Balance in account - Dec. 31, 1996 = $2,076.63

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 MLA BOOKS PANEL

SOLICITS SUBMISSIONS

The Books Panel of the MLA sponsors the association's professional publishing program. The Panel promotes the publication of materials in a variety of formats, focusing on the special information needs and interests of practitioners and students in health sciences librarianship and biomedical information management. The Panel actively solicits ideas and authors for potential publications.

Our book publishing is done in cooperation with Scarecrow Press, a division of University Press of America. Currently the Books Panel is sponsoring the publication of a new edition of the invaluable multivolume series Current Practice in Health Sciences Librarianship. Volumes 1 and 2, Reference and Information Services in Health Sciences Libraries and Educational Services in Health Sciences Libraries, are now available and six more volumes are underway. Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences (3rd edition) is another recent MLA Books Panel publication.

The Books Panel also produces a unique series of inexpensive materials called DocKits which are designed to provide practical information which may be readily applied in health sciences libraries. DocKits allow our colleagues to examine and compare plans, policies, procedures, forms, etc. developed at other institutions. Our newest DocKits are Descriptive Floor Plans of Library Computer Centers and Library Logos. DocKits editors select a topic related to health science library management, solicit contributions of documents currently in use related to that topic, organize the documents and provide an introductory overview.

Our latest publishing endeavor is our BibKits, current guides to the literature in specific subject areas. We are soliciting compilers to prepare BibKits in the allied health disciplines for physical, respiratory, occupational, and expressive therapists; physician's assistants; radiologic clinical laboratory; and emergency management technicians; social workers and others. Resources to be included may be textbooks, encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries, bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, journals, current and classic review articles, web sites, conference proceedings and whatever the compiler deems essential as a source of information in any format in the study of that field. Compilers of DocKits and BibKits submit camera-ready copy to MLA headquarters.

The Books Panel welcomes suggestions for potential publications throughout the year. Proposals for new publications are considered twice a year and are due April 1 and October 1. To submit ideas for new publications, request guidelines for submitting a proposal for either a book, a DocKit or a BibKit, obtain more information about MLA's publications program, or inquire about serving on the Books Panel, please contact Kimberly S. Pierceall, Director of Communications at MLA headquarters (312-419-9054, pierceall@milahq.org).

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Medical Library Association

MLA
HISTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCES NEWS

The New York Academy of Medicine has appointed Edward T. Morrow, Ph.D. as Associate Librarian for Historical Collections and Programs. In this role, Dr. Morrow will be responsible for the Rare Book Room and for creating scholarly research programs, outreach initiatives, lectures, and exhibits with regard to the history of medicine. He will also collaborate with Academy staff and faculty of other institutions to develop initiatives that promote the use of the collections by scholars, students, and the general public. Dr. Morrow was previously Librarian at the Institute of the History of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Lecturer in the Department of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology. He has published numerous articles, bibliographies, and book reviews, has served on a number of national committees, and has taught courses for undergraduate liberal arts students as well as for medical nursing, and public health students. Dr. Morrow served as master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Pennsylvania Department of History and Sociology of Science.

The History of Medicine Collections at the Duke University Medical Center Library is pleased to announce that the 504 slides of its set of four seventeenth century engravings known as The Four Seasons have been digitally scanned and are now available on the Internet (http://www.mc.duke.edu/mclbrary/hmc/him.html). Grants from The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and The Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation made possible the realization of the Historical Images in Medicine (HIM) database of which The Four Seasons is a part. Other sections will soon follow to complete the HIM project.

The Prior Health Sciences Library at the Ohio State University will officially open a new medical history area in their library during rededication ceremonies April 25, 1997. The library just completed renovating its entire five floor building due to the demise of the Randriever, a two-story, automated books storage system designed before its time. The new Medical Heritage Center, located on the fifth floor, is the last space to be completed. Features include temperature and humidity controlled archival and rare book spaces, research area, material preparation room, scholars, curatorial office, small conference room, and a large meeting space that can accommodate approximately 300 people. Curator Barbara Van Bramer is looking forward to her new location and the historical activities already being planned. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact her at 614-292-4891 or email VanBramer.2@osu.edu

The 2nd Meeting of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) and the 6th Meeting of the European Club on the History of Neurology (ECHN) will meet June 20-21, 1997 in Leiden, The Netherlands. This combined meeting, which will commemorate Jacobus Schröder van der Kolk (1797-1862), will be held in the former house of Herman Boerhaave, “Oud Poojgenst” castle. Among other subjects, attention will be given to the following themes: neurology in the Golden Age (The Netherlands, 17th century), the relationship between neurology and psychiatry; neural network theories in history, segmental innervation. Proposals for papers and for thematic symposia on any aspect of the history of the neurosciences are invited. For more information, contact Dr. Barry Whitaker, whitaker.2@umc.umn.edu.

The ACOG’s 1997 ACOG/Ortho History Fellows are Leo J. Ham, MD, FACOG, Professor Emeritus of the Dept. of Obst/Gyn of the Medical College of VA, VCU and Allison Hepler, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of History, University of Maine, Farmington, researching respectively “Prevention of Rh isoimmunization in Pregnancy. The Story of Doctors Freda and Gorman” and “Occupations and Reproductive Health in the Twentieth Century.”

ACOG will have its first ever clinical seminar devoted to history at the 1997 Annual Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas where Dr. Russell Viner, Australian pediatrician and 1996 ACOG/Ortho History Fellow will present on “Abraham Jacobi and the Separation of Pediatrics from the Diseases of Women and Children.” and Philip Easky, MD. FACOG will do a re-creation of Ephraim McDowell and the first ovariotomy in the U.S. in 1809 on April 24th at 2:00 pm.

The 1997 Special Interest Group in the History of Obst/Gyn will have a breakfast meeting at the 1997 ACM in Las Vegas at which Ruma Apple, Ph.D, Professor, Department of Consumer Sciences and Women’s Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, will lecture on “Scientific Motherhood,” on April 30th.

The Historical Division of the Cleveland Health Sciences Library has changed its name. It is now The Dittrick Medical History Center. The Dittrick Museum of Medical History, part of the Center, retains its name as is.

“The Changing Face of Disease: Epidemics in Twentieth Century New York” is an exhibition at the New York Academy of Medicine which examines how New Yorkers have dealt with epidemics in this century and how the New York Academy of Medicine has continued to act in response to these epidemics just as it did in the nineteenth century. The exhibition includes clinical and public health monographs, posters, brochures, pamphlets, photographs, and original correspondence from the Academy Library, Archives, and world wide web pages. This exhibition is a part of an ongoing celebration of the New York Academy of Medicine’s 150th Anniversary. It is free and open to the public in Woerthemberger Hall, the Academy Library’s main reading room, from December 9, 1996 to March 7, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information about this exhibition, contact Michael North at 212-822-7313.

In September 1996, Maggie Vas, formerly Archivist at Wright State University, joined the staff of the Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center as the Albert B. Sabin Archivist.

The Center and its staff is involved in a University of Cincinnati Evening College course, “The Social Transformation of Cincinnati Medicine, 1788 to 1880.” Students will be directed to the collections and services of the Center for their assignments. In addition, some classes will be held at the Center, and staff as well as local medical historians will provide lectures.

The Center has successfully completed its first phase of a major fund raising campaign. To date, $500,000 has been raised. Phase II has begun and includes soliciting additional names of individuals, corporations and foundations to target. The ultimate goal is to establish a $3 million dollar endowment to operate the programs and services of the Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center.

In order to stimulate interest in the history of cardiovascular medicine and surgery, the Texas Heart Institute offers an annual award for medical undergraduate writing in the history of cardiovascular medicine and surgery. The winner receives an honorarium of $1,000, a plaque, and publication of his or her paper in the Texas Heart Institute Journal. The 1997 competition is open to all undergraduate medical students enrolled in medical schools in the United States and abroad. The winning paper will be published in the December 1997 issue of the journal. The deadline for submission is August 15, 1997. For more information, please see the Texas Heart Institute’s Home Page (http://www.uth.tmc.edu/thi/whatsnew.html) or write the Executive Editor, Texas Heart Institute Journal, 1-194, P.O. Box 20345, Houston, TX 77225-0345.
HISTORY OF MEDICINE POSTERS

EBSCO produces a series of posters depicting images from "great works" of medicine. The latest in the annual series is an illuminated title page from De Medicina by Aulus Aurelius Cornelius Celsus, printed in Florence in 1478. This is the eighth poster in the series. Other posters include:

1994 - Woodcut from the Hortus Sanitatis, 1497
1994 - Quote from William Osler
1993 - Two colored plates from Feldbuch der Kündunz, 1517
1992 - Colored woodcut from Regimen Sanitatis ad Regem Aragonum, Italy, 14th century
1991 - Four illustrations from Tracte de la Petite Verole, Pekin (China), 1771
1990 - Hieronymus Bosch, Extraction of a Stone from a Peasant's Head
1989 - Illuminated text from Avicenna's Canon Medicinarum, 13th century

These posters are offered free of charge with no shipping or handling costs. They are available from Lynn M. Fortney, MLS, Vice President & Director, Biomedical Division, EBSCO Information Services, P.O. Box 1943, Birmingham, AL 35202, telephone 205-991-1481, fax 205-995-1518, email lynnf@ebSCO.com.

In celebration of MLA's Centennial, the Hawaii-Pacific Chapter of the Medical Library Association is planning a poster board entitled "From Coconuts to Surfing." Included will be a short quiz with "Win a Mac" as the grand prize. The poster will be part of the chapter's history.

SECTION BYLAWS
by Patricia E. Gallagher

Here are the final bylaws changes to be voted on at the May 1997 annual meeting in Seattle.

Proposed Bylaws Changes, 1997

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 2 - Rights and Privileges
A. Voting members of this Section shall consist of all members, except that only Regular Members, Institutional Members (whose vote shall be cast only by their authorized representative), and Fellows of the Medical Library Association shall be qualified to move or vote on recommendations to the Section Council regarding policies or actions.

Proposed A. Voting members of this Section shall consist of all members, except that only Voting Members of the Medical Library Association shall be qualified to move or vote on recommendations to the Section Council regarding MLA policies or actions, to vote on the selection of a candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee or to vote on the selection of the Sections Representative and Alternate Representative to the Section Council.

B. Officers of this Section must be Regular Members or Fellows of the Medical Library Association.

Proposed B. Officers of this Section shall be Voting members of the Medical Library Association.

Section 3 - Dues
A. Dues shall be determined by a majority vote of those members present at the annual meeting. Section dues shall not exceed those of MLA.

Proposed A. Dues shall be determined by a majority vote of those members present at the annual meeting. Section dues shall not exceed MLA membership dues for Regular Members.

ARTICLE V -- Officers

Section 2 -- Duties
A. The Chair presides over all meetings, represents the Section at all times, plans the annual meeting, and assists the Program Chair in planning the program.

Proposed 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 Chair Elect presides as Chair whenever the Chair is not able to do so. In years where there is no Chair Elect, the Secretary Treasurer shall serve as interim Chair.

Proposed 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 Secretary Treasurer takes minutes of all meetings, handles correspondence, distributes notices, receives and accounts for all monies due the Section, and prepares the Section annual report for the membership and the MLA headquarters by April 1 of each year.

Proposed 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 Section Council Representative represents the Section at all Section Council meetings, and reports on Section activities to the Section Chair.

Proposed D. The duties of the Representative to the Section Council shall be to represent the Section of 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 Section Council Alternate Representative serves as Representative whenever the Representative is unable to do so.

Proposed 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.

Proposed 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.

Proposed 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 each 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 consent to being a potential candidate or a candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee who is already a potential candidate or a candidate 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, or 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 each calendar year. Notice of meetings shall be disseminated to the membership at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date. The annual business meeting shall be held at the same time and location as the MLA Annual meeting. No section meetings shall be held at the same time that General Sessions or Business Sessions of the MLA Annual Meeting are conducted.

Proposed: At least one meeting shall be held in each fiscal year. Additional meetings may be held. All meetings shall be held at a time or 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. No section meetings shall be held at the same time that General Sessions or Business Sessions of the Association's Annual Meeting are conducted.

ARTICLE V -- Quorum

Section 2 -- Quorum

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

Proposed: Five (5) percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII -- Committees

Section 1 -- Standing Committees

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.

Proposed 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 sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting, and shall conclude the ballot no later than thirty (30) days before.

Section 3 -- Committee Chairs

Chairs of Committees must be Regular Members, Representatives of Institutional Members or Fellows of the Medical Library Association.

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

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