



Medical History Society of New Jersey

c/o UMDNJ – Special Collections
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NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Volume 27, Number 1

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MORRIS SAFFRON LECTURE

The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held Wednesday, May 23rd, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Lisa Gensel, MA will present the 28th Annual Morris Saffron Lecture entitled "The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin," based on an exhibit she curated by the same name held at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the Royal Society of Medicine, London. 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

Alan J. Lippman, MD, President

From the Brain to the Bladder: Frederick E.B. Foley

Richard C. Novack, Jr., MD, Kenneth Swan, MD (mentor)

The Zen of Theranostics: Can Pharmacogenetics Deliver the Goods?

William Wardell, MD, PhD

Death Unspoken: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic in New Jersey

Jennifer Harmsen, Masters Program, NJIT/Rutgers

To Be or Not to Be: That is the Question - A Child Holocaust Survivor's Battle with Consumption

Inge Auerbacher, BS, D.H.L.

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Medical Stamp Exhibit – Frederick C. Skvara, MD

Twenty-Eighth Saffron Lecture:

The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin

Lisa Gensel, MA, Curator of the exhibit held at
College of Physicians of Philadelphia and
Royal Society of Medicine, London

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 or contact ldenskywolff@yahoo.com.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

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Vincent J. Cirillo, PhD was inducted into *Who's Who in America* (60th edition) for the third straight year.

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Frank F. Katz, PhD presented "From Parasitologist to Wannabe Medical Historian" last March in South Orange as part of Oheb Shalom Congregation's "Showcase," a series of talks by congregants on their professional activities and other interests.

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Sandra S. Moss, MD, MA (History of Medicine, Technology, and the Environment) made a number of presentations in May 2006 at the following organizations: American Osler Society, "Joseph Stickler: The Man Who Would be Koch -- and Jenner Too"; Medical History Society of New Jersey, "Ironclad Fever"; American Association for the History of Medicine, "Predicting Soundness: Arterial Tension, Life Insurance, and the Sphygmograph"; Laennec Society (internal medicine interest group for medical students), UMDNJ-RWJMS, "The History of Medical Education in the United States."

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Michael Nevins, MD has obtained forty-four high quality reproductions of art created by or of Jewish physicians who were imprisoned at the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp between 1942 and 1944. Dr. Nevins has prepared an illustrated lecture about 'Art and Medicine during the Holocaust,' and the pictures are available for exhibition by interested organizations. For more information, contact him at 201-391-6354 or mnevmd@att.net.

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Allen B. Weisse, MD presented the 18th Annual Mark M. Ravitch Lecture on the History of Medicine before the Reynolds Society of the University of Pittsburgh and guests in April. Dr. Weisse's paper was entitled "The Century of the Cardiovascular Surgeon." At the May 1-3 annual meeting of the American Osler Society in Montreal, he will present "Greek, Latin and All That. The Languages We Live In."

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In Memoriam

Estelle Brodman, MA

Henry R. Liss, MD

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MHSNJ Secretary-Treasurer, Frank F. Katz, reports that the Society's application for tax- exempt status was filed with the Internal Revenue Service in September 2006 and is currently under review.

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'Profiles in New Jersey Health and Medicine'

Theobald Smith, MD

By Frank F. Katz, PhD

Theobald Smith (1859-1934) was the preeminent comparative pathologist of his day in the United States and, perhaps, the world. Smith was born in Albany, NY, did his undergraduate work at Cornell, and received his MD degree from Albany Medical College in 1883. His interest, however, lay in scientific investigation rather than in the practice of medicine and he devoted a remarkable career to bio-medical, particularly veterinary medical, research. That career spanned a period of fifty-one years, fifteen of them (1915-1929) in New Jersey as Director of the Rockefeller Institute Medical Research's Department of Animal Pathology. In his long career, he produced approximately 300 publications in diverse topics including viral, bacterial, and protozoan diseases, and immunology and public health.

Smith's fame began in 1893, with the publication of his and a colleague's work on Southern or Texas Cattle Fever, carried out while he was an Assistant in the Veterinary Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This was the first demonstration of a protozoan being transmitted by an arthropod, findings that had an impact on subsequent research by others on arthropod transmission of diseases agents.

A second landmark paper by Smith was published in 1898 when he was the Fabyan Professor of Comparative Pathology at the Harvard University Medical School. This work, on a comparative study of human and bovine tubercle bacilli, showed, in contradiction to what Robert Koch, the discoverer of the tubercle bacillus, believed, that more than one species of *Mycobacterium* could produce tuberculosis.

It was in 1915, that Smith became the founding Director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research's Department of Animal Pathology in Princeton. He remained at that post until his retirement in 1929. He supervised a unique body of researchers and what was - it closed in September 1950 - a distinguished research institution in New Jersey. Significant investigations took place in his laboratories. A major discovery (with a colleague) was that the protozoan agent of blackhead in turkeys is transmitted through the embryonated egg of a nematode. This led to effective control measures where chickens, a reservoir host for both parasites, are raised separate from turkeys and the fowl are maintained on wire or slatted floors. Even after retirement, Smith continued to write and lecture and in his last year of life, produced a classic book, *Parasitism and Disease*.

Smith was the recipient of many honors, nationally and internationally. Especially noteworthy among them was the Manson Medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and the Copley Gold Medal of the Royal Society.

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What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections?

A recent acquisition new to Special Collections is a first edition of *Experimenta Nova Anatomica* (1651) by Jean Pecquet (1622-1674), a French anatomist. Pecquet's work gave the preliminary hints to the understanding of the thoracic duct. Pecquet studied medicine at Montpellier, where he made the important discovery of the course of the lacteal vessels, including the *receptaculum chyli*, or reservoir of Pecquet, as it is sometimes called, and the termination of the principal lacteal vessel, the thoracic duct, into the left subclavian vein. The book was donated by Dr. George Kozam, an anatomist, and UMDNJ-NJDS and UMDNJ-GSBS retired faculty member. Dr. Kozam also donated eleven Spencer microscopes dating from 1878, which will soon be accessioned and ultimately included in an upcoming exhibit. The most notable donation from Dr. Kozam is a complete set of the American edition of *Gray's Anatomy*, dating from 1858. A total of twenty-seven editions of this most important work will be added to UMDNJ's History of Medicine Collection.

As we search for a new Head of Special Collections, Nancy Blankenhorn, knowledgeable in the resources included in Special Collections, has been providing much needed staffing in the History of Medicine Room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope to be able to formally announce a new Head of Special Collections and Archives at the May MHSNJ meeting.

Until a new Head of Special Collections and Archives is named, for more information on medical history resources, contact either Nancy Blankenhorn, email: blankenh@umdnj.edu, voice: 973-972-7830 or Judy Cohn, email: cohn@umdnj.edu, voice: 973-972-4353.

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MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2006

Cirillo, VJ. "Winged sponges": Houseflies as carriers of typhoid fever in 19th- and early 20th-century military camps. *Persp. Biol. Med.* 2006; 49(1): 52-63.

_____. Obituary: David L. Cowen, 1909-2006. *AAHM Newsletter*. 2006 (July): 10.

_____. Review of M.R. Smallman-Raynor and A.D. Cliff. *War epidemics: An historical geography of infectious diseases in military conflict and civil strife, 1850-2000*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. In: *J. Hist. Med. Allied Sci.* 2006; 61: 90-92.

Grob, GN & Howard H. Goldman, *The dilemma of federal mental health policy: radical reform or incremental change* (Rutgers University Press, 2006).

_____ (With David Mechanic). Rhetoric, realities, and the plight of the mentally ill in America. In: *History & health policy in the United States: putting the past back in*, ed. By Rosemary A. Stevens, Charles E. Rosenberg, & Lawton R. Burns (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2006), 229-249.

_____ (With Howard H. Goldman). Defining 'mental illness' in mental health policy, *Health Affairs* 2006; 25 (May-June): 737-749.

Jöchle, W. The horse in the ancient Near East: facts and fancies. *Vet History* 2006; 13: 118-24 and in *Vet Heritage* 2006; 29: 15-17.

Moss, S. Profiles in cardiology: Alonzo Thrasher Keyt, *Clinical Cardiology* 2006; 29 (October): 471-3.

_____. The sphygmograph in America: writing the pulse, *American Journal of Cardiology* 2006; 97: 580-587.

_____. This destroying scourge: yellow fever epidemics of the 1790s in New Jersey, *New Jersey Heritage* 2006; 5: 10-23.

_____. Review of Helen M. Dingwall. *A famous and flourishing society: the history of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, 1505-2005*. In: *Eighteenth-Century Scotland: The Newsletter of the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society*, 2006.

Prestigiacomo, CJ. Historical perspectives: the microsurgical and endovascular treatment of aneurysms. *Neurosurgery* 2006 Nov; 59(5 Suppl 3): S39-47; discussion S3-13.

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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, 2007.** Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

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Thanks to Contributors: Vincent J. Cirillo, Judith S. Cohn, Frank F. Katz, Gerald N. Grob, Wolfgang Jöchle, Sandra W. Moss, Michael Nevins, Charles J. Prestigiacomo, Frederick C. Skvara, Allen B. Weisse.



Philatelic Sketches *in Medicine*

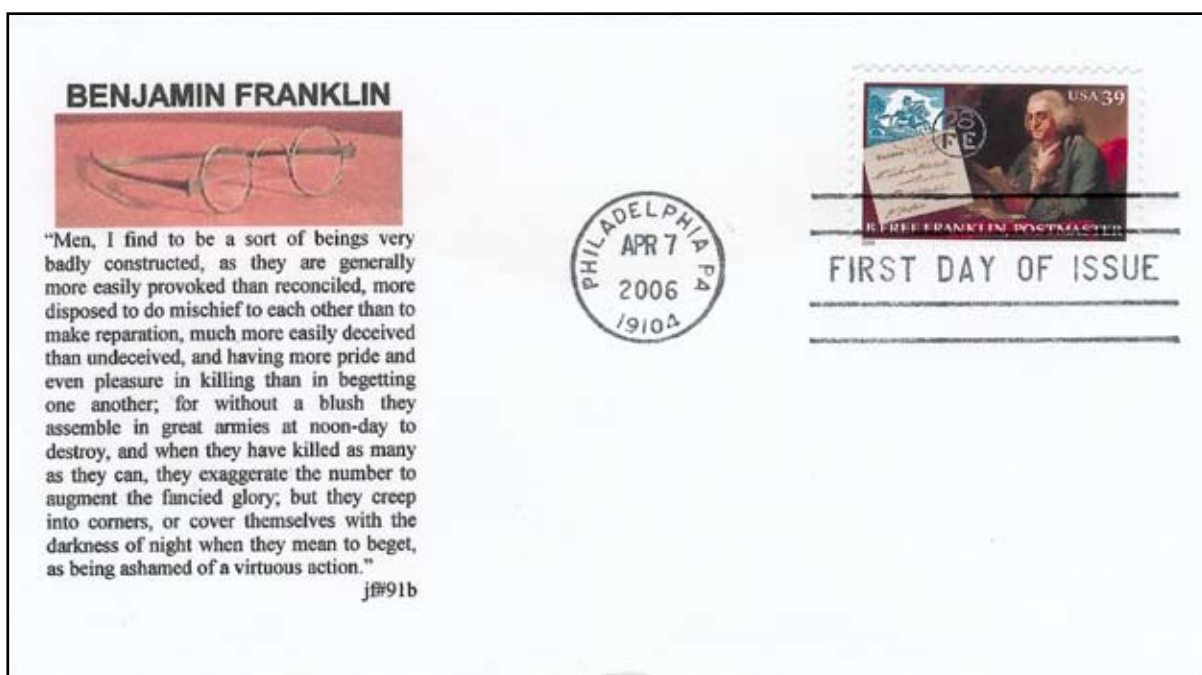
Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

Benjamin Franklin (January 17, 1706 - April 17, 1790)

There have been numerous philatelic tributes to Benjamin Franklin beginning in 1847 when the United States issued its first postage stamps – a 5¢ stamp with a portrait of Franklin and a 10¢ stamp with a portrait of George Washington. The latest emission came last year on the 300th anniversary of his birth when the United States Postal Service issued a block of four stamps (April 7, 2006) honoring him for his contributions as a statesman, scientist, printer and as the first United States postmaster. Working with the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a private nonprofit consortium that includes the American Philosophical Society, the Franklin Institute, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the University of Pennsylvania, Richard Sheaff, the art director for the stamps, gathered numerous artifacts, portraits and ephemera for the four stamp designs. Since our Saffron lecturer this spring will be speaking on Franklin's contributions to medicine, I will only describe the elements included for the stamp honoring his contributions to science (upper right). Against a background portrait and a depiction of his famous kite experiment, a page from his 1769 volume *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* shows waterspouts and a “magic square”. A schematic drawing of his “three-wheeled clock” can be seen near the bottom of the stamp.



Benjamin Franklin - 300th Anniversary of birth.
United States 2006



Benjamin Franklin. United States 2006 FDC. Cachet at left shows a pair of bifocal spectacles that were invented by Franklin.