

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

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Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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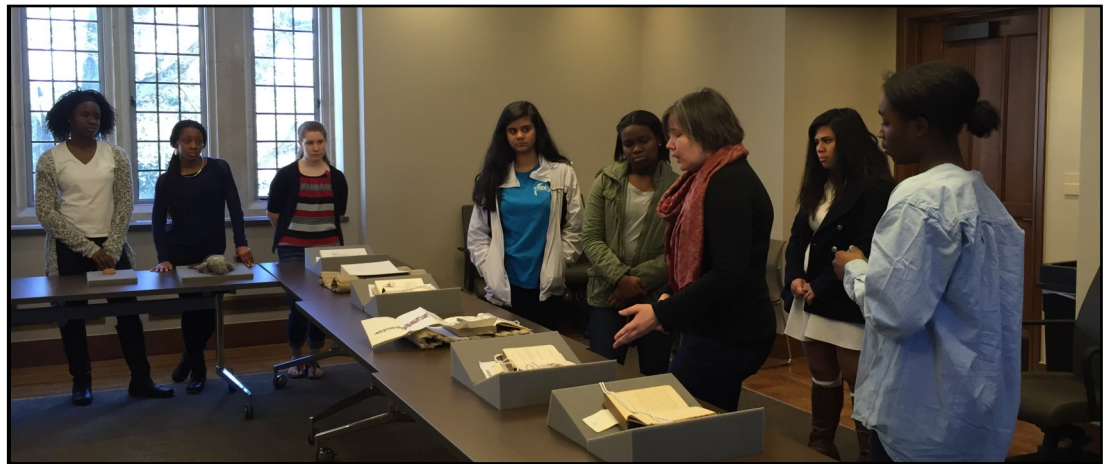
Spring 2016

Meet Amelia Holmes, Our Josiah Charles Trent Intern

As the 2015-2016 Josiah Charles Trent Intern for the History of Medicine Collections, I have had the opportunity to expand the breadth and depth of my knowledge related to special collection libraries, while also being able to promote a unique collection to new audiences. Even before I saw the internship announcement, I was aware of the remarkable nature of the collections' rare books, manuscripts, and material objects, and was excited about the pro-

of Medicine Collections and can pique the curiosity of participants, making them new users.

Working as the Trent Intern has also allowed me the opportunity to develop my own outreach initiatives, including sharing collection materials via social media and collaborating with instructors at the School of Science and Math. The materials contained within the History of Medicine Collections are visual in nature and lend themselves



Amelia Holmes (third from right) with students from the School of Science & Math.

spect of seeing firsthand how they are utilized by researchers.

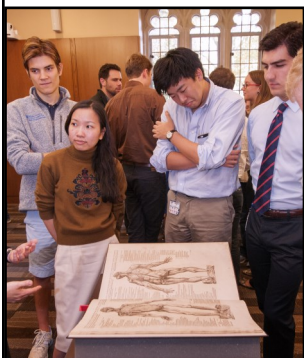
Through the internship, I have been able to participate in several outreach initiatives such as Scremfest, which shares “creepy and macabre” materials with the public, and Anatomy Day, which is an event for first-year medical school students to compare what they’re learning in their anatomy labs with historical representations of anatomy. These events serve as a very brief introduction to the types of materials that are held within the History

easily to sharing through social networking sites such as Instagram and Tumblr, where delicate materials such as fugitive sheets and ivory anatomical manikins can achieve greater use and accessibility in the form of short videos and still images. Additionally, I collaborated with instructors from the School of Science and Math on an instruction session for a mini-term course investigating the role of women in STEM fields. Through the session, I was able not only to introduce fourteen high school

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HOM in the Classroom

The following classes used materials from the HoM for course instruction.



Documentary Studies

- Activating the Archive

History:

- Doctors, Artist-Engineers, and Scientists in the Renaissance

Romance Studies

- Nature, Body, and Mind: Chocolate and Tobacco in the Hispanic World and Beyond

First-Year Medical Students

- Anatomy Day

Second-Year Medical Students:

- Pre-clerkship classes in the following: Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Surgery

Recent Acquisitions

Below is a selection of items purchased with donations from the Trent Associates.

Longet, F.-A. (François-Achille). *Expériences relatives aux effets de l'inhalation de l'éther sulfurique sur le système nerveux*. Paris : Victor Masson, libraire des Sociétés savantes près le ministère de l'instruction publique, place de l'École-de-Médecine, 1847. This first book-form edition of an anesthesia landmark was published less than five months after Henry J. Bigelow's announcement of the efficacy of sulphuric ether in surgical operations. Longet's monograph contains the first account of the physiological effects of ether, and he was one of the leading experimental physiologists of the period. He is remembered for his 1842 work on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system.

Journal of an English Midwife. Manuscript Observations of Births 1834-1841.

A midwife in the West Midlands of England kept a record of 300 numbered births present in this journal. Many of the records, up to number 205, are noted in five lines of detail recording the date, name and address of patient, whether the child lived or died, length of labor, time of the "third stage of labour" (or the expulsion of the placenta) and any complications arising during the birth.

Hellwig, Christoph von. *Nosce te ipsum vel Anatomicum vivum*, Oder...

Franckfurth, Leipzig, Bey H. Philippo [1720]. This work is the second revised edition by the Erfurt professor Christoph von Hellwig (1663-1721) of Johann Rem-

melin's *Catoptorum microscopium* (1619) and includes over 90 very small and fragile moving parts. Hellwig's four plates depict, in turn, the skin, nerves, vessels, muscles, and bones; the female reproductive system; the male viscera and cranium; and the female viscera and cranium. The representations are remarkably complex. An arm on the first plate has no fewer than nine moveable parts.

This particular item has a later addition of modesty flaps over the genitalia in facsimile. A student of philosophy and later medicine, Hellwig authored and edited over forty medical and pharmaceutical works, including household medical guides and reports of unusual cases.



Internship continued

students to primary sources created by women in STEM fields from the past 300 years, but to special collections libraries in general. Finally, I have curated an exhibit of nine items from the Trent Collection for the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Collection's arrival at Duke University. The exhibit highlights books, manuscripts, and artifacts from four continents and across three hundred years.

I have also been able to promote the collection online beyond social media. Wikipedia is the seventh most-visited website in the world, and many people begin and end their research on Wikipedia. As such, one of the first projects I completed was creating a Wikipedia page for Josiah Charles Trent, which covers his contributions as both a surgeon and historian of medicine. I have also written several posts for the Rubenstein Library's blog, *The Devil's Tale*. One highlighted the anatomical art of Frederik Ruysch; another, part of the Rubenstein Library Test Kitchen series, involved creating a

Boston Apple Pudding recipe from the 1823 History of Medicine Collections book *The Cook's Oracle*. Given the visual nature of the Collections, I also created an Art and the History of Medicine LibGuide. It provides an entry point to the rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts within the collections for researchers who are interested in using materials for visual studies.

The impact of this internship in conjunction with my other experiences as a graduate student in library science cannot be overstated. It has solidified my interest in outreach and special collections librarianship, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share such an amazing collection with both new and current users.

Amelia Holmes is currently a master's student in the School of Information & Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. She will graduate in August of 2016.

Travel Grant Winners

We are pleased to announce the travel grant winners for 2016-2017. The History of Medicine Travel Grant covers transportation expenses, accommodations, and meals for those living outside of a 100-mile radius of Durham, NC, who wish to use our collections to further their research.

- ◆ Cecilio Cooper, PhD candidate in the Department of African American Studies, Northwestern University for dissertation research on "Phantom Limbs, Fugitive Flesh: Slavery + Colonial Dissection."
- ◆ Sara Kern, PhD candidate in History & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University, for dissertation work on "Measuring Bodies, Defining Health: Medicine, Statistics, and Civil War Legacy in the Nineteenth-Century America."
- ◆ Professor Kim Nielsen, Disability Studies & History, University of Toledo, for research on her book, *The Doctress and the Horsewhip*, a biography of Dr. Anna B. Ott (1819-1893).

New Digital Collection

Benjamin and Julia Stockton Rush papers



We invite you to examine our new digital collection of the [Benjamin and Julia Stockton Rush papers, 1766-1845](#).

This collection includes letters and writings that focus primarily on medical concerns, particularly the 1793 and other yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia, as well as mental illness and its treatment, and the medical department of the Continental Army. Correspondents include founding fathers Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. There are also personal letters to Julia Stockton Rush and other materials including a medical casebook, financial records, a travel diary, and legal documents.

DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

History of Medicine Collections

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Renew or become a member of the Trent Associates!

Name: _____

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**Donors giving at the level of \$50 and above are listed in the
Duke University Library Annual Report**

Thank you for your donation!