

TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Fall/Winter 2009

Vol. 17, No. 2

“The Chair”



Dr. Anna Mae Diehl

The Florence McAlister Chair of Medicine was established in 1936 by Mrs. Amelie McAlister Upshur in memory of her sister Florence R. McAlister. Their father was William Henry McAlister, the secretary and one of the directors of the American Tobacco Company.

The story of how “the chair” came into being was related by Dr. Eugene Stead:

A few years after endowing the chair, Florence McAlister’s sister called Medical School Dean Wilburt C. Davison to say she was in the area and would like to come see “the chair.” Dr. Davison quickly called on a local furniture maker to produce a suitable chair of fine wood and maroon leather. On the back of the chair was affixed a brass plaque which read:

In Memory of
Florence Reynaud McAlister
A Chair of
Medicine and Medical Research
School of Medicine
Duke University
Endowed in Perpetuity

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Dr. Frederic Moir Hanes was the first to hold the chair and upon his death Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. became the Florence McAlister Professor of Medicine. In 1979 Dr. Roscoe Robinson held the chair until he left for Vanderbilt in 1981. The professorship then passed to Dr. Wendell Rosse. Since 2005, Dr. Anna Mae Diehl, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Director of the Duke Liver Center has held the chair. The chair physically resides in Dr. Diehl's office. She is shown on the cover sitting in it.

[The editor would like to thank Dr. Diehl, Ms. Sandra Mangum of the Department of Medicine, and the staff of the Duke Medical Center Archives for their assistance with the research on this article.]

History Hours

Due to staff retirements the History of Medicine hours have changed. Now it is necessary to close for a lunch break. The hours currently are as follows:

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday – Friday:	10:00 am - 12:30 pm 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Since we may need on occasion to deviate from the published schedule, please call 660-1144 to confirm before planning a visit.

Wanted

The History of Medicine Collections does not have a leech jar among its artifacts. (See example pictured.) We would greatly appreciate it if any of our Trent Associates had an original or a replica they would be willing to donate. It would be a valuable addition to our teaching collection.



Barbara Busse Retires

Barbara A. Busse, a reference assistant in the History of Medicine Collections for many years, retired at the end of August after almost 39 years of service. Barbara has been a part of the Duke academic community from the time she arrived in Durham with her family in the fall of 1953. Her father, Dr. Ewald W. Busse, had been recruited to head the Department of Psychiatry.



Barbara joined the Medical Center Library staff in November 1970 and recalls being interviewed by Mary Ann Brown and Judy Woodburn, both of whom have also retired in the past few years. Her initial job responsibility was in the serials department with one of her first assignments to make an added entry card for each title in the bound volumes of journal reprints. With the move of the Library in 1975, from the small space it had occupied in the basement of the Medical School and Hospital (now the Duke South Clinics) to the large new quarters in the Seeley G. Mudd Building, Barbara became a member of the History of Medicine staff.

In addition to the expert reference services she has provided for us, her knowledge of the Duke medical community has been increasingly valuable as the years have passed. She herself has become a historical resource and we continue to consult her.

In retirement, Barbara pursues her interest in dance therapy, travels often to visit friends and extended family, and welcomes our questions.

Memories from Barbara

When the new library opened in 1975, I was asked to assist in the History of Medicine Collections. I had previously been working as part of the general support staff. This seemed like a good fit since much of my academic work had been in the social sciences and I enjoyed contact with the public which would be part of the job. I was pretty much on my own to figure out how to answer the questions from our patrons. We did not have the computer tools that are available today, but I managed to use key volumes in the reference collection and in the open stacks to find pictures of some not-so-famous physicians to be used in the presentation on some syndrome. I was stubborn and would often find things that my curator [GST Cavanagh] would say were not findable.

I have met a number of people such as Dr. Francis Neelon of Duke University and Dr. Michael McVaugh of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who remain friends to this day. I was honored to be able to help care for the collections and enjoyed very much the occasional visits by our primary benefactor Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans and her family. It was enjoyable to follow the careers of scholars such as Peter English and Jeffrey Baker as they progressed from student status to become members of the faculty. Various lectures by medical historians further enriched my life and increased my ability to help patrons.

I wish for you and yours: Good health and plenty of energy and the capacity to continue to follow your passions.

Spring Semester Speakers

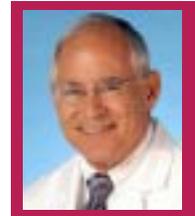
As part of the collaborative speaker series, the Trent History of Medicine Society will host the following speakers in the Reading Room this Spring. Please mark your calendars. Email reminders will be sent out as the dates draw closer.

February 9, 2010

Dr. H. Michael Jones

Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
UNC School of Medicine

Poverty, Pellagra, and the Tale of a Tar Heel



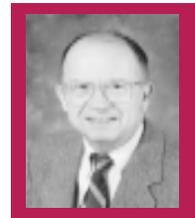
E.J. Wood, MD of Wilmington, NC is the *Tar Heel*. He was one of the earliest American investigators of pellagra and was held in high regard by Sir William Osler.

April 13, 2010

Dr. William Bradford

Professor of Pathology
Duke University

Pathology at Duke: As I Remember It



Anatomy Class Visit

Under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Baker, eighty-nine first year medical students came to the Trent Collection on Tuesday afternoon 10 November for the anatomy class visit. A selection of magnificent atlases from our collection were on display for their examination. Dr. Richard Madden and Dr. Ara Tourian helped the students draw comparisons between what their medical predecessors had recorded and what they were currently seeing in the dissection lab.

This annual visit – the sixth – has proved a successful way to introduce students to the rich historical resources acquired by Dr. Josiah Charles Trent, a founding faculty member of the School of Medicine, and subsequently donated by his widow following his untimely death. The opportunity encourages them to use these resources – some are one of a kind – and to recognize the remarkable depth and breadth of the collections.

Honoring Mrs. Semans

TEA

On the afternoon of Thursday 22 October, Mrs. Mary DBT Semans visited the History of Medicine Reading Room for tea and talked with the Medical Center Library staff. The celebration gave us the opportunity to express our appreciation for Mrs. Semans' support, leadership, and generosity for history of medicine and for entrusting to us the magnificent resources in the Trent Collection. In her honor we added to the urology collection of her late husband, Dr. James H. Semans, a text by Leroy-d'Etoilles, Histoire de lithotritie. The volume had previously been in the library of Dr. Valentine Mott, an early American physician, who was of particular interest to her first husband, Dr. Josiah Charles Trent.



GALA

The Trent Associates together with the Medical Center Library & Archives contributed to the Nasher Museum of Art benefit gala in honor of Mary DBT Semans. Our salute appeared along with more than fifty others in the program. The 14 November event was attended by over 600 supporters. Proceeds from the gala will help fund free educational programs in the Triangle area.

Duke Medical Center Library
& Archives
and
Trent Associates
honor
Mary D.B.T. Semans
for her visionary support of
Medicine and the Arts

Recent Acquisitions

Artifact. Embroidered lady's shoe with model of bound foot. China: late 19th century.

Barwell, Louisa Mary. **Infant treatment under two years of age ...** Edinburgh: William & Robert Chambers, 1840.

Byrne, Joseph P., ed. **Encyclopedia of pestilence, pandemics, and plagues.** 2 vols. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008.

Gascoigne, Bamber. **How to identify prints ...** New York: Thomas & Hudson, 2004.

Holubar, Karl et al. **Challenge dermatology: Vienna 1841-1992.** limited numbered edition. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1993.

Leroy-D'Etiolles, Jean Jacques Joseph. **Histoire de la lithotritie précédée de réflexions sur la dissolution des calculs urinaires.** Paris: Chez J.-B. Bailliere, 1839.

Lucet, Adrien. **De l'aspergillus fumigatus chez les animaux domestiques et dans les oeufs en incubation ...** Paris: Charles Mendel, 1897.

Metropolitan Commissioners in Lunacy. **Report ... to the Lord Chancellor.** London: Bradbury & Evans, 1844. Bound with **Supplemental report ... relative to the general condition of the insane in Wales.** London: Bradbury & Evan, 1844.

Ophthalmology instrument: Erisophake. V. Mueller & Co., USA.

Paulson, George W. and Rogers, Kristin. **Arthur G. James, MD: Surgeon with a dream.** [n.p.] Published by James Property Management, 2009.

Robin, Charles. **Des végétaux qui croissent sur l'homme et sur les animaux vivants.** Paris: Chez J.-B. Baillièrre, 1847.

Wall, Otto A. **The prescription ...** 3rd ed. rev. St. Louis: Aug. Gast Bank-Note & Litho. Co., 1898.

Winslow, W.H. **The human ear and its diseases ...** New York: Boericke & Tafel, 1882.

Zuccharus, Marius. **Tractatus de morbis puerorum.** Neapoli: Jo. Baptistam Subtilem, 1604.



Seasons Greetings

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 Dr. George A. Engstrom
 Dr. Eugene S. Flamm
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Ivan W. Brown, Jr., 1915-2009

Dr. Brown died November 20, 2009 at his home in Lakeland, Florida. He was a former James B. Duke Professor of Surgery. He last visited us a year ago September to present a special lecture on the Duke affiliated 65th units during both World War I and World War II. At that time his many friends and former colleagues had an opportunity to see him and reminisce. Dr. Brown was the youngest physician to serve with the 65th General Hospital and became its historian. He deposited many of his papers and research materials in the Duke Medical Center Archives.



Membership Form

Become a member of the
Trent Associates for 2009
 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: _____

*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*

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