



NCIPIT

HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume X, no. 1, Winter/Spring 1998

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By Maggie Yax

Oddly enough, as Editor of this newsletter and Chair of this Section, I feel as though the whole newsletter is a "Letter from the Chair." Nevertheless, for form's sake, here is my "letter" to you.

You will see that we have much exciting news to report in this brand new year of 1998, MLA's Centennial year. And speaking of the Centennial, this Section is going to be very busy in Philadelphia. You'll want to read all about the plans and progress in this issue. *And*, the Section Home Page is up and working, thanks to the hard work, perseverance and generosity of many, many kind folks. Pat Gallagher gives us an update on that. In addition, I had great response to my call for news items this time. There are many announcements of activities, institutional updates, resources and section members that you will find of interest.

I might also report that with this issue your fearless editor has jumped boldly into the 20th century (and none too soon!) and has scanned the masthead and other images for the newsletter. This issue is my first effort at getting these .gif files from my disk into your newsletter. Let me know what you think, but please be patient and kind. It may take me a while to become a virtuoso – and it will definitely take me a while to grow back the hair I've pulled out!

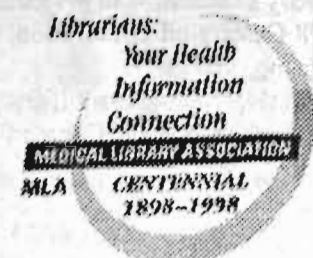
So, enjoy. See you in Philadelphia!



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**HHSS AT PHILADELPHIA:
MLA Celebrates Its 100th Year with
Visions of the Future,
Reflections on the Past**



Our Section is jumping into MLA's Centennial Celebration with both feet! We will be both busy and highly visible as we co-sponsor five program sessions and two poster sessions. You won't want to miss a minute. Here's the exciting lineup:

Co-sponsored Sessions

"May you Live in Interesting Times: 100 Years of MLA History" – invited and contributed papers, with the Medical Society Libraries Section.

"Reflections on the Expanding Circle of Nursing and Allied Health Information Services" – with Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section.

"Pharmacy Resources" – with Pharmacy and Drug Information Section.

"Relevancy Ranking: Championing Involvement in Contemporary Social Issues" – with Relevant Issues Sections.

"History of Health Care Legislation" – with Relevant Issues Section and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Health Sciences Librarians SIG.

Poster Sessions:

"William Blake at the NLM" – with the History of Medicine Division of the NLM.

Our Section's history will be the subject of a poster session by Robin Overmier and Nancy Zinn.

Many people have contributed, and are contributing, their hard work, creativity, and best efforts to help our Section celebrate

in style, and we will. We will also shine thanks to Barb Van Brimmer, our Program Chair, Robin, Nancy, Steve Greenberg, David Vecchioli, Marcia Zorn, NLM's HMD staff, and all those preparing and presenting the various program and poster sessions. Philadelphia, here we come!

**INTRODUCING THE HISTORY OF
THE HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION
HOME PAGE**

By Patricia Gallagher

The History of the Health Sciences Section opened the New Year with the introduction of a Home Page. Designed by Patricia Gallagher and Stephen Greenberg, the page is currently being housed on the server at Duke University, thanks to Suzanne Porter, Curator of the History of Medicine Collection at Duke University, who generously offered space at her institution. The development of a Home Page was recently discussed at our 1997 business meeting, and the executive board approved its creation.

You can access the Home page at <http://www2.mc.duke.edu/misc/MLA/HHSS/hhss.htm>

Currently, the Page contains information about the section, including our tentative program for MLA 1998, the list of current officers (and links to their email addresses), information about Section-developed CE courses, membership information and benefits (including information on the Incipit) and a list of history of the health sciences links (developed for the course History of Medicine Resources for the Small Library).

The page can be accessed both by using the above URL, or from the Section page of the Medical Library Association's MLANet. The webmasters welcome any suggestions on additions to the Page.

Thanks for the development of the page go to a number of people, especially

Suzanne Porter and Scott Garrison at Duke University, and Jeff Alpi at the Regional Medical Library of the New York Academy of Medicine. We invite all our members to visit this page, and we hope that it will continue to grow and serve as another avenue of communication to our membership and the library community as a whole.

**HISTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SECTION**

Mid-Year Report for 1997/98

Goal 1: Professional Development

- **Objective 1:** Co-sponsor a variety of programs with historical themes for the 1998 Annual Meeting Centennial Celebration. (1a) – **five co-sponsored programs planned.**
- **Objective 2:** Resubmit the section sponsored continuing education courses for consideration as offerings at the 1998 Annual Meeting. (1a) – **done; CE Committee decided not to offer in 1998, but encouraged resubmission for 1999.**
- **Objective 3:** Follow-up on proposal for MLA BibKit in the History of Health Sciences. (1a) – **proposal accepted; sample chapters will be available at MLA Publications Booth at 1998 annual meeting.**
- **Objective 4:** Explore possibility of section sponsored poster session(s) for 1998 annual meeting. (1a) – **co-sponsoring two poster sessions: with Robin Overmier "History of HHSS"; with David Vecchioli and Marcia Zorn "William Blake's Illustrations at the NLM."**

Goal 2: Advocacy

- **Objective 5:** Mount section home page on the MLANet web site. (2a) – **ongoing**

Goal 3: Organization

- **Objective 6:** Continue work with the Centennial Committee and the Oral History Committee in preparing for the 1998 Centennial Celebration. (3e) – **ongoing**
- **Objective 7:** Prepare a history of the section for the MLA Centennial. (3e) – **ongoing**
- **Objective 8:** Prepare and distribute a minimum of two section newsletters to members. (3e) – **Summer/Fall issue distributed; Winter/Spring issue to be mailed in Jan. 1998.**
- **Objective 9:** Prepare an article about the section for inclusion in MLA News. (3e) – **Written; published in September issue.**

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. (4c) – **done and published in Summer/Fall issue.**

Submitted by:
Maggie Yax, Chair

SECTION MEMBER NEWS

Martha Stone literally became "news" when she was interviewed and photographed for an intriguing publication. Grade 5 of the Harvard Kent School in Charlestown, MA wrote a feature for the *Fun Pages* of *The Boston Globe* about the 150th anniversary of the Treadwell Library at Massachusetts General Hospital. Part of the story includes **Martha**, reference coordinator at Treadwell, pictured showing a medical textbook to *Fun Pages* staffers. Below the photograph is the question-and-answer interview. *Fun Pages* was published

as a supplement to the Sunday comics in the December 14, 1997 issue of The Boston Globe.

Stephen Greenberg will be a featured speaker at the 1998 meeting of the Ohio Academy of Medical History. His lecture is entitled "*Buried within the Walls: The Printing Press and Public Health in London, 1603*."

Billie Broaddus was elected President of the Ohio Academy of Medical History. She will serve a two-year term from 1997 to 1999.

Elizabeth Fee has recently joined Paul Weindling and Hilary Marland as one of three editors of Social History of Medicine. They encourage more submissions from North America as well as other non-Western European centers of historical scholarship. Please see the "Instructions to Authors" published in the inside back cover of the journal for style and format. The length of papers requested is not more than 8,000 words, including notes. If you have a paper you wish to submit for possible publication, please send 5 copies to: Dr. Elizabeth Fee, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, email: elizabeth_fee@ocshost.nlm.nih.gov

Stephen Greenberg's 1996 Murray Gottlieb Prize-winning essay was published in the October issue of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.



INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Renovation of the **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) Department of Special Collections** was completed this past summer. Prior to the renovation, the department suffered from a serious lack of space for both library collections and staff. The project was made possible, in part, from generous donations from two sources. The family of the late Barbara Manisty Peck funded the transformation of the History of Medicine Reading Room that has been named in her honor. This gift was initiated by her nephew, William D. Sharpe, MD. The UMDNJ Champions, an independent fund-raising organization, funded the creation of the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, University Archives, named in 1996 to honor Dr. Bergen's 25th anniversary as founding president of UMDNJ. The renovation included reconfiguring the physical layout of the department to enhance collection storage and provide patrons with an environment conducive to research in Special Collections. A separate office and conservation work area for the Bergen University Archives were created by expanding into space formerly occupied by the Interlibrary Loan Department. The Barbara M. Peck History of Medicine Room benefited from new custom-made bookcases to accommodate the growing book collections. All areas of the department received new furnishings and coordinated decor. The Department of Special Collections was established in 1978 after the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey donated its rare book collection to the Smith Library. This core collection was named The Morris H. Saffron Collection of Books on Historical Medicine. Dr. Saffron was a noted medical historian. Since the initial donation, the department has grown tremendously to include current works in the history of medicine, journals, medical history manuscripts, University Archives, oral histories, photographs, illustrations, ephemera, and artifacts. For additional information, please contact Lois

Densky-Wolff, Archivist, at (973) 972-7830 or densky@umdnj.edu.

The Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center (CMHC) celebrated its recent fund-raising campaign with a reception honoring all donors and friends. A new brochure has been developed and a donor wall installed recognizing gifts of \$1,000 and up. During the campaign over \$550,000 was raised. The event was held November 20, 1997. One of the donors who had been featured on the wall made an additional donation of \$25,000. Another gift that was being negotiated for the Health Sciences Library (HSL) and the CMHC resulted in a gift of \$40,000 to the HSL and \$10,000 to the CMHC. It was a nice way to end the year, and provided motivation for beginning the new year with additional fund-raising activities to be planned.

The Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center also announces the **Hauck Center for the Sabin Archives Website** at: <http://www.mcl.uc.edu/CMHC/hauck/Hckhom3.htm>. You can also get there from the CMHC home page. Click on collections and then click on Albert B Sabin archives under Archives. [Coming soon! to the website on your computer -- pictures of the Sabin medals!] Compliments of Nonnie Klein, CMHC's webmaster.

The Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garret at 9a St. Thomas' Street, Southwark, SE1, London, UK announces its opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday (and most Mondays) from 10am - 4pm. The Operating Theatre is Britain's oldest surviving operating theatre, dating from the early 19th century when it was used for women patients. The Museum is set within the roof space of St. Thomas' Church - The Garret, which was used to store and cure herbs. The Museum is available for hire for receptions and out of hours' visits. Telephone (0181) 955 4791 for bookings.

HISTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCES NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Mark Jackson is the newly appointed Reviews Editor for *Social History of Medicine*. If you have a book you would like to have reviewed, a book you would like to review, or an area in which you feel competent (and willing) to write reviews, please contact: Dr. Mark Jackson, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester, Mathematics Tower, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK, email: jackson@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk

The next meeting of the **Society for Medical History of Chicago** is February 3, 1998; 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Lecture: "The Prize and its Promise: A Historical Perspective on the Nobel Prizes and Some Winners" by Tonse N. K. Raju, MD, Prof. Pediatrics, University of Illinois at Chicago. The meeting will be held at the East Bank Club Chicago. For registration, contact: Sandra Ford at 773-947-2829.

The Section on Historical Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine announces its schedule of public lectures for the first half of 1998. The lectures will be held at the Academy at 6:00 PM. All are invited, but we ask that you notify us in advance if you plan to attend. CME credits are available for physicians. The Academy is located at 1216 Fifth Avenue, at 103rd Street. For more information or directions to the Academy, please contact the Office of the Associate Librarian for Historical Collections and Programs: 212-822-7311 or 7314. Email: history@nyam.org

Wednesday, February 18, 1998
Reel Medicine, II: "Syphilis at the Cinema: The U.S. Public Health Service's VD Films of the 1930s and 1940s" John Parascandola, Ph.D., Historian, United States Public Health Service.

Monday, March 16, 1998
Reel Medicine, III: "The Black Stork: Motion Pictures and Eugenic Euthanasia in Early 20th Century America" Prof. Martin

Pernick, Department of History, University of Michigan.

[The "Reel Medicine" Series is funded by the New York Council on the Humanities.]

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

The Galdston Lecture: "On the Boundary of Transgression: F.C. Hollick and His Best-Selling Counsel on Marriage" Prof. Charles Rosenberg, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania.

The Spring exhibit at the New York Academy of Medicine, to be mounted in April, will be on the trial, execution, and autopsy of Charles Guiteau, assassin of President James Garfield. Paul Bunten, of the Oskar Diethelm Library (history of psychiatry collection of the Cornell-New York Hospital Psychiatry Department) will curate the exhibit.

National Library of Medicine - History of Medicine Division Seminars in the History of Medicine, 1997/98:

Feb. 3: Jill Jonnes, "Problems of Illicit Drugs in 20th Century America" (Natcher Bld., Conf. Rm. G)

Mar. 3: William H. Helfand, "The Artist Looks at Disease and Death" (Natcher Bldg., Conf. Rm. F)

Apr. 8: Karen Reeds, "Saint John's Wort, Then and Now: Herbals and Their Users Across Five Centuries" (NLM Bld. 38. Billings Auditorium)

June 24: Richard Semba, "Cod Liver Oil Therapy in Early 20th Century Ophthalmology" (Natcher Bld., Conf. Rm. A)

Seminars take place at 2:00 on the NIH campus (Natcher Bld. or NLM) in Bethesda, MD. For more information, call 301 496-5405.

The Ohio Academy of Medical History will hold its 1998 annual meeting on March 21st at the newly remodeled Medical Heritage Center of Ohio State University's Prior Health Sciences Library. Barbara Van Brimmer is Chair of Local

Arrangements. For more information, contact: Patsy Gerstner, Secretary, Dittrick Medical History Center, 11000 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106-1714, 216/368-6390, email: pag4@po.cwru.edu

The third meeting of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences will meet Sunday, June 7 through Tuesday, June 9, 1998 in the historic town of Annapolis, Maryland, at the harbor.

For information on membership in the society, contact: Dr. Duane E. Haines, email: dehaines@fiona.umsm.edu

For information on the ISHN WEB site and discussion list: Russell A. Johnson, email: rjohnson@library.ucla.edu

For program ideas, proposals, abstracts, etc, please contact: Harry Whitaker, PhD, email: hwhitake@nmu.edu

Final DEADLINE for abstracts, January 31, 1998.

The London Museums of Health and Medicine and the Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds organized a meeting on October 9, 1997 to discuss the formation of a group interested in Medical History Collections. The meeting overwhelmingly endorsed the need for an annual meeting and some form of directory or contact list to provide opportunities for people in this field to network. A steering group was set up to organize the first meeting. The group will meet informally and infrequently, but at least once a year, and will help those interested in Medical History Collections to exchange and share ideas and information. The group will not be a replacement for or extension of the London Museums of Health and Medicine. Anyone interested in being kept in touch with the new group's activities should contact: Emma Bond, British Red Cross Museum, 9 Grosvenor Cres, London SW1X 7EJ 0171 201 5400, UK.

The Working Group in the History and Philosophy of Science will hold its second international meeting on

March 12-15, 1998 at the University of Notre Dame.



RESOURCES OF INTEREST

The Bernard Becker Medical Library of Washington University School of Medicine still has some copies of **The Bernard Becker Collection in Ophthalmology: An Annotated Catalog, 3rd Edition** for sale at \$45.00. Dr. John Chandler, MD, FACS, in his four star review of the catalog, says it is "of special interest to libraries and individuals with an interest in medical history." The 180 page, hard cover book has over fifty-five black-and-white and color illustrations. For inquiries, please contact Lilla Wechsler at (314) 362-4235 or e-mail her at wechslel@msnotes.wustl.edu.

The first issue of **History of Psychology** – a scholarly journal published quarterly by the American Psychological Association for its Division of the History of Psychology – is in press and will appear in February. Abstracts of articles in the first issue, and information about reduced-rate subscriptions to **History of Psychology** are available at the journal's Website, www.wpi.edu/~histpsy.

Kahn, Richard J., MD, FACP and Kahn, Patricia G., MLS, AHIP, "The Medical Repository: the first U. S. medical journal (1797-1824)." *N Engl J Med* 1997 Dec 25; 337(26): 1926-30. The authors would like to take this opportunity to thank all the librarians and archivists who have helped with this project.

Elsevier announces the launch of Part C of Elsevier's Studies in History and Philosophy of Science series: **Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences**. Part B, **Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics**, was launched in 1995. Part C continues the tradition of a high-quality journal devoted to all aspects of the history, sociology, philosophy and ethics of the biological and biomedical sciences from the latter part of the nineteenth century to the present. The journal is directed at a wide readership. A free subscription (comprising 2 issues) will be sent to all current subscribers to **Studies Parts A and B** throughout 1998. The first two issues of Part C and/or a package of all three journals are also available in 1998 at an introductory rate. Part C and the package of A, B and C will be available as a fully-paid subscription product in 1999. If you are interested in subscribing to **Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences** or receiving a free sample copy of for 1998, please contact the Marketing Manager, Harriet Bell, Elsevier Science, The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB UK, Tel: +44 (0)1865 843445, Fax: +44 (0)1865 843986, Email: h.bell@elsevier.co.uk

The WWWVL-HSTM (Virtual Library for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine) has recently undergone an overhaul. The site has been redesigned, new sites have been added, and outdated links removed. Check it out at: http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/hstm/hstm_ove.htm



The Encyclopaedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures, edited by Helaine Selin, was published this summer by Kluwer Academic Publishers of The Netherlands. The price is \$420.

The University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center Library has developed the **Native American Health History Database** consisting of 3300 articles and monographs that describe contagious and other diseases that affected American Indians during the years 1672-1965. Also included are descriptions of traditional health beliefs, healing practices, and remedies. Ceremonies are narrated, observations of western physicians are noted, and personal papers of Indian Health Services physicians reveal the physical and environmental conditions of several tribes. Government efforts to alleviate sickness are also included, as are many health statistics. The HSCL is currently the sole source in the nation for a collection of this sort and of this magnitude. Most entries can be searched by keyword and have abstracts attached. Online ordering is possible. To look at the collection, please point your web browser to http://falstaff.unm.edu:80/na/main_na.html. For more information, contact: H. Henrietta Stockel, Special Projects Bibliographer,

UNM, Health Sciences Center Library,
Native American Health History Database,
Albuquerque, NM 87131-5686, phone: 505-
272-8873, fax: 505-272-5350, email:
hstockel@biblio.unm.edu

INCIPIT is published twice a year, and is the newsletter of the History of Health Sciences Section of MLA. Membership in the Section includes a subscription to the newsletter. HHSS promotes interest in the history of health sciences within MLA and is a vehicle for news and communication with the Section. **Deadlines** for submitting articles are: Winter/Spring issue—January 15th, Summer/Fall issue—July 15th. Send items regarding section members, institutional news, lectures, conferences, exhibits, or other appropriate material to:

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