



Medical History Society of New Jersey

c/o UMDNJ – Special Collections
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NEWSLETTER

May 2006

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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SAFFRON LECTURE

The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held Wednesday, May 24th, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. A. Lloyd Moote, PhD, University of Southern California (Emeritus) and Dorothy C. Moote, Medical Microbiologist, will deliver the 27th Annual Saffron Lecture entitled *"The Healing Arts and Caregivers During the Great Plague of London: From Doctors to Quacks."* MHSNJ past president, 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.

MHSNJ Business Meeting & Election of Officers,
Daniel P. Greenfield, MD, President

Master and Surgeon: Nautical Medicine in the 18th Century
George J. Hill, MD, D.Litt. (History)

Raul Hoffmann: The External Fixator in War and Peace
Evan Schwechter, MD, under the supervision of Kenneth Swan, MD,
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

"Ironclad Fever": A Jersey Surgeon on the Monitor PASSAIC
Sandra Moss, MD, MA (History)

Alien: The Odd History of Forensic Psychiatry
Daniel Greenfield, MD, Outgoing President, MHSNJ

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Medical Stamp Exhibit – Frederick C. Skvara, MD

Twenty-Seventh Annual Saffron Lecture:

*The Healing Arts and Caregivers During the Great Plague of London:
From Doctors to Quacks*

A. Lloyd Moote, PhD (History), University of Southern California
(Emeritus) & Dorothy C. Moote, Medical Microbiologist

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is \$40/members, \$50/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, Newark, NJ 07101-1709, (973) 972-7830, densky@umdnj.edu.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**In Memoriam
David L. Cowen
1909–2006**

David L. Cowen, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, died Friday, April 14, 2006, at the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home in Piscataway. The cause of death was heart failure secondary to aortic stenosis. Professor Cowen had a long and distinguished career at Rutgers as an educator, researcher and author, and was world-renowned in the field of the history of pharmacy. In 1989, Rutgers' Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy established the nation's first lecture series in the field and named it in his honor. Cowen, who joined Rutgers in 1933, is credited with putting his discipline on the academic map.

"Professor Cowen was highly respected as a luminary in the history of pharmacy," said John L. Colaizzi, dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. "He was an inspiration to generations of pharmacy faculty and students at Rutgers University, and he will be sorely missed."

Born in New York City on Sept. 1, 1909, he grew up in Newark, where he attended the public schools. He received his bachelor's degree in 1930 and his master's degree in 1931, both from Rutgers, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university in 1984.

He was married to the former Mae Wisokolsky from 1933 until her death in 1961, and to the former Florence Weisberg from 1972 until her death in 1988. His home from 1972 until his passing was in the Rossmoor adult community in Monroe.

While teaching in the Newark public schools from 1933 to 1944, he concurrently began his faculty career at Rutgers as an instructor of history at the Rutgers College of Pharmacy, now the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. He joined the full-time university faculty in 1945, rising to the rank of full professor in 1960. He served as chair of the department of history and political science from 1945 to 1964 and of the department of history from 1965 until his retirement in 1974.

At Rutgers, he received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1961 and the Rutgers Medal in 1974. With retired Merck & Co. executive William Helfand, he co-wrote "*Pharmacy: An Illustrated History*," published in 1990. In 1991, Cowen and the late Roy Bowers, former dean of the Rutgers College of Pharmacy, co-authored "*Rutgers University College of Pharmacy: A Centennial History*." He served on the councils of the American Association for the History of Medicine, the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy and the International Society for the History of Pharmacy. He chaired the Council of the Institute of Pharmacy for 10 years. In his honor, the Medical History Society of New Jersey established the David L. Cowen Award for Achievement in Medical History.

Cowen is survived by his son, Dr. Bruce R. Cowen, and daughter-in-law, Flora Buchbinder Cowen, of Edison; stepdaughters, Joan Jay of Livingston, Liz Kupperman of Great Barrington, Mass., and Susan Rinsky of Cupertino, Calif.; nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial arrangements are pending.

(Reprinted from *Home News Tribune Online*, April 20, 2006)

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Notice of Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee proposes the following candidates to serve as officers of the MHSNJ for the 2006-2008 term: Alan J. Lippman, MD – President; Karen Reeds, PhD – Vice President; and Frank F. Katz, PhD – Secretary/Treasurer. Elections will be held at the May 24th meeting. Members may submit independent nominations from the floor at that time.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent J. Cirillo, Chair, Lois R. Densky-Wolff, Frederick C. Skvara

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2006 Cowen Award for Achievement in Medical History

William H. Helfand, a former executive in the pharmaceutical industry, is a renowned collector of prints and ephemera dealing with medicine and pharmacy. Illustrations from Dr. Helfand's collections appear in scores of works on the history of medicine. He is the author of five books and numerous articles on the history of pharmacy. He collaborated with David Cowen on the highly successful, *Pharmacy: An Illustrated History* (1990).

In 2002, Dr. Helfand gave the annual Cowen Lecture in the History of Pharmacy at the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy and presented the Saffron Lecture to our Society in 1994. Recently, "Quack, Quack, Quack," a widely-acclaimed exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and published catalogue of the same name (2002), showcased Dr. Helfand's collection of commercial art related to what the Wall Street Journal called "all that is bogus in the world of medicine." Professor David Cowen nominated Dr. Helfand for the Cowen Award.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,
Sandra Moss, MD, MA, Chair, Daniel Greenfield, MD, Allen B. Weisse, MD

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

William C. Campbell, PhD received an honorary Doctor of Science degree last May from his *alma mater*, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for his research efforts at Merck & Co., where he played a pivotal role in the discovery of Ivermectin, the drug used to cure river blindness in humans, heartworm in dogs, and a broad spectrum of parasites in horses and other livestock.

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William H. Helfand was the distinguished recipient of The Ephemera Society of America's 2006 Maurice Rickards Award, given for his outstanding contributions to the collection and presentation of ephemera in the history of pharmacy.

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George Hill, MD, D.Litt. presented, "mEdison. Edison and Medicine: The Great Inventor's Impact on Health, the Environment, and the Practice of Medicine," at the inaugural lecture of the academic year in the history of medicine at UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library on October 11. Dr. Hill was the featured speaker at the November meeting of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New Jersey, where he presented "Hacks and Quacks: Chirurgeons and Leeches in Colonial America." In December, he presented to The Old Guard of Princeton at Princeton University, "Edison's Environment: Invention and Pollution in the Career of Thomas Edison." Dr. Hill delivered the keynote Lecture, "The Role of Medicine in Human Development," to a Mini-Med School Course at UMDNJ-NJMS, on March 8. On April 20, he presented an illustrated lecture in New Brunswick to members of the Raritan-Millstone Alliance on "Colonial Medicine: Medicine in the

American Colonies." Dr. Hill was recently appointed as a member of the Nominating Committee for Honorary Members of the Descendants of Colonial Physicians and Chirurgen.

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Sandra Moss, MD, MA was inducted in December 2005 as a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Dr. Moss presented *"Everything But the Kitchen Sink: Inventing the Artificial Kidney"* at the Section on Medical History, College of Physicians of Philadelphia on November 9. She was guest speaker at UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library on February 1 when she delivered, *"Up from Tuskegee in the 1920s: John A. Kenney, M.D., and the "Race Hospital" in Newark."* In March, Dr. Moss presented *"Newark's Civil War Hospital"* at The Hermitage Museum in Hohokus. This May, she is delivering *"The Man Who Would Be Koch -- and Jenner Too"* at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as well as *"Predicting Soundness: Arterial Tension, Life Insurance, and the Sphygmograph"* at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

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Michael Nevins, MD reports that during the month of May, he is giving a series of four lectures on *"Jewish Medicine. What It Is and Why It Matters"* at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades in Tenafly. Lectures are scheduled on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., May 4, 11, 18, and 25.

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Karen Reeds, PhD presented *"The Environment and Health in New Sweden 1640-1750,"* at the Thinking Through the Environment: VIII Turku Methodological Conference/VI Nordic Environmental History Conference, in Turku, Finland, September 2005. In January, Dr. Reeds participated in the American Historical Association's first "Exchange of Views" program, which brought historians and public history professionals together to discuss the interpretation of museums and historic sites around Philadelphia. As the site reviewer for the historic house, Stenton, in Germantown PA, she suggested ways the Stenton staff could bring 18th century science, medicine, pharmacy, and the experience of disability into their presentation of James Logan and his remarkable mansion. Logan came to Philadelphia as William Penn's secretary; he moved up to become governor of Pennsylvania and chief justice of the colony's supreme court. He mentored Benjamin Franklin and John Bartram, contributed scientific papers on botany and on optics to the Royal Society, and amassed a huge library--rich in science and medicine--that became the core of The Library Company of Philadelphia. Archeological finds of medicine bottles of Balsam of Life may testify to the pain he endured from the severely disabling hip fracture that upset his plans for an active retirement at Stenton. Dr. Reeds is currently giving a graduate seminar at the University of Pennsylvania, "Enlightenment Science and Public History." The class just visited the new exhibition, The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin, at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and had a lively discussion with its curator, Lisa Gensel. The exhibition runs through December 2006 - for more information: <http://www.benfranklin300.com/upcoming.php?id=11>.

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Michael Schulder, MD reports that in the last two years he has been writing a quarterly column entitled "Timeline" for the *Bulletin of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons*. The columns are historical essays related to the theme of a particular issue. His latest essay was entitled *"When Their Residence Isn't the Hospital: What Do You Call Physician Trainees?"*

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Frederick C. Skvara, MD presented *"Christmas Seals and Charity Stamps: The Medical Connection"* on December 13 at UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library. On June 3, he will give *"Historical Medical Anecdotes"* at Washington 2006, an International Philatelic Exhibition in Washington, DC. Dr. Skvara has been invited to present Grand Rounds at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick on June 27. His lecture is entitled *"Philatelic Sketches in Medicine."*

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Allen B. Weisse, MD delivered a talk entitled *"On First Looking Into Jarcho's Leibowitz. The Clinician as Medical Historian"* at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society, May 2-3, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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'Profiles in New Jersey Health and Medicine'

Harrison S. Martland, MD

By Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MAL

Dr. Harrison Stanford Martland (1883-1954), one of the nation's foremost pathologists and pioneer in forensic medicine was a native Newarker. Martland received his MD degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1905 and after two years working in pathology and bacteriology at the Russell Sage Laboratory, he accepted, in January 1909, an appointment as the first full-time paid pathologist at the Newark City Hospital.

When World War I broke out, he joined the Bellevue Hospital Unit and as a lieutenant colonel was in charge of a hospital in Vichy, France.

In June 1925, Martland was chosen to fill the post of Essex County Physician. Immediately, he saw the danger of divided authority in the system that allowed a coroner's jury of laymen to decide causes of sudden death so set out to establish the medical examiner system in Essex County. He won his fight on both the state and county levels, and in March 1927, was appointed Chief Medical Examiner by the Essex County Board of Freeholders. His reputation was soon established, and in April 1933, he was named Professor of Forensic Medicine at New York University, a post he held for fifteen years.

Most celebrated of Martland's contributions were derived from his research, begun in 1924, on the effects of radioactive material on the human body. He determined that minute traces of radioactivity contained in luminous paint had caused the deaths of watch dial painters employed at the US Radium Corporation in Orange, NJ. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) credited Martland's work with having made it possible for atomic development to proceed with comparative safety.

Perhaps less sensational, but also ground-breaking and of seminal significance, he alerted dynamite manufacturers to the dangers of occupational poisoning in TNT, proved that "punch drunk" prizefighters were suffering from brain injury caused by the rupture of blood vessels, did notable work on cardiac syphilis, and demonstrated the effects of bullet wounds on the body. His accomplishments also included being the first to show the lethal effects of beryllium poisoning, which led to implementation of regulatory reforms governing the use of beryllium in industrial plants.

Martland received numerous honors and awards. The New York Pathological Association named him its first out-of-state president in 1928. He was President of the Essex County Medical Society in 1920 and of the Academy of Medicine of Northern New Jersey in 1922. The Newark City Commission paid tribute to the eminent pathologist when the new city hospital was dedicated the Harrison S. Martland Medical Center on January 24, 1954.

After forty-five years as Newark City Hospital Pathologist and twenty-five years as Essex County Medical Examiner, Martland retired in November, 1953.

Source: *Harrison Stanford Martland, MD (1883-1954), A Register of His Papers, 1905-1954 In UMDNJ Libraries-Special Collections Department, Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD University Archives University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark.*

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What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections?

A MHSNJ member and great friend of Special Collections recently made an anonymous \$10,000 contribution to the University Libraries. The gift is dedicated for the acquisition of Special Collections' materials, particularly those with a New Jersey focus. Several pieces have already been acquired with the gift, including

a rare pamphlet entitled *Code of Medical Ethics, Revised and Adopted by the District Medical Society for the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, Dec. 17, 1850, with the Free-Bill Annexed* (Bridgeton, NJ, 1851), delineating the schedule of fees charged by Cumberland County physicians.

Sarah Hull, a former library intern and temporary assistant in Special Collections who went on to become Director of Research at the Foundation of UMDNJ, gave a \$500 donation to the department for the acquisition of rare and out of print materials.

The department recently acquired a number of new materials through gift or purchase. Lois Ballon donated three manuscript diaries written by her uncle, Dr. Morris Saffron during a year at Columbia University (1923-1924) and two years while he attended the University of Maryland Medical School (1926, 1927). A fourth volume contains an incomplete genealogy of the Saffron family. The gift includes both original manuscripts and a Word transcription in CD format. The diaries were added to Dr. Saffron's papers, currently held by Special Collections.

William Wardell, MD, PhD, a MHSNJ member, and his wife Dorothy, donated a copy of *White's Physiological Manikin Examined and Approved by Frank H. Hamilton M.D.* (NY: James T. White & Co., 1886), a life-size male figure with moveable flaps illustrating internal organs. A book conservator recently completed cleaning and repairing this fantastic volume.

Henry R. Liss, MD, a MHSNJ member, made an additional contribution of miscellaneous books in the history of surgery, neurology, and the neurosciences.

Two rare books in the history of public health were acquired with funds from the Saffron Book Endowment – William Currie's *A View of the Diseases Most Prevalent in the United States of America at Different Seasons of the Year...* (Philadelphia, 1811) and Robert M. Hartley's *An Historical, Scientific, and Practical Essay on Milk...for the Supply of Large Cities* (NY, 1842).

Bart Holland, PhD, NJMS-Preventive Medicine & Community Health, presented on April 5 the last lecture in the history of medicine series. Dr. Holland's lecture was entitled "*Clinical Trials of Unicorn's Horn: Plague Medicine at the Start of the Scientific Revolution.*"

For more information on medical history resources, please contact densky@umdnj.edu or call (973) 972-7830.

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MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2005

Altschuler, EL. How to prepare now for a recurrence of the 1918 influenza epidemic: storing lymphocytes from 1918 survivors to use as antibody factories. *Med Hypotheses* 2005; 65(3): 627-8.

_____. Ramazzini and writer's cramp. *Lancet* 2005; Mar 12-18; 365 (9463): 938.

_____. Schizophrenia and the Chinese famine of 1959-1961. [Using the antiquity of schizophrenia to study its etiology.] *JAMA* 2005; Dec 21;294(23): 2968.

_____. Societal consequences of Noah's alcohol misuse. *S Afr Med J* 2005; Nov; 95(11): 820.

Cirillo VJ. Medicine and War. In: *Encyclopedia of War and American Society*, 3 vols. ed. P. Karsten. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005, 2:477-483.

Fox, NM, **Swan, KG.** There is more to Ringer than lactate. *J Trauma*. 2005; 59(3): 778-80.

Grob, GN. Public policy and mental illnesses: Jimmy Carter's Presidential Commission on Mental Health,"

Milbank Quarterly, 2005; 83 (Sept): 425-456.

_____. The transformation of mental health policy in twentieth century America," in *Psychiatric Cultures Compared: Psychiatry and Mental Health Care in the Twentieth Century: Comparisons and Approaches*, ed. by Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra, Harry Oosterheis, Joost Vijselaar, and Hugh Freeman (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2005), 141-161.

Gurey, LE, Swan RG Jr., **Swan, KG**. James Hogarth Pringle. *J Trauma*. 2005; 58(1): 201-5.

Helfand, WH. The drug trade and the book trade. *Gaz Grolier Club*. 2005; 56: 68-82.

Hill, GJ. Presidents and annual meetings of the Essex County Medical Society, 1816-2005. An electronic publication at www.umdj.edu/librweb/speccoll/ECMSPresidents&AnnualMeetings1816-2005-George%20Hill3.pdf.

Jöchle, W. Chaldean pedigree chart, indicating selective breeding of horses circa 4000 BC: something is wrong. *J. Equ. Vet. Sci*. 2005; 25: 6-7.

Moschos, CB. Allen B. Weisse (Profiles in Cardiology). *Clin Cardiol*. 2005; 28(10): 492-3.

Moss, SW. Book Review for H-Net NJ: Reeds, Karen: "New Jersey: A State of Health," 2005.

_____. The sphygmograph in America: writing the pulse. *Am J Cardiol* 2005; 97(4): 580-587.

_____. This destroying scourge: yellow fever epidemic of the 1790s in New Jersey. *NJ Heritage* 2005; 5(1): 10-23.

Pinals, RS. Garibaldi's rheumatism. *J Clin Rheumatol*. 2005; 11(4): 225-7.

Weisse AB. Charles P. Bailey (Profiles in Cardiology). *Clin Cardiol*. 2005; 28(4): 208-9.

_____. The Elusive Clot: The Controversy Over Coronary Thrombosis in Acute Myocardial Infarction. *J. Hist Med & Allied Sci* 2006; 61: 66-78.

_____. John W. Kirklin (Profiles in Cardiology) *Clin. Cardiol*. 2005; 28: 585-586.

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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 September 1, 2006.** Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

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Philatelic Sketches

in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

Lemons & Limes: The Scurvy Connection

James Lind (1716–1794) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and joined the British navy as a surgeon's mate in 1739 serving in the Mediterranean, West Indies and English Channel until 1747. It was after he was promoted to naval surgeon on *H.M.S. Salisbury* in 1747 that he began experimenting with the diet of sailors who had scurvy and noted an improvement in their condition if they were given citrus fruits and juices. He left the navy in 1748 to obtain a medical degree from the University of Edinburgh—in the late eighteenth century and early part of the nineteenth century, an MD degree was not necessary to practice as a naval surgeon. He spent most of his medical career at the Haslar Naval Hospital in Hampshire where he treated numerous sailors with scurvy, typhus and dysentery—all diseases related to their voyages at sea.

His experiences at Haslar resulted in the publication of *A Treatise on the Scurvy* (1754) that accurately described the symptoms of scurvy and that it could be successfully treated with citrus fruits and juices. He wrote two more notable books based on his 25 years at Haslar Hospital—*On the Most Effectual Means of Preserving the Health of Seamen* (1757) and *An Essay on Diseases Incidental to Europeans in Hot Climates* (1768)—both also related to nautical medicine.

Despite proving that scurvy could be prevented on long naval voyages by the administration of citrus fruits or juices, the Royal Navy did not officially adopt Lind's recommendations until 1795, a year after he died.



James Cook/ Australia
1966 (Scott 414)

Captain James Cook (1728–1779), the famous British explorer whose three long sea voyages were remarkably free of scurvy described in a 1776 letter to Sir John Pringle (1707–1782), President of the Royal Society, that his success was due to a combination of precautions,

cleanliness on board the ship...a plentiful supply of fresh water...fresh food whenever possible...carrying and using a variety of substances which had known or suspected antiscorbutic properties – sauerkraut, marmalade of carrot, salted cabbage, [syrup] of lemon and orange...malt...beer¹

Accompanying Cook on his first expedition (1768–1771) aboard *Endeavor* was Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820), a British botanist and scientist who suffered from scurvy during the voyage and who cured himself by following the recommendations he had been given before the trip by Nathaniel Hulme (1732–1807), a British physician. Hulme published *Libellus de natura, causa curationeque scorbuti: To which is annexed, A proposal for preventing the scurvy in the British navy* (1768) advocating the use of lime juice to prevent scurvy. When Banks recognised the signs of scurvy in himself he,

flew to the lemon juice which had been put up for me according to Dr Hulmes method...The effect of this was surprizing, in less than a week my gums became firm as ever...²

Banks recovery probably made an impression on Cook for in his second and third voyages Cook gave more credance to the use of lemon and lime juice than sweet wort, beer and spruce beer, which had been among his favorite antiscorbutics.



James Lind/ Transkei
1993 (Scott 293)



Joseph Banks New Zealand
1969 (Scott 432)

1. Captain Cook to Sir John Pringle, undated [5 March 1776]. Hist. Records New South Wales I; i:390–392.

2. Beaglehole JC, ed. *The Endeavour journal of Joseph Banks, 1768–1771*, vol. 2, 2nd ed. Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1963.