

TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Summer 2001

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A NEW LOOK

On the afternoon of June 25, Mrs. Mabel F. Williams and her family visited the History of Medicine Collections to view in its new setting the antique, glass-front cabinet she had donated in memory of her husband, Robert Williams, MD (T'31, HS'34 & '36-39). The handsome 19th century cabinet was filled with a display of medical instruments and artifacts from the collections. Previously, History of Medicine did not have an appropriate space for the ongoing display of its special pieces of realia so we are very pleased to have such a beautiful and functional addition to the reading room.

Mrs. Williams has also donated a bust of Wilhelm Roentgen, the discoverer of x-rays and has funded the construction of a pedestal on which the bust will be permanently placed. We invite you to see the impressive "new look" these gifts have given our reading room and to join us in thanking Mrs. Williams and her family for their generous donation.

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Mrs. Williams (second from left) and her family standing in front of the cabinet



Roentgen bust

NON-WESTERN MEDICINE

Although our guidelines for the History of Medicine Collections focus on Western European and American medicine, we do have artifacts and texts related to medical practice in non-Western parts of the world. Currently on exhibit are some interesting examples from the Arab world, Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Far East:

- Burmese apothecary box and medical manuscript.
- Persian illustrated anatomical manuscript by Mansūr ibn Ilyās.
- Japanese inrō medicine boxes.
- Japanese home medical adviser by Gentoku Tamba
- Nkisi Nkondi ritual statue.
- Ivory Chinese doctor's ladies.
- European text by Engelbert Kaempfer illustrating the Japanese practice of moxibustion.
- Chinese acupuncture model.
- Medieval Latin edition of an Arab text by Avenzoar.
- Ola palm leaf book.

These pieces, including the Burmese apothecary box at the right, will be on display throughout the summer in the lower lobby exhibit area.



INCUNABULA ON FICHE

We are pleased to announce that our fiche collection of medical incunabula, published by Research Publications (1995–1998) is now accessible through the Duke online catalog. Julie Walker of the Library technical services staff completed the two-year cataloging project in June. In six parts, the collection consists of 470 incunabula, or titles printed between 1455 and 1500, on 2034 microfiche. Scholars at Duke and throughout the Triangle now have immediately at hand copies of texts previously available only at the libraries where they were housed. Due to their rarity and value these titles are never loaned necessitating travel, often to great distances, to consult them. The fiche can be used whenever the History of Medicine Reading Room is open.

FALL HOURS

On Monday, 27 August 2001 we will begin as a trial the following hours in the History of Medicine Collections during the Fall semester:

Monday: closed to the public

Tuesday – Friday: 8am – 5pm

Since we are unable to increase either staff numbers or staff hours in History we are trying a creative approach to allow the current staff to handle successfully the workload of the department while still remaining responsive to our readers. For the duration of the trial period we will track usage on an hourly basis and make note of all reactions to our new schedule. This will give us important information for evaluating the trial.

The staff will use Mondays to focus on projects such as inventorying gifts, processing materials, researching exhibits, and working on publications, which require uninterrupted periods of concentration. Readers can schedule appointments with History in advance if Mondays are the only times available to them. As has been past practice, whenever we are closed during the evenings and on weekends, requests by the public for books from our circulating stack can be made at the main Circulation desk and, depending on staff availability, books will be retrieved while the reader waits.

MEDICINAL HERBS

The medicinal herb garden on the terrace outside the reading room has been replanted. Duplicates were removed, overgrowth was trimmed back, and additional varieties were installed. Four small new containers have been added to accommodate and isolate varieties such as mint, and violets which are important to have represented but which tend to crowd out other plants. Each specimen has been clearly labeled with an easy-to-read metal tag.

The refurbishing was prompted by our decision to revise our herb pamphlet which is now out of print. By the next newsletter we hope to announce that a new edition is available for visitors to the herb garden.

SELECTED ACQUISITIONS

Aborn, Edward S. Practical facts by a practical man, or the pathway to health and happiness. Philadelphia: Inquirer Book and Job Print.-Off., 1867.

Apothecary box with medical manuscript. [Burma, 19th century]

Baldini, Filippo. Saggio medico-fisico intorno ai favorevoli effetti, che l'esercizio del cavalcare produce nel corpo umano. Napoli: Nella Stamperia Raimondiana, 1774.

Collins, Frederick W. The naturopathic method of reducing dislocations. Newark, NJ: United States School of Naturopathy, 1924.

Digitalis collection. 13 pamphlets, various imprints, 1786 – 1893.

Edge, Frederick Milnes. A woman's example and a nation's work: a tribute to Florence Nightingale. London: William Ridgway, 1864.

Elliot, John. The medical pocket-book. 10th ed. with additions and corr. Boston: Printed by Joseph Bumstead, 1791.

Flaxman, John. Anatomical studies of the bones and muscles, for the use of artists engraved by Henry Landseer. London: M.A. Nattali, 1833.

Garzoni, Tomaso. L'hospitale de'pazzi incurabili. [2nd ed.] Venetia: Gio. Battista Somascho, 1589.

Gérard, Joseph. Causes and treatment of sterility in both sexes: fecundation by artificial methods, translated from the French. Boston: International Medical Exchange, 1891.

Jameson, Horatio G. The American domestik medicine. Baltimore: Published by F. Lucas, Jun., 1817.

Jennings, Samuel K. The married lady's companion. 2nd ed., rev., corr., & enl. New York: Lorenzo Dow, 1808.

Napheys, George H. Prevention and cure of disease. [1870s] [manuscript instructions for sales of the book]

Perkins, Sylvia. A centennial review, the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing, 1873 – 1973. [Boston]: School of Nursing, Nurses Alumnae Assoc., 1975.

Ryan, Michael. The philosophy of marriage in its social, moral, and physical relations. London: John Churchill, 1837.

Seventy negatives of portraits of Philadelphia physicians.

Shackelford, Walter E. Prints and negatives of the construction of the Seeley G. Mudd building & Duke North Hospital. [1973 – 80]

Stewart, C. Chauncey. Lex natura. Allegheny City [PA]: 1877.

Stewart, Leonard. Modern medicine influenced by morbid anatomy; an oration. London: Printed for Longman, and Burgess and Hill, 1830.

Verney, Frances Parthenope. Florence Nightingale's pet owl, Athena. San Francisco: Grabhorn-Hoyem, 1970.

Williams, Lucas R. Private lectures and advice on sexual, nervous, and chronic diseases. [Chicago, 1886?]

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TRENT ASSOCIATES

for the

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

I wish to become a member of the Trent Associates for 2001
and enclose my check for the amount indicated below:

___ Member \$25.00

___ Contributing Member \$50.00

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Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership.

Name: _____

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