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Trent Associates Report
History of Medicine Collections
Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library

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History of Medicine Collections Move

The History of Medicine Collections were relocated from Duke’s Medical Center Library & Archives to Duke’s Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library (RBMSCL) this summer. The move to RBMSCL will allow the History of Medicine Collections to have expanded hours, including evening and Saturday hours. The change in location will also facilitate interdisciplinary research and teaching opportunities that draw on the History of Medicine Collections in combination with RBMSCL’s other rich collecting areas, including the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising, and Marketing History, and the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture. Areas in which the collections complement each other include women’s health, medical advertising, minority health issues, and innovations in health care.

Through a combination of planning, coordination, and organized execution, the move went smoothly. Staff from the Medical Center Library & Archives, RBMSCL, and Perkins Library made preparations well in advance. The Duke University Libraries’ Conservation Department insured the collection would be protected by providing enclosures for over 2,200

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Staff from Shipping and Receiving move circulating items from the History of Medicine Collections.

New Discovery from the Dawn of Western Medicine

by Eliza Glaze, Ph.D.

This past fall, a team of medical history and manuscript scholars visited the History of Medicine Collections to consider some of the most important questions surrounding the transformation of medical knowledge in Western Europe between the years 1075 and 1225. During this time, leading intellectuals introduced the West to the more advanced ideas of the Greeks as they had been preserved and amplified by Islamic physicians. As a result, a fresh wave of sophisticated, advanced theoretical medical texts was introduced to Europeans through Latin translations made from Arabic and Greek originals. The circulation of those new translations and the birth of collective medical education in and around Salerno, Italy, transformed the landscape of medical thought forever. By the thirteenth century, medicine had become one of the premier professions taught in the newly invented universities.

Yet, there remain gaps in modern historians’ understandings of this process,

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New Discovery from the Dawn of Western Medicine contd.

The following classes visited the History of Medicine Collections during the past year.

**Writing 20: Defining Disease** (Fred Klaits)

**History**: Revolutions in Medicine (Jeff Baker); The Body: Anatomy and Gender in the Early Modern Period (Valeria Finucci); Magic, Religion, and Science since 1400 (Tom Robisheaux); Aspects of the Renaissance (Valeria Finucci)

**Visual Studies**: Visual Cultures of Medicine (Mark Olson)

**Biology**: Medical Biology: Linking the Principles of Biology with Medicine (Dan Scheirer)

**First Year Medical Students**: Anatomy Day

**Second Year Medical Students**: Pre-clerkship classes (Jeff Baker)

**Valeria Finucci’s Anatomy and Gender class**

Gaps that two important new manuscript discoveries are helping to fill. The manuscripts in question are preserved in the History of Medicine Collections at Duke and in the Royal Library of the Hague in the Netherlands. Both collections preserve important copies of the text called *Pantegni Theorica* or *Total Art of Medical Theory*.

The team of ten scholars who came to examine Duke’s *Pantegni* were from a panel working collaboratively at the National Humanities Center on a research project entitled “Excavating Medicine in the Digital Age: Paleography and the Medical Book in the Twelfth Century Renaissance.” The group, funded by a Humanities Center “Conversation” grant, included leading national and international scholars specializing in the history of medicine, the analysis of medieval manuscripts, and medieval intellectual traditions. The scholars were delighted to get to study the *Pantegni* in person at Duke’s History of Medicine Library. Particularly exciting was the discovery that this manuscript is in fact at least a century older than previously thought, which makes it one of the earliest surviving copies produced outside of Italy. Using the skills of paleography, the team re-identified the manuscript as having been written early in the twelfth century.

For more on the group’s project and their inaugural meeting’s findings, see the following website: nationalhumanitiescenter.org/newsrel2010/prrevmedicine.htm.

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History of Medicine Collections Move contd.

Rare books and journals. Technical Services staff from RBMSCL and Perkins Library updated catalog records to insure that researchers would know the new location for each volume moved. When it came time to transfer the collection to its new home, movers specializing in transferring rare materials handled the majority of the items.

The relationship between the Medical Center Library & Archives and the History of Medicine Collections will remain close and collaborative, and there will continue to be joint exhibitions and programs. The History of Medicine Collections and RBMSCL are committed to supporting teaching and research at the Medical School and to working together with medical center faculty and students.

RBMSCL is located in the Perkins Library Building. Hours of operation are posted at library.duke.edu/about/hours. No appointment is necessary and visitors are always welcome. We hope that you will come and visit the History of Medicine Collections at its new location.
2011-2012 Trent History of Medicine Society Speaker Series

The 2011-2012 collaborative speaker series jointly sponsored by Duke’s Trent History of Medicine Society and UNC’s Bullitt History of Medicine Club will begin in September. Lectures are held on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted and alternate locations between Duke and UNC. A light buffet supper is available at 5:30 p.m. Papers begin at 6 p.m. For further details or directions, please contact Curator Rachel Ingold at (919) 684-8549.

September 13, 2011, UNC: David Weber, M.D. Epidemiology

October 11, 2011, Duke, Rare Book Room, Perkins Library: Shauna Devine, Ph.D. Science, Disease and Experimental Medicine: Gangrene and Erysipelas during the American Civil War, 1861-1865

November 15, 2011, UNC: Linda Beeber, Ph.D., R.N., C.S. WWI Nursing

December 6, 2011, Duke, Medical Center Library, Room 102: Francis A. Neelon, M.D. Caleb Parry and the Brief Life of Parry’s Disease

The spring schedule will be posted in our fall newsletter. Please check our website for more details:

library.duke.edu/specialcollections/history-of-medicine/events.html

2011 Haas Award Winners

The History of Medicine Collections are pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Haas Awards. These annual awards are supported by an endowment established by the estate of Dr. William Reid Haas and Mrs. Ardelle B. Haas. The Awards advance research and scholarship related to the History of Medicine by encouraging excellence in research and writing.

The Haas History of Medicine Scholarship was awarded to Duke medical student Bryan Leppert, to help him pursue a research experience with the Duke Medical Humanities Study Program.

Howard Kim won the Haas History of Medicine Essay Prize for his submission “Convulsive Ergotism and the Salem Witch Trials.” This essay prize is given to a graduating 4th year student for an essay written while attending Duke Medical School.
Recent Acquisitions


May, Frederick. *An Inaugural dissertation, on the animating principle, or anima mundi...* Boston: From the press of William Spotswood, no. 55, Marlborough-Street, 1795.


