

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

David M. Rubenstein
Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Four Seasons, Two Semesters, One Incredible Experience by Erin Rutherford

I applied for the Josiah Charles Trent Internship after watching Curator Rachel Ingold present on *The Four Seasons* at the Triangle Book History Symposium at the National Humanities Center. When she described these anatomical fugitive sheets,

with their interactive flaps, spinning volvelles, and mysterious origins, my curiosity was piqued. Given my art history background, I was initially drawn to working with the collections for their rich, aesthetic value. I knew that the illustrations hiding within centuries' old tomes would

be inky with insights. As someone with a strong interest in material history, I knew that the artifact collection – with its infant feeders, microscopes, apothecary kits, pharmaceutical measures, and fleams – would be utterly fascinating. I was certain that the repository, the staff, and the stacks would present an invaluable learning experience – one that I could draw from well into my future career. I was delighted and humbled to be selected for the 2017-2018 academic year. My time as the Trent Intern has exceeded my every expectation.

I have been involved in several instruction sessions for undergraduate, graduate and medical students, as well as outside groups. Topics ranged from the *History of*

Surgery to Projections in Time, from *Global Health HIV/AIDS Narratives to Visual Cultures of Medicine*. It is fascinating to observe how students from various disciplines interpret the same materials differently. Perhaps the most exciting course was Professor

Tom Robisheaux's *Scientists, Magicians and Engineers in the Renaissance*. This class is offered via the Archives Alive! Program that creates semester-long courses in which students develop innovative projects based on original materials held in



Erin Rutherford, the Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Intern

the Rubenstein Library. Students

explored modern science and medicine at the time of the Scientific Revolution, selecting contemporaneous texts from within the History of Medicine Collections (Andreas Vesalius, Nehemiah Grew, and Louise Bourgeois Boursier, among others) for their individual research projects. Their excitement was palpable! And speaking of energy, the exhilaration of participating in Anatomy Day, an outreach initiative in which first-year medical school students encounter historical representations of anatomy, should not be understated!

I had great fun reanimating the History of Medicine's contributions to the Rubenstein

(Continued on page 2)

HOM in the Classroom

The History of Medicine Collections worked with the following classes:

Art History & Visual Studies

- Visual Cultures of Medicine

Global Health

- HIV/AIDS Narratives

History

- Engineers, Doctors, Scientists in the Renaissance
- History of Chinese Medicine
- Pre-Modern Disease

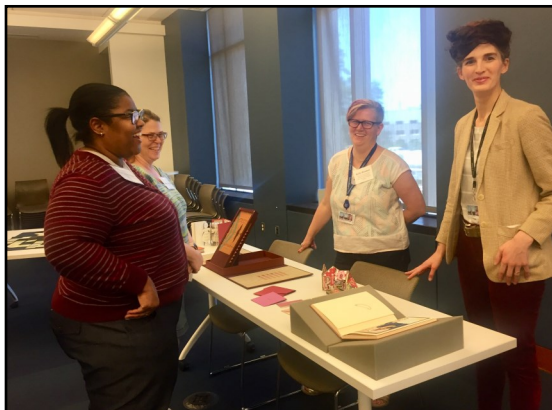
School of Medicine

- Anatomy Day
- History of Pediatrics
- History of Obstetrics
- History of Surgery

Writing 101

- Knowing Crime

Intern Experience (continued)



Erin Rutherford, far right, talks with colleagues during an event for alumni

Library's Instagram page. I explored a 1913 William Wood & Company Medical Record Visiting List or Physicians Diary, recited a rhyme to Hans von Gersdorff's Fieldbook of Surgery, and took a 'stab' at describing Joannes de Ketham's Wound Man (Ouch!). *The Devil's Tale – Dispatches from the Rubenstein Library* features a blog post contribution on one of my favorite artifacts from the collection: A diminutive paper cylinder filled with purified talcum powder that was dispensed at Spake Pharmacy in Morganton, North Carolina. For those intrigued by visually appealing materials, I created a LibGuide to help researchers and other inquisitive viewers locate digital collections and online image resources specific to the History of Medicine. The site features resources available at Duke and beyond at the regional, national, and international levels.

Back in the stacks, I assisted Stacks Manager Lucy Vanderkamp in barcoding artifact boxes to enhance access to the collection. I also had the good fortune of observing an acquisition intake jointly with Duke's Medical Archives. The research requests with which I assisted varied greatly. I hunted through scrapbooks, physician's ledgers, notebooks, diaries, and hospital daybooks for mentions of particular medical equipment. I compiled listings of medical journals and scanned materials relevant to patron queries. Welcomed into instruction meetings, I be-

came aware of active learning techniques used to develop class models. Participating in the Reference Reporting Task Force, I helped to assess various electronic methods of collecting reference statistics. As a member of the selection committee for the History of Medicine Travel Grant, I aided in the selection of the 2018-2019 award recipients.

From March 20-July 14, 2018, visitors to the Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room can experience the exhibition that I curated entitled, *The Change of Life: Menopause and our Changing Perspectives*. Items on display trace changing perspectives on menopause – from early proponents who deemed it a debilitating disease to the women who reclaimed it as an empowering transition. The exhibit expresses the experience of menopause, dispels myths, and encourages public conversation about a topic that has been considered taboo for far too long. It was inspired by the words of feminist Rosetta Reitz: "I'm going to pull menopause out into the open, remove the cobwebs, clean it off, and look at it."

I am incredibly grateful for my time as the 2017-2018 Josiah Charles Trent Intern in the History of Medicine Collections. Thank you to the extraordinary team at the Rubenstein Library for sharing your workspace and your expertise with me for the past nine months. Through your kindness, knowledge and generosity you have embodied the standards to which I will aspire as a professional.

Erin Rutherford is the Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Intern for 2017-2018. She is pursuing a Masters in Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill.

2018-2019 Travel Grant Awards

We are pleased to announce the History of Medicine Travel Grant Award Recipients for 2018-2019

Jonathan Jones, Ph.D. candidate, Binghamton University, History Department, for dissertation research on "A Mind Prostrate:" Physicians, Opiates, and Insanity in the Civil War's Aftermath.

Amanda Stuckey, Ph.D., York College, English and Humanities Department, for research on "A History of Access: Medicine, Education, and Disability during the Long Nineteenth Century."

Wenrui Zhao, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, History Department, for dissertation research on "Dissecting Sight: Eye Surgery and Vision in Early Modern Europe."

Recent Acquisitions

du Chenteau, T., engraver, designer. *Carte philosophique et mathématique... A Bruxelles : chez Louvois libraire, au bas du grand Escalier de Ste. Gudule, [1775?]* A stunning set of four rare engravings based on the *Calendarium Naturalium Magicum*, originally issued by Johann Theodor de Bry in the seventeenth century and, as some speculate, devised by Tycho Brahe. Du Chenteau's work, based on the *Calendarium*, includes references to a renewed interest in hermetic ideas with imagery drawing on the work of Robert Fludd and Georg von Welling. Along with numerous tables are engravings reflecting symbols and imager associated with numerology; such as elements, planets, minerals, plants, animals, and much more.

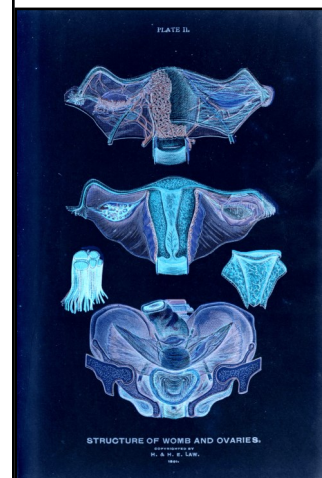


Raye, John Joseph Ardavon. *Ambulance handbook for volunteers and others.* London : J. & A. Churchill, 11, New Burlington Street, 1884. This handbook written for the layperson aims to provide basic instruction on first-aid for accidents and dressings on the battlefield (if one finds oneself in active service). While providing basic information, the author points out that the handbook is not meant to be comprehensive, but an outline "until a properly qualified surgeon arrives." Along with text based on intended lectures are original drawings by the author.

Snow, John. *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera.* London : John Churchill, 1855. Published in 1855, this title builds upon Snow's work of the same name from 1849. A cholera outbreak in London in 1854 offered Snow (a leader in epidemiology) opportunities for detailed survey work. Snow's statistical and historical analysis, including plotting cases of cholera on a map of London, led to his debunking the predominant theory of cholera being airborne. His work ultimately led to developing a path for sanitary reform. This 1855 edition includes description of the Broad Street Pump and map.

Current Exhibit

Change of Life: Menopause and our Changing Perspectives



March 20 to July 14, 2018

Josiah Charles Trent
History of
Medicine Room

The items in this exhibit trace changing perspectives on menopause – from early proponents who labelled it a debilitating disease to the women who have reclaimed it as an empowering transition.

Curated by Trent Intern Erin Rutherford, the exhibit aims to make visible the experience of menopause, dispel myths, and encourage public conversation about a topic that has, for too long, been considered taboo.

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LIBRARIES

History of Medicine Collections

Rubenstein Rare Book &
Manuscript Library
Box 90185
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708

Rachel Ingold Curator

Phone: 919-684-8549

Fax: 919-660-5934

E-mail:

rachel.ingold@duke.edu

Website:

library.duke.edu/
rubenstein/
history-of-medicine

Blog:

blogs.library.duke.
edu/rubenstein



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