

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

David M. Rubenstein
Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Japanese Medical Manuscripts | 1 |
| Rubenstein Library Renovation | 1 |
| Upcoming Events | 2 |
| Past Exhibits Online | 2 |
| Trent Associates | 3 |
| Membership Form | 3 |
| HOM in the Classroom | 3 |
| Recent Acquisitions | 4 |

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Japanese Medical Manuscripts

The History of Medicine Collections recently acquired a collection of incredibly rare Japanese manuscripts from the early nineteenth century. These items, totaling 61 volumes, reflect the work of Hanaoka Seishû, one of the most important and reputable surgeons during the Edo period of Japanese history.

Hanaoka Seishû (1760-1835) studied Dutch medicine in Kyoto. In 1805, he performed a successful mastectomy on a patient with breast cancer. Using a medicinal agent derived from a plant, Hanaoka used anesthesia 40 years before William Morton first experimented with ether. Combining both Western and Eastern medicine, he was the first Japanese surgeon to perform a variety



A watercolor illustration from the work of Hanaoka Seishû.

of surgeries including bladder operations, amputations, and even plastic surgery.

The collection includes handwritten manuscripts documenting Hanaoka's work, copied by his students for their own use. The volumes feature descriptive texts on surgery, including his operation for breast cancer, and on other medical experiences. Quite rare, especially outside of Japan, the illustrations in these manuscripts are exceptional. One volume includes 83 full-page and 9 double-page ink and water color drawings. The images depict surgical operations, bandaging patients, skin cancer, and surgical instruments.

We are pleased to have such a significant manuscript collection to complement our primarily Western-based medical collection.

Rubenstein Library Renovation

In August 2011, Duke University Libraries received a \$13.6 million gift from David M. Rubenstein to support the final phase of the Perkins Project, a multi-year library renovation project that began a decade ago. The renovation will transform one of the oldest and most recognizable buildings on West Campus into a state-of-the-art research facility where students, faculty, and visitors can engage with the Libraries' col-

lection of rare and unique scholarly materials.

Beginning in January 2013, the reading room where researchers use materials will be relocated to the third floor of Perkins Library. If you are planning to visit the History of Medicine Collections during the renovation period, this is also where you will find our offices. Many of our manuscript and print materials currently housed

(Continued on page 2)

Now Online

Online exhibit of Physician Education

If you missed visiting the exhibition, *What Does Your Doctor Know?*, you can still view items via our online exhibit at exhibits.library.duke.edu/exhibits/show/physicianeducation

Animated Anatomies Symposium Videos

In April 2011, a symposium was held in relation to the *Animated Anatomies* exhibition. This exhibition highlighted anatomical flap books, many from the History of Medicine Collections. The day-long symposium included scholars discussing a variety of topics related to anatomical flap books. Speakers included Andrea Carlino, Michael McVaugh, and Michael Sappol, amongst others. exhibits.library.duke.edu/exhibits/show/anatomy/symposiumvideos

Upcoming Events

Susan Reverby, November 1, 2012

We are pleased to announce that Professor Susan Reverby will be the Trent History of Medicine Speaker this fall. The event will be held on **Thursday, November 1, 2012**, at 5:30 pm in the Gothic



Reading Room of Perkins Library. The title of her talk is “Escaping Melodramas: Reflections on Telling the Histories of the Public Health Service’s Research in Tuskegee and Guatemala.” Susan M. Reverby is the Marion Butler McLean Professor in the History of Ideas and Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Wellesley College and an historian known for her work on the history of gender and

race issues, ethics, and health care. Her research into a government medical study in Guatemala between 1946-48 during which men and women were given syphilis led to an apolo-

gy from the highest reaches of the U.S. government to President Colom of Guatemala and to a Presidential Commission exploring current human subject protections. This event is cosponsored by the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, Duke University Department of History, and the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and the History of Medicine.

Rubenstein Library Renovation Continued

in our on-site stacks will be relocated to a remote storage facility. This means it is more important than ever for researchers to contact us in advance of your visit so we can insure that the materials you wish to use are available. We will continue to support our researchers, offer instructional sessions for students, and generally continue with business as usual.

When the renovation is complete in 2015, we will return to a completely reimagined space that will increase the research, instruction, storage and exhibition capabilities of our library. Updates will also extend to the Mary Duke Biddle Rare Book Room and the Gothic Reading Room. The charm and character of these

signature Duke spaces will be preserved, but their finishes, furnishings, lighting and technology infrastructure will be enhanced.

A dedicated room honoring Dr. Josiah Charles Trent’s contributions to the History of Medicine is included in the renovation plan. The historic nature of this room will remain intact and elements of the Trent Room from its previous location at the Medical Library will be incorporated into this new space.

You can find more about our renovation and stay up-to-date by following Renovation News at blogs.library.duke.edu/renovation/

Trent Associates*

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 Dr. Eugene S. Flamm
 Dr. Irwin Freundlich
 Dr. Edward Halperin
 Mrs. Sarah Trent Harris
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 Duke Medical Center Library & Archives (in memory of Mrs. Mary DBT Semans)
 Mr. William Helfand
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*Contributions as of March 2012

Membership Form

Become a member of the Trent Associates 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
 Box 90185
 Durham, NC 27708

Please be sure to visit our website:

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

HOM in the Classroom

The following classes received instruction from the History of Medicine Collections.

Second Year Medical Students:

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

Writing 20:

- Visualizing Medicine

History:

- Magic, Religion, and Science Since 1400
- Women and Health in American History

**History of Medicine
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Recent Acquisitions

Medical Journals of Dr. Caleb Budlong, “the first physician in the town and village of Frankfort, New York.” Written between 1817 and 1839, these manuscripts are a comprehensive medical history of an early settlement. The eight volumes include medical records, financial accounts, as well as items that document the emerging U.S. Pharmacopeia and medical ethics movements.

Cardianastrophe admiranda seu cordis inversio memorabilis tam physicis, quam theologicis ac medicis ... by Friedrich Hoffmann. Leipzig, Johann Eric Hahn for Christian Kirchner, 1671. This item is a rare first and only edition of this work describing the inverted heart found in the body of a 19-year-old woman during a five-day-long dissection by physicians at the medical college in Halle. The *Cardianastrophe* describes the details of the deformed heart and speculates on the cause, with a summary of the present state of knowledge about the heart and comments by earlier physicians on heart defects. Purchased in memory of Mary DBT Semans by Duke’s Medical Library & Archives.

Das Wissenswerteste vom Menschen... by Friedrich Faber. Nürnberg : Verlegt von K. Tyroff, [ca. 1820]. Only edition of a handsomely illustrated survey of the human body for schoolchildren and the self-educated. Published in parts, this volume was the only published volume of a projected four-volume work which was to treat every aspect of man “worth knowing.” This volume explores the “wonderful machine of the body” (p.8), with chapters on the skeleton, muscular and circulatory systems; physiological processes (circulation of the blood, respiration, etc.); the senses, sense organs, and speech; physical states including sickness and health, waking and sleeping, hunger and thirst; and the body’s development from youth to old age and death.

