

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

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Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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An American in Padua

In May, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Italy with Professor Valeria Finucci, Director of Duke University's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Meg Brown, Duke University Libraries Exhibits Coordinator. Coinciding with the planning of our exhibition *Languages of Anatomy: From Vesalius to the Digital Age* and the Vesalius symposium held here at Duke in September was a conference planned in Padua by Professor Finucci's dear friend, colleague, and collaborator, Dr. Maurizio Rippa-Bonati from the History of Medicine Department at the University of Padua.

Professor Finucci received grant funding for the three of us to visit Padua and participate in the conference, *Andreas Vesalius Patavinus Professor*, held May 21-22. This conference preceded the grand opening of [MuSME](#) – the Museo di Storia della Medicina in Padua. As participants, we were able to tour this three-story, highly interactive museum devoted to presenting the history of medicine to a wide age range, targeting school age children. The Museum incorporates technology in a variety of respects, including an interactive



Wax anatomical models at La Specola in Florence

matching game of viruses and symptoms. Other highlights include a devoted exhibition space for rare books, historical instruments from the University museum, and specimens from the Pathology Museum. While our

primary purpose in visiting Italy was participating in the conference, *Andreas Vesalius Patavinus Professor*, our visit was a wonderful opportunity to take a tour of a new museum and meet a variety of scholars, curators, and librarians, working in the realm of the history of medicine in Italy, as well as the UK and Germany. Speakers at the conference included Fabrizio Bigotti, Helen King, Michael Stolberg, Marco Catani, and Giulia Rigoni.

While in Italy, I visited as many museums as possible in the short time we were there. In Padua, we visited the [Palazza Bo and Anatomical Theatre](#) of the University in Padua where Vesalius and Galileo lectured. It was incredible to be in a space that existed since the thirteenth century. We were not allowed to photograph the space, but we were able to venture into the amphitheater where dissections were

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HOM in the Classroom

The following classes used materials from the History of Medicine Collections for course instruction.

Classics

- Inventing Sickness: Science and Practice of Medicine in Ancient Greece

History:

- History of Science
- Magic, Religion, and Science Since 1400
- Visual Culture of Chinese Medicine

Writing 101

- Medicine, Culture & Healing

Second-Year Medical Students:

- Pre-clerkship classes in Pediatrics
- Pre-clerkship classes in Surgery
- Pre-clerkship classes in Obstetrics

Recent Acquisitions

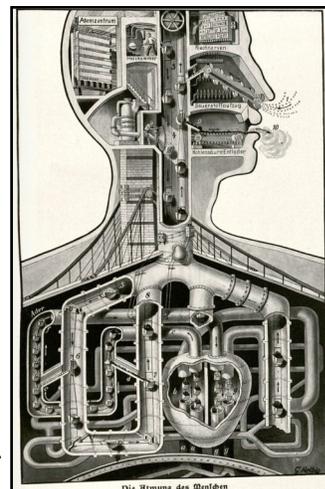
Below are a selection of items that were purchased with donations from the Trent Associates.

Houdré, Marie Boursin. *Ma doctoresse, guide pratique d'hygiène et de médecine de la femme moderne*. Strasbourg, Editorial Argentor, 1928.

A comprehensive home medical reference work aimed specifically at the “modern woman.” This two volume work provides basic information on human anatomy along with details on matters relating to puberty and marriage, personal hygiene and beauty. In addition, the work includes advice on matters of diet, health and exercise with numerous images highlighting the latter, along with practical advice on how to register births, file for divorce, and even on where to live and what to plant in one’s garden. The second volume details medical matters, with chapters on pregnancy, child-birth, early child-care, child-development and hygiene. Of particular use to mothers are those plates depicting the visible symptoms of common childhood diseases including scarlet fever and chickenpox.

Kahn, Fritz. *Das Leben des Menschen : eine volkstümliche Anatomie, Biologie, Physiologie und Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschen*. Stuttgart : Kosmos, Gesellschaft der Naturfreunde Franckh'sche Verlagshandlung, [1926-1931]. Stuttgart : Verlagsdruckerei Holzinger & Co.

A profusely illustrated five volume work on the inner workings of the human body, published by the noted German gynecologist and science author Fritz Kahn (1888-1968). Kahn developed a sophisticated graphic analogy between anatomy and machinery. His modernist visualization of the digestive and respiratory system as an industrial palace, based on a chemical plant, was conceived at the height of Weimar Germany’s rapid and advanced industrialization, in conjunction with the artistic experimentation of the Bauhaus and Dada movements.



Dr. J. Shelley Saurman, *Eight Cases*. Handwritten Medical Case Notes of Philadelphia Surgeon Dr. J. Shelley Saurman. [Likely Philadelphia, c. 1910s].

Dr. Saurman’s surgical case notes review the medical histories of eight patients and describe the operations performed on them. The notes of this Philadelphia surgeon cover a wide range of patients: men and women, adults and children, black and white. The notes are typically one page in length and are concise including patient’s symptoms, past treatment, and operations he performed. The name Dr. J. Shelley Saurman, P.D. [Ph.D.], M.D. appears in catalogs of Temple University in Philadelphia from the early 1910s. In Temple’s Department of Medicine, Dr. Saurman was a Demonstrator of Pathology and Bacteriology, Instructor in Gynecology, and Assistant Professor of Materia Medica. He was also an Instructor of Bacteriology at Temple’s Training School for Nurses. By 1912–1913, he would become Associate Professor of Bacteriology.

An American in Padua continued

performed. Other highlights included visiting a variety of science and natural history museums. Italy has spectacular natural history museums – ranging from La Specola in Florence to Venice’s [Museo di Storia Naturale](#). And as many know, [La Specola](#) is world renowned for its wax anatomical models of humans from the eighteenth century. Unbelievably detailed, and a bit overwhelming in the context in which they are displayed, these items are understandably provocative today. The

[Museo Galileo](#) is an extraordinary science museum that includes the index finger, thumb, and tooth of Galileo on display



Wunderkammer Display at Museum of Natural History, Venice

among many other treasures. Other highlights included a tour of the [Scrovegni Chapel](#) and the [Doge Palace](#). Unfortunately, the [Marciana](#) was closed the one day we were hoping to visit. I am so grateful to Professor Finucci for this opportunity; to have immersed myself in so much history but also to be able to talk with others about our collections and programming here in the History of Medicine Collections at Duke.

Rachel Ingold, Curator of the History of Medicine Collections

Upcoming Exhibition

Malignant Fever: Benjamin Rush and the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Philadelphia

Curated by Mandy Cooper, PhD History candidate at Duke University, this exhibit highlights epidemic diseases through examining perhaps the most famous yellow fever outbreak in U.S. history—the 1793 outbreak in Philadelphia. The exhibit draws chiefly from the Benjamin Rush papers in the History of Medicine Collections.



This exhibition will be on display in the Mary Duke Biddle Room through March 2016.

Renew or become a member of the Trent Associates!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to Duke University and send to:
Trent Associates for the History of Medicine
Duke University
Box 90185
Durham, NC 27708

Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership

**You may renew your membership online:
<https://www.gifts.duke.edu/library>**

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Duke University Library Annual Report**

Thank you for your donation!

DUKE UNIVERSITY

LIBRARIES

History of Medicine Collections

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Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room

We invite you to visit the new Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The newly designed room features numerous historical medical instruments and artifacts including ivory anatomical manikins.

The Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room is open to the public, Monday—Friday from 9 am until 5 pm.

