

Trent Associates Report History of Medicine Collections

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Digital Collection of Anatomical Fugitive Sheets

Anatomical fugitive sheets are some of the most unique items in any historical collection. The History of Medicine Collections at Duke University's Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library has a collection of ten anatomical fugitive sheets. These sheets, which date from the early sixteenth to the mid-seventeenth centuries, are single sheets, similar to broadsides, unusual in that they contain overlays or flaps that lift to reveal the inside of the human body.

Scholars speculate as to the original intent of these items. One theory is that barber surgeons or medical students would have used such items for educational purposes, but others say these were hung in apothecary shops or purchased and kept by individuals interested in knowing what was inside their body. After almost 500 years, it is remarkable that these anatomical fugitive sheets still exist.

The success of [Animated Anatomies](#), an exhibition of anatomical flap materials, sparked discussions about how to digitize



these intriguing items and make them available to a wider audience. Similar work had been done previously with the [Four Seasons](#). However, the goal with this digital collection of anatomical fugitive sheets was to make the digital surrogates interactive across multiple devices, platforms, and browsers.

Funding from the Elon Clark Endowment helped achieve this goal of creating a digital collection of our ten anatomical fugitive sheets. A local custom web design firm, Cuberis, was contracted to create the code, allowing the overlays or flaps to be moveable online. The amazing Digital Collection Team of Duke University Libraries (DUL) photographed each overlay and applied the code to DUL's digital collection site, making it all available and accessible for a public audience.

Numerous people helped create this incredible interactive digital collection including staff from Conservation Services, Digital Production Center, Digital Projects Department, and Rubenstein Library Technical Services.

Find the digital collection at:
library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/rubenstein_fugitivesheets/

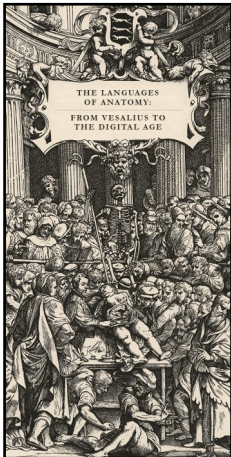
Recent Acquisitions

The following items were recently acquired with funding from the Trent Associates.

Upcoming Exhibit

Languages of Anatomy: From Vesalius to the Digital Age

Curated by Professor Valeria Finucci, *Languages of Anatomy* will be on display in the Chappell Family Gallery and Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room from August-November 2015.



A symposium will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015, celebrating the exhibition. Speakers include:

- Marco Catani
- Lucia Dacome
- Valeria Finucci
- Eugene Flamm
- Jennifer Kosmin
- Maurizio Ripponati
- Michael Stolberg

French obstetrics manuscripts, around 1750-1800. This volume contains two separate handwritten pieces on obstetrics, bound together with spine title "Accouchements," including a 50-page record of correspondence between two men that contains detailed case histories, followed by a 682-page exposition that was composed of lecture notes. The record provides the details of a particularly exotic case of extra-uterine pregnancy and the accompanying difficulties, along with treatment and an attempt at surgical remedy. This manuscript volume is a unique record of eighteenth century medical instruction and practice.

Science et dévouement : le service de santé - la Croix-Rouge... Paris : Aristide Quillet, c1918. A truly monumental work celebrating the work and sacrifice of the Red Cross and associated medical services during WWI, exquisitely and lavishly published in a limited edition of 5,000 copies. Chapters provide a brief history of the Red Cross, their work before and during the war, the work of the Ministry of Hygiene, the progress of surgery during the conflict with emphasis placed upon plastic surgery, general medical advances, the organization of the pharmaceutical services, post-trauma care for the wounded, and with a final chapter dedicated to "Tableau d'honneur du Service de santé," including brief citations for those who died in the health services, as well as a list, together with accompanying photographs, of the various military hospitals.



Vela Piskova Midwifery Institute presentation photograph album, 1947-1948. This collection includes a photograph album that was presented by the students of the Midwifery Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria, to the People's Minister, Trayco Dobroslavski, in 1948. It holds 15 black-and-white images. The majority are captioned, including "a nursing student washing her hands before providing birth care;" "a student tying the umbilical cord of a baby, under the supervision of a doctor;" "the nursing ward in the University Hospital clinic where the student nurses are practicing;" two smaller images showing a nurse feeding a baby, with the caption, "The new born needs liquids," and a doctor and nurse attending to a baby entitled, "Why is the baby restless?"; a photograph showing a baby having trouble nursing, and the student helping situate it. Other photographs show public events, including "the Cultural Collective performing at the Institute;" the 1947 Graduation ceremony, where "the honors student of the class makes a promise to the Minister of Health on behalf of the entire class that they will work with all their hearts wherever they are appointed;" a group of students singing, captioned, "on holidays the student nurses participate in various voluntary workshops and performances;" and a "joint excursion with graduated nurses from the Ministry of Health."

History of Medicine Travel Grant Winners

This is the second year the History of Medicine Collections has awarded travel grants to researchers who live outside of a 100-mile radius of Durham, NC. Our travel grant program supports the costs associated with travel for those who wish to access our collections for research.

The 2015-2016 History of Medicine travel grant recipients are:

- Lindsey Beal, MFA, for photographic research on late nineteenth and early twentieth century obstetric and gynecological instruments.
- Elaine LaFay, PhD candidate in History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, for dissertation work on “Weathered Bodies, Sickly Lands: Climate, Health, and Place in the Antebellum Gulf South.”
- Jaipreet Viridi-Dhesi, PhD, for work on “Deafness is Misery: Advertised Cures for Hearing Loss in Early 20th Century America.”

Renew or become a member of the Trent Associates!

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

Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership

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

Donors giving at the level of \$50 and above are listed in the
Duke University Library Annual Report

Thank you for your donation!

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
- Pre-clerkship classes in Obstetrics

Writing 101

- Medicine, Culture and Healing

History:

- The Body, Gender, and Anatomy

**History of Medicine
Collections**

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Upcoming Events

The Right to Remain Private: Challenges to Protecting Health Information in Historical Research

Join us for a round table discussion on how the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 impacts research in archives and libraries. The event will be held on Thursday, April 16, in Room 217 of Perkins Library at 5:30 p.m.

Panelists include:

- Cynthia Greenlee, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Richards Civil War Era Center and the Africana Research Center, Penn State
- Phoebe Evans Letocha, Collections Management Archivist of the Alan Mason Chesney Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
- Laura Micham, Merle Hoffman Director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University Libraries
- Stephen Novak, Head of Archives & Special Collections at Columbia University's Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library
- Kevin Smith, Director of Copyright and Scholarly Communication, Duke University Libraries