

MEDICAL



COLLECTORS



ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER #42 **November, 2003**

Dear Colleagues:

This is the eighteenth year of the Medical Collectors Association. The primary purpose of this mailing is to announce the next meeting of the group, which is being organized by Dr. Norman Medow and will be held in San Francisco on April 22-25, 2004.

Norman has done a great job of putting together a really interesting meeting at a very attractive site. In this regard, we are looking for some of you to volunteer as speakers. The Scientific Program is not yet completed and either Norman or I should be contacted if any of you are interested in giving a lecture for this meeting. Norman can be reached at (212) 644-5100.

The final program and announcement will be sent out sometime next year, well prior to the meeting. However, please note that space in the hotel is extremely limited. Norman has been able to obtain a very attractive price for the rooms but this is only guaranteed up to a certain number, after which the price will revert. Therefore, please send in your reservations and bookings as soon as possible to assure the best possible hotel rate.

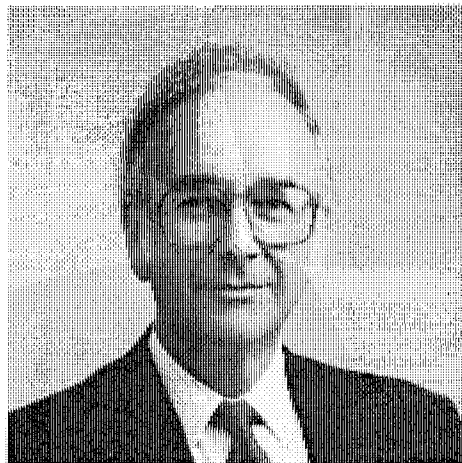
I am also enclosing with this letter, a copy of The New York Academy of Medicine Rare Book Room News, which is always of some interest and which I hope you will all enjoy.

The final item of news which I would like to share with you is that I have decided after these many years to step down from running this organization. There are many reasons for this but I do not think it is necessary to review them in the letter other than to say that it is a considerable amount of work for both me and my staff and we have decided that it is time to pass it on to someone else. If any of you is interested in taking over the Medical Collectors Association and continuing it, please contact me. If the organization continues I will provide whoever succeeds me with all of the pertinent information about mailing and related matters.

Once again, this will be the last letter from me and the Medical Collectors Association with the exception of the final announcement of the meeting that is going to be held in April, and which will be sent to all of you sometime next year. However, do not wait for the next announcements, rooms are limited and if you do not book early you may find yourself paying a much higher rate than necessary. Norman has really obtained a very reasonable rate at an excellent hotel that we should all enjoy.

Looking forward to seeing you
in San Francisco.

Sincerely,



M. Donald Blaufox, M.D., Ph.D.



Favourite Edition

The New York Academy of Medicine • No. 4 • Summer 2003

Some Recent Acquisitions

RARE BOOK ACQUISITIONS in the last year have been a mixed bag of some notable items, more pedestrian staples to fill in areas of strength in the Library's stellar collections, and several very generous and significant gifts.

One of the more notable recent acquisitions is a 16th century Italian broadside prohibiting Christians from seeking the medical services of Jewish physicians. Entitled *Editto contro li Medici Hebrei; E che li Christiani infermi non si possano medicare da essi...* (Sienna: s.n., December 13, 1598), it is signed by Cardinal Francesco Maria Tarugi, Archbishop of Sienna. Christians who defied this decree were to be excommunicated. Those Christians who were not caught, but who continued to defy the edict by allowing themselves to be treated by Jewish physicians, were hereby put on notice that they were endangering their immortal souls.

An interesting question with which to plague a cataloger of this item would be whether to catalog it with a public health subject heading.

Nicholas Culpeper's *The British Herbal and Family Physician, to which is added a Dispensatory for the Use of Private Families* (Halifax, ca. 1817) is an acquisition we are particularly pleased with, as it is a significant addition to the Library's Americana Collection. Gertrude Annan, the architect of the Americana Collection, systematically acquired medical books printed in that area of the New World which became the United States. For the period dating from the 17th century through the early 19th century, the Rare Book Room boasts approximately 90% of the medical books printed in the British colonies and later the United States; the Library's collection of medical Canadiana, European Americana and South American imprints is less comprehensive; it was therefore quite fortuitous that through a bookdealer's oversight the Academy purchased this late edition of Culpeper's work print-

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"The Creation of a Scientific Spirit:" Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Politics of Gender and Science in Late Nineteenth-Century New York

BY CARLA BITTEL, Assistant Professor, Claremont McKenna College
2000 Klemperer Fellow

In January of 1870, Mary Putnam (Jacobi), then a young medical student in Paris, wrote to her mother in New York about her "moral and intellectual" ambitions and her professional hopes for a career



Mary Putnam Jacobi

in the United States. Putnam's goals included "the creation of the scientific spirit... among women medical students," the implementation of rigid scientific training for women, the "pursuit of numerous important problems in Experimental Therapeutics," and her own entrée into the New York Academy of Medicine.¹ These lofty goals may have seemed beyond the reach of most medical students

taking their exams, but Putnam had good reason to aim high. At the age of 25, she had already become the first woman admitted to the prestigious Ecole de Médecine in Paris. In the three decades after her return to New York, Mary Putnam Jacobi accomplished her goals, becoming the most respected woman of scientific medicine in nineteenth-century America, a fact reflected in her election in 1880 to the New York Academy of Medicine, becoming the Academy's first woman Fellow.²

Mary Corinna Putnam was born in 1842, the first child born to New York publisher George Palmer Putnam. Putnam grew up immersed in the world of books and writing, and received the best

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medical education available to a young woman of her time. Despite some early opposition from her father, Putnam pursued training at the New York College of Pharmacy, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, and ultimately, the renowned Ecole de Médecine in Paris. Upon returning to New York City in 1871, Putnam met Abraham Jacobi. A German exile from the 1848 Revolutions, a physician and socialist, Jacobi was one of the most important and colorful figures in New York medicine: he served as President of the New York Academy of Medicine from 1885 to 1888; and later became known as the "Father of Pediatrics," as he led the movement for the specialization of children's medicine. Abraham Jacobi and Mary Putnam married in 1873 and became intellectual and political partners, sharing a lifelong commitment to using medicine as a source for social and political change. For the next thirty years, Mary Putnam Jacobi practiced medicine in New York City. She worked first at the New York Infirmary, later at St. Mark's Hospital and the Pediatric Clinic at Mt. Sinai, publishing numerous studies on a wide range of topics and leading the campaign to upgrade women's medical education.

Mary Putnam Jacobi's political activism addressed the most important issues relevant to American women. She worked on behalf of women's higher education, women's health, the rights of working women, and ultimately, woman suffrage. Jacobi believed that scientific medicine, the pursuit of objectivity, and the growing

New Editor Welcomes Self

WITH PERMISSION FROM MARK TWAIN, who admonished that "only kings, presidents, editors, and people with tapeworm have the right to use the editorial 'we';" we would like to welcome the newest editor of *Favourite Edition*, Christian Warren:

Since becoming Academy Historian last year, I have enjoyed a total immersion in the world of rare books and manuscripts. I am a historian, not a librarian. My career has, until now, cast me as an avid user of libraries and archives. I bring a consumer's perspective, albeit one limited by a consumer's "innocence" of the inner workings of libraries. While I have already learned much, much of what I have learned is how much I have yet to learn: about our collections, about rare books, and about librarianship in general. As anyone who has recently used the Rare Book Room can attest, I have had three able and remarkably patient teachers in Curator Miriam Mandelbaum, Rare Books Reference Librarian Arlene Shaner, and Digital Initiatives Manager Constance Malpas.

I look forward to meeting our Friends in the coming months. The Friends of the Rare Book Room has been an important ally, and we—and here "we" means all of us in Historical Collections—hope to see its membership grow and its active participation in programs and projects double.

authority of the medical profession could contribute to women's emancipation. While she admitted that suffrage would be helpful for American women, her vision of equality relied on a more radical rethinking of women's relationship to the public sphere. Women were long denied access to politics, education, and the professions due to claims made about their physical weakness and mental inferiority. Jacobi, a committed positivist, insisted that rigorous scientific inquiry would reveal the "truth" about the fitness of women's minds and bodies. Through her extensive research, Jacobi argued for a womanhood that was fundamentally healthy, rather than pathological, in order to legitimate women's participation in public life. For Jacobi, the pursuit of medicine and science achieved "a full equality

and independence for women as nothing else ever had or perhaps could."³

Despite the medical profession's attempt to exclude women in the nineteenth century, and its tendency to construct female biology as pathological, some American women, like Mary Putnam Jacobi, embraced science to fight women's subordination. Jacobi placed her faith in the promise of science, and used the methods and goals of scientific medicine to advance her progressive political goals and women's rights activism. Science, she believed, would help all women fulfill their "special destinies." Only when all women received a scientific education would "the influence of women on the amelioration of human life be first made justly apparent."⁴ Nineteenth-century women's rights activists had long advocated women's vital role in the movement for social reform and in sustaining human welfare, citing motherhood and piety as their main qualifications. But, Jacobi's scientific focus represents an important departure. Thus, Jacobi represents a generation of women at the turn of the twentieth century who began to pledge them-

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Medical Historians Honor William Helfand

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to long-time Friend of the Rare Book Room William H. Helfand. Helfand received the award at an honors banquet during the AAHM's annual meeting in Boston in May, 2003. The award recognizes his decades of service to the history of medicine as scholar, advisor, and collector, and for his successful collaborations with libraries and museums that have promoted scholarship in the history of medicine. We congratulate Bill, and eagerly anticipate more of his ongoing achievements.

selves to a new faith, that of science.

Jacobi's efforts on behalf of women and medicine can only be understood within the social, political, and medical contexts of late nineteenth-century New York. The Historical Collections of the New York Academy of Medicine provide excellent resources for studying the history of medicine in New York, and the role of Mary Putnam Jacobi in that history. As Paul Klemperer Fellow in the History of Medicine, I spent two months in the summer of 2000 working with the Academy's collections. During this time, I read several published works by Mary Putnam Jacobi and Abraham Jacobi, examined the records of medical societies, and studied the medical news and controversies published in New York's most important medical journals. This research allowed me to situate Mary Putnam Jacobi's political and scientific activism within the context of New York medical communities and the broader context of American medicine.

My work at the Academy Library began with Mary Putnam Jacobi's medical education, as I prepared to spend the fall of 2000 in Paris studying her time at the Ecole de Médecine and her political awakening as a young student in France. For example, I read her "Letters to the *Medical Record*," in the journal's "Medical Matters in Paris," which described the latest lectures, research, and medical

debates in the French capital. Jacobi, then Mary C. Putnam, signed her column P.C.M., a reversal of her initials, to conceal her identity. Although a female voice would not be acceptable to many readers of the *New York Medical Record* in the 1860s, indeed, it was a woman who communicated scientific information from one of the world's medical capitals. I also examined *La Graisse Neutre et Des Acides Gras*, Jacobi's French thesis for which she received her degree and high honors. Her thesis anticipates the physiological perspective of her studies on menstruation, anemia, and hysteria, conducted

during her years in New York.

With her studies on women's health, Jacobi entered the debate over the "woman question." In the late nineteenth century, health matters often stood at the center of disagreements over gender norms and women's roles in society. Jacobi recognized this, and her own research on women's health challenged prevailing ideas about the pathological nature of women's bodies. This challenge emerged most forcefully in her work on menstruation and hysteria. For example, Jacobi's book, *The Question of Rest for Women During Menstruation* (1876), challenged the now-infamous assertion by Dr. Edward Clarke of Harvard University, that co-education and intellectual activity ruined young women by draining them of their reproductive energy. Jacobi sought to disprove Clarke's thesis by demonstrating that American girls were ill not because they did mental work during menstruation, but because their brains and bodies were not active *enough*. In a second case, Jacobi took on the issue of hysteria, and contested the ideas of

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Newly Processed Archive Collections in the History of Psychiatric Medicine

SINCE LATE IN 2001, **Dorothy Truman**, a professional archivist and Friend of the Rare Book Room, has been working to make available for researchers five important archival collections held by the Academy Library. Mrs. Truman processed and arranged the records of the Paul Schilder Society for Psychotherapy & Psychopathology (1935-1981); the New York Neurological Society (1874-1932); the Thomas William Salmon Committee on Psychiatry & Mental Hygiene of the New York Academy of Medicine (1931-1988); the Thomas William Salmon Memorial, Inc. (1928-1954); and the NYAM Section on Neurology & Psychiatry (1885-1984). As a result of Mrs. Truman's work, readers and researchers in the Rare Book Room have gained improved access to five previously unused (or under-used) manuscript collections that document the history of psychiatric medicine in New York. Complete collection inventories (series descriptions and container lists) for the historical records processed during this project are now available to readers.

Dorothy Truman is currently at work on a description and arrangement project with the papers of the Medical Society of the County of New York (1794-1980), a major collection within the Library's holdings of New York medical society papers.

Some Recent Acquisitions

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ed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The only other copy in New York was apparently printed by another printer in Halifax and is owned by the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Gardens.

According to *Tremaine*, printing began in Canada in 1750 when a press, an officially-sponsored English press, was established in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Between 1750 and 1801, only two medical books were printed in all of Canada, making this book one of the earliest medical works to be printed there, and a rather significant piece of Americana—or Canadiana, to be more specific. Although it has not yet been possible to identify the printer, J. Nicholson, a comparison between the type, type ornaments and paper in the Culpeper and a book in The New York Public Library's Rare Book Collection with a J. Nicholson, Halifax imprint dated 1813, confirmed that the Culpeper was a product of the same press.

The copy of the Culpeper at the LuEsther T. Mertz Library needs to be compared to NYAM's copy; that Halifax imprint has two different printers named. What makes all of this even more intriguing is the fact that both copies of the book have engraved title pages, which makes it highly likely that the texts and the title pages were not produced at the same time. This item will be revisited in a subsequent *Favorite Edition* when there has been time to do the comparison.

The early editions of William Harvey's work are always of interest to the Rare Book Room. As the *De motu Cordis...* is arguably the most important book in the history of medicine, the Rare Book Room has striven to collect as many of the editions enumerated in *Keynes* as possible. This copy, *Exercitatio Anatomica De Motu Cordis...* (Lugduni Batavorum (Leyden): Johannem van Kerckhem, 1736), *Keynes* no. 14, has a title page with the date of 1736, but the text was actually printed in 1737 for Part I of the *Opera*, making it particularly interesting bibliographically.

More of a staple or meat-and-potatoes kind of book for the collections is *Dr. Lower's receipts: containing the best and safest method for curing most diseases in humane bodies. Very useful for all sorts of people, especially those who live remote from physicians... The Fourth Edition, with additions...* (London: printed for A. Roper; R. Gosling and S. Butler, 1716). *Dr. Lower* is represented in the collections by a good number of works in their late 17th century editions. *Dr. Lower's receipts* was published posthumously in 1700 and reprinted numerous times in translation and in its original English throughout the first half of the 18th century. The editor, identified as J.W. at the end of the preface, was possibly John Warr, who also wrote a preface to Robert Boyle's *Medicinal Experiments* (1694).

Dr. Lower's receipts is a significant addition to an already exemplary collection which ranges from early cookery and household books to books of medical receipts. This copy in a contemporary sheep binding contains a satirical frontispiece by J. VanderGucht entitled *A cordial for Low-Spirits*, which was apparently not intended for this work, but was bound in anyway. It shows a physician holding a large moneybag, and a harlequin on a sort of stage, with several gentlemen and a man in academic dress looking on.

A tiny new acquisition entitled *Remedes Excellens et Preservatifs Contre La Peste... Bartholemy Petri... Docteur en la S.T. à Dauay, à approuvé ce petit traité pour estre fort utile.* (Sens: Chez Savinian Le Gras... 1628) is an even more significant addition to the collection of medical receipt books; it deals with recipes for plague remedies and is quite rare. A tiny little pamphlet bound in a piece of vellum with copious manuscript notes on the verso of the front and recto of the back leaf, this text was endorsed by Bartholomeus Petrus, a noted Canon and Doctor of Theology at Dauay. Petrus died only two years after the publication of this work; one hopes it was not of the plague.

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S. Weir Mitchell, the famous Philadelphia physician, known for his work on hysteria, and for his conception of the rest cure. In 1886, Jacobi published her most comprehensive statement on this issue, entitled "Some Considerations on Hysteria."⁵ In this paper, read before the Neurological Section of the New York Academy of Medicine, Jacobi addressed the physiological and neurological problems of hysteria, locating its cause in nutritional inadequacies. Consciously disregarding Mitchell's extensive condemnation of women's lifestyles, habits, "natural" nervousness, and troublesome behavior, Jacobi described hysteria in scientific language and in neurological terms. *Essays on Hysteria* is the most important collection for studying her ideas about women and mental health issues. With the help of these published materials, I traced Jacobi's activism on particular issues of female biology and completed my research on debates over female reproduction, physiological therapeutics, and nervous diseases.

Also available at the Academy is a copy of *The Use of the Cold Pack in the Treatment of Anemia* (1880), which illustrates Jacobi's role in the construction of knowledge about female anemia. Known as chlorosis, anemia was considered a malady of young, invalid women. Jacobi and S. Weir Mitchell both published books on the treatment of anemia only two years apart. While Jacobi and Mitchell agreed on some forms of treatment, they held fundamentally different views on the etiology of women's diseases, and employed divergent modes of investigation and testing therapeutic regimens. These professional tensions, illustrate key debates over scientific legitimacy in the late nineteenth century. Through an analysis of these debates, I explore the role of gender politics in the contestation over "good science" at criti-

cal moments of social and medical change.

Mary Putnam Jacobi gained admission to a number of medical societies, thereby accessing professional territories usually reserved for men. Jacobi's education in Paris, clinical experience in New York, publications, personal ties to Abraham Jacobi, and her com-

“Mary Putnam Jacobi’s political activism addressed the most important issues relevant to American women. She worked on behalf of women’s higher education, women’s health, the rights of working women, and ultimately, woman suffrage.”

mitment to the project of medical science all contributed to her admission to several New York medical societies. The Medical Society of the County of New York, for example, admitted Jacobi after receiving her 1871 application. As a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, Jacobi chaired the Neurological Section in the 1890s. Jacobi's research on hysteria and other nervous diseases addressed the most important neurological questions of the time; accordingly, she was admitted to the New York Neurological Society, along with her husband, in 1877. In the years to come, she became an active member, presenting papers on hysteria and other nervous diseases, participating in discussions and debates, and ultimately becoming the Corresponding Secretary of the Society.

To explore Jacobi's role in the New York neurological community, I turned to the Records of the New York Neurological Society. As historian Bonnie Blustein has shown, New York was the critical center for the specialization of the field of neurology in the late nineteenth century, thanks to its deter-

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Research Fellowships in The Academy Library

THE PAUL KLEMPERER FELLOWSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THE AUDREY AND WILLIAM H. HELFAND FELLOWSHIP IN THE
MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Each year the New York Academy of Medicine offers two fellowships to support work in history and the humanities as they relate to health, medicine, and the biomedical sciences.

The **Paul Klemperer Fellowship** supports research using the Academy Library's resources for scholarly study of the history of medicine. It is intended specifically for a scholar in residence at the Academy Library. The **Audrey and William H. Helfand Fellowship** more broadly supports work in the humanities, including both creative projects dealing with health and the medical enterprise, and scholarly research in a humanistic discipline —*other than the history of medicine*— as applied to medicine and health.

Each Helfand or Klemperer Fellow receives a stipend of up to \$5,000 to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for a flexible period. Besides completing research or a creative project, each Fellow will be expected to make a public presentation at the Academy and submit a final report. We invite applications from anyone, regardless of citizenship, academic discipline, or academic status. Preference will be given to (1) those whose research will take advantage of resources that are uniquely available at the Academy, and (2) scholars or creative artists in the early stages of their careers.

Recent Winners: The Paul Klemperer Fellow for 2003-2004 is **Sarah Tracy, Ph.D.**, of the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Tracy's proposed study, "From Vice to Disease: Alcoholism in America, 1870-1920" will employ the methods of social and cultural history and the sociology of knowledge to explore the late 19th century attempts to medicalize habitual drunkenness in the United States. The 2003-2004 recipient of the Helfand Fellowship is **Angus Fletcher**, a Graduate Fellow in the Department of English at Yale University. Dr. Fletcher's proposal is titled "Paracelsian Medicine and the Experience of Bodily Consciousness in Seventeenth-Century English Literature."

The Helfand Fellow in 2002 was **Vanessa Ryan**, a doctoral candidate in English at Yale University, for a project entitled "The Material Mind: Victorian Physiological Psychology and the Narration of Consciousness." The Klemperer Fellow in 2002 was **Lynda Ellen Payne**, Assistant Professor of British History and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Payne's project is entitled "Bodysnatching, Dissecting, and the Sensibilities of Medical Men in Eighteenth-Century Britain."

The 2004-5 fellowship competition will be announced in fall of 2003.

The deadline for application will be in February of 2004. Application forms and instructions for the current competition may still be accessed online at <http://www.nyam.org/grants/history/index.shtml>. For those unable to access the forms through the web, address your requests for application forms or further information to: Office of the Academy Historian, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029. Email: history@nyam.org. Telephone: 212-822-7314.

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mined leader, William Hammond, who created the New York Neurological Society.⁶ Jacobi and Hammond certainly disagreed on the proper social role of women, and the origins of women's nervous diseases. And yet, Hammond's community accepted Jacobi's work, for they all concurred that material problems in the body were the source of mental distress.

While Jacobi gained access to a number of traditionally "masculine" medical communities, the Records of the New York Obstetrical Society illustrate one of her unsuccessful professional endeavors. According to Jacobi, she was "excluded [from the society]...by means of blackballs, although her paper as candidate was accepted by

the committee on membership, and she received a majority vote."⁷ These records provide a broader picture of the Society's interests, and the controversy over admissions policies that ensued the year after her rejection.

Although Jacobi sought recognition by specialized medical communities and societies, and her own work focused on the diseases of women and children, Jacobi openly discouraged other women physicians from specializing. Having abstract medical knowledge on only one subject, she argued, ignored the relationship between all the physiological processes in the body. She predicted that the tendency for women to specialize in gynecology would only limit their broader professional development. Jacobi expressed

her opinions on specialization in public addresses to the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, where she served as a lecturer and professor of *materia medica*. Published in the *Medical Record*, *Chicago Medical*

"Jacobi openly discouraged other women physicians from specializing. Having abstract medical knowledge on only one subject, she argued, ignored the relationship between all the physiological processes in the body."

Journal and Examiner, and *Archives of Medicine*, these statements called upon women medical students to adhere to the new standards of scientific medicine. In an 1883 address, she further advocated women's medical education when she spoke on behalf of the need for women physicians in New York hospitals, demanding that female students acquire the same training as men, so that they could be of service to the women of the city.⁸

In addition to her work on women's health, Jacobi devoted great energy to pediatric medicine, working with her husband on behalf of children's health. The couple first collaborated on a manual of childhood nutrition, entitled *Infant Diet*. Composed originally by Abraham Jacobi, and later edited and revised for popular use by Mary, this book is important for studying Abraham's pediatric work, the collaboration of the two physicians, and the extent to which Mary Putnam Jacobi insisted that mothers gain scientific knowledge. Joining Abraham in the founding of the Mt. Sinai pediatric clinic, Mary Putnam Jacobi also became active in clinical efforts to combat the diseases of children.

While working at the Academy Library, I also studied the writings of

News from the Friends of the Rare Book Room

ON APRIL 9, 2003, JAMES TAIT GOODRICH, M.D., PH.D., delivered the Annual Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecture, "Andreas Vesalius (1519-1564): A Medical Academic's Evolving Viewpoint on Vesalius' Contribution to Art and Anatomy." Dr. Goodrich discussed the complex interrelationships between art, anatomy, medicine and publishing in shaping the creation of Vesalius's anatomical atlas, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*. Goodrich is Professor of Clinical Neurological Surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, directs the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Montefiore Medical Center, and is a good Friend of the Rare Book Room.



Phillip K. Wilson, delivering the Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecture.

Medical historian Phillip K. Wilson delivered the 2002 Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecture. His talk, "Reading the Body: Medical and Surgical Perspectives of the Skin in the 18th Century," examined the dichotomy between the practice of surgery and clinical medicine and the significance of Daniel Turner's *De Morbis Cutaneis: A Treatise on Diseases Incident to the Skin* (1714). Dr. Wilson teaches in the Department of Humanities at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

In addition to numerous journal articles and reviews, he is the author of *Surgery, Skin and Syphilis: Daniel Turner's London, 1667-1741* (Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 1999), a monograph in the Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine.

Next year's Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecturer will be Katharine Park, who holds the Samuel Zemurray, Jr. and Doris Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professorship in the History of Science at Harvard University.

Abraham Jacobi. For example, the *Transactions of the New York Academy of Medicine* contains his addresses to the Academy during his presidency. Emphasizing the democratic nature of the Academy and the social obligations of physicians, he argued that medicine should be a powerful source of social

reform, a sentiment shared and put into practice by Mary Putnam Jacobi, who learned about the interconnectedness of medicine and politics during her stay in Paris as a student. Finally, a collection of letters between Abraham Jacobi and some of his colleagues provides some contextual

information on his professional and personal relations.

Unfortunately, relatively little manuscript material has survived on Mary Putnam Jacobi, and I have had to make creative use of the published materials by this prolific woman. The

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Gifts 2001-2003

THE COLLECTIONS HAVE BENEFITTED this past year from a number of donations. A very notable gift was that of **Dr. Jacob Heiman's** papers. Dr. Heiman was a New York physician with an office on 81st Street across the street from the Museum of Natural History. Both he and his wife, **Elizabeth Kalisher Heiman**, a dentist, were involved with the literary and artistic community in New York in the 1920s through the 60s. Of particular interest to those interested in printing and printing history, Jacob Heiman was a colleague and friend of Dr. Robert Leslie, "Doc Leslie" as he was affectionately known to New Yorkers and others involved with books and printing. Dr. Heiman was a member and supporter of the Typophiles, a group very dear to Doc Leslie's heart.

As editor of the *American Review of Soviet Medicine* for a good many years, Dr. Heiman was very active in facilitating an exchange of crucial medical information between the medical communities in the United States and the Soviet Union. His daughter Helen also became a physician and followed that line of research as well. Her papers are part of the bequest. This archive was donated in two lots by **Ilona Ross**, Dr. Heiman's granddaughter.

We also received a collection of the papers of **Dr. Dorothy Fahs-Beck**, a pioneer in social work research. Beck had a long career as a statistician and social worker, serving as Director of Research for the Family Service Association from 1956 until 1981. In 1986, she and her husband Hubert Park Beck established the The Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation. Fahs-Beck's daughter, **Brenda Beck**, arranged for the papers to be donated to the Academy.

William Smellie's *An Abridgement of the Practice of Midwifery* Boston: J. Norman, [1786] was the generous gift of **Dr. John D'Urso**. The book nicely complements the Rare Book Room's incomplete and rebound copy of Smellie's book. Dr. D'Urso's gift came to us in a contemporary binding and includes the preliminary leaf, missing from the Academy's copy, which contains the dedication to the president and fellows of The Massachusetts Medical Society on the recto and the *Preface* and *Erratum* on the verso. Some of the additional provenance for this book was provided by a letter, which Dr. D'Urso included with his gift, from a Beverly Bowens, whose

great-great-grandmother had acquired the book from Dr. Jacob Tewksbury, its previous and probably first owner.

Renata and Albert Cafiero generously donated three illustrated broadsides which were meant to advertise a book by Dr. Mathias Roth. They are titled: *Injurious Positions to be Avoided During the Time of Education and Growth...* (London: John Bale & Sons, 188?); *Injurious Positions to be Avoided...* (London: Thomas Harrild, 188?); and *Table of a few Gymnastic Exercises Without Apparatus...* (London: Thomas Harrild, 189?).

Elaine Schlefer, Head of the Gladys Brooks Book and Paper Conservation Laboratory, donated a valuable selection of preservation tools and materials, including six sets of foundry type, a Kwikprint stamping machine, and yards of fabric and skins. **Dr. Gary Richard Joachim** donated a collection of medical devices, including a number of eye cups, a catalogue of medical instruments from Knauth Brothers, ca. 1910, and other medical curios.

From the collections' very good friend and benefactor, **William H. Helfand**, we received the following:

Agricultural and Family Almanac...for the year...1850... [s.l., s.a.].

J. Smyth Carter's *Doctor M. W. Locke and the Williamsburg Scene*. Toronto: [s.n.], 1933.

Ludmilla Jordanaovo's *Defining features: Scientific and Medical Portraits 1660-2000*. London: Reaktion Books, [2000].

National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. *Design for Sanatoria: Report of the NAPT Architectural Committee*. London: Tavistock House, 1951.

New Street Guide of Atlanta... 1927 Edition.

St. Louis Street and Health Guide. (1950).

The last two items, street guides that included advertisements for physicians who apparently specialized in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, are of particular interest in that they are quite unusual examples of medical ephemera.

Finally, a word about a gift from **William Stewart**, of a little leather-bound book used for the solicitation of monetary donations for the construction of the Academy building which went up on West 43rd Street and was designed to allow for the expansion of an increasingly prominent library. Signatories in the book include Joseph Pulitzer and J. P. Morgan. Morgan donated \$5,000.00 to the campaign, Pulitzer a bit less.

JACOBI continued from page 7

Academy Library holds almost all of Mary Putnam Jacobi's published writings, including books, works of fiction, and published collections of letters and medical articles. For example, *Stories and Sketches*, a collection of Jacobi's early fiction composed between 1860 and 1871, contains stories that encapsulate some of her earliest concerns about health, religion, and the state, as well as education and gender relations. The Academy also has *Life and Letters of Mary Putnam Jacobi*, a collection of her personal correspondence, edited by her sister, Ruth Putnam, in 1925.

Published in the same year, *Mary Putnam Jacobi: Pathfinder in Medicine*, is a collection of her most important medical essays, organized and compiled by the Women's Medical Association of New York City. In addition, the Academy Library has reproductions of nearly

Loans to Other Institutions

FOR THE INAUGURAL EXHIBITION of the **Museum of Sex**, entitled *NYC Sex: How New York City Transformed Sex in America* (September 16, 2002-January 16, 2003): L. J. Kahn's *Nervous Exhaustion: its cause and cure...* (New York, 1870); Margaret Sanger's *What Every Girl Should Know* (New York: M.N. Maisel, 1915); *Mother Earth. Monthly Magazine Devoted to Social Science and Literature*, Vol. XI (April, 1916); A broadside by Emma Goldman, issued by the Birth Control Committee, entitled *Birth Control* (New York: Sachs & Steinfeld, Union Printers, 1916).

For the **Morgan Library Exhibit** entitled *Picturing Natural History: Flora and Fauna in Drawings, Manuscripts, and Printed Books* (Feb. 12 to May 4, 2003): Mattioli, Pietro Andrea. *New kreuterbuch...* (Prague: Georgen Melantrich von Auentin and Vincenti Valgriss, 1563). The Morgan has the original woodblock for this and the 1562 edition in Czech.

all of Jacobi's writings in medical journals, compiled for the publication of *Pathfinder*.

Interweaving information from personal letters, medical society records, newspaper articles, and published writings, I have been able to construct a

broader portrait of Jacobi's significance in New York medicine and politics. Studying her professional and political activism—whether through debates over women and the nature of nervous diseases, or through the state campaign for woman suffrage in 1894—serves to

Changes in and Around the Rare Book Room

THE PAST YEAR HAS SEEN MANY IMPORTANT CHANGES in the staff in Historical Collections, the Academy Library, and the Academy's Division of Information Management. In November 2001, **Maxine L. Rockoff, Ph.D.** became the Division's Director. Dr. Rockoff is a mathematician who has developed technology projects for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Merrill Lynch. Recently, she initiated and managed a large project to "wire up" settlement houses in New York City to increase their organizational efficiencies and to extend Internet access to residents in inner-city neighborhoods. Dr. Rockoff also holds a Senior Lectureship in the Department of Medical Informatics at the Columbia University School of Medicine.

In June 2002, **Christian Warren, Ph.D.** took the newly-created position of Academy Historian (see "New Editor Welcomes Self"). Warren received a Ph.D. in American History from Brandeis University, and is an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Sociomedical Science Department at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. His research examines the interplay between environment, society, and health. His first book, *Brush With Death: A Social History of Lead Poisoning*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. He is currently editing a collection of essays on the history and practice of public health for a book to be published by Oxford University Press.

A month later, the Academy Library got a new director, **Janice Kaplan, M.Ln.** comes to the Academy from Hartford Hospital, where she served as Director of Health Science Libraries for ten years. She earned her Master in Librarianship with a certification in Medical Librarianship from Emory University. She holds certifications in school librarianship and in medical librarianship at the Distinguished Level from the Medical Library Association. She has been a leader in promoting cooperation and standard-setting among medical libraries. She brings new energy and ambitious ideas to the Academy Library.

The most recent addition to Division administration is our new Information Technology Director, **Patrick Clancy**. Mr. Clancy holds advanced degrees in Engineering and Information Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh, and has years of experience establishing innovative IT systems in government and commercial settings. He was most recently part of the senior staff of Songbird Hearing, manufacturer of the world's first disposable hearing aid. He is the author of several Internet-related publications for QUE Books.

These new directors are already undertaking new projects and initiatives to place the Academy Library at the forefront of modern librarianship. And while the Rare Book Room will participate in and benefit from these changes, our primary mission remains unchanged: assuring the preservation of our valuable historic materials while increasing their use by scholars from around the world. We plan to use new technologies and old-fashioned publicity to bring new users to the Library and to the Rare Book Room. We will continue nurturing our existing collection of rare materials, and see our collections grow in depth and value as a cultural resource.

enrich our understanding of the inter-activity of medicine and politics. My dissertation on Mary Putnam Jacobi, which is both a cultural biography and a historical study of gender and medical knowledge, will provide new perspectives on one of New York's most famous names in medicine.

REFERENCES

1. I am grateful to the New York Academy of Medicine for its support of this project during a very critical stage of dissertation research. Special thanks are due to Dr. Ed Morman, Caroline Duroselle-Melish, and Constance Malpas for their logistical help, good humor, and intellectual support during my visit to the Academy in the summer of 2000.
2. Mary C. Putnam (Jacobi) to Victorine Putnam, January 13th, 1870, in Ruth Putnam, *Life and Letters of Mary Putnam Jacobi* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1925), pp. 232-236.
3. Mary Putnam Jacobi to Elizabeth Blackwell, December 25, 1888, Blackwell Family Papers, Library of Congress.
4. Mary Putnam Jacobi, "The School of Medicine for Women of the New York Infirmary," Paper Read at Lakewood, March 3, 1884.
5. Mary Putnam Jacobi, "Some Considerations on Hysteria," in *Essays on Hysteria, Brain-Tumor, and Other Cases of Nervous Disease*, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1888).
6. Bonnie E. Blustein, *Preserve Your Love for Science: Life of William A. Hammond, American Neurologist* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
7. Annie Nathan Meyer, ed. *Woman's Work in America*. With and introduction by Julia Ward Howe, (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1891), p. 184.
8. An Address Delivered at the Commencement of the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, May 30, 1883, reprinted in *Archives of Medicine*, 1883.

Public Events and Lectures for 2002-2003

THE ACADEMY'S SECTION ON HISTORICAL MEDICINE and the Library's Historical Collections assembled an ambitious season of informative and entertaining lectures and public exhibitions. In addition to eight evening lectures on the history of medicine, we hosted two book-signings, and two book exhibitions with accompanying public programs.

The season got off to a great start on September 24 with the opening of the rare book exhibition, "**Shocked: The Romance of Electricity.**" Curator Miriam Mandelbaum assembled a bibliographic tour of the most important works on magnetism and electricity published in the 17th and 18th centuries. David Rhees, Ph.D., of the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis, presented an illustrated lecture on the medical uses of electricity, entitled "Electrotherapy from Franklin to Frankenstein." In October, William Helfand, Historical Collections, The Friends of the Rare Book Room, and the Grolier Club co-sponsored a day-long symposium, "**The Drug Trade and the Book Trade,**" featuring lectures by historians James Harvey Young, Thomas Horrocks, Michael Sappol, William Helfand, and Matthew Ramsey. The symposium marked the opening of Helfand's fascinating exhibition "**Quack! Quack! Quack! The Sellers of Nostrums in Prints, Posters, Ephemera & Books.**" This symposium was just the kind of collaborative project Historical Collections seeks for future events.

On February 20, Dr. Jeremiah Barondess, President of the Academy, delivered an illustrated lecture entitled "**Osler and Cushing: From Mentoring to Friendship.**" Miriam Mandelbaum selected a number of rare books relating to the two bookmen's interests as a complement to Dr. Barondess's talk.

The section has planned another ambitious program of lectures for 2003-2004, including a series on the history of psychiatry in the post-war era, and an exhibition and lecture on medical history in popular literature.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS STAFF ACTIVITIES

Ann Hillam, Conservator, was elected co-chair of the New York Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers. She instructed conservation staff at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in techniques of vellum flattening; she took courses in Switzerland and Italy, and at the International Center of Photography. Publications: "The Montefiascone Project, 2002," Guild of Book Workers New York Chapter Newsletter (September, 2002), p. 3.

Constance Malpas, Digital Initiatives Manager, coordinated the NYAM Library's first digitization project (cataloging and conversion of medical ephemera relating to the work of the New York Milk Committee, ca. 1910-1918). She has developed several successful grant proposals to support description and conversion projects in the NYAM Library. Constance presented a paper at a conference on the History and Heritage of Scientific and Technical Information Systems (November, 2002).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE: Member, NYAM History of Medicine Advisory Council; WTC Documentation Task Force Sub-committees on Science, Medicine & Public Health, and Survey & Database Design; METRO Digitization Special Interest Group; Chair, Committee on Research & the Profession, History of Science Society.

PUBLICATIONS: "Text, Texture and Transparency: Information Technologies In Twentieth Century Pathology" to appear in *Proceedings of the Second Conference on the History and Heritage of Scientific and Technical Information Systems* (2002).

Miriam Mandelbaum, Curator of Rare Books, studied European Decorative Bookbinding in the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. Mirjam Foote, Professor of Library and Archive Studies at University College, London, taught this intensive, one-week course.

Susan Martin, became **Head of the Gladys Brooks Book and Paper Conservation Laboratory** in April. Last year, Susan participated in a five-day conference of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, held in Baltimore, as well as several other workshops on conservation. She continues to serve as Supply Chair for the Guild of Book Workers

PUBLICATIONS: "Rehousing a Portrait Collection" *continued on page 10*

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tion," *Archival Products News* 9, no. 2 (August 2002); "IIC Conference: 'Works of Art on Paper, Books, Documents and Photographs: Techniques and Conservation,'" *Guild of Book Workers New York Chapter Newsletter* (September, 2002), pp. 4-5.

Elaine Schlefer, in the year before retiring from her position as head of the Brooks Laboratory, participated in a number of Fulbright activities. Ms. Schlefer attended professional meetings, including an AIC annual meeting, the Guild of Book Workers annual Seminar in Standards of Excellence in Hand Bookbinding, and a three-day ARL Management Institute.

PUBLICATIONS: "Pleated Paper Hinge," *Book and Paper Group Annual* 20 (2001): p. 71.

Arlene Shaner, Rare Books Reference Librarian and Assistant Curator, attended the 43rd Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Preconference, "New Occasions, New Duties: Changing Roles and Expectations in Special Collections," held in Atlanta, Georgia in June. In August she attended a week-long, intensive course in Descriptive Bibliography at Rare Book School, held at the University of Virginia.

Christian Warren, Academy Historian, has been appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor in Sociomedical Science at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Publications: book review: *Antimony in Medical History: An Account of the Medical Uses of Antimony and its Compounds Since Early Times to the Present*, by R. Ian McCallum (*Isis* 93, 2002: 97-98); book review: *Old Paint: A Medical History of Childhood Lead Poisoning in the United States to 1980*, by Peter English (*JAMA* 287, 2002: 916-17).

PRESENTATIONS: "Under the Influence? Lead Poisoning Researchers and the Lead-Using Industries," Johns Hopkins University symposium "Ethics, Invention, and Sustainability—Environmental Health and Corporate Environmentalism," May 3, 2002. Professional Service: Arthur Viseltar Award Committee, American Public Health Association.

from... The Brooks Conservation Laboratory

Head of the Conservation Laboratory Retires

Elaine R. Schlefer, head of the Gladys Brooks Book & Paper Conservation Laboratory, retired at the end of March, after a seventeen-year career at the New York Academy of Medicine. Schlefer came to the Academy in 1986 as the first conservator in the Preservation Department, which had been established the previous year. She became the head of the department in 1988. She enlarged the department's facilities and staff, moving the lab into its present space in 1995, and acquired new equipment to allow for expanded treatments for book and paper items from the Academy's library. In retirement, Elaine looks forward to having the time to do more of the activities she loves: swimming, cooking, traveling, painting, and completing her third novel—just for starters!

Preservation Lab Earns National Award

On December 10, 2002, The New York Academy of Medicine received the 2002 American Institute for Conservation/Heritage Preservation joint award for Outstanding Commitment to Preservation and Care of Collections for the work carried out in the Gladys Brooks Conservation Laboratory. Shelly Sass of the AIC presented the award to Preservation staff at the Academy Fellow's Annual Meeting.

Preservation Lab Interns and Volunteers

Each year the Conservation Laboratory provides in-depth training and practical experience for a small number of interns and volunteers. In 2001, the lab hosted two interns. Yukari Hayashida, Book Conservation Assistant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spent three months in the lab. Upon completing the internship Yukari was promoted to the position of Conservator. Christine Khalil came to

NYAM for three months as a volunteer in October, 2001, before returning to Lebanon, where she planned to participate in the new European Conservation School being set up in Beirut.

This year the lab has three volunteers, Valerie Gomez, Nancy Loeber, and Erin Albritton.

An American in Ascona—and Montefiascone

Conservator Anne Hillam has been chalking up frequent flyer miles as well as gaining invaluable training in conservation from some of Europe's finest training programs. She took a class on the conservation of wooden board bindings at Centro del Bel Libro in Ascona, Switzerland from 22 October to 2 November, 2001.

During the summer of 2002, Hillam attended a program at a small monastery in Montefiascone, Italy. Montefiascone is in a small medieval walled city on Lake Bolsena, about half way between Rome and Siena. Each summer, conservators, librarians, art historians, archivists and others interested in the structure and history of the book, meet here to participate in classes and hands-on conservation.

These courses will prove invaluable in Anne's work here at the Academy.

Workshops in the Laboratory

The Conservation Lab is the site for workshops sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers. During the past year, three workshops were held here: "Page Edge Decoration," by Deborah Evetts, chief conservator at the Morgan Library; Books with Folded Plates, by Pamela Spitzmueller, head conservator at Harvard; and a five-day symposium, "The History and Use of Medieval Pigments," by Cheryl Porter, director of the Montefiascone (Italy) Library Preservation Program.

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The New York Academy of Medicine, a not-for-profit educational institution established in 1847, maintains one of the largest medical libraries in the United States. The Historical Collections Department holds 49,000 volumes, of which rare materials dating from before 1800 number approximately 32,000 volumes. In the late 1940s, to help maintain the Historical Collections and guarantee maximum access to scholars and bibliophiles, a group of Fellows of the Academy organized "The Friends of the Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine," which functions independently but with the endorsement of the Academy Board of Trustees. Membership in the Friends is not restricted to Fellows of the Academy. The aim of the Friends is to collect funds to purchase and process important additions to the collections of the Rare Book Room, and to support programs directly related to the rare book collection. The Friends meet annually to review recent developments in the Rare Book Room and the Historical Collections.

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