

# TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Fall/Winter 2001

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## THE OSLER IVY

A sprig of ivy from Sir William Osler's house in Oxford was planted in honor of Wilburt C. Davison, MD, the founding dean of the Duke University Medical School, by John P. McGovern, MD, '45 shortly before lunch on Saturday, 9 November 1968. Alfred F. Henderson, MD, '37, '43 made the arrangements for the ivy to enter the United States and Paul Beeson, MD who was then living in the "Open Arms" handled the details from England. Located originally to the right of the entrance to Duke Hospital - later Duke South - the ivy was relocated as part of the Davison Club festivities on 18 October 2001 to a place beneath the large oak outside Baker House entry #4.

The initial attempt to plant Osler ivy at Duke was made on 7 June 1932 during the celebrations for the first medical school graduating class. The Dean himself had brought this ivy back in his pocket from Oxford. William S. Thayer, MD, Osler's student and eventual successor at Johns Hopkins, addressed the graduates at 5pm after which William Joyner, the class president, led the planting ceremony. The ivy was placed to the right of the quadrangle entrance to the School of Medicine - now the Davison building - with a plate inscribed with Osler's name and dates directly above it. Unfortunately, the ivy did not survive the afternoon sun and the plate seems to have disappeared.

The ivy is significant as a symbol of the link between Osler's humanistic views on medical education and the programs initiated by Dean Davison. This tradition has led and inspired generations of Duke faculty, graduates, and house staff and continues to do so to this day.

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Photo: Duke University Archives

9 November 1968

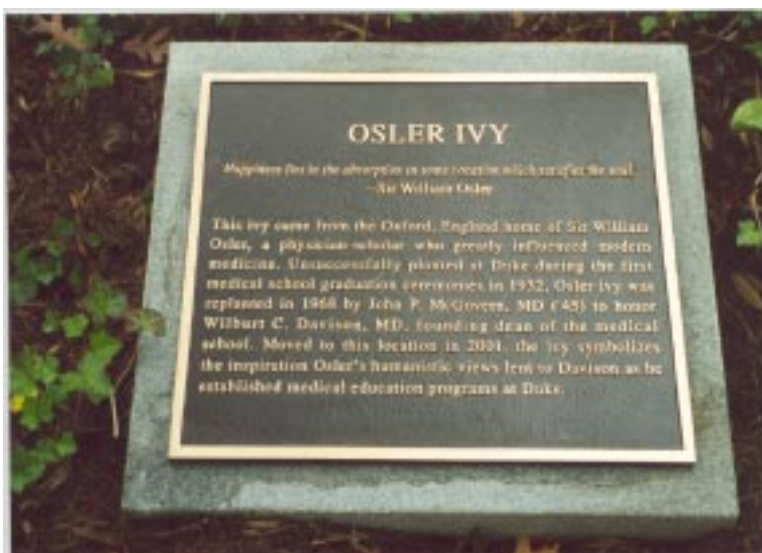
Dean Davison wields the shovel and Dr. McGovern plants the ivy outside the front entrance of Duke Hospital.



Due to extensive renovations to the entrance of Duke South, the 1968 bronze plaque is now located in the far left corner of the terrace outside Clinic 1D. This corresponds approximately to its original location.



Davison Club invitation for 2001 which included an insert giving a brief history of the Osler ivy.



The new plaque was formally installed on 18 October 2001 to commemorate the replanting of the ivy

### STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of the companion volume to our recent exhibition, **The Physician's Art**, are still available for purchase directly from the Duke University Press <<http://www.dukeupress.edu>> Also available is the interactive CD-ROM of our unique set of four seventeenth-century flap anatomies, **The Four Seasons**. Contact the Medical Center Library to place an order at \$35.00 each plus tax & postage.

### CHANGES FOR HISTLINE

The National Library of Medicine recently announced that its HISTLINE database, which has provided historical citations to international works since the 1970s, has migrated to the PubMed search interface for journal articles and to LOCATORplus for books. To conduct a search, go to the Medical Library Website at <<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu>>, select HISTLINE from the "Databases" drop-down menu on the left side of the screen, and follow instructions.

### LANDMARK JOURNALS TRANSFERRED

This past summer approximately 2000 journal volumes containing historic articles of landmark significance were transferred from the open shelves in the Medical Center Library to the Duke Libraries' new offsite storage facility, known as the Library Service Center (LSC). This move was made to provide extra security for older, often fragile, and less frequently used materials previously housed on open shelves. The volumes are kept in a secure state-of-the-art facility under carefully controlled temperature and humidity levels: 50°F and 30% relative humidity. They can be retrieved, usually within one working day, by means of a courier service using an air conditioned van. Photocopying is possible on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the condition of the individual volume.

### SELECTED ACQUISITIONS

Goodman, Margaret. *Experiences of an English sister of mercy*. London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1862.

Hohman, Johann Georg. *Der lang verborgene Freund ...* Reading [PA]: Gedruckt für den Verfasser, 1820.

Medical Thangkas: #5 Human embryology; #26 Medicinal herbs; #34 Medical instruments. [Tibet: 20th century copies of 17th century paintings from the Blue Beryll]

Robertson, Joseph. *An essay on culinary poisons ...* London: Printed for G. Kearsly, 1781.

Taylor, Charles F. *Spinal irritation, or the causes of back-ache among American women*. New York: William Wood, 1871.

Vivisection pamphlets [British & American, 1870 - 1896]

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Published at regular intervals during the year.  
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Duke University Medical Center Library  
Box 3702, Durham, NC 27710  
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