



Drawing by Ellis P. Smith from a recently acquired autograph book of Marie I. Taylor, from Cleveland, Ohio, who served in the Lakeside Unit of Base Hospital No. 4 in Rouen, France, 1917–1918.



Trends and Realities at the Cleveland Health Sciences Library



FROM THE
CLEVELAND HEALTH
SCIENCES LIBRARY

Ginger Saha,
M.S.L.S.
Director

The Cleveland Health Sciences Library has been providing our users with “computerized” access to information resources for three decades. In the early days, this service was mediated, i.e. the user discussed an information need with a librarian; the librarian searched appropriate online catalogs and databases using a dial-up dumb terminal and a “command language” search strategy; the librarian handed a printout of the results to the user. By the mid-1980’s there were several options for users to search for themselves using dial-up technologies, although most were non-intuitive and frustrating to use. The introduction of the PC revolutionized such do-it-yourself searching with a user-friendly interface and CDROM towers holding several discs of data covering many years of a database which could all be searched at the same time. The relative affordability of the PC allowed us to provide several one-computer-one-resource terminals in the libraries. For example, we had a single public computer for the weekly update service *Current Contents*®. Every week we received a stack of floppy disks which were then loaded one at a time into the computer’s floppy drive and copied onto the computer’s hard drive. (This took a long time, and I was able to touch up my nail polish between floppies.)

With so much data available on a do-it-yourself basis, the phenomenon of “the inept but satisfied user” emerged. Database developers vied with each other to design front ends that were still easy to use, but which had underlying artificial intelligence that would interpret the users’ search queries and generate “better” results. The technologies and the operating systems controlling these platforms were constantly changing, though, so the interfaces were changing, too. Users who had become expert in searching a particular product, e.g. SilverPlatter’s MSDOS-based MEDLINE, were completely thrown off when SilverPlatter

migrated to a Windows-based platform. “Where’s the blue screen?” was a commonly heard lament. The new interface was more powerful, but it was very different and took longer to learn. Moreover, there were differences in how these programs worked on PCs vs. Macs, which made teaching and answering users’ questions harder.

Internet access to these resources has magnified both the opportunities and the challenges. The increased storage has made it possible to host formerly unimaginable amounts—and kinds—of content including hundreds of etextbooks used in our schools’ curricula. Producers still change the look and feel of a database and characterize it as an upgrade, or new and improved! and users are left hunting for the “limits” button in PubMed (which is now called “filters”), or the “search inside” feature for an etextbook. The most recent challenge in this arena came from our switch from Elsevier’s *MDConsult*® platform to the replacement *ClinicalKey*® which has ten times as many etextbooks and other cool resources. To our dismay, we have discovered that the etextbooks in CK do not have the same look, feel, or functionality that they had in MDC, and even our born-digital students are having a hard time adjusting. One medical student was literally in tears over the change! “I can’t search within Robbins . . .” Ironically, this came both as good news—she and her colleagues were actually using the authoritative texts the faculty had assigned—and bad news—we had made the change sooner than we absolutely had to and were suffering buyer’s remorse. MDC is going away, though, and we would have had to move to CK, so it was a matter of *when* we moved, not *if*.

Someone once said, “The trouble with change is that things are different afterwards.” True enough. They are not always better, either, but in the world of electronic information resources, they usually are.

The Dittrick and Our Partners Abroad



FROM THE
DITTRICK MEDICAL
HISTORY CENTER

**James M.
Edmonson,
Ph.D.**

Chief Curator

Readers of this newsletter know that the Dittrick maintains cordial ties within the international medical museum community. This tradition goes back to the time of Howard Dittrick, who traveled to London, Zurich, and other cities in the 1920s to interact with fellow museum curators. Over the past thirty years, and especially in the past fifteen, we have renewed our commitment to promoting interaction with medical museums in the UK and across Europe. It's been a reciprocal exchange, with Dittrick staff attending meetings of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences (EAMHMS), and hosting curators and directors to speak here about their collections, museums, and initiatives. It's been enriching, inspiring, and reinvigorating. I'd like to bring you up to date on this aspect of our endeavors at the Dittrick, and what we've gotten out of it recently.

In September, the Dittrick staff, with CMLA support, attended the 16th Congress of the EAMHMS, held at the Berlin Museum of Medical History (<http://www.bmm-charite.de/>),

located in the former museum building of the Pathological Institute on the traditional grounds of the Charité (Campus Mitte). It's conveniently located just across the River Spree from the city's main train station, the Berlin Hauptbahnhof. The congress carried the thematic title "Hidden Stories. What do medical objects tell and how can we make them speak?" and presenters focused on how to deal with objects and collections in the history of medicine, in respect to research, teaching, and public display. About 100 persons attended, and topics ranged from making sense of Christ-like anatomical figures from the 17th century to a cultural analysis of the furnishings (bed, bath, and door) in psychiatric hospitals in the early 20th century. Yet others related their experiences with object-based teaching in medical history, while one questioned provocatively whether the metaphor that "things talk" is in itself really useful. Lively discussion ensued, especially as presenters were only given eight minutes to set forth their topics, followed by twenty minutes of interaction with the audience.

... continued on following page



EAMHMS conference attendees outside of the Berlin Museum of Medical History (left)

The Dittrick and Our Partners Abroad, continued

Complicated obstetrical case, 1727, Berlin Medical History Museum



Of course, we also got to see the wonderful museum itself, which recounts Berlin's medical heritage over the past three centuries. There is a special focus on Rudolf Virchow, polymath and scion of cellular pathology, as well as a gallery of pathological and anatomical preparations organized according to human organ or system in the body. I especially enjoyed a display on the upper level featuring hospital patient case histories epitomizing aspects of the medical past. It's broadly configured like a 1910 ward at the Charité Hospital, but in lieu of beds, ten platforms occupy the room. Each presents a specific disease or trauma, and explains how such things were understood at a given moment in the past, and how that conceptualization shaped the patient's medical or surgical experience. The displays incorporate artifacts, rare books, and archival material that document each case of sickness, malady, or injury, ranging from a compli-

cated birth in 1727 to organ transplantation in the 1990s. This exhibition captures a poignancy by focusing upon individual case histories, but protects patient privacy by anonymity. The museum has only been open to the public since 1998, but under the inspired leadership of Thomas Schnalke (who gave the 2004 Handerson Lecture at the Dittrick), it ranks as one of the premier institutions in our field.

While in Germany, I also took time to visit the German Museum of Medical History, in Ingolstadt, Bavaria. This museum, founded in 1973, occupies a former anatomical theater of Ingolstadt University that has been extensively restored as display space for collections amassed by curator emerita Christa Habrich. A pharmacist by training, Habrich scoured the four corners of Germany and came up with a marvelous array of artifacts documenting the rise of medical science, and the development of medical and surgical specialties. The courtyard grounds of the museum features an herb garden, reminiscent of a garden started there in the 17th century to help doctors become familiar with medicinal plants, similar to the Chelsea Physick Garden in London.

Forthcoming RCS Book on Medical Museums

To celebrate its 200th anniversary, the Royal College of Surgeons will publish a monograph entitled *Medical Museums: Past, Present, Future*, edited by Samuel Alberti and Elizabeth Hallam. Alberti is Director of Museums and Archives at the RCS, and Hallam is Senior Research Fellow at museums at the University of Aberdeen and the University of Oxford. The seventeen essays of this work will focus on medical museums in Europe and North America, including the Dittrick, illuminating current trends and new directions, as presented in essays by leading curators and museum directors. The prospectus composed by Alberti and Hallam promises the book will address areas of special challenge to

medical museums: "Shifting perceptions of the normal and the pathological, of gender and race, of health and disease, of what should be exhibited, consigned to storage, or repatriated, are all significant, as is the question of where the limits of display lie when dealing with potentially sensitive and controversial materials." The book will be lavishly illustrated, in our case, thanks to the photographic contributions of Assistant Curator Laura Travis of the Dittrick. We plan to offer this attractive and important new work on medical museums as a special bonus to membership in the Friends of the Dittrick in 2014. For more information visit our website and look for the membership link in the museum drop-down list.

DITTRICK LONDON TOUR

In October I led a tour to London to visit medical museums and collections, and to meet curators and directors of those institutions. I was joined by several friends of the Dittrick who welcomed an unusual travel experience. We were led for much of the tour by Sue Weir, a nurse and Blue Badge Guide of London, as well as author of *Medical Museums of Britain*. The tour began on Sunday by attending the semi-annual Scientific Antiques Show in London, and visiting an exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci's anatomical drawings at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. During the remainder of the week, we saw the Old Operating Theatre in Southwark, and looked at Roman surgical instruments at the British Museum, with an exclusive gallery talk by Ralph Jackson, curator of Roman Britain. Heading across town the next day we met with Ken Arnold of the Wellcome Collection to discuss their innovative initiative that explores the intersection of medicine, science, society, and culture. We also saw some gems from their archival collection shared with us by Ross McFarlane, including correspondence between Howard Dittrick and Sir Henry Wellcome in the late 1920s (!). Later in the week we were greeted by Sam Alberti (who gave the 2008 Handerson lecture at the Dittrick), director at the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and heard a fascinating talk by honorary curator Mick Crumplin on Horatio Nelson's wounds and maladies. Our group also met with Phil Loring, who told us about exciting plans to re-present the Wellcome medical collections at the Science Museum in the next few years, bringing them down from the remote Wellcome Wing, and

into a place of singular prominence within the very heart of the Science Museum. Later that day some of us went on an optional medical history walking tour of Bloomsbury with Wellcome fellow Richard Barnett, author of *Sick City*. I also made a point to stop by the Florence Nightingale Museum now headed by Natasha McEnroe, who will be speaking at the Dittrick this coming April. It was, all in all, a very full week, but we managed to reserve time on several afternoons for tour participants to do some non-medical tourism, with options including the Wallace Collection (including a lovely afternoon tea in their atrium), Tate Britain, the National Portrait Gallery, and much more. At the invitation of Christopher Vlahos, CWRU Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, we joined the UK alumni chapter at the Horseguards Hotel in Whitehall for a special reception and talk on Rembrandt by Catherine Scallen, Chair of Art History at CWRU. Catherine is a dear friend of longstanding, but I had never heard her discuss her research in detail, so that was a real treat. And finally, I even got to look for some medical antiques with longtime Dittrick friend Tony Tizzano, as we took in the Portbello Road antiques market.

Such tours are a lot of work to compose, but I feel strongly that it's worth it to give friends of the Dittrick, including this time CMLA trustees Stuart Morrison and Tony Tizzano, an opportunity to gain some perspective by seeing our peer institutions. Nothing is written in stone, but I am contemplating a reprise of the Scotland tour that we did in 2008 with Iris Barry. I'll keep you posted about those plans!



Leonardo da Vinci, Anatomist, exhibition at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, May–October, 2012



Treasures from the Wellcome Library, shared by Ross MacFarlane, Academic Engagement Officer.

Leonardo da Vinci drawing of human fetus in the womb, c.1510–1513, in the Royal Collection.

LECTURES



Robert Reid M.D.

PERCY SKUY LECTURE

Robert Reid, M.D.

Queen's University (Ontario, Canada)

On Thursday, March 21, Robert L. Reid, M.D. will present "Doctors without Borders: Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Electronic Era". Reid's talk describes a program that he initiated on behalf of the Society of Ob/Gyn of Canada in 2000 wherein he set up a user friendly website entitled www.Sexualityandu.ca. This site won the United Nations award as one of the five top e-health websites in the world in 2005 and has about 300,000–400,000 visitors per month coming to learn about contraception and sexuality. Dr. Reid is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chair of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Queen's University, and he is a Past President of both the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC). The talk begins at 6:00 P.M. in the Ford Auditorium.



Natasha McEnroe

HANDERSON LECTURE

Natasha McEnroe

Florence Nightingale Museum (London)

On Thursday, April 4, Natasha McEnroe (Director, Florence Nightingale Museum) will present the 2013 Handerson Lecture, entitled "From Personality to Profession: The Florence Nightingale Museum and the History of Nursing." Ms. McEnroe will discuss the role of "personality museums" in the sphere of medical history. Such museums can play a dual purpose, in this instance raising awareness of the medical past, but also acting as a point of coalescence for professional groups. These groups often share a strong emotional attachment to a historical figure, and nowhere can this be seen more strongly than with Florence Nightingale and nursing. Managing these relationships poses a challenge; how does a museum maintain a balanced, objective historical perspective while also navigating the cult of celebrity? Join us at 6:00 P.M. in the Ford Auditorium.



Lenore Cagen Terr M.D.

CMLA ANNUAL LECTURE

Lenore Cagen Terr, M.D.

**"From Columbine to Connecticut:
Sub-groups, Symptoms, Treatment
& Trends"**

The 2013 annual lecture of the Cleveland Medical Library Association will feature Lenore Cagen Terr, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Terr, a San Francisco private practitioner of Psychiatry/Consultant, and Clinical Professor at UCSF, is a distinguished leader in the field of childhood trauma. From Chowchilla, California, where 26 school children were kidnapped and buried alive, to Concord, New Hampshire, where hundreds of TV-watching schoolchildren saw their teacher's space vehicle explode, she has directly observed and then followed how young people manage and survive extreme events. Named a "hero of medicine in America's war on violence" by the then U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Lenore Terr has won virtually every award for scientific study or clinical work in child and adolescent psychiatry, including one from the American Psychological Association.

A Clevelander from the time she was 11 months old, Lenore graduated magna cum laude as a music major (piano) from CWRU. She then attended the University of Michigan Medical School and did all of her postgraduate training there. She and husband, Abba I. Terr, M.D., a Cleveland native, returned to teach at CWRU School of Medicine for five years. Since moving to San Francisco, she has visited Cleveland often to present her new work.

The CMLA Trustees hope that you can join us on Friday, April 5, to welcome Lenore Terr back to Cleveland and learn about her important work in the realm of post-traumatic stress among children and young people. The lecture begins at 6:30 P.M. in the Ford Auditorium, to be followed by a reception in the Powell Room of the Allen Memorial Medical Library. RSVP by April 1 to Dzwinka Holian at dxk6@case.edu or call 216-368-3642

RESEARCH: Sebastian Weinart

In November 2012, Sebastian Weinert, a doctoral candidate in history at Humboldt University in Berlin, visited the Dittrick to consult the Bruno Gebhard Collection for his dissertation, entitled “The Body on Display. Health Exhibitions in Germany from the Wilhelmine Era till the National Socialism.” In this project, Weinert focuses on the discourse about the human body, its frictions and continuities, as seen in health exhibitions in the first half of the 20th century.

Bruno Gebhard had been a curator of various important health exhibitions in Germany, including being curator at the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden. Gebhard brought health displays, often featuring eugenics as a topic, to the United States in the mid 1930s and curated the Medical and Public Health pavilion at the New York World’s Fair of 1939–40. Upon the conclusion of that, Gebhard became the first director of the Cleveland Health Museum. Within his papers Weinert discovered significant documents about the organization of these exhibitions and



the relationship between the German and American health education institutions—not to mention a huge quantity of photographs of the exhibitions.

Sebastian Weinert wrote to us at the conclusion of his research visit, “I am really happy that I made the trip from Berlin to Cleveland and I very much enjoyed the stay at the Dittrick. The discoveries are a fundamental addition to my earlier findings and will certainly shape the final form of my dissertation.”

Please join us for a special event, co-sponsored by the Cleveland Medical Library Association and the Department of Psychiatry, CWRU School of Medicine . . .

PTSD 2013: IN SEARCH OF A NEW PARADIGM

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013, 8:30 AM–12:00 PM
Cleveland Racquet Club, 29825 Chagrin Boulevard

featuring presentations by

LENORE TERR, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine

SANDRO GALEA, M.D., Ph.D.

Gelman Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology
Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

JOSEPH R. CALABRESE, M.D.

Bipolar Disorders Research Chair and Professor, Department of Psychiatry
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

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HOURS

For information, call either reference desk listed above or see “On the Web” below.

ON THE WEB

Cleveland Health Sciences Library

<http://www.cwru.edu/chsl/homepage.htm>

For hours see: <http://www.cwru.edu/chsl/hc.htm>

Dittrick Medical History Center

<http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/>

Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- MARCH 21** SKUY LECTURE: Robert L. Reid, M.D. (Queen's University)
Doctors without borders: Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Electronic Era
- APRIL 4** HANDERSON LECTURE: Natasha McEnroe, M.A. (Nightingale Museum)
From Personality to Profession: The Florence Nightingale Museum and the History of Nursing
- APRIL 5** CMLA ANNUAL LECTURE: Lenore Cagen Terr, M.D. (UCSF)
From Columbine to Connecticut: Sub-groups, Symptoms, Treatment & Trends
- APRIL 13** Ohio Academy of Medical History at Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio