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THE WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences

Volume XLVI

Number 2

Spring 2023

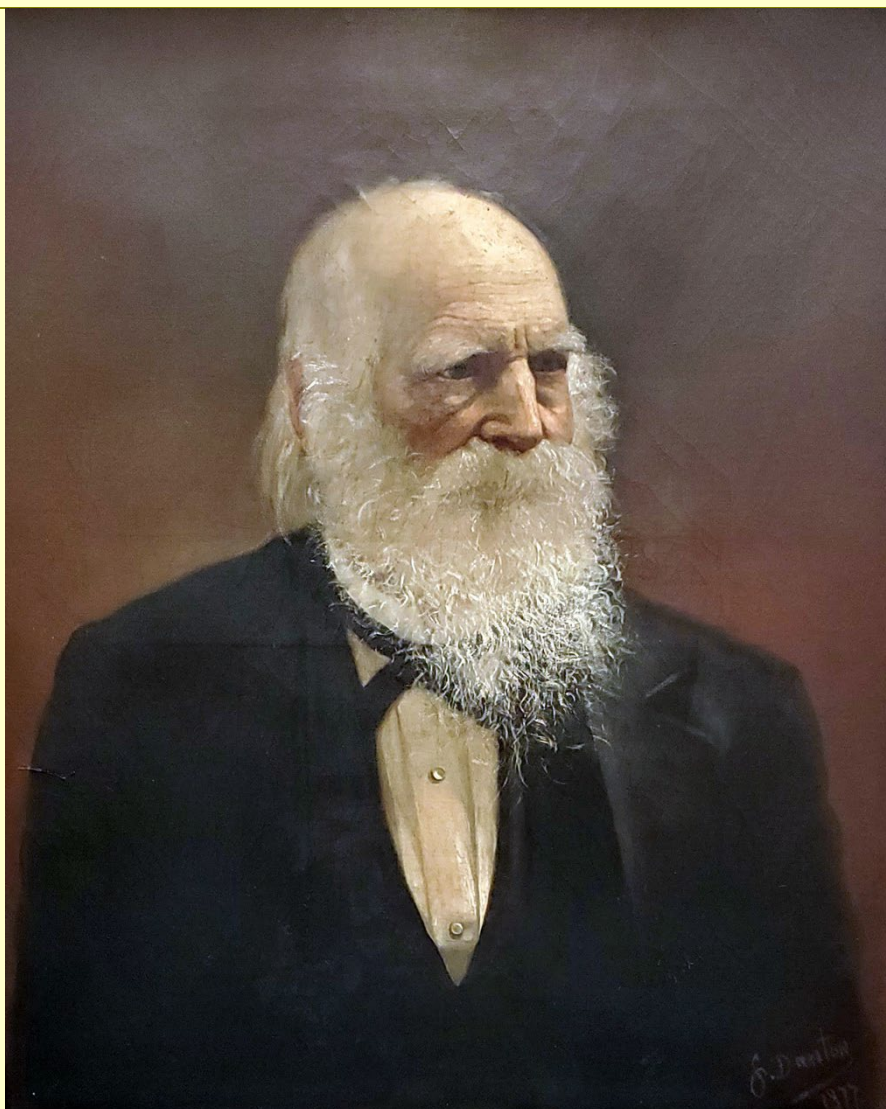


TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Editor's Message</u>	3
<u>From the President</u>	4
<u>Program for the LAMPHHS Annual Meeting, 2023</u>	5
<u>Member Profiles</u>	8
<u>News of the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine</u>	9
<u>Repository News</u>	10
<u>Announcements</u>	21
<u>Book Reviews</u>	23
<u>Advertisers</u>	32

EDITOR:

Stephen E. Novak
Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
New York, NY
sen13@cumc.columbia.edu

LAYOUT EDITOR:

Brooke Fox
Waring Historical Library
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
foxeb@musc.edu

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

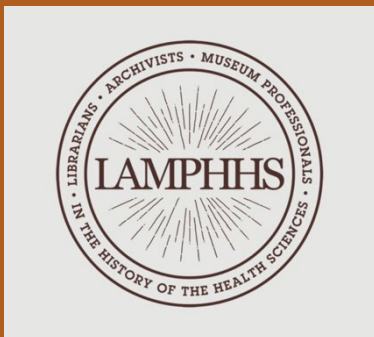
Jack Eckert
Retired
Cambridge, MA
jack.eckert1@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR:

Erin J. Torell
McGoogan Health Sciences Library
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE
erin.torell@unmc.edu

ASSOCIATE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR:

Arlene Shaner
New York Academy of Medicine
New York, NY
ashaner@nyam.org



Submissions for the Watermark:

The Watermark encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of LAMP HHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to Stephen Novak, as e-mail attachments. Visuals should be submitted as jpegs with a resolution of at least 300 dpi if possible. Copyright clearance for content and visuals are the responsibility of the author.

Image: William Cullen Bryant, founder of the New York Homeopathic Medical College, by Ferdinand Danton, Sr. See page 20 for more details.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome spring! And welcome to the spring issue of *The Watermark*! There's much to read about especially the program that we'll experience at the upcoming annual meeting in Ann Arbor. Besides that, there are articles on new acquisitions, ongoing exhibits, and a brand-new archives in Cincinnati, besides four book reviews. I hope you will enjoy the issue.

As I step down as Editor, I'd like to thank all the staff members who have made this publication possible during my tenure. First, to the present staff of Jack Eckert, Brooke Fox, Arlene Shaner, and Erin Torell; and then to their predecessors: Sharon Butcher, the late John Erlen, the late Pat Gallagher, Stephen Greenberg, Dominic Hall, Tegan Kehoe, Chris Lyons, Jenn Nelson, Megan Rosenbloom, and Martha Stone. And perhaps most importantly, to the many members of LAMPHHS who, year in and year out, write the articles that fill the pages of this publication.

I'm happy to announce that Bob Vietrogoski (Rutgers Biomedical and Health) and Tara Wink (University of Maryland, Baltimore) will begin as Co-Editors with the summer 2023 issue. They will be joined by Maria Shellman (University of Nebraska Medical Center) as the new Associate Editor. My deep thanks to all three for stepping up to these positions. I'm sure that they, along with the rest of the staff, will bring *The Watermark* to a new level of distinction.

I look forward to seeing many of you this May in Ann Arbor!

Stephen Novak
Editor, *The Watermark*

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's springtime! The time of our annual meeting and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with you in-person at Ann Arbor or virtually to celebrate achievements of our colleagues, learn about their successes, and discuss professional challenges. The Local Arrangements Committee led by Tamara Barnes has been hard at work for the past several months, and thanks to their efforts we will be able to experience the best of what Ann Arbor has to offer from tours of University of Michigan botanical gardens, museums, libraries, and archives to our conference venue at the Sindecuse

Museum of Dentistry. I'm thankful to everyone who submitted their proposals!

The Program Committee chaired by Chris Ryland is excited to present a diverse hybrid program—please check it online or in this issue. I love the opportunity to attend all presentations. You will also hear updates from the Ad Hoc Committee on Hazardous Materials and about the LAMPHHS-SAA joint HIPAA Resources portal, as well as several proposals aimed at improving and expanding services to the membership and developing guidelines for the ethical treatment of human remains.

The original Website Task Force continues to implement advanced features and for the first time the conference registration has been done through our new website. I would like to give a shoutout to its members: Meghan Kennedy, Lucy Ross, and Sarah Alger for their continued diligent work during the past three years. Starting in May, Cassie Nespor will assume the role of the Web Administrator. We are recruiting for the three content editor positions to join Cassie; let me know if you are interested.

The long-time editorial leads of *The Watermark* are stepping down after many years of exemplary service to the organization—Stephen Novak, Editor, and Jack Eckert, Associate Editor. Thank you, Steve and Jack for masterfully managing the editorial team! I'm delighted that three members have volunteered to take on these roles starting from the summer 2023 issue: Bob Vietrogoski and Tara Wink will serve as Co-Editors and Maria Shellman as an Associate Editor.

I would like to invite you to attend an upcoming virtual workshop (April 13) that has been organized by the Education Committee based on your feedback—Exhibit Development 101.

Hope to see many of you in-person and on-screen in May!

Polina Ilieva
President

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

PROGRAM FOR THE LAMPHHS ANNUAL MEETING, 2023

THURSDAY, MAY 11

All program sessions will be livestreamed for virtual attendees; virtual sessions will be projected onto a screen for in-person attendees. Ann Arbor time is EDT.

Eas	Cntrl	Mnt	Pac		
8:00-8:40	7:00-7:40	6:00-6:40	5:00-5:40	Registration and Continental Breakfast (Michigan League—911 N University Ave)	
8:40-8:50	7:40-7:50	6:40-6:50	5:40-5:50	Welcome Address , In Person (Michigan League—911 N University Ave)	Polina Ilieva, President, LAMPHHS, UCSF
8:50-9:50	7:50-8:50	6:50-7:50	5:50-6:50	Presentation Session 1 , Virtual (Michigan League—911 N University Ave)	Paula Summerly , U Texas Medical Branch, moderator Brooke Guthrie , Duke University, <i>“Engineering” Interest in the Rubenstein Library’s History of Medicine Collections</i> Rick Fraser , McGill University, <i>Development of a New Medical Museum</i>

					Julie Lemmon , Johns Hopkins <i>The History of Medical Museums in the United States</i>
9:50-10:05	8:50-9:05	7:50-8:05	6:50-7:05	Break	
10:05-11:05	9:05-10:05	8:05-9:05	7:05-8:05	Presentation Session 2 , Mixed presenting format (UM School of Dentistry 1011 N University Ave)	Steve Greenberg (In Person), Retired, moderator Steve Hussman (Virtual), University of Arizona, <i>Downwinders: The Ethics of Collecting (and Repatriation) of Health Records Documenting the Effects of the Nevada Test Site</i> Rebecca Williams, Lucy Waldrop, Carter Hulinsky (Virtual), Duke University Medical Center, <i>Documenting Duke's Involvement in Maternal Health in Durham: How We Acquired the Duke Midwifery Service Records and Started a Companion Oral History Collection</i> Shir Bach (Virtual), UNC Chapel Hill, <i>Guerrilla Virtual Reunification? The Morningside Hospital History Project in Context</i>
11:05-11:10	10:05-10:10	9:05-9:10	8:05-8:10	Break	
11:10-12:10	10:10-11:10	9:10-10:10	8:10-9:10	Keynote , In Person (UM School of Dentistry 1011 N University Ave)	<i>The Lessons of 1918 and the Creation of the CHM Influenza Digital Archive</i> J. Alex Navarro, PhD Assistant Director, University of Michigan Center for the History of Medicine
12:10-12:20	11:10-11:20	10:10-10:20	9:10-9:20	Break	
12:20-1:15	11:20-12:15	10:20-11:15	9:20-10:15	Lunch and Business Meeting (Michigan League, 911 N University Ave)	

The Watermark

Volume XLVI

Number 2 (Spring 2023)

1:15- 1:45	12:15- 12:45	11:15 - 11:45	10:15 - 10:45	Awards Presentation (Michigan League, 911 N University Ave)	
1:45- 1:55	12:45- 12:55	11:45 - 11:55	10:45 - 10:55	Break	
1:55- 3:10	12:55- 2:10	11:55 - 1:10	10:55 - 12:10	Presentation Session 3, In Person (UM School of Dentistry 1011 N University Ave)	<i>Do Less Harm: Ethics for Health Historians</i> Courtney Thompson , Mississippi State University Melissa Grafe , Yale University Amanda Mahoney , Dittrick Medical History Center Ayah Nuriddin , Princeton University Kylie Smith , Emory University
3:10- 3:15	2:10- 2:15	1:10- 1:15	12:10 - 12:15	Break	
3:15- 4:15	2:15- 3:15	1:15- 2:15	12:15 - 1:15	Presentation Session 4, Mixed presenting format (UM School of Dentistry 1011 N University Ave)	Individual Presentations Matthew Richardson , (Virtual), Texas Medical Center, <i>Focusing on Institutional Audiovisual Resources from the Texas Medical Center</i> Chiyong (Tali) Han , (Virtual), New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, <i>Brought Back to Life: New York Hospital Historical Casebooks</i> Lightning Sessions Anna Dhody , (Virtual) Mutter Museum, <i>A Not so "Small Project": The Mutter Museum Storage Renovation</i> Bob Vietrogoski , (Virtual), Rutgers University, <i>Gray Video: Opportunities in Online History of Medicine Presentations</i> Shelley McKellar , (In Person), Western University, <i>Creative Spaces: Evoking Collection Curiosity through Artifact Photography</i>
4:15	3:15	2:15	1:15	Adjournment	

MEMBER PROFILES

Name: Brandon Pieczko

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2020

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN

Current Employer and Position: Digital and Special Collections Librarian, Ruth Lilly Medical Library, Indiana University School of Medicine



Education: BA in Religion and Classical Studies from University of Evansville; MA in Asian Studies from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; MSLIS from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Professional interests: digital preservation, computational archival science, digital humanities, open access research and publishing, history of medicine, archival education.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: In my free time I enjoy reading, playing music, being outdoors, watching soccer (especially Everton FC and Indy Eleven), traveling, and spending time with my four-year-old daughter and my partner.

Name: Tara Wink



Member of LAMPHHS since: 2018

Hometown: Ephrata, PA

Current Employer and Position: Historical Collections Librarian and Archivist, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Education: MLS, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; BA History and German, Gettysburg College

Professional interests: I've been working in Special Collections and Archives since my first year at Gettysburg College. My entire career to this point has been spent in Special Collections at institutions of higher education. While working in archives and special collections I've developed an affinity for academic yearbooks—so much can be learned about an institution from its yearbooks. I'm also passionate about making materials available through digitization. Finally, a good part of my time is spent in marketing and outreach efforts such as exhibitions, blog posts, and social media to bring in new patrons.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: In addition to being an archivist, I'm also a wife and mother to a 9-year-old son. I spend a lot of my free time on the sidelines at baseball and soccer games and practices. We also recently purchased our first home, which needs a good amount of work, so any additional free time is spent on renovations and gardening.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

NEWS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE



[World Health Organization: Picturing Health for All](#) is a new online exhibition that launched in March 2023. Featuring images drawn from the NLM Prints & Photographs

collection, the exhibition presents a selection of photographs that highlight the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the 20th century. Since the 1950s, the WHO has commissioned accomplished photojournalists to capture the transformative impact health can have on communities worldwide. In recognition of this visual medium's unique power to inform and inspire, the images are featured in WHO publications, providing an intimate look at health issues around the globe. The exhibition explores topics including public health messaging, World Health Day—a yearly outreach campaign held on the anniversary of the WHO's founding—WHO partnerships with local governments, efforts to eradicate global epidemics, maternal health programs, and projects to tackle diseases associated with poor sanitation.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

REPOSITORY NEWS

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ESTABLISHES ARCHIVES

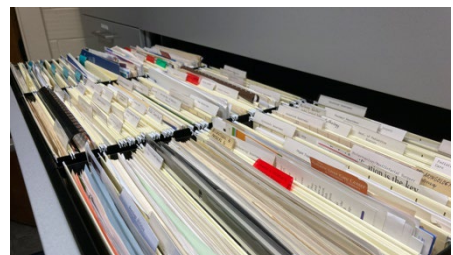


Mitchell-Nelson History Library, Archives and Museum

moving images, books and manuscripts and hospital records. I am excited by my new role and look forward to sharing our history.

The archives serve as our memory of the innovative thinkers who imagined possibilities and transformed ideas into reality to advance pediatric medicine. It's the legacy for which we build our

Hello! My name is Jim DaMico, and I am the new, full time Archivist for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I started my new journey in December 2021. Previously, I was the Curator of Audiovisual Collections at Cincinnati Museum Center. Working in healthcare is not where I thought I would be but Children's is a great and supportive organization with a history that goes back to 1883. The collection includes medical equipment, paintings, and photographs,



William Gerhardt Research Collection (MS-3)

future and dare to dream bigger to inspire future generations of researchers, scholars, and healthcare providers.



Early patient histories of the Episcopal Hospital, now Cincinnati Children's

I want to take the opportunity to let the LAMPHHS community know about Cincinnati Children's Archives [new website](#).

The website provides a central location to search our collections, request information, and learn more about our accomplishments and culture of caring. Check the Archives out and be inspired!

Follow the Archives

Twitter: @CCHMCArchives

Facebook: @CCHMCArchives

Instagram: CincinnatiChildrensArchives

Feel free to reach out to me at: james.damico@cchmc.org

All photographs by Jim DaMico, Archivist

NEWS FROM THE DITTRICK MEDICAL HISTORY CENTER

The Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University hosts two annual endowed lectures: the Skuy History of Contraception Lecture and the Zverina Lecture, which explores topics in the history of medical technology, broadly defined. As many of our fellow LAMPHHS members have also experienced, the audience for the Dittrick's events as well as the ways in which they prefer to engage with the museum have changed dramatically since the spring of 2020. We've been experimenting with intra-institutional collaborations, presentation formats, and logistical aspects such as location in an effort to match better the needs and interests of our constituents.

This year's Anton and Rose Zverina Lecture, *The Shadow of Slavery and the Measure of Miscegenation in American Eugenics*, was presented virtually by renowned historian Rana Hogarth, PhD. Held on the late afternoon of February 16th, 2023, this online-only talk was very well attended by a diverse group—faculty and students from CWRU,

community members including a local history librarian, and a large contingent of students and scholars from other academic institutions. We had more questions from the attendees than could fit into the allotted Q & A session. Overall, this online-only event was a success, with relatively few technical difficulties and positive feedback from the audience. There are limits to what a Zoom webinar can accomplish, of course, but this format worked well to accommodate the speaker's busy schedule and the unpredictability of Cleveland's winter weather.



Speaker Dr. Samira Mehta at the 2023 Skuy History of Contraception Lecture

The Dittrick's Percy Skuy History of Contraception Lecture, presented by religious studies scholar Samira K. Mehta, PhD, was a so-called "hybrid" event held in conjunction with the [Cleveland Humanities Festival](#). The topic, *Contraception, Culture Wars, and Congregations* attracted a broad virtual audience, while most of our in-person attendees were CWRU students and faculty. Since Dr. Mehta travelled to Cleveland, we were able to host a small breakfast in her honor with our department and a small

group of faculty members—an alternative to the traditional speaker dinner ideally suited for the early-bird Dittrick team. We were thrilled to provide an opportunity for our campus community to meet with such a prominent interdisciplinary scholar. This was a terrific talk that sparked a lot of questions and discussions within our in-person audience. While this event was also an overall success, the experience for our virtual attendees was less than ideal. For more information regarding the potential pitfalls of hosting hybrid events via Zoom, please ask a Dittrick team member for details during the LAMPHHS conference and feel free to buy them a drink.

We anticipate that our 2024 offerings will be a mix of in-person, virtual, and hopefully less harrowing hybrid events featuring new scholarship in the history of medicine.

Amanda L. Mahoney

Chief Curator

Dittrick Medical History Center

NEW OHSU EXHIBIT FEATURES ORIGINAL ART FROM RENOWNED MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR FRED HARWIN

Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Historical Collections & Archives is pleased to introduce our new exhibit, **Illustrating Medicine: The Visionary Work of Fred Harwin**, curated by Director of Special Collections Maria Cunningham. The exhibit features materials from the newly acquired **Fred Harwin collection** of over 400 original

ILLUSTRATING MEDICINE The Visionary Work of Fred Harwin

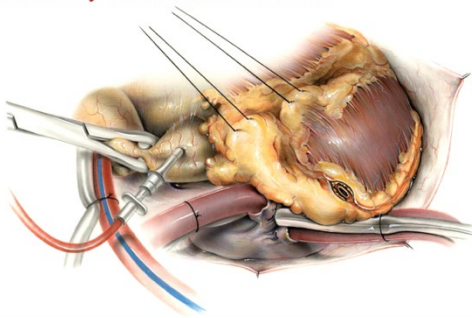


Exhibit from Historical Collections & Archives
www.ohsu.edu/historical-collections-archives

medical and surgical illustrations. The acquisition was made possible with the support of the OHSU Foundation and Dr. Richard Mullins. The exhibit is on view in the interior Library entrance until May 2023.

Fred Harwin's career spanned multiple disciplines, from medical illustrator, to ocularist, to artist. While serving as Director of the Department of Medical Illustration at OHSU,

Harwin collaborated with renowned cardiac surgeons Dr. Brad Harlan and Dr. Albert Starr to create Volumes I and II of the Manual of Cardiac Surgery. In unprecedented fashion, Harwin was listed as a co-author on the Manual's covers alongside Drs. Starr and Harlan. The Manual marked a breakthrough in medical texts by being the first in cardiac surgery to include full-color illustrations from the surgeon's perspective. They were also the first texts to illustrate the placement of the famed **Starr-Edwards heart valve**.

Harwin is renowned for developing a new illustration technique for the Manual that he terms "Scientific Realism". The technique involves layering media on both sides of frosted mylar using layers of transparent and opaque watercolor, airbrush, color pencil, and pastel. The result was a multi-layered image that accurately depicted the



Original surgical illustrations from the Illustrating Medicine exhibit. Fred Harwin Collection [2022-014].

layers and minute details exactly as a surgeon would see them.

The exhibit highlights original art Harwin produced for the Manual of Cardiac Surgery, promotional art for medical supply and publishing companies, and artwork done for OHSU. Incorporating original illustrations, promotional advertisements, art, and artifacts, the exhibit examines the evolution of Harwin's work from his early career to the present.



Fred Harwin speaking during the exhibit opening

The exhibit opening reception was held in the OHSU library at the end of February 2023. The event was open to the public and visitors included OHSU students, medical practitioners, and local artists. Fred Harwin gave a short talk about his drawing technique, career trajectory, and the current field of medical illustration. Afterwards, Harwin

answered several questions from guests and shared anecdotes about his experiences drawing in crowded operating rooms.

Illustrating Medicine will be on view till May 2023. An expanded [online exhibit](#) is available on the [Historical Collections & Archives website](#) along with the collection [finding aid](#).

Maria Cunningham

Director of Special Collections

Historical Collections & Archives

Oregon Health & Sciences University

NEWS FROM THE AUFSES ARCHIVES AT MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

The Aufses Archives at Mount Sinai has had a busy two quarters so far. A complete renovation of the main office had us packing up the whole room right down to the walls in November, adding a new color scheme to the room along with all new furniture,

providing more space for researchers, workspace for project staff, and a reconfiguring of the storage for photographs, subject clipping files, and biographical files.

Our next project was compiling a list of the major historical milestone anniversaries of all our hospitals. Some of the significant anniversaries include the 160th anniversary of the death of James H. Roosevelt, leading to the founding of the Roosevelt Hospital, now Mount Sinai West; the introduction of female physicians to several of our hospitals (110 years ago for Mount Sinai Hospital; 100 years ago for St Luke's/Mount Sinai Morningside); and the 20th anniversary of Dr. Kenneth Davis as CEO over the Health System. Details of this list can be found [here](#). The milestone lists are distributed to the institutional leaders and the Board of Trustees and were used as the basis for new exhibits in the display cases in the lobby of the Annenberg Building and Mount Sinai West.

The Archives also received a Digitization Project Grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) allowing us to digitize significant materials from the Mount Sinai Beth Israel collection. Digital archivist Stefana Breitwieser has been packing materials to send to a vendor and preparing to make the material available through [our catalog](#).

Stefana also continues to migrate materials from our old digital systems in to the new Archivematica and AtoM catalog, which enabled the decommissioning of two servers last year. Our year-end statistics wrap up noted over 12,000 inquiries to the catalog in 2022 and 370 research requests fulfilled.

Lastly, the Roosevelt family recently donated nearly one hundred photographs to the Archives, many of which are new to the collection or are original images from the 1957 history of the Hospital, along with several volumes and paperwork. Andrew Roosevelt delivered the materials personally, and we were happy to show him the archives space and some of the materials in the Roosevelt Hospital collection, as well as the new catalog.

A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR THE OFFICE OF NIH HISTORY AND STETTEN MUSEUM

Over the last year, the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum (ONHM) has expanded our staff and collections. We have welcomed a director as well as a collections manager, an assistant archivist, and a senior historian. The additional

personnel along with changes on the NIH campus has allowed ONHM to grow and diversify our object, archival, and digital holdings.



Our archivist sorting through some material at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

M-19-21, a mandate issued by NARA on June 28, 2019, stated that all federal records and processes must become digital by December 31, 2022. Although the deadline has been delayed to June 30, 2024, the mandate has already spurred many NIH institutes, centers, and offices to go beyond the demands and assess their backlog of materials. The main ICOs (institutes, centers, and offices) we received materials from were the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the Fogarty International Center, and the Office of Management Analysis.

Besides acquisitions from different institutes, we have also received several personal collections. Many scientists who meant to retire during the height of the pandemic waited until it started to wane, and they could return to campus before formally retiring. Others used the pandemic to go through their enormous collections of documents they have accrued over their long careers. Notable personal collections include Gary Peck, the scientist who discovered the dermatological benefits of retinoids, now known as Accutane; Lois Cohen, who helped start the NIH's global dental health programs; Alan Peterkofsky, a biochemist who worked at several NIH institutes and with many Nobel Prize winners; and George Dunham, who worked for the NIH's computer and technology center for many years.

ONHM's digital assets have also increased in recent months. We continue to collect around NIH's role during the pandemic, absorbing hundreds of photos, videos, and oral histories from individuals like Julie Erb-Alvarez, who was deployed to Japan to attend to the Diamond Princess cruise situation in March of 2020, and numerous materials directly from NIH ICOs. With assistance from NIH's communications departments, we were able to preserve many of the ICOs digital records, such as electronic newsletters, reports, infographics, and presentations. We have also made a concentrated effort to capture NIH's



Squirrel Free Seed Saver was developed using the National Cancer Institute's research on capsaicin.

specialized programs addressing topics like precision medicine and opioid addiction and diversity initiatives including NIH UNITE, which was spearheaded in February of 2021 to tackle inequities in the biomedical and behavioral sciences at the NIH.

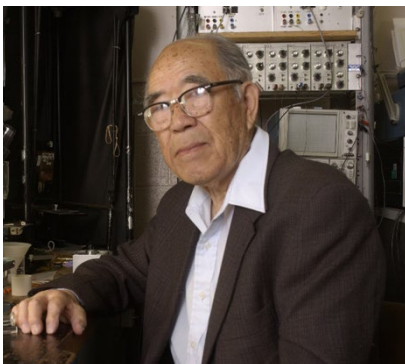


Baseball cap from our Dr. Francis Collins collection commemorates President Barack Obama's 2009 visit to NIH campus. President Obama gave a speech entitled "Recovery to Discovery," on the 2009 Recovery Act, which included the largest single boost to biomedical funding in history.

Alongside archival materials, ONHM has acquired many new objects for our museum collection. The NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) has maintained a collection of industry products developed using NIH Intramural Research patents. This collection, transferred into our care, has everything from lifesaving vaccines to birdseed.

In 2022, we also received a large collection of gifts to former Director Dr. Francis Collins. Collins was NIH Director from 2009-2021 and during that time accepted a wide array of objects from national and international colleagues and guests. From crystal awards to baseball caps, this collection of gifts maps the course of his career.

Our Ichiji Tasaki collection was given a new perspective thanks to a donation from his family. Dr. Tasaki was an NIH scientist for 56 years and made groundbreaking discoveries about the nervous system. This new acquisition of both archival material and objects adds a personal touch to the laboratory equipment already in our collection. Awards, passports, family photos, letters, and even his signature glasses (below) will help us tell the story of the man as well as the scientist.



For our Dr. Ichiji Tasaki collection, a combination of objects and archives enhance the historical record and the stories we can tell. Dr. Tasaki can be seen wearing these glasses in many of the archival photos we received.



**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND
PUBLIC HEALTH, THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE—SPRING 2023****Color Our Collections**

Color Our Collections 2023 took place February 6 through 10, featuring 92 coloring books from around the world. Check out the NYAM Library's [2023 coloring book](#) highlighting climate change, and keep coloring at [Color Our Collections!](#)

Museum Mile Festival

We're now planning for Museum Mile Festival 2023, on June 13 along Fifth Avenue from the Metropolitan Museum of Art at 82nd Street to the Africa Center at 110th. Drop by the Academy that evening—we're at 103rd Street—for fun with flip books, skeletons, and coloring.

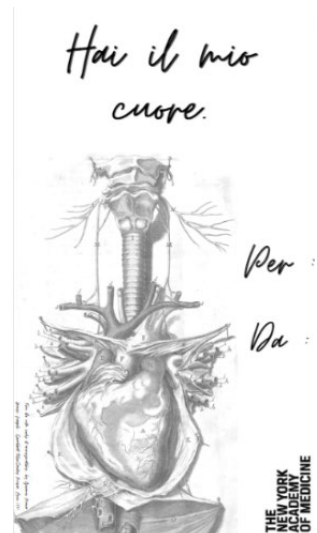
From the Library Blog, *Books, Health, and History*

On our blog we celebrated [Color Our Collections](#),



Typis Montis...
from [Mundus
Subterraneus](#)
by Athanasius
Kircher
(Amsterdam, 1665.)

From [De motu cordis et
aneurysmatibus](#)... by Giovanni
Maria Lancisi (Neapoli, 1738.)



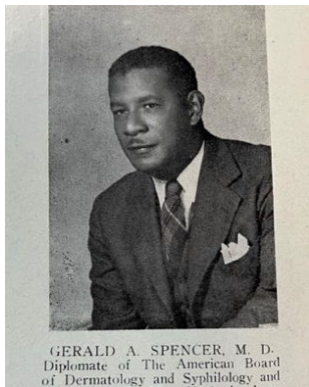
made some valentines with images from our collection

and considered Sayings As Mad As A March Hare.



From volume two of George Shaw's General Zoology (c. 1800-1826)

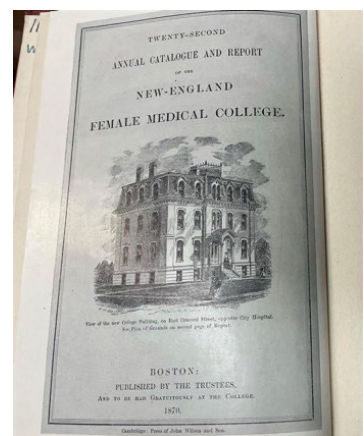
Black History Month/Women's History Month.



During February and March, the Library noted Black History Month and Women's History Month through a series of social media posts.

In February we started by delving into Dr. Gerald A. Spencer's *Medical Symphony*. His call for harmony among "the various creeds and races" remains the course for equity in Public Health.

For Women's History Month in March, we investigated the history of The New England Female Medical College. This was one of the first schools that allowed women to graduate with a degree in medicine. It was also the first American medical college to award a Black woman a doctorate in 1864. Check out these and other stories on our social media pages.



"History Nights"

The Library partnered with the NYAM Fellows Section in the History of Medicine and Public Health to put on "History Nights"—two evenings of virtual presentations, one on

March 28 devoted to papers on pandemics, and the second on April 24 on a variety of topics. Check out the video at the Library's [Events and Programs](#) page and on our [YouTube channel](#).

NYAM Library Newsletter

Beginning March 2023, the Library's monthly e-newsletter, highlighting our events, collections, social media, and blog, [Books, Health, and History](#), merged into the [Academy's newsletter](#). Sign up for that e-newsletter [here](#) and peruse current and earlier issues [here](#).



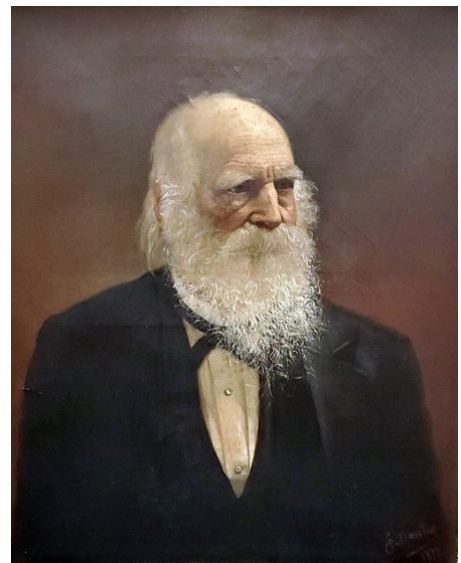
Follow NYAM on Social Media!

If you want to take a closer look at our collection, please give us a follow. We are active on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). You can find an almost daily showcase of interesting finds from our archives!

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE ACQUIRES HISTORIC PORTRAIT

New York Medical College has acquired a historic portrait of noted poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), a founder of the College and longtime President of its Board of Trustees.

As a poet, William Cullen Bryant was one of the major figures in nineteenth-century American literature, best remembered for his 1817 work "Thanatopsis." As editor of the *New York Evening Post*, Bryant was a crusading abolitionist and social reformer. In 1860 Bryant introduced Abraham Lincoln of Illinois at his first public appearance in New York, the "Cooper Union Speech" which launched Lincoln's successful campaign for the U.S. Presidency.



Bryant was a prominent lay adherent of homeopathy, a system of sectarian medicine introduced to the United States from Germany in the early 19th century. His 1841 lecture “Popular Considerations on Homoeopathia” helped popularize the system, which gained a growing number of converts among New York City physicians in the wake of the 1848 cholera epidemic. In 1860 Bryant was among the founders of the Homeopathic Medical College of the State of New York in New York City, the forerunner of the modern New York Medical College. From 1862 until his death in 1878 he served as President of the College’s Board of Trustees.

The portrait, whose acquisition and restoration was sponsored by alumnus Jay Tartell, M.D. ’82, dates from the final year of Bryant’s life. It is the work of Ferdinand Danton, Sr. (1850-1912), a prominent painter of portraits and religious subjects who was the founding chairman of the art department at Fordham University. The portrait is now on permanent display in the lobby of the College’s Medical Education Center.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

W. BRUCE FYE MEDICAL HISTORY RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine is pleased to announce its annual W. Bruce Fye Medical History Research Travel Grant. The grant is available to physicians, historians, medical students, graduate students, faculty members, and independent scholars who wish to use archival and library resources at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The grant (up to \$1,500 in one calendar year) may be used for transportation, lodging, food, and incidental expenses relating to the research project. It is available to residents of the United States and Canada who live more than 75 miles from Rochester.

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine houses archival collections that contain official records of the Clinic and its administrative offices, official and unofficial publications, departmental annual reports, committee minutes, photographic and moving images, sound recordings, personal papers, and memorabilia relating to the Mayo Clinic, its mission, programs, and people. To search the archival holdings, please visit the [online catalog \(MAX\)](#) .

The W. Bruce Fye History of Medicine Library is a specialized library housing important collections in the history of medicine and allied sciences. Several thousand volumes of rare medical classics (from 1479) and early journal literature (from 1665) comprise the core collection of primary literature on all aspects of medicine and allied fields. More recently published histories, biographies, facsimiles, and other support materials comprise the remainder of the collection of some 23,000 total volumes. Special strengths include anesthesiology, cardiology, dermatology, immunology, ophthalmology and neurology. The library also has a large collection of Mayo physician bound reprints. To search the library catalog, please visit the library [website](http://librarycatalog.mayo.edu/) (<http://librarycatalog.mayo.edu/>).

Applicants should send by e-mail as attachments the items listed below to Renee Ziemer:

- Abstract of your project (250 words) stating the general scope and purpose
- How historical resources at Mayo Clinic will further your research
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae (3 pages or less)
- One letter of reference that includes comments on your project

Timeline for 2023 grant:

Application deadline (all materials): November 1, 2023

Successful applicant(s) will be notified by December 31, 2023

Visit(s) to Rochester must be completed by December 15, 2024

Contact information:

Renee Ziemer, coordinator

W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine & Mayo Historical Suite

Mayo Clinic

200 First Street SW

Rochester, MN 55905

Telephone: (507) 284-2585

E-mail: ziemer.renee@mayo.edu

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

BOOK REVIEWS

Camper English. *Doctors and Distillers: The Remarkable Medicinal History of Beer, Wine, Spirits and Cocktails*. London: Penguin Books, 2022. 348 pages. Paperback. \$17.99 ISBN: 9780143134923

From the first page to the last, this book is rich with evidence of the historical interconnection between alcohol and medicine. It traces the ancient medicinal remedies using beer, wine, and spirits all the way up to contemporary disciplines and methods that developed as a result, including chemistry, microbiology, “the understanding and identification of elements, gases, and the germ theory of disease,” and more (xv). This review highlights some of the key themes discussed within this comprehensive work, though it would take many more pages to relay all the information it offers. With this detailed history, Camper English reaches a wide audience with equal parts relevance and interest for both medical historians and modern-day mixologists and certainly “gives the reader an appreciation of alcohol’s long and lush medicinal history” (xvi).

Taking a chronological approach, English dives right in with the first chapter tracking the various uses of fermented fruits and beer in both agricultural and daily life, citing the first recorded instructions to treat a wound from a Sumerian tablet dating to 2100 BCE. The tablet mentions “‘three healing gestures’ of washing a wound with beer and hot water, making plasters of herbs, ointments, and oils, and bandaging the wound” (4). Several pages are dedicated to Hippocrates and his influence upon ancient Greek medicine and the later development of formalized medicine. His main contribution, which resonated long after him, was the belief that medical ailments should be treated with physical cures and remedies rather than the long-held belief of the use of supernatural amulets and prayers to ward off disease. One of the physical ingredients identified by one of many Hippocratic authors was wine and its wide range of uses from medicinal treatments to daily intake to promote general good health. Specifically, English also highlights Galen as another major figure in the history of medicine who was a proponent of humoral theory, which later became an interchangeable term with “Galenic medicine.” Providing countless examples, English deconstructs modern-day mixed alcoholic beverages to identify different ancient ingredients used to balance the four humors of the body and ward off sickness and disease.

Moving on from the ancients, the following pages cover a brief overview of alchemy and some of the major figures within that movement, particularly Paracelsus. He shared the

strong belief in the power of the quintessence, or as it was believed, the fifth heavenly element that could be extracted via distillation to be used as a healing property. Drawing on this belief, John French's 1651 work, *Art of Distillation*, provides "recipes for making aqua vitae out of beer and mead in addition to wine, and alcohol is used in more recipes where it was infused with animal parts, vegetables, minerals, and metals before being redistilled. These ingredients were used for both their practical and their spiritual significance" (55). Throughout this chapter, English identifies the strong overlap of medical and scientific beliefs that existed, while also highlighting alcohol as a key ingredient throughout their later division into two separate disciplines.

Going beyond the scientific community, English also discusses the monastic relationship with wine and ale brewing in the early modern period, for both personal use and to fund the religious institution. He highlights important historical events that enhanced the brewing pursuits of monks and nuns, such as the Black Death (active from 1346 to 1353) and the successive plagues that followed. As plague emerged at a time when epidemiology was still very much in development and the important connection between hygiene and disease had not been established, more creative measures were taken to combat it, such as "special preventative plague beers [that] were brewed, and 'plague waters' [that] were stilled," and of course, the emergence of "wine windows" in bars and shops to reduce physical contact (76), the last of which was reinstated during the most recent COVID-19 pandemic. While doctors certainly did attempt to treat the plague, they were armed with limited and often incorrect medical knowledge, and thus, this epidemic was the catalyst for the ongoing expansion of large distilleries and commercial reproduction implemented by monks and nuns, cementing them as "the keepers and promoters of medical, agricultural, and alchemical knowledge in Europe [who] did much to improve beer, wine and medicinal liqueurs" (96).

In the following chapter, English discusses the important contributions of Louis Pasteur and his work with wine and beer, which led to the development of germ theory, plus the uses of carbonation and fermentation to enhance a better understanding of gases and microbial science, largely due to the work of Joseph Priestley (who discovered oxygen in August of 1774). Additionally, he highlights how this influenced Victorian surgeon Joseph Lister, the son of a wine merchant, who helped prove the importance of sterilization in surgical practice and led to the eventual debunking of the miasma theory of disease. The work of these important figures and others, "inspired new theories about the cause of diseases and methods to kill germs" (125), and the use of alcohol to do so, which further established a proper understanding of contemporary medicine.

In addition to wine and beer, English tracks the emergence and evolution of various spirits in connection to medicine, including brandy, whiskey, gin, vodka, and others. In his discussion of the introduction of whiskey, a source from the 1500s lists some of the believed virtues of Irish whiskey, stating that “taken in moderation it kills flesh worms, slows aging, strengthens youth, helps digestion, cuts phlegm, lightens the mind, quickens the spirit, cures dropsy” (205), and more. To combat the 1918 Spanish Influenza, hot whiskey toddies were given as time permitted. In a more recent instance, a 105-year-old woman attributes surviving COVID-19 to “eating nine gin-soaked raisins daily” (181). Additionally, several popular alcohol brands (Buffalo Trace, Bayou Rum Distillery, and Tito’s Handmade Vodka) were donated to make hand sanitizer during COVID-19 to combat medical supply shortages. These are just a few of the countless examples that English uses to support the dominant role that spirits played, and often continue to play, in medical treatment in addition to their obvious recreational use.

In contrast to listing the various uses of spirits, beer, and wine to promote better health, English also shows the emergence of patent medicine and tinctures, legislative laws that were enacted to reduce the distribution of unsafe or low-quality spirits, and eventually the coming of prohibition. He highlights some of the most dangerous ingredients circulating in patent medicine including cocaine, lithium, opium, snake oil, and mercury just to name a few. The popular use of these ineffective, and often dangerous or fatal, falsely advertised “cure-alls” led to the passing of various combative legislative acts such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 to help authenticate products and raise standards of distribution.

The following chapters complete English’s timeline, tracking it through the early 20th century to modern day, and include an emphasis on the re-emergence of controversial ingredients in contemporary mixology, such as activated charcoal, wormwood, cinchona bark and others that still pose a risk if taken in high volume. However, for English, the emphasis is consistently on the amount of consumption as many negative affects come from larger quantities of alcohol. Taken in moderate amounts, he highlights recent studies that suggest that it is the social relationships that often stem from recreational use that tend to improve any associated quality of life more so than the intrinsic medicinal value. Camper English sums up his detailed and impressive work with the simple fact that “much like medicine, alcohol can have a positive health impact or a very negative one, and this is not new information...[thus] as with medicine, the dose makes the poison” (315).

Anna L. Kaetz

Assistant Professor and Digital Strategy and Metadata Librarian
University of Alabama at Birmingham

John Strauss. *Dr. Wilhelm Strauss, Pediatrician: a 20th Century Odyssey*. Horn, Austria: Verlag Berger, 2022. 346 pages. Paperback. € 49.90. SBN: 9783850289733

Dr. Wilhelm Strauss, Pediatrician: a 20th Century Odyssey centers around the life and family of Czech physician, Wilhelm Strauss. Born to a well-to-do Jewish family in Prague (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), Strauss would go on to study medicine at the German University of Prague and serve as a field doctor during World War I. He would marry Therese, a devout Catholic and a highly trained nurse whose work included service in the First Balkan War of the early 20th Century.

Considered a stern and serious pupil, Wilhelm opened a successful pediatric practice in the town of Wiener Neustadt, Austria, in the 1920s. The family would grow by three sons, including the father of the book's author, Felix. Strauss' ideas and methods included the importance of childcare at its earliest stages, home visits to new mothers, and an emphasis on the benefits of hygiene. In the post-World War I years—which included the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—the new nation of Austria witnessed social democratic reforms take place including policies in public health and medicine. Along with running his growing pediatric practice, Strauss was also tasked with running the health department of Wiener Neustadt.

The Strauss family would forever be changed as Hitler and the Nazi regime implemented *Anschluss*, the annexation of German speaking Austria into Nazi Germany in March of 1938. Though born into a Jewish family, Strauss did not consider himself religious, being described as a “religious sceptic [sic] if not an atheist” (p. 27).

Nevertheless, Strauss' Jewish heritage was seen by the Nazis as enough reason to seize his medical practice and replace him with an “Aryan” doctor (p. 13). As with other victims of the Third Reich, Strauss' citizenship was stripped away. He was suddenly a man without a country and soon his family would be uprooted from their homeland. The resulting escape of Wilhelm and Therese through Eastern Europe and ultimately to Baghdad proved to be their salvation but it came at a tremendous cost and heartbreak. They would ultimately settle in Rome, New York, with Wilhelm serving as the head of New York State Children's Hospital.

The biography of Dr. Strauss is the passion project of his grandson, Dr. John Strauss, who currently serves as a professor of music at Luther College in Iowa. John's research and archival savvy are present as we are given an in-depth look at the life of Wilhelm through images, government records, school grades, and student evaluations from his life in Austria and the current-day Czech Republic. John, an accomplished musician, even includes his love of music by naming each chapter after a piece of music composed by Robert Schumann.

Distributed by Austrian publishers, Verlag Berger, *Dr. Wilhelm Strauss, Pediatrician: a 20th Century Odyssey* is printed as a polyglot with the original German text displayed on the left page with the English translation on the right. John Strauss gives a good overview of the history of medical schools and training from Prague to Vienna in the early 20th Century and his inclusion of a family tree allows for easy tracking of the names mentioned throughout the book. John Strauss' passion is evident and direct relation to the subjects give the book a more personal feel. The book also serves as a reminder of the horrors of war brought upon families but also the stories of perseverance and hope.

Devoting his life to medicine and pediatric care, Wilhelm Strauss was a man of serious conviction who could demonstrate a stern personality, but John is able to create a portrait of his grandfather that is likable and altruistic. John's inclusion of a medical pamphlet and lecture, both written by Wilhelm Strauss, gives the reader an inside look into many of the progressive ideas he encouraged among medical professionals and new parents—home visits, preventative care, hygiene care, early infant care, clean home ventilation, isolation of sick patients, healthy diets, and the dangers of tobacco, among others.

This was an engrossing read, and I was left wanting to learn more about Wilhelm and Therese's time and connections in Baghdad, their eventual move to Rome, New York, and work at New York State Children's Hospital. However, John does a fine job of combing through the archives and family history to develop the astonishing tale of his grandfather and family while also paying special focus to Wilhelm's work as a physician and public servant.

J. Roger Peña

Research Services Librarian

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Duke University

Sarah B. Rodriguez. *Love Surgeon: A Story of Trust, Harm, and the Limits of Medical Regulation*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2020. 257 pages. Paperback. \$33.26. ISBN: 978-1-9788-0095-0

Sarah Rodriguez succeeds in bringing together medical history and true crime into one volume. *Love Surgeon* is an easy read that takes the reader through the cautionary story of James Caird Burt, Jr., an OBGYN in Dayton, Ohio, who performed his “surgery of love” on patients without their permission or their true understanding of the procedure to which they were subjected. Rodriguez’s stated goal in telling this story is “by considering the Burt story within the ‘social and structural realities’ of medical practice, research, and regulation, one can use the specifics of this case to consider larger questions about how medicine regulates itself” (5).

James C. Burt was born in August 1921 and received his medical license in 1951 in gynecology and obstetrics. In the mid-1950s he began to perform his own version of an episiotomy repair on patients in his care. The episiotomy was the standard of gynecologic care following vaginal birth and had a standard treatment procedure. In Burt’s mind he could improve on the procedure and at the same time correct what he deemed as a woman’s “pathological anatomy” to enhance their—in reality their husband’s—sex lives (15). By 1975, Burt estimated that he had performed his signature “love surgery” on more than 4,000 women. He eventually began offering it as an elective surgery to women for whom he was not delivering a child and continued to perform the procedure until 1987. He was sued in 1988 by several of his former patients for malpractice and featured in a prime-time news journalism program that brought widespread awareness to his activities. In 1989 he voluntarily surrendered his medical license.

Rodriguez interweaves this tale with analysis of the history and causality of the time. She also takes up the idea of medical regulation, or the lack thereof outside of the profession itself, and how in practice this does or does not work. “Because of their membership in a professional community, doctors are required to uphold community standards and stop transgression of those standards...professionally physicians were (and are) required to regulate their own...[and] the only entity with any legal power to regulate physicians was (and is) the state medical board, dominated by physicians” (95-96). Yet in the Burt case these protections for patients broke down in a variety of ways from lack of state resources to lack of patient complaints to a lack of appetite on the part of the state board to hold the small minority of physicians accountable who were not caring for their

patients. At the heart of this was an erosion of public trust in the profession—a trust that the “one in the white coat” knows what is best and has the patient’s best interests at heart. 99% of the time this is absolutely accurate, but in those cases where it isn’t, there must be mechanisms in place to protect the public—and the profession—from these bad actors.

“Medicine enjoys a high degree of autonomy, free of explicit government oversight...self-regulation, however, is a privilege, not a right” (186). Rodriguez’s book and the Burt case are a clarion call to the profession as a whole and the author points out that others have raised similar concerns within the last decade. At its heart, self-regulation must overcome a singular hurdle—doctors are human too. And as humans, they also want to be liked by their peers, are concerned with being the person to make the wrong call on whether a fellow physician has crossed a line, and feel the weight of the responsibility of ending someone’s career or, on the other hand, allowing patients to continue to be harmed by someone they should trust.

In the end, Rodriguez doesn’t attempt to solve the issue—as if there is only one silver bullet that can fix such a complex problem. Instead, she highlights this example as an opportunity for each medical professional to examine their own biases and actions and ask the question, “What would I have done?” In so doing, perhaps they will be better prepared to deal with the next Dr. Burt situation that arises. Additionally, Rodriguez leaves the lay reader with their own opportunity to protect their well-being. In the appendix is a list of questions or considerations to ask before having an elective procedure. In this way, patients can still trust but verify that this is the best solution for them.

Carrie J. Meyer, MA

Assistant Professor & Head, Robert S. Wigton Special Collections and Archives
McGoogan Health Sciences Library, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Felicity M. Turner. *Proving Pregnancy: Gender, Law, and Medical Knowledge in Nineteenth Century America*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2022. 228 pages. \$28.00 for the paperback on Amazon. ISBN: 978-1-4696-6970-0.

Proving Pregnancy provides a detailed history of how women were tried for infanticide during the nineteenth century. The book was fascinating. There were many times that I forgot I was reading the book to provide a book review.

The introduction—"An Anatomy of Knowledge"—provides the background on infanticide and why it is important to understand that this was another way for men in the nineteenth century to control women's bodies. Chapters one through six provide information from the nineteenth century, from before the Civil War to just before the turn of the twentieth century.

Each chapter begins with a story from several newspapers in states such as North Carolina and Connecticut. Many stories are about enslaved women and poor white women. No stories about "civilized" women existed because authorities believed they would never do away with their newborn children. In the stories, the infant is usually not found with the mother but has been hidden in various places. In the early chapters, the mother is often accused by her owner or a person within her community who thought she was in the "family way." The community calls an inquest, and a jury must determine if the mother did away with the infant. In the pre-Civil War period, the jury would call witnesses such as family, friends, community members, and often midwives. These people, mostly women, could tell the jurors if they thought the woman had been pregnant and if they had heard of or had seen a live-born infant. The midwives at the time could claim to be the most knowledgeable about a woman's body.

As we get closer to the Civil War, when the importation of humans had been outlawed for many years, the slaveholders considered the unborn their property. If an enslaved woman had a child that did not live, the woman would be brought before a jury. The slaveholder claimed the children as property and thus would not have a forthcoming source of income or an unpaid future employee. The charge of infanticide was accompanied by a death sentence if found guilty. Which, unfortunately, for the woman meant she would lose her life, and the slaveholder would lose two unpaid employees.

As the book progresses, you discover how physicians, often trained in Europe, began to assume control of obstetrics. They could find ways to prove if an infant had been born alive. They were able to examine enslaved women's bodies (remember property). If a white woman was accused, another woman usually examined her unless she was poor. However, women were excluded from the medical profession at this time because they were thought unfit to be physicians.

Dr. Turner also outlines the beginnings of medical examiners' offices beyond the community inquests. The juries were always made up of men, and sometimes after the Civil War, juries included Black men. The juries would request information from the physicians. The physicians would often be able to tell what happened to the infant. However, unless the woman was Black, they did not examine the woman's body. Later

in the nineteenth century, when the field of obstetrics had truly been established, examinations increased.

During this time period, the American Medical Association was established, which called for the licensure of physicians who had attended medical school and done "post-graduate" studies to qualify as a professional. States established licensing boards with exclusion criteria, often excluding women and Black physicians. By the end of the century, it became generally acknowledged that male physicians were the best people to provide authoritative knowledge to interpret evidence brought before a jury in an infanticide case. The book's final chapter offers insight into how physicians thought of women in the late nineteenth century. Women were believed to be weaker than men and there was a prevalent idea that they often went insane or mad after giving birth because of the trials of childbirth. This condition was another way men could limit women's power over their bodies. Dr. Turner provides a section on the treatises of Horatio Storer, a physician who disliked professionals in the emerging field of psychiatry. He claimed that as a physician, he knew more about women and the working of their minds than those in the mentalist field. It is a fascinating section and well worth reading.

Proving Pregnancy is well-written and rich in detail. If you have a medicolegal historical collection or an obstetrics and gynecology historical collection, it would be an excellent book to have in your library.

Mary A. Hyde, MSLS AHIP

Medical Librarian

Ascension Health Florida Ministry

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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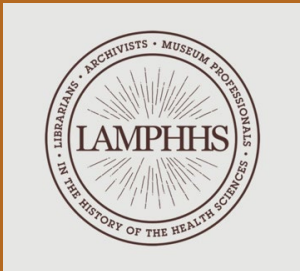
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[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)