

# TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Spring/Summer 2007

Vol. 15, No. 1

## New History of Medicine Website Debuts

In May a completely renovated Website for the History of Medicine Collections was revealed. The new look is the result of extensive work by a seven-member committee for more than a year. The site can be accessed by a link from the front page of DUMCL Online or directly at <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom>. The redesign includes top links for quick navigation to popular pages and side links that remain standard on most secondary pages.

The site's content is now organized under the following categories: Collections, Events and Lectures, Exhibits, Services, Publications, Other Resources, and About Us. We have added greater detail about the collections, as well as the many ways in which visitors and researchers can make use of them. Images and artifacts drawn from the collections liberally illustrate the site. Original links to the online catalog, the Historical Images in Medicine (HIM) database, the Medical Center Archives, and general Library services are conveniently positioned beneath the masthead.

**Duke University**  
Medical Center Library Online

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Main Page »

### History of Medicine

**Collections**  
**Events and Lectures**  
**Exhibits**  
**Services**  
**Publications**  
**Other Resources**  
**About Us**

**Hours**  
Tuesday – Friday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Saturday – Monday Closed  
Hours subject to change. Please call (919) 660-1144 before coming.

**Currently on Exhibit**

#### The Doctor's Bag

A symbol of the medical profession for approximately 200 years, the doctor's bag has assumed a variety of shapes, sizes, and styles. On display in the Lower Lobby are examples of these bags and other instrument and medicine containers which predate them.

**Herb Garden is Reblooming!**

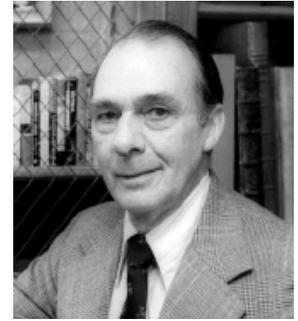
The **Herb Garden** on the terrace off the History of Medicine Reading Room is blooming again. Come see the beautiful foxglove, which is pink this year and making a second appearance for the first time ever.

Questions? (919) 660-1144 [histhistory@mcl.duke.edu](mailto:histhistory@mcl.duke.edu) DUMC 3702 Durham, NC 27710 USA  
<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom> Last modified: 5-21-2007  
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Comments?

## Terry Cavanagh: Further Reminiscences

Since our special issue in commemoration of Terry Cavanagh (vol. 13 #2; Fall/Winter 2005), we have received two additional reminiscences which we would like to share. For the complete issue, see <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom/publications/newsletter/winter05/#cavanagh>.



G.S.T. Cavanagh, 1923-2005

### A Clendening Connection

After reading the tributes, it occurred to me that I probably knew Terry longer, if not as well, than anyone who had responded. In 1953, while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas, Terry was appointed Director of the Clendening History of Medicine Library. Later when I had an NIH-funded student research fellowship in the history of medicine, I had the opportunity to work with him as well as Dr. Ralph Major, at that time Emeritus Professor of Medicine and History of Medicine, and another newly appointed historian, LRC Agnew, MD, who became Dr. Major's successor as Chairman of the Department of Medical History at Kansas. My connection with Dr. Major was especially enjoyable as my father had been his first resident in internal medicine in 1930. Working with the three of them that summer allowed me to cross the Mississippi River for the first time. I spent a month in Philadelphia in basic research in medical history, which led to a series of papers on Philip Syng Physick, the father of American surgery. One of the papers was submitted and won second place in the William Osler Medical Essay Contest for 1960.

On moving to Chapel Hill in 1984, I eventually reestablished some contact with Terry. I recall a memorable dinner with him at the home of Dr. Benson Wilcox, Professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at The University of North Carolina. Both Terry and Dr. Wilcox shared a love of rare books. Dr. Wilcox had his own collection and annually donated rare books to the UNC Health Sciences Library in honor of his residents.

#### **George F. Sheldon, MD**

Professor, Surgery

Chairman, Surgery, 1984-2001

UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC

### A Mentor

Terry Cavanagh's passing was a major moment in my life. He was the mentor most responsible for my collection of books on the medical profession. In the early 1970s, the social history of medicine was not a "serious" subject to collect, and many people told me I would be better off choosing a more traditional area of medicine. During the academic year, October 1972 to September 1973, my third year at Duke, I was at the University of London pursuing a "Master of Science in Sociology with Special Reference to Medicine, in the Faculty of Economics," as they rather grandly named it. In the Spring, I returned to Duke

Continued on page 3

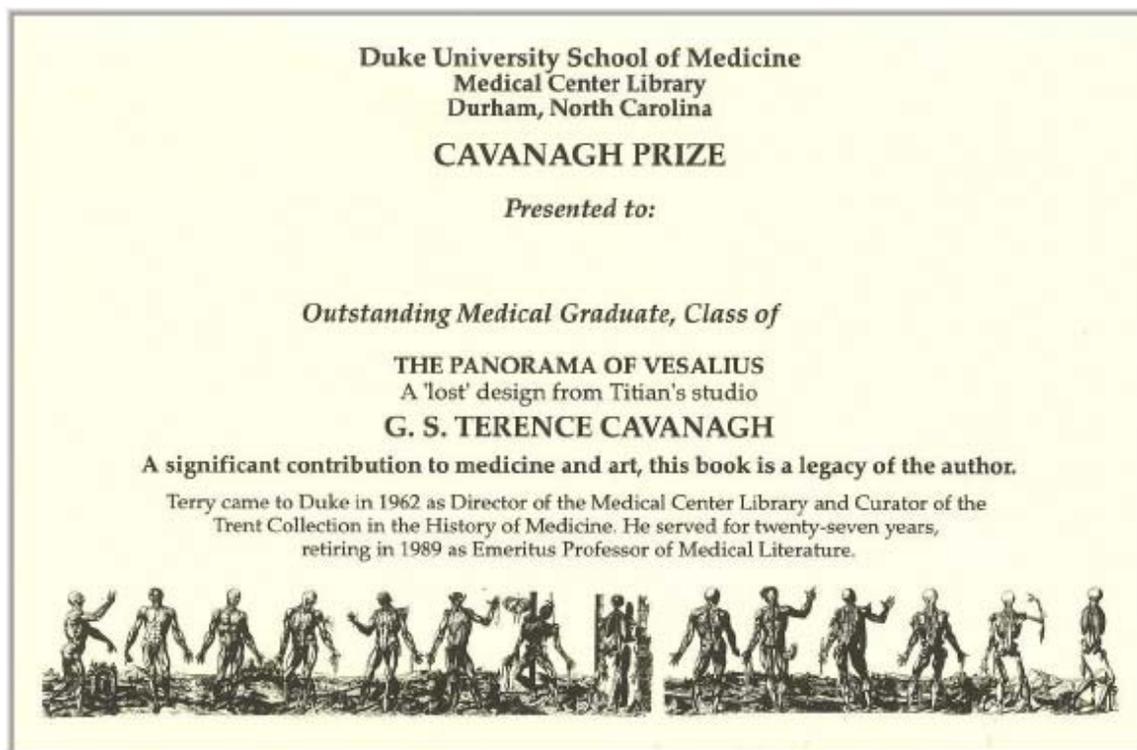
**Terry Cavanagh: Further Reminiscences, continued from page 2**

briefly and Terry endorsed my decision to pursue a historical collection of the contemporary material I was studying. My MSc thesis dealt with social historical issues, an area of medical history that has since come to dominate that field. Terry encouraged me for years thereafter, with short missives in the post for which he was rightly beloved. In 1976, he allowed this young collector an exhibition at the Duke University Medical Center Library, and even issued a catalogue. He carried the title of Professor, and knowledgeably, wisely, superbly fulfilled that role.

**Andrew T. Nadell, MD '74**  
San Francisco, CA

**Cavanagh Prize**

In honor of G.S.T. Cavanagh, the first curator of the Trent Collection, the Cavanagh Prize was awarded this year during graduation festivities. A copy of Terry Cavanagh's publication, **The Panorama of Vesalius**, was presented to Robin Elizabeth Guthrie, the outstanding medical graduate of the class of 2007. A special bookplate (see below), designed for this purpose by Mrs. Susan Smith Cavanagh, was inscribed with the recipient's name and affixed inside the front cover of the large folio volume. The plan is to continue this practice as well as to award additional prizes selected from among the volumes that were in Mr. Cavanagh's personal book collection to other noteworthy graduates.



### Recent Acquisitions

Collection of 131 medical bookplates. early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Cumming, William Henry. **Food for babes, or Artificial human milk ...** Toronto: Globe Printing Co., 1867.

Denman, Thomas. **Aphorisms on the application and use of the forceps and vectis ...** Philadelphia: Benjamin Johnson, 1803.

Forster, Thomas I.M. **Sketch of the new anatomy and physiology of the brain and nervous system of Drs. Gall and Spurzheim.** London: Law & Whittaker, 1815.

Fuchs, Leonhard. **De historia stirpium commentarii insignes ...** Paris: Ex officina Iacobi Gazelli, 1543. Bound with Estienne, Charles. **De Latinis et Graecis nominibus arborum, fructicum, herbarum ...** 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lutetiae: Ex officina Roberti Stephani, 1545.

Gavin, Hector. **On feigned and factitious diseases, chiefly of soldiers and seamen ...** London: John Churchill, 1843.

Glisson, Francis, et al. **A treatise of the rickets; being a disease [sic] common to children ...** London: Printed by Peter Cole, 1651.

Groeneveld, Joannes. **A compleat treatise of the stone and gravel ...** London: Printed for Ralph Smith & B. Lintott, 1710.

Guthrie, George James. **Lectures on the operative surgery of the eye.** 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Burgess & Hill, 1827.

Kerger, Martin. **De fermentatione liber physico-medicus ...** Wittenberg: Johannis Borckardi, 1663.

Koerberle, Eugene. **Notice sur une ovariectomie pratiquée le 20 septembre 1862.** Strasbourg: G. Silbermann, 1862.

### Collaborative Grant Awarded

The Trent/Bullitt collaborative speaker series in the history of medicine has been awarded a one year grant of \$1500 by the Robertson Scholars Collaboration Fund. The Fund Committee reviewed over 46 applications from all parts of both campuses and was impressed with our “vision for collaboration between Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill.” The final schedule for the coming academic year has not yet been completed. Please check our Website at <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom/events/speakerseries/> for speakers and their topics as the Fall draws closer.

## The Doctor's Bag

A symbol of the medical profession for approximately 200 years, the doctor's bag has assumed a variety of shapes, sizes, and styles: saddlebag, homeopathic case, obstetrical bag, Pandora compartmented bag as well as the English, Boston, Club, and Cabin style bags. Typically the bag contained supplies, instruments, and medications – everything the doctor needed on a house call. The bag identified the physician in the same way as special clothing differentiated the police or clergy. It provided a level of respect and protection, serving as a powerful passport into homes and lives. Currently on display in the lower lobby of the medical library are examples of these bags and other instrument and medicine containers which predate them.



*Early Photo*

### In Memoriam

John P. McGovern, MD '45  
2 June 1921 - 31 May 2007

Dr. McGovern was a generous friend of our History of Medicine Collections. His support began with the construction of our current library building for which he funded a study carrel to be used by the history of medicine fellows. Over the ensuing years, we have been the grateful recipients of his regular gifts to the Trent Associates, which we have used in various ways to enhance the collections and to pursue special projects. Noteworthy were the substantial funds he contributed toward the success of **The Physician's Art** exhibit and its companion book of the same name. He fully funded the interactive CD-ROM which accompanied the scholarly book, **The Four Seasons of Human Life; four anonymous engravings from the Trent Collection**, considerably enhancing its value to scholars. His gifts were also used to replace old exhibit cases and to increase their number with other cases designed on archival principles. This has allowed us to securely display our treasures so they could be shared with the community. We are indeed fortunate to have been the beneficiary of his deep and sustained interest in the history of medicine.

## Recent Events

A group of North Carolina School of Math and Science students visited the History of Medicine Collections on 2 April as part of their “mini-term.” Their three days on campus were preceded by a visit to the **Body Worlds** exhibit in Chicago. As an extension of this experience, they viewed anatomical atlases from the Trent Collection and participated in activities in the gross anatomy, pathology, and patient simulation labs.



*Students view manikins*

On Saturday 19 May, Dr. and Mrs. Snyderman brought their Duke China Tour group to visit the Trent Collection. They had come to town for a special reunion. The guests had an opportunity to see some of our special treasures, to go behind the scenes into the vault and locked stacks, and to enjoy the herb garden.

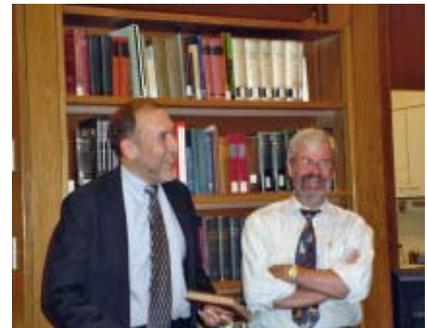
The student Davison Society honored Dr. Edward Halperin on Tuesday 29 May with a special reception. In appreciation for his years of service to the Medical School, the Society presented him with a first edition of **Early Recollections and Life of Dr. James Still** (1877). This autobiography of an African-American physician will become part of the rare history of medicine collections.



*Dr. Halperin and Drew Munro*



*Dr. Halperin with gift*



*Dr. Halperin and Dr. Edward Buckley*

## Design Recognition



Photo: Chris Hildreth

**Foundations for Excellence: 75 Years of Duke Medicine**, authored by Walter Campbell, was chosen by AIGA, the professional association for design, as one of the examples of design excellence in the books category during their annual juried competition. Molly Renda of Durham designed and typeset the 480 page book and the book jacket, which were printed by The Stinehour Press in Lunenburg, Vermont.

## TRENT ASSOCIATES\*

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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  
Suzanne Porter, Curator & Editor  
Beverly Murphy, Assistant Editor/Photographer

**Membership Form**

Become a member of the  
**Trent Associates for 2007**  
 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:  
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**Inside this Report**

New Website Debuts.....	1	The Doctor's Bag.....	5
More Cavannah Reminiscences.....	2	In Memoriam to John P. McGovern.....	5
Cavannah Prize.....	3	Recent Events.....	6
Recent Acquisitions.....	4	Design Recognition.....	6
Collaborative Grant Awarded.....	4	Trent Associates.....	7