Frontispiece of
Johannes de Ketham’s
*Fasciculus Medicinae*
(1495), depicting
Petrus de Montagnana,
professor at Padua,
seated in his medical
study, with patients
in the foreground.
From the Nicolaus Pol
Collection (see page 4).
TRENDS AND REALITIES

Library materials across the nation, and perhaps even the globe, are becoming increasingly uniform and homogenous, a development that poses some risk to the identity of important campus libraries. The trend of flat budgets, increasing costs, and mergers in the publishing industry have resulted in a standard buffet of databases, eBooks, and eJournals in virtually all academic libraries. More troubling, is the trend in some libraries to remove their physical collections, placing them in storage, or dumping them altogether. It’s increasingly common to find libraries whose cupboards are bare, with a banal paste of uniform online collections. From a virtual perspective, it’s not uncommon to find in Cleveland much that is the same in Boston, or Los Angeles. What makes a campus library unique, nowadays, is its rare and special collections.

The Cleveland Medical Library Association, the Cleveland Health Sciences Library, and the Dittrick Medical History Center have a combined 40,000 rare or historical books, and several thousand medical instruments, images, and artifacts. The Allen Memorial Medical Library (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! One that stares boldly in the face of modern homogenous digital collections.

Modern medicine and medical practice did not, like Athena, burst from the head of Zeus fully formed and armed. Medicine is both an art and a process that experiments, reflects, invents, and transforms itself—and has done so for hundreds of years. The rare books in the Allen attest to this process. And it is to these collections that we must return, not only for our identity as an institution, but to understand how the aspirations and undertakings of the past inform what we do today.

With trends, it seems, all things are circular. What was out is in. What was old is new again. This is certainly true at Case Western Reserve University, where budding interdisciplinary programs seek to fold together the new and the old in dynamic ways. The newly created Masters of Arts in Medical Anthropology, the Masters of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Bachelors programs that focus on the history of medicine, and even the Masters of Science in Regenerative Medicine and Entrepreneurship, all offer the past as a promising key to the future. There is no place better suited on the campus of Case Western Reserve University than the Allen Memorial Medical Library to offer object lessons in the modern implications of the past.

As this section of the newsletter suggests, there are also realities. Books that are nearly six hundred years old need attention and care, and must be maintained. To this end the Cleveland Health Sciences Library and the Cleveland Medical Library Association are combining their efforts in the development and training of proper stewardship. Beyond the traditionally important aspects of environmental control: light, temperature, humidification, etc., CHSL and CMLA have turned 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 actively attending workshops at the Rare Book School and the American Academy of Book Binding—to learn about book binding, paper preservation, bibliographic description and rare book cataloging, provenance, printing processes, and much more. In addition, grants have been won and funds assigned for conservation and restoration activities: these efforts are currently underway. Finally, creative efforts by the Dittrick, CHSL and the CMLA have been undertaken to establish new revenue streams for book conservation and preservation, including the preparation of a fine print edition catalog of selected holdings of the CMLA’s rare book collection.

Rare and special collections are becoming more important in defining the identities of libraries—as opposed to the generic, one-size fits all electronic databases, eBooks, and eJournals—the Cleveland Health Sciences Library, Dittrick Medical History Center, and the Cleveland Medical Library Association recognize their special fiduciary responsibility to the unique collections in the Allen Library—a responsibility that ensures these important materials will be available to future generations of students, faculty, and staff at Case Western Reserve University and the community of Greater Cleveland.
FROM THE DITTRICK
Dittrick to Host International Society for the History of Neurosciences

On June 19–23, 2018 the Dittrick will host the 23rd Congress of the of the International Society for the History of Neurosciences (ISHN; est. 1995). This came about through the current ISHN President, Douglas Lanska, who did his neurology residency and fellowship in Cleveland in the 1980s. Doug and his wife Mary Jo cherish fond memories of their time in Cleveland; he also valued the impactful mentoring received from Peter Whitehouse, Robert Daroff, and Joe Foley. As President, Doug chose Cleveland as the venue for the 2018 ISHN Congress, and we are very pleased to welcome Doug and his colleagues to our city.

During his residency, Doug and I co-authored an article in the Archives of Neurology on the therapeutic fad of suspension therapy for tabes dorsalis. The fate of suspension therapy for syphilis care proved to be a cautionary tale, of initial uncritical enthusiasm and meteoric rise, followed by star-studded endorsements by Charcot and de la Tourette, succeeded by more clear-eyed and level-headed assessments that discredited the practice. The unexpected positive spin-off was that Doug and I became friends, and he delved into medical history while pursuing a career in neurology.

The ISHN meeting brings together individuals from across the world to discuss the history of the neurosciences. In his invitation to ISHN members, Doug referenced the “many outstanding clinicians and neuroscientists who have expanded our understanding of neurological disorders” in Cleveland. He has also woven the meeting around the strengths of the Dittrick and tapped local talent for some presentations. For the Frank Clifford Rose Memorial Lecture I’ll be discussing the neurology instruments in the Dittrick collections, and composing a guide to collections at other museums where such instruments may be seen and studied. Doug will present “new” discoveries among images in Vesalius’s Fabrica (1543 and 1555 editions) for the Christopher U.M. Smith Presidential Lecture, and Peter Whitehouse has been asked to give the Oliver Sacks Memorial Lecture, in which he will explore the work of Theodor Meyner on the nucleus basalis. Additionally, an exhibition tentatively entitled “Re-imagining Dementia” drawing upon many of these themes is taking shape, and will be installed in the Castle temporary exhibition gallery at the Dittrick when the ISHN Congress opens in June.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
Dittrick Museum Welcomes Archive/Museum Studies Interns

Students in archives and museum studies programs regularly complete an internship to gain practical experience in the field. Here at the Dittrick, we have hosted some exceptional students from local and national programs, such as the Kent State Library & Information Sciences program that features components in archives and museum studies, and from the Archives Management Program at Simmons College School of Library and Information Sciences. The students come to us with ideas and we help develop a suitable project using our collections. This past fall Katie Willis (KSU) assessed the condition of blood pressure apparatus at the Dittrick Museum in order to compose a grant proposal to pay for conservation. Lindsay Smith (KSU) is documenting a large collection of nursing pins and uniforms to create online records searchable via the Dittrick website. She also plans to assist in the design and installation of an exhibit featuring the nursing collection. During the summer of 2018, Mary Hubbard, a Simmons College intern, will process several small archival collections donated over the past few years and make them searchable through the Dittrick website. This is a symbiotic relationship benefiting both the student, who gains experience, and the Dittrick, which sees collections processed and made available to researchers.
The Nicolaus Pol Collection of early medical books comprises a true gem of the Rare Book Collection of the Cleveland Medical Library Association. But the purchase of the Pol Collection long remained shrouded in mystery. Who bought it, and why? Research on the forthcoming select catalogue of the CMLA Rare Books by Catherine Osborn (Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology) has finally solved this mystery, and I thought I’d share this intriguing tale with CMLA Newsletter readers.

The Pol collection originally belonged to Nicolaus Pol (c1470–1532), a physician employed by Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor. He amassed a huge book collection, mainly works on religion, ethics, and philosophy and most of it remains at a monastery in San Candido, Italy. However, in 1907 some of Pol’s medical books surfaced in Munich. A young book dealer there, Maurice Ettinghausen, sold them to Edward Clark Streeter, M.D., a Boston bibliophile and medical humanist, for $800. But personal financial reverses compelled their resale in 1928. Ettinghausen, then of Maggs Bros. in London, bought the Pol books for $5,000 and issued a catalogue offering the entire collection for sale in 1929.

A copy of the Maggs Bros. catalogue ended up in the hands of Edward Harvey (Pat) Cushing, a trustee of the CMLA. It may have been intended for his bibliophile uncle, the distinguished neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing. But Ettinghausen did not know that there were two Drs. Cushing with links to the CMLA. (Harvey had given the dedicatory address, “The Doctor and His Books,” when the Allen opened in 1926.) Pat Cushing shared his famous uncle’s passion for rare books, and leapt at the chance to buy the Pol collection. He didn’t have the $12,500 that Maggs Bros. asked, but President Robert Vinson of Western Reserve University authorized a cash advance, bringing the 33 Pol books safely to Cleveland. (This cooperation is all the more remarkable since the two institutions had no formal ties at that time.) Soon after, an anonymous donation in honor of Charles W. Bingham reimbursed Western Reserve. Renowned anatomist T. Wingate Todd formally announced this landmark addition to the CMLA on October 29, 1929 and he observed that “the donor forbids the mention of a name save only that of Charles William Bingham, whose memory is enshrined in this great gift.”

So, who was this anonymous benefactor? Local philanthropists and CMLA Honorary Members Perry W. Harvey and his wife Kate Hanna Harvey are most certainly the anonymous donors for the Pol Collection. Perry was cousin, college roommate and best man to Harvey Cushing and, before his marriage to Kate, lived with his cousin Pat Cushing. Perry was a longtime friend of Bingham, who had died four months before the Pol Collection was purchased. The two men collected rare books (Perry Harvey favored Baskerville editions) and both belonged to Cleveland’s Rowfant Club. When Perry Harvey died in 1932, the CMLA honored him at their annual meeting, citing the “many treasures which [the library] would have been unable to purchase” and that “it was in keeping with his charming modesty that he permitted no public acknowledgement” (CMLA Minutes, Vol. 6, Jan. 20, 1933, p. 427). Thus generous local philanthropists played a pivotal, if anonymous, role in the growth of the CMLA collections.
For the past few years, and led by the Baker Nord Center for Humanities at CWRU, the Dittrick has participated in the “Cleveland Humanities Festival.” The original lasted only a week, but three years along and the festivities span two months in the spring of the year and incorporate institutions from all around the city and other parts of Northeast Ohio. The festival seeks to “engage the public in addressing some of society’s most challenging issues and pressing concerns.” For 2018, the Cleveland Humanities Festival explores the roles of health, health care, and medicine in culture and society from a variety of perspectives in history, literature, and the arts. As you might imagine, we are incredibly excited to be part of this year’s theme, and even the logo offers up an image from a book in Dittrick’s collection, *Essai d’anatomie*, by Jacques Fabian Gautier D’Agoty, (1745).

As part of this year’s festival, the Dittrick will be coordinating with the Social Justice Institute on our first spring “Conversation” lecture, “The Babes were Silent: Infant Mortality and Public Health,” on March 29. Brandy Schillace, who gives the short history talk, will be joined by a panel of experts in the community on issues then and now. Brandy will also be taking part in a Lakeview Cemetery Trolley tour as part of the Cleveland Humanities Festival on April 7; called “A Tour Through Disease,” the event explores the illnesses and calamities that befall Cleveland residents. Additionally, Dittrick will offer its annual Percy Skuy Lecture on Contraception also under the theme of health, and in partnership with the Schubert Center for Child Studies.
CMLA Artifacts Showcased at Anatomy Fashion Show

For its inaugural event, the OH-Delta Chapter of PhiDE collaborated with almost two dozen students from the Cleveland Institute of Art—most of whom belong to the institute’s Biomedical Art program—to produce realistic, painted renderings of organ systems and diseased or damaged anatomical structures on leotards, which were then modeled by undergraduates from various varsity sports teams, social fraternities and sororities, and PhiDE itself. To give the show an educational feel and provide historical context, the announcers described medical and surgical practices of the 1930s specific to each organ system or pathosis—showcasing authentic instrumentation from the period as props—while corresponding models took to the runway.

During two intermissions, students belonging to campus dance troupes Spartan Bhangra and Kismat Fusion Dance Team, a cappella group Speakeasy, and comedy troupe IMPROVment entertained spectators with skillful and energetic performances. Dr. James Edmonson, Chief Curator, gave the audience a brief introduction to both the CMLA and Dittrick Museum, while Jennifer Nieves, Archivist and Collection Manager, provided a closer look at the instruments to interested guests. Most importantly, the inaugural event helped PhiDE raise more than $4,400 for Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital: their largest donation to CMNH ever.

Update on the Dittrick Online Catalog

Throughout the summer of 2017, registrar Jennifer Nieves and photographer Laura Travis cataloged and photographed hundreds of artifacts in the Dittrick Museum collections. They migrated existing catalog records from OCLC, the worldwide library database, to PastPerfect Online, thereby enabling our website visitors to view Dittrick records and photographs. This effort will continue in 2018 by hiring a photographer with support from the Cleveland Medical Library Association. While generating catalog records takes time, photographing artifacts takes twice as long. Each artifact record may feature three to ten photographs depending upon its size, shape and form. Without such detailed images, records may not help someone identify similar instruments. Our goal is to create a database of use to researchers, museums, and others interested in medical history. Visit our website and click on the “Search the Museum Catalog” tab at the upper right side of the screen. There you will find instructions for searching the catalog.

On November 11, 2017, CWRU’s premedical chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon International Medical Fraternity held their first annual Anatomy Fashion Show, funded in part by the Cleveland Medical Library Association, and featuring dozens of medical instruments, most of which belong to the CMLA’s extensive collection of historical artifacts, housed and maintained by the Dittrick Medical History Center. Well over 250 students, parents, and members of the University Circle community attended, with another 100 students running the show or providing entertainment—all to raise money for Children’s Miracle Network Hospital Rainbow Babies & Children’s.
IN MEMORIAM


Thomas Lynch, former Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Cleveland Medical Library Association, passed away on December 6, 2017, at the age of 91. Mr. Lynch graduated from St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University, and then entered Ernst & Ernst as a part-time proof-reader. Upon earning his CPA, he became an accountant at Ernst & Young, retiring in 1988 as the Cleveland office’s partner in charge of audit. Mr. Lynch served as CFO of Sudbury, Inc. and Executive Director of the Domed Stadium Corp., as well as on the Boards of Directors of both the Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland and St. Augustine Health Ministries. He was a fiscal advisor to non-profits, including the Coterie of St. Augustine Health Campus and the Irish American Archives Society.

Mr. Lynch’s sixty-six year marriage to Margaret Gibbons produced seven children, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Mr. Thomas Lynch was Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the CMLA (1995–2015), and those who served with him remember him fondly and are grateful for his years of valued service to the Association.

CMLA Student Trustee Profiles

Zack Dale  Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Zack attended Case Western Reserve University for undergraduate studies as part of the Pre-Professional Scholars Program in Medicine. After graduating CWRU in three years, Zack spent a year back in Phoenix working for Scottsdale Emergency Associates as a medical scribe. Zack began studying at CWRU’s School of Medicine in 2014. In addition, he has worked off-and-on for the Cleveland Health Sciences Library at the Allen Memorial Medical Library since March 2012, and was instrumental in the development and employment of a basic curriculum for the Cleveland Medical Library Association’s Saturday journal club sessions for its Student Membership. Zack joined the CMLA Board as a Student Trustee in May 2017, and will complete his term of office in May of this year. He is currently a fourth year student interviewing for residencies in Internal Medicine.

Jacob Rayyan  Born and raised in of Chicago, IL, to Palestinian immigrants, Jacob matriculated to Case Western Reserve University in 2014, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Jacob work for the department’s Capadona Lab—studying neurodegeneration and improving the biocompatibility of microelectrodes—while also working for the Ishida Lab in the Department of Macromolecular Science & Engineering. As a sophomore, he joined a senior BME design team and determined the best materials to create a lighter, more maneuverable prosthetic leg for a young patient. This past summer, Jacob repaired damaged medical devices for MedWish International. Besides being past-President of CWRU’s premedical chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon International Medical Fraternity, Jacob also founded the university’s Global Engineering Brigades, traveled to Nicaragua for a medical mission with Global Medical Brigades, and serves as Sports Staff Reporter for The Observer.

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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 1    Phi Delta Epsilon, GELFAND LECTURE: Lee Ponsky
APRIL 7    “A Tour through Disease” at the Lake View Cemetery
APRIL 12   CMLA ANNUAL MEETING: “By Any Other Name: How Medical Humanities (Narrative Medicine, Medical Humanism, etc.) and Bioethics Are Reshaping Medical School Curricula in Cleveland and Beyond: A Panel Discussion”
APRIL 20   MIXER: “Forensics, Crime, and Charming Disaster” at the Happy Dog Euclid Tavern
JUNE 7    CONVERSATION: “Mind and Matter: The Evolution of Mental Health Treatment”
JUNE 19–22 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE NEUROSCIENCES: Congress and Exhibition Opening, “Re-imagining Dementia”