Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Anatomical Fugitive Sheets Added to Collection

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In 1956, Mary Duke **Biddle Trent Semans** presented to the History of Medicine Collections a remarkable collection of historical medical materials collected by her late husband, Dr. Josiah Charles Trent. Included in the Trent Collection are eight anatomical fugitive sheets, single sheets from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that depict human anatomy, often with mova-

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ble parts. The History of Medicine Collections has recently acquired another pair of these incredibly rare anatomical sheets, thanks to a generous donation from Dr.



Rebecca Trent Kirkland, Dr. Trent's daughter.

Fall 2013

For decades, scholars have debated the intent and use of such items. Historians originally thought that these sheets were studied by medical students or barber surgeons, but more recent theories posit that these were more likely made for the public. Some fugitive sheets are written in Latin, but many

are in the vernacular, reflecting the intended use by the layperson interested in learning more about human anatomy.

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Manuscript Cataloging Project Complete

The History of Medicine Manuscript Access Project, funded by the Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation, is complete. Rubenstein Library Processing Archivist Paula Jeannet Mangiafico and several interns have provided robust cataloging for a large variety of manuscript items ranging from bound handwritten nineteenthcentury casebooks to diplomas and drawings. These rare materials are now much more accessible. The generous grant also aided with verifying and revising the 780 small manuscript collections of the Josiah Trent Manuscript Collection and the creation of a collection guide: <u>library.duke.edu/</u> <u>rubenstein/findingaids/trenthommss/</u> Mangiafico enjoyed working on the project. She noted, "Among all the History of Medicine research collections I've worked on, and there are so many outstanding holdings, what really makes this collection of nearly 800 items shine for me is the fact that it spans all of Western medical history and is so rich in content. Now that there's a detailed guide available online, it will surely be explored more fully. We're excited to hear more from our researchers about how they are using these collections."

HOM in the Classroom

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

First-YearMedical StudentsAnatomy Day



Second-Year Medical Students:

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

Writing 101:

• On the Boundaries of Medicine

History:

• The Physician in History

Education

• The Changing Landscape of Health Care

Recent Acquisitions

The following items were purchased with donations from the Trent Associates

Clark, Thaddeus. *An Account of a Remarkable Case of the Tetanus.* **Norwich: Thomas Hubbard, 1794.** A rare Connecticut medical pamphlet written by Dr. Thaddeus Clark, a physician and member of the Connecticut Medical Society. Clark describes an extreme case of tetanus which developed in one of his father's servants. The work is addressed to Dr. Philip Turner, an important Norwich physician who served as Surgeon General of the Eastern Department during the Revolutionary War. Clark was a pupil of Turner's. The History of Medicine Collections retains a large collection of Turner's manuscripts relating to his work during the Revolutionary War as Surgeon General.

Anweisung zur zweckmässigen Behandlung und Rettung der Scheintodten oder durch plötzliche Zufälle verunglückter Personen. Berlin, G. Reimer, 1820. First edition of this official handbook, issued by the Prussian government, detailing the risks of being buried alive, and the resuscitation of those who merely seem to be dead. The work deals with seemingly dead people and opens with the statement that the only reliable indicator for death is the green color of the decomposing belly. Every "corpse" without this clear sign of death has to be considered merely as seemingly dead. The main part of the book is on resuscitation and first aid, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, rescue breaths, injections of wine or spirits into the stomach, electricity, and rubbing and warming the body. The work concludes with a discussion of resuscitation of victims of particular accidents, such as hypothermia, drowning, strangulation, suffocation, lightning, and poisoning.

Paracelsus. Opus chyrurgicum : des weitberumbten Hochgelehrten und Erfarnen Aureoli Theophrasti Paracelsi medici &c., Wund vnd Artzney Buch... Getruckt zu Franckfurt am Mayn : durch Martin Lechler in Verlegung Sigmund Feyrabends vnd Simon Hüters, 1565. First illustrated edition, with woodcuts by Jost Amman, of Paracelus's Grosse Wundartzney, his most important medical text, and a highly influential edition. The fine Amman woodcuts, designed for this edition, include scenes of a trepanation, amputation, treating head wounds in a field hospital, a lithotomy operation, a dissection scene, and others.



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Trent Associates*

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*Contributions as of November 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 cou	int toward membership.
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Please be sure to visit our website: library.duke.edu/rubenstein/history-of-medicine

Fall Speaker Event

Mark your calendars for the Trent History of Medicine Society fall speaker event on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.



Jeremy Greene, M.D., Ph.D., will be our speaker, presenting "The materiality of the brand: Form, function, and the pharmaceutical trademark."

Dr. Greene is Associate Professor, Elizabeth Treide and A. McGehee Harvey Chair in the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

The event will be held at 5:30 pm in Room 217 of Perkins Library on Duke's West Campus.

For more information, contact 919-684-8549.



History of Medicine Collections

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Anatomical Fugitive Sheet Acquisition (Continued from page 1)

This particular pair of recently acquired anatomical fugitive sheets, written in Latin, are notable for several reasons, including their hand-coloring. Many similarly dated anatomical fugitive sheets include three-dimensional flaps that lift to reveal internal organs and other body parts. Because these flaps are extremely delicate and fragile, it is not uncommon for flaps to be missing. With this pair, the female figure retains one full flap while the male figure includes only a partial flap. Nonetheless, these are remarkable items. There is no other known holding of this particular pair in any institution. We are fortunate to have such unique materials in our collections and look forward to displaying these items for classroom discussion, during Anatomy Day for first-year medical students, and for other exhibitions and events.

