THE FIRST ANNUAL SOCIETY LECTURE TO BE HELD 
OCTOBER 25 AT THE NASSAU CLUB

The fall meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, October 25 at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Vincent Cirillo, MS, PhD will present the Society's First Annual Lecture in lieu of the Corporate Lectures given in previous years. Dr. Cirillo's lecture is entitled "Photographing the Unseen: The Spanish-American War and Military Radiology." Frederick C. Skvara, MD will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.; the program begins at 4 p.m. A short business meeting will be held.

Business Meeting -- Allen B. Weisse, MD, President

The Red Cross and the Rising Sun: A Photographic Essay
Raffaele Roncalli, DVM, MS

Death by Dixie Diet: Did Pellagra Kill Many Civil War POWs and Who's to Blame?
Barrett P. Brenton, PhD, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. John's University

The 25th Anniversary of the New Jersey Public Health Association: Building the Temple of Hygeia
Sam Alewitz, PhD, NJ Public Health Association

Outgoing President's Address.
Princes, Politicians, and Policy Makers: A History of Support for Traditional Medicine in India
Helen Sheehan, PhD, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. John's University
Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 p.m.)

The First Annual Society Lecture (7:30):

Photographing the Unseen: The Spanish-American War and Military Radiology
Vincent Cirillo, MS, PhD

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. The cost is $40/members, $50/guests. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Maxine Williamson, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Road, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550, (609) 275-1911.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS
AND RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

********

Vincent Cirillo, MS, PhD is currently writing a book on the Spanish-American War's impact on military medicine.

********

Francis P. Chinard, MD is currently researching two diverse topics: 1) Utopian aspirations towards universal health care in North America in the period 1840-1880 and in the year 2000, and 2) Evolution of the concepts of water and solute translocation in the microvasculature from 1850 to 2000.

********

David Cowen, MA, Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MA, Frank F. Katz, PhD, and Karen Reeds, PhD were invited by the editors to write entries for The Encyclopedia of New Jersey (forthcoming, Rutgers University Press). An entry by Dr. Katz on Morris H. Saffron, MD will be included in the Encyclopedia.

********

Your editor extends apologies to Erika Green, PhD for incorrectly citing the title of her new book in the spring issue of the newsletter. The correct title is The Worlds of Doctor Renaudot. Dr. Green is currently working on a biography of Virginia Apgar, MD.

********

Gerald N. Grob, PhD is currently researching a book on disease and environment in American history.

********
Frank F. Katz, PhD continues to research the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and New Jersey Vivisection Laws.

*********

Robert M. Klein, MD is working on a history of the development of allergy and immunology in New York City in the 20th century.

*********

Sandra Moss, MD presented Grand Rounds in July at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick. Dr. Moss's talk was entitled "A Generation of Doctors: The History of Medical Education." Additionally, she recently compiled for the Department of Medicine at St. Peter's a permanent display of 150 images from the history of medicine. Dr. Moss is working on a study of an obstetrical diary kept by Irenée Dupont Young (1827-1907), a 19th century Bordentown, NJ physician.

*********

Victor Parsonnet, MD presented a "History of Cardiac Pacing" in February at Mercy Hospital in Miami, Florida. Dr. Parsonnet also participates in a committee that commissioned a book entitled History of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center: A Full Century, which is currently being written.

*********

Karen Reeds, PhD gave a talk in July about the traveling exhibition, A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage, when it was on display at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch. Dr. Reeds also presented a paper in May at the Italian Studies meeting in New York City titled, "From the Carrara Herbal to Leonardo: Naturalism in Botanical Illustrations at the Beginning and End of the 15th Century."

*********

Michael Schulder, MD reports that he was elected president-elect of the History Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

*********

Thomas Walters, MD is currently researching and writing a history of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

*********

Allen B. Weisse, MD has been invited by the Waring Historical Library of the Medical College of South Carolina to be the Waring Lecturer for 2000. Dr. Weisse has just completed a project concerning the publication of book reviews by medical journals over the past century. He continues work on an oral history of 20th century cardiology and cardiovascular surgery.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save This Date!
The spring meeting of MHSNJ will be held on **May 16, 2001.**

********

Call for Papers and Memorabilia

The MHSNJ calls on its members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers for presentation at upcoming meetings. Members interested in presenting papers should contact Sandra Moss, MD program chair at (732) 549-5843. Members are also encouraged to share their collecting interests. If you have antique medical instruments or medical artifacts to display at meetings, please call Dr. Moss.

********

Members Who Publish

Members are reminded that Dr. Weisse has invited you to distribute your new articles via the newsletter mailing. If you would like to participate, please send 115 copies of your reprint to the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey for distribution with the newsletter. Please mail them directly to: Maxine Williamson, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Road, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. *(Do not mail to the editor!)*

********

Recognition of the Society’s 20th Anniversary

By Vincent J. Cirillo, PhD

On 7 May 2000 the Medical History Society of New Jersey (MHSNJ) celebrated its 20th anniversary. Dr. Morris Saffron (1905-1993), medical historian and practicing dermatologist, was the driving force behind the founding of our Society. It was Dr. Saffron who delivered the first formal course of lectures on medical history in the state in 1958, when he was installed as Professor of the History of Medicine at the Seton Hall College of Medicine. Dr. Saffron’s memory is kept alive by an annual lectureship established in his honor.

Previous attempts to organize a state medical history society in the late 1950s and early 1970s failed. Dr. Saffron persisted and success was achieved in 1980. Why did the MHSNJ succeed where others had failed? Success could be attributed to a variety of factors. First, the nation’s bicentennial had stimulated a widespread interest in history - including the history of the health sciences - throughout New Jersey. General historians began to recognize the importance of medical history not only as an academic discipline in its own right, but as a significant factor in cultural history. This trend was reflected in the American
Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) which, composed mostly of physicians in the 1960s, became dominated by PhDs in the 1980s.

Second, the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey in Lawrenceville undertook the administrative work of the fledgling society, and donated its facilities for our meetings. Its executive director, Mr. Charles Heitzmann, was especially cooperative. Third, the state medical journal, the *Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey* (now *New Jersey Medicine*) published many of our early papers, thus spreading the word among the state's medical profession. Last, there was a core of working members who were determined that this time the society would flourish. Orchestrating the effort was Dr. Saffron, who had an uncanny knack for picking the right people for the job, and then getting more out of them than they thought possible. The early officers had to be jacks-of-all-trades. They even drove the speakers to and from the meetings. Sometimes these chores took unexpected twists, as when David Cowen got a speeding ticket trying to get Lloyd Stevenson, our second Saffron Lecturer, to Trenton in time for the Baltimore train!

The early years of the MHSNJ were a struggle for survival. Attendance at our meetings ranged from 25 to 35 people, and only a handful of diehards did all the work. We barely broke even financially. But despite these problems, Drs. Saffron and Cowen were able to attract the country’s most prominent medical historians as Saffron Lecturers year after year. Talks by Genevieve Miller, Lloyd Stevenson, Harry Dowling, Whitfield Bell, Lester King, Gert Brieger, Ynez O’Neill, Kenneth Ludmerer, and Gerald Geison established our reputation. Our membership grew as we became a constituent society of the AAHM, offered the Wickes and Pasteur Prizes to stimulate interest among young people, instituted an oral history program, held a symposium on women in medicine, had a combined meeting with the Theobald Smith Society (microbiologists), and changed from luncheon meetings in Lawrenceville to dinner meetings at The Nassau Club in Princeton.

Great good fortune brought us Dr. Sandra Moss. Programs have been consistently of the highest quality under her chairmanship. Last year’s Saffron Lecture by Michael Bliss, held in conjunction with the annual AAHM meeting, was a resounding success. Today, the average attendance at our biannual meetings is double that of a decade ago. As we enter the 21st century, the Executive Committee is considering a proposal to reach an even greater audience by establishing a MHSNJ web site on the Internet.

To paraphrase Dr. Saffron: the MHSNJ, *Deo Volente*, may it long endure!

** * * * * *
What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections

UMDNJ Special Collections acquired some interesting new acquisitions recently. Patricia S. Coan donated a physician's medical kit, circa 1910-1930. The brown leather case with divided interior contains forty original vials, some containing (probably) homeopathic medications. The medical kit belonged to an unidentified New Jersey physician from Red Bank.

Two excellent books were added to the rare book collection through the auspices of the Saffron Book Endowment. One book is titled *Lectures on Orthopedic Surgery and Diseases of the Joints, Delivered at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, During the Winter Session of 1874-1875* (NY, 1876) by Lewis A. Sayre. The heavily illustrated first edition is listed in Garrison & Morton (4342.1). Dr. Sayre (1821-1900) was the foremost orthopedic surgeon in America. This book nicely complements another Sayre work in the collection, *Spinal Disease and Spinal Curvature: Their Treatment by Suspension and the Use of the Plaster of Paris Bandage* (London, 1877), which is illustrated with beautiful medical photographs.

*Brain Surgery* (1893) by M. Allen Starr was also acquired with funding from the Saffron Book Endowment. According to *Garrison's History of Neurology*, Moses Allen Starr (1854-1932) was a leader in American neurology at the turn of the century. He succeeded Edward Seguin as professor of nervous diseases at Columbia University. Trained in Europe, Dr. Starr was considered an outstanding teacher as well as clinician. *Brain Surgery* complements two other works in the collection by Starr, *Familiar Forms of Nervous Disease* (1890) and *Synopsis of Lectures upon Diseases of the Nervous System* (1898).

These books and artifacts, as well as other research materials, may be consulted by contacting Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830 or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

* * * * *

*A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage*

The traveling exhibition, *A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage*, recently concluded successful runs at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch and at the Biomedical Library of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The exhibition will open next at the UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine campus in Stratford, where it will be on view from October to December 2000. The fully illustrated catalogue is forthcoming from Rutgers University Press in mid-2001.
Future confirmed dates include Merck & Company, Whitehouse Station (January-February 2001), UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Camden (March-April 2001), and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products, Skillman (May-June 2001). Members are encouraged to visit the exhibition when it is displayed in your local area. To book the display after June 2001, contact Exhibit Coordinator, Lois Densky-Wolff, (973) 972-7830 or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Deadline for the next newsletter is April 2, 2001. Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are always welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

Lois Densky-Wolff
Editor, MHSNJ Newsletter
UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library
30 12th Avenue
Newark, NJ 07103
(973) 972-7830; FAX (973) 972-7474
<densky@umdnj.edu>

The Spanish-American War

Medical philately related to the Spanish-American War is sparse. As we will hear from Vincent J. Cirillo at our October meeting, it is not for want of significant medical accomplishments, for it was during this war that the use of radiology as a diagnostic tool was first employed by the United States military. Unfortunately, there has not been any philatelic commemoration of that specific milestone. However, the X-ray equipment used in that war was found in hospitals in the United States and on the hospital ships Relief, Missouri, and Bay State and in the 1930s there was a series of cacheted envelopes from the USS Relief. As of yet, I have not been able to obtain any of these envelopes to see if they relate to the Spanish-American War. But there are other philatelic items of medical interest related to this period of history:

Clara Barton - The founder of the American Red Cross served as a military nurse in this war, even though she was 76 years old at the time. While Cuba was still under Spanish rule, she provided relief to the farmers who were forced from their farms into camps in the cities by the Spanish Captain General. Approximately 200,000 of these “reconcentrados” died. During the war she provided aid to the soldiers.

Clara Maass - She was born in East Orange, New Jersey and graduated in 1895 from Luther Memorial Hospital of Newark (renamed in 1952 Clara Maass Hospital). As a military nurse in the 1898 War she served both in the United States and in Santiago, Cuba. In Cuba she saw the devastating effects of yellow fever and volunteered to be bitten by mosquitoes suspected of carrying the causative virus in an experiment conducted by Walter Reed and Carlos Finlay. She became infected and died on August 24, 1901. On her gravestone is written “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”.

Walter Reed - Born in Virginia, he obtained medical degrees from Virginia University and Belleville Medical College in New York. As an Army surgeon he was sent to investigate the etiology of a typhus fever epidemic in the Army during the War of 1898. He later became the leader of the research group sent to investigate an epidemic of yellow fever in the American Army stationed in Cuba in 1900. Through the experiment mentioned above, it was found that the yellow fever virus was indeed transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. Dr. Reed acknowledged that it was Carlos Finlay who first suggested, in a paper published in 1881, that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes. Walter Reed died in 1902 from acute appendicitis.

Correspondence:
Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.
P.O. Box 6228
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
e-mail: fcskvara@bellatlantic.net

1Cirillo VJ. The Spanish American War and Military Radiology. AJR 2000;174:1233-1239