

Newsletter of



The Cleveland Medical Library Association

VOL. 24, NO. 2 • FALL 2018



TRENDS AND REALITIES



FROM THE
CLEVELAND HEALTH
SCIENCES LIBRARY

Thomas Hayes
Collection
Development and
Engagement
Librarian, Allen
Memorial Medical
Library

The Cleveland Medical Library Association holds over 40,000 rare or historical books in the Allen Memorial Medical Library. The Allen (on the National Register of Historic Places) is a gem: designed by renown architects Walker and Weeks. What the Allen contains makes it a treasure house!

As I mentioned in the previous Trends and Realities, books that are nearly six hundred years old need attention and care, and must be maintained. To this end the Cleveland Medical Library Association is ensuring development and training for proper stewardship. Beyond the traditionally important aspects of environmental control: light, temperature, humidification, etc., the CMLA has turned its attention to conservation, preservation, and restoration, which require an expert understanding of all aspects of the book, from binding to the materials used: skins, paper, ink, adhesives, and the ills to which these materials are heir. To this end, as the rare book librarian, I am pleased to report on my visit to the Rare Book School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This summer, I was fortunate enough to have CMLA support to spend two weeks at the University of Virginia in the Aldermann Library studying with two great classes of professionals across a broad spectrum of the bibliographic world. I met a collector and member of the Grolier Club in New York, as well as a librarian from the same. I talked with Richard Ovenden, the 25th Bodley Librarian. Additionally, I met archivists, rare book librarians, and preservationists from all across the United States, from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, to Washington University in Seattle. My first course was on the History of Bookbinding, and I studied with Karen Limper-Herz, Lead Curator for Incunabula and Sixteenth Century Printed Books at the British Library. During the course we studied bindings by century and region, examining trends and developments; technological improvements in materials and tooling; and the features of design and manufacture from Coptic 8th century bindings, through the Medieval and Renaissance periods, up through the modern trade and publisher bindings.

In the Advanced History of Bookbinding, I studied with Jan Storm van Leeuwen, who spent thirty-seven years as the Keeper of the Binding Collection at the Dutch Royal Library in The Hague. His four-volume work on 18th century Dutch Decorated Bookbinding is a monument to his knowledge of the field. Led by Jan, the Advanced class plunged into the collections of both the Rare Book School and the University of Virginia, describing the books we saw in lectures in detail, including the provenance, measurements and general description, detailed examination of covers and materials, the spine, sewing structure, endleaves, edges of the block, fastenings and furniture, binder's marks, and condition. The descriptive process for rare books is lengthy and meticulous, and this is before one begins the collation and interior consideration of any book . . . By the time the two weeks were up, I could identify a book (with relative certainty) based on its design and materials alone, immediately knowing the difference between a leather bound book from Northern Italy in the late-sixteenth century from one bound similarly during the same period in Northern Germany, or France, or England.

The level of examination and description that I experienced is critically important for understanding and evaluating the collections here, at the Cleveland Medical Library Association. Upon returning home, it was a joy to walk through the shelves of the rare book room in the Allen Library, seeing our collection with new eyes and a new appreciation for the array of bindings that we have, the periods each represents, and the sundry of geographical locations in which these books were printed, sewed, and bound.

Cover:

These large historiated initials appeared in both editions of Vesalius' *de Humani corporis fabrica* (1543 & 1555) to introduce the seven component libri (books). Learn more about these intriguing images at this years Anton and Rose Zverina Lecture (see page 6 for details).

FROM THE DITTRICK



FROM THE
DITTRICK MEDICAL
HISTORY CENTER

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

This will be my last *CMLA Newsletter*, as I will be retiring as Chief Curator effective September 30. It's a bittersweet moment for me, as I have been most fortunate in finding a home at the Dittrick in 1981 (egads!). But I felt that it was time to hand the reins over to a new generation. I like to think that I'm going out on top, having just recently developed a 21st century interactive exhibition, "How Medicine Became Modern." I have been helped in that and in all other of our endeavors at the Dittrick by a very devoted staff of Jennifer Nieves and Laura Travis, and until recently Brandy Schillace. In addition to being professionally competent, self-directed individuals, with plenty of initiative, creativity, and capacity for hard work, they are all genuinely wonderful people and have made being head of the Dittrick rewarding and gratifying. And the CMLA Board of Trustees, both collectively and as individuals, has been enormously generous and supportive of the Dittrick, for which I am forever grateful. Their largesse has made possible hugely

important renovations and acquisitions, and facilitated staff development and travel far beyond the capacity of a "small" museum. During my tenure I have also met some amazing individuals who share a passion for exploring the medical past, and particularly enjoyed cultivating our international connections in the medical museum community. Colleagues from museums across the world have become sincere friends, as have several of the amazing collectors of medical antiques. Of the latter, I have learned as much as I have taught, and it has been an especially enriching side of my career. So while I am retiring, I have some ongoing research projects that will bring me back occasionally, and I may find myself volunteering as a helper to Jenny in particular. And I have been asked by John Grabowski to serve as the editor of medical and public health content for the online *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Suffice to say, I will continue to enjoy celebrating Cleveland's medical past, and hope to see you at future events and exhibitions.

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Cleveland Medical Library Association, it is indeed my pleasure and privilege to reflect on the extraordinary journey that Dr. Jim Edmonson has taken the Dittrick Medical History Center and the Allen Memorial Medical Library over the course of his thirty-seven year career here.

Doctor James Milton Edmonson received his:

- B.A. in History at the College of Wooster in 1973
- M.A. in History of Technology at the University of Delaware in 1976
- Ph.D. in History of Technology and Museum Studies at the University of Delaware in 1981

During the course of his graduate studies he received distinguished academic awards and scholarships including:

- Hagley Fellow, University of Delaware
- Fulbright-Hays Fellow, Paris, France
- Wilbur Owen Sypher Prize for outstanding dissertation in the humanities, University of Delaware

Dr. Edmonson came to the Dittrick in 1981 and has served as its Chief Curator since 1999. He has been responsible for the overall direction, care and preservation of the holdings of the Dittrick Medical History Center, which comprises a rare book collection of more than 70,000 volumes, the Archives, the Dittrick Museum of Medical History with its more than 80,000 artifacts, and the Allen Memorial Medical Library. All things considered the country's largest and finest collection of its kind in America. Also, he is Adjunct Associate Professor in the program of the

Continued on following page

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE (*continued*)

History of Science, Technology, Medicine, and the Environment, in the Department of History at Case Western Reserve University.

While at the Dittrick he continued his scholarly endeavors as a Smithsonian Institution Research Fellow at the National Museum of American History, a F.C. Clark Wood Fellow at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia, and Wellcome Museum Fellow at the Science Museum in London. He also received the Best Monograph Award from the Archivists and Librarians in the History of Health Sciences.

Among his many professional activities, Dr. Edmonson served in several key roles at the American Association for the History of Medicine. As *Secrétaire General* of the European Association of Museums of History of Medical Sciences he has been instrumental in that organization's continued existence while elevating the Dittrick onto

transition from a European to an international organization. Over the years, Jim has held no fewer than 15 offices in all manner of local, state and national professional organizations.

A gifted writer, he has authored four books including—*Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage of American Medicine, Nineteenth Century Surgical Instruments: A Catalogue of the Gustav Weber Collection at the Howard Dittrick Museum of Medical History*, and *American Surgical Instruments: An Illustrated History of Their Manufacture and a Directory of Instrument Makers to 1900* that serves as a must-have reference standard to medical museum curators and collectors alike. In addition, he has contributed more than 60 scholarly articles and book chapters to his profession's literature. Jeremy Norman, one of the country's premier antiquarian book dealers and publishers on the history of science, medicine, and technology, commenting on Dr. Edmonson's retirement, said, "He is a superb scholar with a wonderfully courteous and polite way of interacting with people." It is no wonder that Dr. Edmonson has been a go-to resource for many organizations serving as consultant and guest curator at institutions ranging from our country's most prestigious museums to local historical societies and has delivered lectures too numerous to count in the process.

Undoubtedly, his many accomplishments places him shoulder to shoulder with the most eminent and respected curators in the world. By his very nature he is a genuine, articulate and a remarkably open-minded visionary in his own right who is quick to assess and embrace opportunities with contagious enthusiasm. As a result, he attracted world-class collections to the Dittrick including the Percy Skuy Collection on the History of Contraception and The Donald Blaufox Collection of Diagnostic Instruments, among others. Moreover, his interpretation of these collections illuminates them in a relevant manner and the resulting exhibits consistently exceed all expectations. Percy Skuy recalls hearing of Jim's vision for the contraception collection as a "eureka moment" with respect to finding a new home for his collection. Likewise, Donald Blaufox



Photo by Frank Lanza

the world stage of prominent medical museums. Thomas Schnalke, Director of the Berlin Medical History Museum and the EAMHMS president, regards Jim as the world's expert on 19th and early 20th century medical instrumentation, a superb networker, and an early adopter of digitization and social media. Moreover, he has played a critical role in positioning the EAMHMS to

was “impressed by Jim’s passion, keen knowledge of the history of medicine, and ability to engage with others.” Doctor Blafox considers The Dittrick Museum to be the “finest museum devoted to instrumentation and the history of medicine in the United States.” Also, Jim’s guidance the Dittrick obtained coveted NEH funding for our state-of-the-art, interactive exhibition, “How Medicine Became Modern.”

On a personal note, I have been the beneficiary of Jim’s most excellent mentorship and encouragement for more than 25 years. Accordingly, I’ve adopted a more scholarly approach to

my collecting and have enjoyed opportunities that would otherwise have never come my way.

On behalf of the CMLA please accept our most sincere gratitude for your many contributions on our behalf. We hope that your retirement affords you time to look back on your accomplishments with great admiration and forward with anticipation of new adventures for years to come.

Best regards and well wishes,

Tony Tizzano, M.D.

President

Cleveland Medical Library Association

THE NEXT CHIEF CURATOR: Amanda L. Mahoney, Ph.D., R.N.

The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce that a Search Committee, chaired by Alan J. Rocke (Distinguished University Professor and Emeritus Professor of History at CWRU), recently fulfilled its charge of recommending to Dean Cyrus Taylor a candidate for Chief Curator of the Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum. Dean Taylor accepted the Search Committee’s recommendation after a personal on campus interview, and offered the position to Dr. Amanda L. Mahoney. Dr. Mahoney accepted the invitation and will begin at the Dittrick on December 3, 2018.

Dr. Amanda L. Mahoney brings to the Dittrick ample hands-on museum experience and distinguished academic credentials appropriate to the collections she will curate and direct. Mahoney completed her doctorate at the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. Her dissertation examined the critical role of nurses at work in important clinical trials during the 1930s through 1960s. In the era before formal study protocols, nurses shouldered the responsibility of ensuring high-quality scientific data through their authority over the patient bedside. Nurses also drew on their extensive technological and social

skills to implement experimental technologies such as feeding pumps in the understaffed hospitals of the mid-20th century. Dr. Mahoney has continued to explore the history of nurses and clinical technology in her postdoctoral fellowship.

As Public History Fellow in 20th-century clinical medicine and the Science History Institute, Dr. Mahoney employs the organization’s museum collections to engage different audiences with the history of the health and life sciences. Her work fosters dialogue on the often fraught relationship between science, society, and the body, and challenges clinicians and scientists to think critically about the influence of historical, social, and cultural context on their practice. Dr. Mahoney builds exhibitions, programs, social media, and conference workshops that explore the connections between science, clinical practice, and health-related technologies. Her work also promotes the value of material culture as a scholarly resource and teaching tool. The Search Committee concluded that by virtue of all these considerations, her academic qualification, and her museum experience eminently qualified Dr. Mahoney as the next Chief Curator of the Dittrick.



2018 ZVERINA LECTURE ON THE UNSEEN VESALIUS



This past June, the Dittrick hosted the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN). We are connected to the Society by way of its President, Douglas J. Lanska, M.D., M.S. M.S.P.H. I got to know Doug in the 1980s when he was doing a residency in neurology and fellowship with Robert B. Daroff, M.D. as mentor. Doug and Mary Jo, a pediatric neurologist, cherish fond memories of the Cleveland medical scene and their time here. As President of the ISHN, Doug asked if we might host their meeting, which we did. During the ISHM meeting Doug also gave a presidential address showcasing his research on Vesalius, which is featured in a temporary exhibition he curated in the Castele Gallery, “Dissection of the brain in woodcut: A visual exploration of Renaissance anatomy from Gersdorff to Vesalius.”

For the 2018 Zverina Lecture, Doug will present an intriguing portion of that work on October 25 at 6:00 PM. His talk is entitled “Hidden in plain view: Discovering the work of a 16th-century anatomist hidden in the historiated

initials of Andreas Vesalius—Surprising images of the healing, stealing, dissecting, and vivisectioning of bodies.” Readers of this newsletter will recognize the figure of Andreas Vesalius, the maverick 16th-century Flemish anatomist who authored *De humani corporis fabrica* (On the Structure of the Human Body). This revolutionary work, with its iconic images of the human body, threw Renaissance anatomy into a tumultuous chaos, and ultimately overturned Galenic doctrines that had survived from the 2nd century—over 1,300 years! The sublime anatomical figures are today widely recognized and admired. But few among us, myself included, have given much notice to the historiated initials, the large blocked letters of the alphabet featured at the beginning of important sections and paragraphs. In a very real way, they are simply hiding in plain sight. But Doug will reveal the reward of giving them closer scrutiny. At first glance, the historiated initials seem rather cartoonish in comparison to the anatomical figures. Indeed, some are plainly vulgar and convey Vesalius’ macabre humor. But they also vividly portray the sordid details of methods used to gain the knowledge presented in the anatomical plates. Plan to join us for this fascinating historical discovery.

Dr. Lanska is Professor of Philosophy and the History of Medicine at the I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University in Russia. He has been Professor of Neurology at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Kentucky, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Chief of Staff and Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Tomah VA Medical Center.



The Dittrick Museum Invites You to Invest in Medical History!

The Dittrick Museum's mission of preserving, promoting, teaching and celebrating the history of medicine has always been the focus of our efforts. Members of the Dittrick Friends group are invited to attend our lectures, exhibits and special events featuring renowned museum curators from around the world, iconic artifacts from the Dittrick's collections and receptions with great food and terrific conversation. Without your support and participation none of this would be possible.

With 2019 just around the corner, we are exploring new possibilities, especially to increase the number of visitors and supporters. This summer we began to phase out our membership program and are now asking our friends and visitors to make a gift to the fund of their choice show their support and appreciation for the museum. These contributions will support research, collections, scholarship and education—all areas of critical importance to us.

Gifts to any of the endowment or development accounts listed below can be made online through the Dittrick website or by mail. Donors will receive announcements of our yearly events and the Cleveland Medical Library Association newsletter. In addition, donors will be recognized for their support in the CMLA newsletter.

- **DITTRICK FRIENDS FUND**—Support the purchase of objects for the artifact collection and processing of archival collections.
- **JOHN F. RAUSCHKOLB FUND**—Fund established by the Rauschkolb family to support the design and installation of special exhibits.
- **ZVERINA ENDOWMENT**—Established by the Zverina Family in memory of Anton and Rose Zverina. Income supports the Annual Zverina Lecture which features medical historians and museum curators who are doing research in the history of medical technology.
- **SKUY ENDOWMENT**—Established by Percy Skuy, retired CEO of Janssen-Ortho (Toronto), to support the Annual Skuy Lecture and to purchase items for the Skuy Collection of the History of Contraception.

Gifts can be made online at <http://artsci.case.edu/dittrick/donate-to-the-museum/> or by check made payable to the Dittrick Medical History Center. If sending a check please indicate the fund name on the memo line.

Send to:

Dittrick Medical History Center
11000 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106-1714

CLEVELAND MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106-1714

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Christopher Dolwick, M.A.

PHONE NUMBERS

DeCaro, Jessica	216-368-3219
Dolwick, Christopher	216-368-6422
Edmonson, James	216-368-6391
Hayes, Thomas	216-368-3642
Dittrick Medical History Center	216-368-3648
Interlibrary Loan	216-368-6420
Newsletter	216-368-6391

CIRCULATION

Allen Library	216-368-3643
Health Center Library	216-368-4540

REFERENCE

Allen Library	216-368-3640
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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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Cleveland Medical Library Association
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DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 25

ANTON AND ROSE ZVERINA LECTURE:
Douglas Lanska, "Hidden in Plain View,"
Allen Memorial Medical Library,
Ford Auditorium, 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER 3

Phi Delta Epsilon, Ohio Delta Chapter's
2nd Annual Anatomy Fashion Show,
Tinkham Veale University Center, Ballroom

*Holiday hours for the Allen Memorial
Medical Library and the Dittrick Museum*

Closed November 22 and November 24

Closed December 22 through January 1