

TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Fall/Winter 2004

Vol. 12, No. 2

Georgia Medical Society

On Saturday morning 9 October 2004 as part of the Medical Alumni Weekend, a plaque was formally dedicated in the Medical Center Library which commemorates the gift of 8,000 volumes of books and medical journals by the Georgia Medical Society to the Duke University Hospital Library. Founded in 1804, the Georgia Medical Society is among the oldest medical societies in continuous existence in the United States. In 1931 the Society decided they could no longer afford to maintain their library. Guided by Dr. Victor H. Bassett, Chairman of the Library Committee and Health Officer for the city of Savannah, they negotiated an agreement with Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, Dean of the Medical School, and Robert L. Flowers, Treasurer of the University. It was agreed that "Duke University have entire control of the collection, which need not be maintained separately, unless such separate maintenance be found practicable." Duplicates could be exchanged or destroyed; volumes could be repaired or rebound as necessary. The books were to be marked to indicate they came from the Society. In return, members of the Georgia Medical Society were granted borrowing privileges from among all books on medical subjects and premedical subjects in the Duke University libraries with "proper reservations of books that are rare and especially valuable." On 20 April 1931, ninety-two cases of books were shipped to Durham. By year's end they had been "disinfected" and processed and were available for use as part of the Duke University Hospital Library. The contribution has been recognized along with the Trent Collection as one of the foundation stones for the library's historical collection.



Photo: Les Todd

After the plaque dedication

Continued on page 2

Inside this Report

Georgia Medical Society	1	Anatomy Class Visit.....	4
Recent Gifts.....	3	Trent Associates.....	5
Foundation Stones.....	3	Membership Form.....	6

Georgia Medical Society, continued from page 1

Acting on behalf of the Georgia Medical Society, Dr. Thomas E. Shook, a past president, officially presented the plaque to Pat Thibodeau, Associate Dean for Library Services, who accepted it for Duke. As part of the festivities, Suzanne Porter conveyed greetings from Mrs. Mary DBT Semans who was unable to attend and wanted to share her memories of Dean Davison's pride at having secured the collection for Duke. The plaque has been permanently affixed to a wall in the History of Medicine reading room and can be viewed whenever the collection is open.



Dr. Thomas E. Shook, Past President
Georgia Medical Society



Sample of books from 1931 gift



Dr. Shook making the
presentation



Dr. Edward G. Bowen, Decatur, GA



Guests, Dr. Irving B. Holley
& Dr. Barbara C. Newborg

Recent Gifts

Barnwell, William. **Physical investigations and deductions from medical and surgical facts.** Philadelphia: Printed by W. W. Woodward, 1802.

Bildtafeln für Gesundheitsfürsorge, Mappe I Tuberkulose; zusammengestellt von Dr. G. Seiffert...Bayern: Landesverband zur Bekämpfung der Tuberkulose [n.d.] 10 posters.

Bock, August Carl. **Chirurgisch-Anatomische Tafeln...** Leipzig: Leopold Voss, 1833.

Fracastoro, Girolamo. **Syphilis, ou Le mal vénérien...** Paris: Chez Lucet, 1796.

Herls, M. Cornelium. **Examen chirurgiae oder der Wund-Artzney...** Nürnberg: Johann Hoffmanns, 1692.

Königliches Preussisches und Churfürstl. Brandenburgisches allgemeines und nugeschäftes Medizinedict und Verordnung. Berlin: 1726.

Osborn, William. **Essay on the laborious parturition.** London: Printed for T. Cadell, 1783.

Spehrer, Petrum. **Wes man in jetztregierender Rodten Rühr mit Artzneyen unnd sonsten sich zuuerhalten.** Meyntz: Henricum Broom, 1595. Bound with three other titles 1576, 1596, and 1582.

Wenzel, Joseph and Carl. **Übert die Schwammigen Auswüchse auf der äußern Hirnhaut.** Maniz: Florian Kupferberg, 1811.

Witkowski, Gustave Joseph. **Accoucheurs et sages-femmes célèbres.** Paris: G. Steinheil, 1891.

Foundation Stones

The exhibit currently on view in the lower lobby describes in greater detail the events surrounding our foundation gifts from the Georgia Medical Society and from Dr. Josiah Charles Trent. While the Georgia Medical Society contributed its library in 1931, the Trent Collection was not formally presented to Duke until the occasion of the Trent Room dedication on 20 April 1956 during the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. Photographs of the principal participants, copies of correspondence, deeds of gift, memorabilia, and samples of the books, journals, and manuscripts celebrate both of these gifts, which have been central to the development of our History of Medicine Collections. The exhibit will remain on display through January 2005.



Photo: Les Todd

Anatomy Class Visit

The History of Medicine Collections hosted the first year gross anatomy class on Wednesday afternoon 20 October. Following a brief orientation in the Duke South amphitheater, almost 100 students came over in three separate waves at one hour intervals. The event was organized by Dr. Edward C. Halperin, Vice Dean of the School of Medicine, to introduce the rich historic resources available in the library, just steps away from the dissection lab.

On display were 14 rare anatomical atlases and texts from the Trent Collection, ranging in date from the late fifteenth century to the mid nineteenth century. Included were a hand-illuminated Persian manuscript in which the human body was depicted as a diagram, a copy of Vesalius with the famous muscle men, a pocket-size surgical manual by Ambrose Paré, a sample volume of Galen to demonstrate that dissection was described in ancient Greece in words without the benefit of pictures, and an enormous folio by William Hunter on the gravid uterus. Tables in the reading room were numbered and the students split up, rotating from table to table. In addition to the History of Medicine staff, Dr. Halperin, Professor Matt Cartmill, and emeritus faculty members, Dr. Francis Neelon and Dr. Ara Tourian, were available to explain the significance of the texts and to answer questions.

The experience proved successful and gave the students an opportunity to learn about medical history and to see how their medical predecessors viewed the human body in order to compare it with what they are currently seeing in the lab.



Photos: Tanika Hayes

Reading Room set-up for the class



Dr. Ara Tourian talks about Leonardo



Dr. Francis Neelon shows students the Vesalius

Anatomy Class Visit, continued from page 4



Dr. Halperin (back to camera) discusses the Hunter atlas



Students interacting with the books

Photos: Tanika Hayes

TRENT ASSOCIATES*

Sustaining Members

Dr. George J. D'Angelo
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil R. Godwin, Jr.
Dr. Gordon K. Klintworth
Dr. John P. McGovern

Contributing Members

Dr. Edward H. Bossen
Dr. & Mrs. Harvey J. Cohen

Members

Dr. Carl S. L. Eisenberg
Mrs. Francine Netter Roberson

Gifts in Kind

Ms. Virginia R. M. Carden
Dr. Joseph C. Greenfield, Jr.
Dr. Margaret Humphreys
Dr. Gordon K. Klintworth
Dr. Robert Machemer
Dr. Barbara C. Newborg
Mr. Chandler Palethorpe
for the estate of Warren Bird
Dr. Dale Purves
Ms. Elizabeth Gillis Huckle Rader
Dr. David C. Sabiston, Jr.
UNC - Health Sciences Library

* Donors since last newsletter

Published at regular intervals during the year.
History of Medicine Collections
Duke University Medical Center Library
Box 3702, Durham, NC 27710
Suzanne Porter, Curator & Editor
Michael Davidson, Assistant Editor
Beverly Murphy, Assistant Editor

Trent Associates

Become a member of the
Trent Associates for 2005
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: _____

History of Medicine

*Make checks payable to **Duke University** and send to:
Trent Associates for the History of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center Library
Box 3702
Durham, NC 27710*