To Fellow Members of MHSNJ:

This spring we will not have our usual May meeting in Princeton. The American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) is holding its annual meeting from May 6-9 in New Brunswick. The MHSNJ is sponsoring two luncheon sessions: 'Medicine in New Jersey - An Historical View,' on Friday, May 7, 12:00-1:45 PM, featuring Donald F. Kent, MD, PhD, and Allen B. Weisse, MD; and the Twentieth Annual Saffron Lecture on Saturday, May 8, 12:15-2:00 PM. The Saffron Lecture will be presented by Michael Bliss, PhD, of the University of Toronto, on 'What's a Doctor? How William Osler Practiced Medicine.'

The opening of 'A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage,' an exhibit curated by Karen M. Reeds, PhD, will also be held on Saturday, May 8, 4:00-6:00 PM, at the Alexander Library of Rutgers University. 'A State of Health' celebrates "...four centuries of medicine in New Jersey - from colonial home remedies to designer drugs, from hygienic milk to the New Jersey Knee, from Dorothea Dix to Selman Waksman, from Revolutionary War hospitals to UMDNJ!"

On Thursday, May 6, 9:00 AM-4 PM, a full day tour of the Ellis Island Museum and the abandoned hospital facilities can be taken under the guidance of the National Park Service; the MHSNJ and AAHM sponsor the event.

I hope that members will take advantage of these programs, or of the entire AAHM meeting if time permits.

This year the Pasteur Prize essay contest was not held since all the Society's members will not be together to meet and congratulate the award winners. The new Society brochure has recently been printed and distributed. I encourage you to promote the Society and find new members! I look forward to seeing some of you in New Brunswick in May and in Princeton on October 27.

Helen E. Sheehan, PhD
President
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, an associate society of the AAHM, will hold a special session at the May meeting of the AAHM in New Brunswick as A Tribute to David L. Cowen, MA. Participants will include John Parascandola, Norman Gevitz, Renate Wilson, John Crellin, and William A. Helfand. The session is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2:30-4:30 PM, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The session is open to all; no AAHM registration is required. Professor Cowen is a founding member and past president of MHSNJ.

George James Hill, MD will receive the MA in History from Rutgers University on May 19. Dr. Hill's field of concentration was "Science, Medicine and Technology" in the Federated History Department of NJIT/Rutgers University-Newark. His Master's thesis was entitled Edison's Environment 1869-1931: The Great Inventor's Residences and Worksites in New Jersey, and His Environmental Impact During His New Jersey Years (© G.J. Hill, 1998).

Dr. Hill and Helene Z. Hill, PhD presented "Edison and Cancer: Relationships Between the Great Inventor and His Companies with X-rays, Radium, and Other Carcinogens" at the March 3 program of the Oncology Society of New Jersey.


Michael Schulder, MD was elected secretary-treasurer of the History Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Medical History Society is pleased to announce a $200 donation to the Society by Merck & Co. to help support the Corporate Lecture and the Pasteur Prize.
Call for Papers and Memorabilia

The MHSNJ calls on all members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers they would like to present at upcoming Society meetings. Interested members should contact Program Chair, Sandra Moss, MD (732) 549-5843. Members are also invited to share their collecting interests. If you have antique medical instruments or other interesting medical artifacts you would like to display at meetings, please contact Dr. Moss.

A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey
Frank F. Katz, PhD
Project Director and Compiler

The MHSNJ survey of artifacts and archives held by members of League of Historical Societies of New Jersey (LHSNJ), and by selected special libraries, has been successfully completed. A 76-page directory is now being printed. The publication of 1,000 copies of the *Guide* was made possible by grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission. One grant was awarded in 1998 for $2,432, and a second grant this year totaled $913. A second grant application was necessary as more information was received after the first grant was awarded, and the additional entries significantly increased the *Guide*'s length.

The awards indicate that the grant reviewers and the Historical Commission recognized the research value of the *Guide*, and agreed with the manner of its distribution. Each registrant (estimated to total 600) for the 1999 AAHM meeting in New Brunswick will receive a copy, as will each of the thirty-six contributing LHSNJ members and five special library contributors. The *Guide* will be sent to other appropriate libraries and organizations, such as the National Library of Medicine, National Archives, New York Academy of Medicine, and College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Announcements of the *Guide*'s publication will be placed in both print and electronic media to reach a wide audience. While the *Guide* will be of assistance to those involved in the study of the history of medicine, it will also serve to promote the state of New Jersey and its admirable contributions to medical history. The MHSNJ is proud to have undertaken this project and present its findings to its members and the public.

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The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey serves as an umbrella organization for approximately 250 independent community-based societies, libraries, museums and other organizations concerned with various aspects of history in the state. The MHSNJ is the only member of the League with any reference to medicine in its title. While one would expect this organization and the well-known academic members, such as Rutgers University and UMDNJ, would have collections of medical historical interest, the ones with less name recognition may also have such collections, albeit on a smaller scale.

A case in point is the Camden County Historical Society (CCHS) located at Park Boulevard and Euclid Avenue in Camden. In the forthcoming Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey, the CCHS lists quite a number of items - archives, vertical files, books, and artifacts - of medical historical interest. On March 6th, the League held one of its triennial meetings at the Society to help celebrate its 100th anniversary and our representative to the League, Frank Katz, attended. Dr. Katz was favorably impressed with both the library and the museum, their size, layout and holdings and, in the case of the museum, the displays.

In speaking with the librarians, Dr. Katz found them receptive to researchers’ needs and, in connection with that, they are planning to change the current unique cataloging system to a standard one in an electronic-based format. Persons with interest in the medical history of Camden County and South Jersey would be wise to visit this library and utilize its collection. The librarian is Ms. Joanne Diogo and she may be contacted at (609) 964-3333.

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The Encyclopedia of New Jersey: Information Sought

The Rutgers University Press is planning to publish an Encyclopedia of New Jersey. Topics in medical history and biography will be included. A call for information pertaining to medicine (and allied professions) and health in the state is requested by David L. Cowen, a contributor to the Encyclopedia. Please send him a brief explanation describing the significance of suggested topics. David L. Cowen, 186-C Malden Lane, Jamesburg, NJ 08831-1710, (609) 655-2637, E-mail: dlcowen@juno.com.

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‘To Cure All: Medicine and Treatments in the 18th Century’

‘To Cure All: Medicine and Treatments in the 18th Century,’ was a medical history program held on February 6 at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton. The program included four excellent lectures on 18th century medicine. Papers presented included: “From Willow Bark to Oxygine Air: Home Remedies in 18th Century New York” by Stuart Lehman; “Medicines & Medical providers from Central Europe in Colonial New Jersey and Pennsylvania” by Renate Wilson; “The Impact of Smallpox on Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness of Colonial Virginia” by Susan Pryor; and “A View of Cancer in the 18th Century” by Sharon Cotner.

Ms. Wilson’s paper was the only paper that discussed New Jersey medicine. Her thesis was that Lutheran clergymen often acted as healers as they were the most learned men in their societies, and the most well known within their communities. Since the clergymen were not formally trained as physicians, they brought with them from home and used the botanical treatments published in the German Halle Orphanage Medications.

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‘In the Name of Medicine: the Edinburgh Anatomy Murders’: Sherwin Nuland Speaks

The UMDNJ Chapter of the American Association for University Professors sponsored its annual Heikkila Memorial Lecture on March 17. This year’s lecturer was Sherwin B. Nuland, MD, Clinical Professor of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine, medical historian and author. His topic was ‘In the Name of Medicine: the Edinburgh Anatomy Murders,’ on Scots physician John Knox and the 19th century grave robbing scandal, which was perpetrated to increase the supply of cadavers for anatomical dissection by medical students. Dr. Nuland presented his lecture at both the Newark and New Brunswick Campuses of UMDNJ, where he was enthusiastically received.

Dr. Nuland is the author of How We Die: Reflections on Life’s Final Chapter, and Doctors, The Biography of Medicine. He is also literary editor of Connecticut Medicine and chairman of the board of managers of the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. Dr. Nuland previously addressed MHSNJ members as the Sixteenth Annual Saffron Lecturer in May 1995, when he presented ‘As Others See Us: The Artist Looks at the Doctor.’

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What's New at UMDNJ-Special Collections

Special Collections was selected as the recipient of a rare book in the history of neurology in honor of Stuart D. Cook, MD's inauguration as UMDNJ president on April 9. The book is titled *Injuries of Nerves and Their Consequences* by Silas Weir Mitchell (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1872).

It is described in Garrison-Morton's *Medical Bibliography* as '...A classical study of nerve wounds, the culmination of investigations that originated in [Dr.] Mitchell's experience treating injured soldiers during the Civil War, still consulted as late as World War II. Mitchell's work includes the first description of ascending neuritis, and the treatment of neuritis by cold and splint rests. Mitchell introduced the term "phantom limb" to describe the curious "ghost" limbs felt by amputees.' The Mitchell book is an excellent addition to Special Collections' holdings in neurological history.

Another recent addition is Jules Bernard Luys' *Petit Atlas Photographique du Système Nerveux. Le Cerveau* (Paris: J-B Baillière et Fils, 1888). This is a reduced-sized version of Luys' *Iconographic Photographique Des Centres Nerveux* published in 1873. The 1888 edition contains twenty-four photographic plates (heliogravures) by Lemercier made from J. & G. Luys' original photographs. Dr. Luys undertook the original work when the evidence of his lithographs published in 1865 was disputed. This was the first large-scale photographic atlas of the anatomy of the brain. This book was acquired by Special Collections through funding from the Saffron Endowment for Books in Historical Medicine, established at UMDNJ in 1991 by MHSNJ founding member, Morris H. Saffron, MD.

For more information about these books, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830, or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

Editor's Note:

With this issue of the *Newsletter*, MHSNJ member Frederick C. Skvara, MD begins contributing a new column on medical philately. Dr. Skvara will share his knowledge and his collection to illustrate many aspects of medical history; some columns will tie in with program speakers' papers. We hope members enjoy this continuing feature in the *Newsletter*.
The author has collected stamps for many years and gets far more out of stamp collecting than merely accumulating pretty little pieces of paper. Organizing one's collections, appreciating the beauty of these miniature works of art and learning about the topics depicted on the stamps are relaxing and rewarding ways to spend one's time. Almost any topic imaginable has been illustrated on a stamp and medicine is no exception for there have been numerous medically related stamps issued by the world's postal administrations in the past 100 plus years. Studying the history of medicine via philately is, in the author's opinion, a fascinating pastime.

The United States has the distinction of issuing what is regarded by most philatelists as the first medically related postage stamp. It is a 24-cent green and violet stamp issued on April 7, 1869 (shown above) that depicts in its center a reproduction of John Trumbull's painting — The Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The painting now hangs in the Yale Art Gallery which was designed by Trumbull (1756-1843) and under which he reposes with his wife. The painting is dated July 4, 1776, the date on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted, but the vote for separation of the thirteen American colonies from Great Britain was actually held on July 2nd. The document itself was not signed until August 2nd. Eventually 56 signatures were obtained but only 54 individuals were present on July 4th and only 48 of those can be seen in the painting.

The stamp's place in medical history is due to the fact that of the five physicians who were signers of the document, three are found in the Trumbull painting depicted on this stamp:

**Benjamin Rush** (1745-1813) - Born in Byberry, Pennsylvania, he was educated at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and Edinburgh. He was Surgeon General, Treasurer of U.S. Mint, founder of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and a delegate to the Continental Congress. [19th from the left]

**Josiah Bartlett** (1729-1795) - As the delegate from New Hampshire, the northernmost colony, he had the privilege of casting the first vote for adoption of the Declaration of Independence. He became New Hampshire's first governor. [3rd from left]

**Oliver Wolcott** (1726-1790) - Born in Windsor, Connecticut, he had a limited medical career, but an extensive political one. A delegate from Connecticut to the Continental Congress, a member of the Congress of the United States and Governor of Connecticut. [41st from left]

The other two physicians, Matthew Thornton (1714-1803), another delegate from New Hampshire, and Lyman Hall (1725-1790) from Georgia, were not present.

It is difficult to see any details of the painting in the 1869 stamp. Fortunately, the United States reproduced Trumbull's work again, this time on July 4, 1976, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The entire painting was reproduced on a strip of four thirteen-cents stamps and is shown nearby.

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Advertising Blotters, R. Schumann Trusses and Supporters, Newark, NJ, 1901
Courtesy of UMDNJ Libraries' Special Collections

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published twice a year in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Deadline for the next newsletter is September 1, 1999. Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are always welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions:

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