



Newsletter of

The Cleveland Medical Library Association



Une Fin À l'École Pratique. [An End At the Practical School] 53cm x 75cm

Lithograph, marked: Camille BELLANGER Pinxit, 1902. Louis DURVILLE Editeur, 60, Rue Madame, Paris.

Imp. R. ENGELMANN, (Atelier Belfond).



From the Director

Ginger Saha, M.S.L.S.

*Trends and Realities
at the Cleveland
Health Sciences Library*

We've just finished statistics season here in Library-land. It is good preparation for tax season, in that it involves gathering together records of transactions that were filed away long ago; assigning a year's worth of income and expense into non-intuitive categories; and admitting one simply cannot always find backup paperwork for some things. Although the IRS won't accept it, "not available" is a legitimate response to survey questions posed by the Association for Research Libraries and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries. Every year we resolve to keep ongoing data organized in the combination(s) that ARL and AAHSL want it, e.g. ARL tallied physical pieces and allowed duplicate copies and journal subscriptions to be counted twice, while AAHSL asked for the number of de-duplicated, health sciences titles only. Alas, every year we stray from this path... Besides, those data gatherers change some of the questions every year anyway, so each year we slice and dice the data in different ways, make sure the budget figures add up, and submit the statistics that will be used to compare the Cleveland Health Sciences Library with other academic health sciences libraries in the U.S. and Canada. How do we rate? It depends on the category. Our \$2.5 million budget is in the bottom 40%, i.e. we ranked 75th out of 126 reporting libraries in the most recent report. The CHSL staff, usually numbering 15, is among the smallest in the country, ranking in the bottom 20%. But, our collections are strong, and we rank 14th out of 126 in the number of volumes held [426,000]; 6th in the number of databases; and we are in the top 20% in the number of interlibrary loans provided.

Reducing a vibrant service organization to numbers can be soul-deadening, but it is also a time for reflection on how expenditures have shifted, how collections have grown, and how services have morphed to meet changing needs. The speed of such changes is stunning. For example, in the last 5 years we have more than doubled our expenditures on electronic resources from \$552,000 in 2003 to \$1,200,000 in 2008! The number of electronic journals available to our users tripled from 2500 to over 7500 in those five years [thanks in great part to OhioLINK and its Electronic Journal Center¹], and more titles are being added all the time through OhioLINK and directly with the publishers. Print subscriptions have dropped by a thousand from 1680 to 680,

and we continue to identify "trailing print" candidates to cancel in coming years. Staff now spend time refining and updating the finding tools users need to locate these materials, including title-level links in the Case Libraries eJournal Portal², and in journal title records in the online catalog³ that show both print and electronic holdings. Article-level links to our electronic journals are embedded in MEDLINE citations by using the holdings-enabled PubMed⁴ URL (see below). Journals are a moving target, though, and even in a print-only world, titles would "be born," "die," split, merge, and be sold to another publisher. Keeping tabs on 7500+ "living" serials is, to say the least, challenging, but our staff is terrific, and they all know that journals are the heart of the health sciences literature.

What about books? They are very much still with us. We added over 1200 books last year – more than 3 times the number in previous years – partly in support of the new WR2 curriculum in the School of Medicine, and partly by waiting for deep-discount sales offered by our suppliers and then scooping up new books using book endowment funds. It's like Christmas when those cartons of shiny new books arrive! Surprisingly, the UPS man is never as excited about it as we are, though. Moreover, electronic books, aka ebooks, have finally taken off, and we subscribe to suites of McGraw-Hill and Lange textbooks through AccessMedicine⁵, and Elsevier and associated publishers' imprints through MDConsult⁶. OhioLINK is a vital partner in this endeavor, with over 15,000 NetLibrary ebooks in the OhioLINK Central Catalog⁷. Last year over 10,000 ebooks from Springer and Oxford University Press were added to its Electronic Book Center⁸. We have also picked up ebooks through site licenses to Psychiatry Online⁹ and Orthopaedic Knowledge Online¹⁰.

It is all about content and service. CHSL offers its users impressively deep and rich collections, ranging from our historical holdings to Advance Online Publications from Nature¹¹. We also provide a dedicated and experienced staff ready to help at any point in the scholarly research process. Come in and use both!!

1 OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/>

2 eJournal Portal <http://lu4ld3lr5v.search.serialssolutions.com/>

3 Case Libraries online catalog <http://catalog.case.edu/>

4 PubMed: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?holding=cwruclib_ffl_ndi,ohiolinklib&otool=ohiolink

5 AccessMedicine <http://www.accessmedicine.com/home.aspx>

6 MDConsult <http://www.mdconsult.com/>

7 OhioLINK Central Catalog <http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/>

8 OhioLINK Electronic Book Center <http://www.ohiolink.edu/ostaff/ebchelp/helpmain.html>

9 Psychiatry Online <http://www.psychiatryonline.com/#>

10 Orthopaedic Knowledge Online <http://www5.aaos.org/oko/vb/subs/index.cfm>

11 Nature AOP <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/index.html>



From the Dittrick Medical History Center

James M. Edmonson, Ph.D.
Chief Curator

Ohio Academy of Medical History comes to Cleveland, with a focus on collecting

On Saturday, April 5, the Ohio Academy of Medical History will convene in Cleveland at the Dittrick. The meeting this year will maintain its customary morning session of papers on a variety of medical history topics, beginning at 9:30AM in the Zverina Room adjacent to the main museum gallery. Following lunch we will offer something new and different, a panel discussion entitled *Collecting medical and scientific antiques*. Medical and scientific antiques have been sought by collectors for the past half century, but much has changed in just the past decade. To better understand the ins and outs, and the ups and downs, of collecting scientific and medical antiques, we have invited a panel of distinguished collectors to share their experiences, their triumphs and their frustrations. Where do you start collecting? What sources provide the best information and guidance? What has been the impact of eBay and other online markets? To explore these topics, we will feature invited longtime friends of the Dittrick, including Percy Skuy (the Skuy Contraceptive Collection), Tony Tizzano, M.D. (specializing in ob/gyn antiques), Tom Peterson (scientific instruments relating to magnetism and electricity) and John Davidson (specializing in scientific instruments and microscopes). We have also invited Andrew Richmond (Garth's Auctioneers & Appraisers, Delaware, Ohio) to join us and provide an overview of the 'trade' from the perspective of an auction house that has featured medical antiques. So mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique occasion. For more details, contact the Dittrick at (216) 368-3648, email jennifer.nieves@case.edu.

Collecting and connecting: recent acquisitions at the Dittrick

Given the special emphasis upon collecting at this year's OAMH meeting, I thought it timely and informative to share with you some of the more intriguing and important recent additions to the Dittrick collections. Our marvelous collections – artifacts, rare books, images, and archives – make the Dittrick distinct and special, both locally and nationally, and even internationally. Those who founded the 'historical committee' of the CMLA in 1898, which in time became the Dittrick, did so to collect, preserve,

and share the material remains of the medical past. This group was led by Dudley Peter Allen, who was an inveterate collector himself, both of things medical and things aesthetic. (When the Armor Court re-opens at the Cleveland Museum of Art, make note of the Flemish tapestries adorning the walls -- given in 1915 by Mrs. Francis F. Prentiss in memory of Dr. Allen.) Allen was ably succeeded by Howard Dittrick, for whom collecting was a consuming passion. As he once said, he "didn't see how he'd ever found time to make a living, because there were so many other wonderful things to do!" And I am sure that he would have added "so many wonderful things to collect!" So, by adding wonderful things to the Dittrick collections, we strive to fulfill the aspirations of our predecessors.

We have been fortunate in acquiring some notable collections at the Dittrick. Among them I would include the endoscopy instrument collection from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the collection of dissection class photographic portraits, and most recently the Skuy Contraceptive Collection. Each of these collections wrought transformative change, connecting the Dittrick with new audiences. But most collecting happens in less dramatic fashion, with items coming to our attention in a less systematic manner. The items resonate, and connect to our existing collections, by completing, complementing, or enriching them in some manner. I'll keep the selection simple: a print, a book, and an instrument set. Each reveals the variety of factors governing their acquisition; the lithographic image complemented our dissection class photo portraits, the book completed a gap in our holdings in the history of contraception, and the instrument set connected us to the CMLA's past. The common thread in each instance was that the acquisition connected us more meaningfully to the medical past.

Complementary acquisition: Une Fin à l'école pratique.

I first saw *Une Fin à l'école pratique* (pictured on the cover) last September, while attending the meeting of the Council of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences in Paris. While there I passed by the shop of Alain Brioux, a dealer in rare medical books and antiques, and saw in their shop window a large lithograph depicting a dissection scene. This image was not only arrestingly beautiful, but totally unknown to me. Having been immersed in medical history for some time now, I have seen the same clichéd images used again and again in books and exhibits. Here was something fresh and decidedly different. On the other hand, it was also strikingly similar in composition to photographic images in our dissection portrait collection. The resemblance was uncanny and lingered hauntingly in my mind's eye. Upon return home, I contacted the Brioux shop and arranged



Fellow collectors Tony Tizzano and Elton Kerr, in their element, at the Musée Dupuytren (Paris), with Bob Kravetz in background.

to purchase the item for the Dittrick.

When the lithograph arrived in October, I was not disappointed. It is a stunning print in excellent condition. At least this was the assessment of Jane Glaubinger, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Cleveland Museum of Art, who kindly came by the Dittrick and inspected it carefully. When I first saw *Une Fin à l'école pratique*, I had been working pretty intensely with our dissection portrait collection. Seeing the image again, it struck me even more that the iconography and visual conventions of the lithograph seemed to eerily embrace the imagery of the dissection portraits. Who knows; maybe the artist worked from such a photograph. A little research revealed more about the artist, but nothing substantive about this image. Maybe some more digging will yield results...

The original drawing, upon which this lithograph is based, was the work of Camille Félix Bellanger (1853-1923), an artist from Paris. Bellanger received artistic training at the *École des Beaux-Arts*, where he studied under the renowned Academic artist Adolphe William Bouguereau (1825-1905), and was runner-up for the *Prix de Rome* in 1875. Bellanger exhibited regularly with the *Société des artistes françaises* until his death, and was the author of a treatise on painting, *L'Art du peintre. Traité pratique de dessin*

et de peinture (1909). He taught drawing at the military academy at St.-Cyr, and received recognition as a *Chevalier* of the *Légion d'Honneur* in 1911. Bellanger's drawing of a *Young Male Nude in the Pose of the Spinario* was exhibited at the Louvre in 2000 as part of the exhibition, *D'après l'antique* (After Antiquity), which exhibited a number of classical masterpieces alongside later works that they had inspired from all periods. Some of his paintings have been displayed at the Musée d'Orsay, and several of his drawings are in the collections of the Louvre in the *Département des arts graphiques*.

I suppose that the acquisition of *Une Fin à l'école pratique* confirms that serendipity can play a role in some important additions to our collections. But having said that, I hasten to add that pure chance comprised only part of this acquisition. As the adage goes, the prepared mind was in play, too. In this case the mind's eye, the curator's repertoire of mental images, noted the similarity to our dissection class portraits, albeit in a different medium. This complementarity drove the acquisition.

Filling a void: James Ashton's The Book of Nature

The Skuy Contraceptive Collection came complete with its own library of literature pertaining to contraception and contraceptive devices. This library is most helpful in accurate documentation and cataloguing of items in the Skuy Collection, but it also has historical pieces that provide a larger social and cultural context. Classic writings by pioneer contraception advocates Margaret Sanger and Marie Stopes are there, of course. But so, too, are earlier, more obscure titles, such as Charles



From *The Book of Nature*, illustrating a fetus at thirteen weeks.

Knowlton, *Fruits of philosophy: or, The private companion of young married people* (1845), A. M. Mauriceau, *The married woman's private medical companion* (1852), and George R. Drysdale, *The elements of social science, or, Physical, sexual, and natural religion* (1861).

A few gaps remain and we are filling them as the opportunity arises, with the able assistance of local bookseller Wesley C. Williams. Through Wes we just recently obtained a copy of James Ashton's *The Book of Nature; containing information for young people who think of getting married, on the philosophy of procreation and sexual intercourse; showing how to prevent conception and to avoid child bearing...* (1866). Popular health manuals like this brought knowledge about contraception to a wide audience. Ironically, such tracts are today often quite rare and ephemeral, despite being once ubiquitous and cheap. Compared to its contemporaries, Ashton's *Book of Nature* offered unparalleled accuracy of information as well as quite handsome hand colored anatomical illustrations made from "anatomical figures in wax in the New York Anatomical Museum." That these plates survive intact distinguishes our copy; mischievous hands often lifted them from editions in other collections. As for contraceptive method, Ashton counseled withdrawal, douching, the sponge, or the condom, a Continental import for thwarting sexually transmitted disease that he thought slow in catching on as it marred "the enjoyment of the nuptial act." Ashton's book aptly encapsulates the state of knowledge of contraception in mid nineteenth century America, in a charming period package.

Connecting with the CMLA's past: Cummer surgical instrument set.

The Dittrick is home to an extensive and rich collection of surgical instruments, perhaps the largest in this country. What makes our collection really stand out is its marvelous provenance. Provenance is an object's heritage and pedigree, its own personal history. When and where was it made? Who owned it, and who were they? How did it come to the museum,



Robert James Cummer

and so forth. We know all this because the founders and subsequent caretakers of the collections took great pains to provide comprehensive documentation of the items they added to the Dittrick over the years. This can be painstaking and even tedious, but it is essential museum



Mrs. H. L. Vail and Jim Edmonson with Cummer's surgical instrument case.

practice. Much credit is due to Howard Dittrick for learning and implementing standards of collection documentation, particularly by corresponding with L. W. G. Malcolm, curator of Sir Henry Wellcome's vast medical history collections in London.

When we are offered an item with a compelling provenance, we are usually inclined to accept it. Just such an item is a c.1880 surgical instrument set made by Sharp & Smith, a leading Chicago firm. This particular set originally belonged to Robert James Cummer (1853-1905), and came to us from his granddaughter, Mrs. H. L. Vail of Shaker Heights. Although born in Waterdown, Ontario (Canada), Cummer's family moved to Cadillac, Michigan where they were among the town's four leading families. He initially practiced there after receiving his medical degree from the Medical Department of Western Reserve College in Cleveland. Dr. Cummer returned to Cleveland in the late 1880's and practiced medicine here until his untimely death from typhoid fever in 1905. Intriguingly, he pursued homeopathic studies in the 1890s and served as chair of diseases of children in the Cleveland Homœopathic Medical College. This set may well have been a graduation present, bearing as it does the date 1880, when he finished at Western Reserve. In terms of provenance, this set thus has distinct Cleveland connections. It also documents the kind of instrumentation used by area physicians and surgeons in the late nineteenth century, in the era just before the triumph of antisepsis.

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The Henry E. Handerson Lecture:

Sam Alberti on 19th century anatomy collections

Please join us Thursday April 17 at 6:00PM for the annual Handerson Lecture, featuring Dr. Sam Alberti (Manchester Museum and University of Manchester). Dr. Alberti's presentation, "Bodies on display: morbid specimens in nineteenth-century Britain", will focus on the history of nineteenth century anatomy collections, their ownership, acquisition routes and place in wider culture. This topic should have particular relevance and resonance given debates in recent years over human remains in museum collections, both here and in the UK. Dr. Alberti's presentation is part of a larger project exploring nineteenth-century anatomy collections. The lecture will take place in the Herrick Room on the ground floor of the Allen Library. It is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception in the Powell Room. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling 368-3648, or email jennifer.nieves@case.edu.



Dr. Sam Alberti

Cummer surgical instrument set

Continued from page 6

There is yet another connection of interest piqued by the donation of these surgical instruments. Mrs. Vail is the daughter of Clyde L. Cummer, M.D. (1882-1958), a distinguished member of the CMLA. Cummer joined the CMLA in 1908 at the invitation of Benjamin L. Millikin, became a Trustee by 1914, functioned as secretary to the Building Committee that presided over the construction of the Allen Library (1923-26), and served as President in 1941. Additionally, Dr. Cummer wrote *Yankee in Gray*, a biography of Henry E. Handerson, a founder of the Cleveland Medical Library Association (the shelving area of the Allen Library are designated the Henry E. Handerson Book Stacks). Robert M. Stecher eulogized Cummer, positing that he "was without doubt by far the most important single member" of the CMLA.



Surgical instrument case of Robert James Cummer, 1880.

Communicating medicine: objects and objectives

I recently attended a one day symposium on the challenges of collecting contemporary medical technologies for tomorrow. This meeting of about forty medical museum leaders from across Britain and the Continent addressed the interpretation of such collections and technologies, with examples being provided by exhibitions at the Wellcome Trust Centre (London), the Boerhaave Museum (the Netherlands national museum of science and medicine in Leiden), and the Medical Museion (University of Copenhagen). The Dittrick was the only American institution represented.

The intellectual leadership of this group was dominated by Thomas Soderqvist (Medical Museion, Copenhagen) and John Pickstone (CHSTM, Manchester). They framed the questions and challenges in a large, expansive way, reflective of their contributions to this field. John Pickstone has emphasized the importance of museums in the development of science and medicine in his *Ways of Knowing: A New History of Modern Science, Technology and Medicine* (2000). Soderqvist has made an equally substantive contribution to the issues discussed, and he has a major grant to document medical technology, 1955-2005. He keeps his peers informed of progress through his blog, Biomedicine on Display (<http://www.corporeality.net/museion/>). You can see there his recent (March 9) post about the Manchester meeting, in which he commented that the discussions “made me think of former British Museum Director Robert Anderson’s point that ‘acquisitions are the life blood of museums’. Or to put it another way: research can be seen as the soul of museums, and exhibitions their public face and rationale for public funding—but the incessant acquisition of new artefacts provides the life-sustaining nourishment for museum institutions.” For more of Anderson’s comments, see <http://www.spiked-online.com/Articles/00000006D983.htm>.

What did I learn from this meeting? I came away feeling that we could be doing a better job in targeting areas/technologies for collecting today, so that we acquire relevant objects/artifacts for tomorrow. Having said this, I think that we have a distinct advantage over our European and UK counterparts: in the US, hospitals and universities maintain public affairs offices that showcase innovations and achievements. We will be working with those offices to identify significant contemporary developments targeted for collecting.

The meeting also provided an important networking opportunity. I met Almut Grüner, the new chief executive of the Thackray Museum (<http://www.thackraymuseum.org/>), and she expressed interest in collaborating with the Dittrick. She suggested short term (one month) staff exchanges, collaboration on an exhibition on contraception, and a number of other initiatives. I will explore the details of these collaborations with her, and report back to you on what develops.

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Hours

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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/site2/>

For hours see: <http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/operations/>

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 4, 2008 Cleveland Medical Library Annual Meeting, with Nicholas Basbanes presenting, *Among the Gently Mad: Continuing Adventures in the World of Books and Book People*.

April 5, 2008 Ohio Academy of Medical History Annual Meeting will be at the Dittrick in 2008, for details see: <http://www.case.edu/orgs/oamh/annual.htm>

April 10 -13, 2008 The American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY. For details see: <http://www.histmed.org/meetings.htm>

April 17, 2008 Handerson Lecture, Dr. Sam Alberti (Manchester Museum and University of Manchester) “Bodies on display: morbid specimens in nineteenth-century Britain”
Details within this newsletter.