

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

David M. Rubenstein
Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Celebrating Vesalius at 500

The History of Medicine Collections will be celebrating a monumental anniversary this year: the 500th birthday of Andreas Vesalius. Born on December 31, 1514, in Belgium, Vesalius created and published the seminal work that transformed the study of anatomy and permanently shaped the study of Western medicine.

After studying medicine at the University of Paris, Vesalius continued his medical education at the University of Padua and was subsequently appointed professor of anatomy and surgery. In 1543, at the age of 28, Vesalius published *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (On the Fabric of the Human Body), a monumental text that revolutionized the study of anatomy. Unlike the small number of previously published works that included limited images of human anatomy, *De Fabrica* provides nu-



merous detailed illustrations of the human body. Part of what made *De Fabrica* so revolutionary was that it showed dissection being performed on the title page followed by over 600 pages of copious

detail of what a dissected human body revealed.

Vesalius brought human dissection and direct observation to the forefront of medicine and anatomical study. Many anatomists followed in his footsteps, working with artists to create beautifully detailed anatomical atlases depicting the human body and inaccuracies from previous works.

The History of Medicine Collections retains a copy of the first edition of this monumental work, which is part of the Trent Collection, the notable collection of Dr. Josiah Charles Trent donated by Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans. Students in courses ranging from the history of science, medicine, and technology to art history and visual studies are exposed to the volume during course instruction sessions. *De Fabrica* is always a highlight of Anatomy Day for first year medical students as well as for other special visits and displays. This work is truly magnificent in its size, detail, and influence in shaping our understanding of the human body in Western medicine. Vesalius revolutionized the way in which anatomy was discussed, studied, and visualized, paving the way for others to continue the study of the human body.



HOM in the Classroom

The following classes used materials from the History of Medicine Collections for course instruction.

First-Year Medical Students

- Anatomy Day



Second-Year Medical Students:

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

History:

- Introduction to Medicine, Science, and Technology
- Rise of Modern Science: Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century
- The Black Death and Medieval Society

Recent Acquisitions

The following items were purchased with donations from the Trent Associates

Haushalter, Paul, Louis Spillmann, Georges Etienne, and Charles Thiry. Cliniques Medicales Iconographiques. Paris, Ane Libie Carré et C. Naud. C. Naud, Éditeur ... 1901-2. This scarce and fascinating atlas of morbid pathology contains a collection of photographs of clinical cases encountered over several years at the Faculty of Medicine at Nancy. Under the editorship of the pediatrician Paul Haushalter, a wealth of photographic material was gathered depicting various forms and modifications of several diseases and conditions, including muscular atrophy, infantile paralysis, hydrocephalus, chronic rheumatism, rickets, and other abnormalities and deformities. A number of dermatological conditions were also highlighted such as gangrene, vitiligo, moles, trophoneurosis, and syphilis. The striking illustrations highlight the case histories of nearly 300 individuals.

Roberts, Douglas Hall. Manuscript account ledgers, 1922-1927. These two manuscript account ledgers pertain to the eclectic medical practice of Dr. Douglas Hall Roberts of Bethany-Lincoln, Nebraska. Entries detail office and home visits, the dressing of heads, limbs, and boils, the treatment of fractures and bone dislocations, the examination of noses, eyes, and ears, the stitching of wounds, the opening of abscesses, obstetric cases, and "30 day treatments." These account books are unusual in that they contain the doctor's often lengthy diagnoses of his patients' illnesses and their treatment, as well as his patients' testimonials to him regarding their treatment and his own personal comments about his patients: "The most conscious and satisfactory patient I ever had. A moral girl. A Christian girl who has a wonderful mother. May she continue to regain her health and live a long and useful life"; "This fellow is a mason and he owes me 3.00 and just won't pay."

Daniel Freeman photograph of African American students surrounding a cadaver, around 1912.

Daniel Freeman was an African American artist and photographer based in Washington, D.C. He studied photography under the direction of E. J. Pullman, and began a business in 1885. This item is a gelatin printing-out paper photograph taken by Freeman, probably at the Howard University College of Medicine somewhere between 1910-1912. The



image shows 13 African American men standing or seated with reference materials around a badly decomposed cadaver on a table. Most of the men are wearing white lab coats; two may be teachers. Written on the side of the table is, "DDS 12 Omnia Est Mors. MD13," possibly the slogan for the dental class of 1912 and the medical class of 1913.

Trent Associates*

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Members

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*Contributions as of September 2013

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 or more

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

You may renew your membership online:
<https://www.gifts.duke.edu/library>

Trent History of Medicine Lecture Series



The next Trent History of Medicine Lecture will be held on Monday, March 31, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Edward Halperin, M.D., M.A., will be our guest, presenting on “**A Defense of the Humanities in Medical Education.**”

Dr. Halperin is Chancellor for Health Affairs and Chief Executive Officer at New York Medical College.

Please note this event will be held in Room 102 of Duke's Medical Center Library. The lecture will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

DUKE UNIVERSITY 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

Upcoming Exhibitions

Duke's Medical Center Library will be hosting the National Library of Medicine's travelling exhibition *Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine* from June 9 through July 19, 2014. This travelling exhibition looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses during the American Civil War and how their service as medical providers challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender, pushing the boundaries of the role of African Americans in America.

A companion exhibition on Civil War Medicine will be on display on Level 1 of the Medical Center Library featuring items from the History of Medicine Collections and the Rubenstein Library.

To coincide with the exhibition, Margaret Humphreys, Josiah Charles Trent Professor of the History of Medicine and Professor of Medicine at Duke, will be speaking on "Finding Dr. Harris: an African American Surgeon in the U.S. Civil War." The event will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at noon in Room 102 of Duke's Medical Center Library. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

