The History of Medicine Collections has been the fortunate recipient of medical artifacts and prints from the collection of George D. Wilbanks, MD (T’53, M’56, HS’57-’62) and Evelyn Rivers Wilbanks, PhD (G’56). The collection, which is quite broad with some focus on obstetrics and gynecology and surgery, was assembled over a period of forty-four years and given to the Medical Library in stages during the past five years. The Wilbanks characterized the purpose of the collection in their gift letter.

In general these are study tools for not only history of medicine students but also students who are studying what were effective methods of treatment, i.e., pharmacy, home medicines, etc.

We have selected just a small sample of their gift of almost 300 objects for exhibit. Among the items on display are baby bottles, infant or invalid feeders, a copper apothecary boiler, a doctor’s medical saddlebag, a Culpeper-style microscope in a wooden case, bleeding devices, ear trumpets, pill-making equipment, obstetrical forceps, a domestic medicine chest, and an Oxygenkure. The exhibit will be available through the middle of September and can be viewed in the lower lobby whenever the Medical Library is open.
(Left) Made for a private household, this medicine chest (ca. 1840) is mahogany with brass fittings and contains glass bottles, a scale, a mortar and pestle, and a measuring cup.

(Right) Similar in style to a present day fondue pot, this 19th century lidded copper apothecary boiler was used to slowly simmer herbal preparations. The nickel cylinder held the fuel. The level of the flame was regulated by the knob on the brass base.

This late 19th century American wood and brass pill-rolling machine could produce 24 pills of one size at a time. The rolled pill mass, or pill pipe, was placed on the brass grooves, then the paddle-shaped portion was pressed down on top of the pipe and moved back and forth to form round pills.

An American pharmaceutical advertising card from the 19th or early 20th century

Pap boats or infant feeders were in use from the late 17th through the 19th centuries. The vessels were used to administer “pap” to an infant or an adult invalid. Pap was a piece of bread soaked in wine with meal and sugar added. For the infant, the nurse occasionally pre-chewed the mixture.

Photos: Beverly Murphy
The Trent History of Medicine Society (Duke) and the Bullitt History of Medicine Club (UNC-Chapel Hill) will alternately host history of medicine speakers on the second Tuesday of each month during the academic year. The Trent Society will meet in the History of Medicine Reading Room (102) of the Medical Center Library. The Bullitt Club will convene in the conference room on the fifth floor of the UNC Health Sciences Library. A light buffet supper will be available beginning at 5:30 pm. Papers will start at 6:00 pm.

Although the full schedule of seven speakers has not yet been set, we already have commitments for three of the Trent Society presentations here at Duke. Walter E. Campbell, Ph.D. will launch the series on 11 October. He will speak on some aspect of his book in progress, *Foundations for Excellence: 75 years of Duke Medicine*. Dr. Edward C. Halperin will present a paper, “The Jewish Problem in U.S. Medical Education, 1920-1955” at the 13 December meeting, and Dr. Margaret Humphreys will speak on 14 February on “Immensely Human – the Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War.”

Look for the complete schedule on our Website at [http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hmc/speakers.html](http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hmc/speakers.html) later in the summer, or contact Suzanne Porter at (919) 660-1143 or porte004@mc.duke.edu.

Dr. Blaine S. Nashold, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Surgery – Neurosurgery, has added a beautiful new exhibit case – a fifth – to match those already in place on the second stack level near the elevators. The case is in the process of being filled with instruments designed to treat various neurological diseases. Some additional instruments will be rotated on display as they are acquired. The permanent exhibit, dedicated two years ago, presents the history of stereotactic neurosurgery. Watch the History of Medicine Web page for a link to our stereotactic Website currently under construction.

As the newsletter went to press, we received word of the death of GST (Terry) Cavanagh on 26 June 2005. Memorial remarks for Mr. Cavanagh, curator emeritus of the Trent Collection, will be included in the next issue. If you would like to contribute reminiscences, please submit them to Suzanne Porter at porte004@mc.duke.edu.
Disaster Recovery Exercise

The entire Medical Center Library staff participated in a disaster recovery training exercise on Wednesday 29 June. After dividing into six teams, the two-part event began with different written scenarios for each team to solve, followed by sharing and discussion of their respective response plans. Then, Winston Atkins, Preservation Officer for Perkins Library, described physical salvage techniques and gave a demonstration of air drying, interleaving, and packing for freeze drying. Everyone had an opportunity to try his or her hand at evaluating and treating various kinds of damaged materials. Suzanne Porter, Curator of the History of Medicine Collections, and Robert James, Associate Director for Public Services, organized the exercise and provided information, direction, and assistance throughout the afternoon.

The event will become an annual part of staff readiness training for a variety of emergencies. To guide us on a day-to-day basis we have created a notebook which outlines disaster pre-planning as well as specific procedures and includes telephone trees, disaster teams, and triage recovery lists for the contents of the Library. Copies of the red notebook have been placed in each Library department as well as the homes of key staff members and have been shared with other Medical Center and campus departments.

Photos: Beverly Murphy

Teams solve their written exercises

Winston Atkins demonstrates air drying

Wet materials wait for treatment
Disaster Recovery Exercise, continued from page 4

Teams apply triage and salvage techniques

All photos by Beverly Murphy, except Team 5 by Tanika Hayes
Become a member of the Trent Associates for 2005 at one of the levels indicated:

- Member $25.00
- Contributing Member $50.00
- Sustaining Member $100.00

Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership.

Name:________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________

Make checks payable to Duke University and send to:
Trent Associates for the History of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center Library
Box 3702
Durham, NC 27710

Change in Hours

Hours for the History of Medicine Reading Room have changed due to reduced staff coverage.

Monday: Closed

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm / 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Saturday – Sunday: Closed

We are now closed for lunch and at other times as the need arises. Each week a new schedule will be posted. Please call (919) 660-1144 before you visit to ensure staff will be available to help you.
Recent Acquisitions

Gifts


Ear trumpet, silver plate with art nouveau grill, ca 1895.


Medical Chest, mahogany with brass fittings, ca 1840.

Microscope, Culpeper style, with case. Liverpool: A. Abrahams, ca 1750.


Royal Doulton plate, “The Doctor,” ca 1925.

Sterilizer, copper & brass. 19th century.

Purchases


*The Trial of Ebenezer Haskell in Lunacy and his Acquittal…* Philadelphia: Ebenezer Haskell, 1869.
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Dr. George D. & Dr. Evelyn R. Wilbanks

* Donors since last newsletter

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