



THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada

Osler Library Research Travel Grant receives an endowment in honour of Dr. Edward Horton Bensley (1906–1995)

The Osler Library is very pleased to announce that it has received a \$100,000 gift from the Pope-Jackson Fund to endow the Osler Library Research Travel Grant. In making the gift, the fund wanted to facilitate access to the library's collection for scholars living beyond Montreal, and, when possible, for scholars living outside Canada. The fund also wished to recognize Dr. E.H. Bensley's place in the history of the library. The travel grant has been renamed the Dr. Edward H. Bensley Osler Library Research Travel Grant. It is fitting that someone who loved medical history and the library so much would be memorialized in this way.

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Dr. Edward Bensley played a special role in the Osler Library. As Dr. Brais notes below, he joined the Department of the History of Medicine (fore-runner of the present Department of Social Studies of Medicine) and taught the history of medicine to second year medical students, edited the Osler Library Newsletter and wrote extensively. His last book, "McGill Medical Luminaries," was the first title to appear in the Osler Library Studies in the History of Medicine series. He was named Honourary Osler Librarian in 1979. His research files, which are



Dr. Edward H. Bensley, M.D. Osler Library

accessible in the Osler Library, continue to be consulted regularly as they have a great deal of information about the history of medicine at McGill and beyond.

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McGill



Dr. Bernard Brais is a neurogeneticist, Killam Scholar, Associate Professor, Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery and Human Genetics, Co-director of the Rare Neurological Disorders Group with the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University and the Montreal Neurological Hospital and Institute. He is also a Curator of the Osler Library and a long-time friend of Dr. Bensley. He has written the following biographical sketch.

I do not understand your interest in medical history. At your age I was only interested in science and research..." Edward Horton Bensley told me in his mid-seventies. At the time he was Honorary Osler Librarian and the beating heart of the Osler Society and in many ways also of the library. Always a very respectful and reserved man, he was telling me something that would change my professional life. Indeed the young Edward had been a science enthusiast. Born in York, Ontario in 1906, he was the only child of Arthur Benjamin Bensley (1875-1934), Professor of Zoology at the University of Toronto. He was witness to the skyrocketing career of Sir Frederick Banting following his discovery of insulin, which clearly influenced his choice to become a medical researcher.

Following his medical graduation from the University of Toronto in 1930 as Gold Medalist he came as an intern to the Montreal General Hospital (MGH) where he was ultimately recruited and worked for more than 40 years. The Second World War changed his early adult life. He joined as a Major the No 14 Canadian General Hospital. It was during his military training in 1939 that he met Marjorie Catherine Speid (1915-2009) in the Eastern Township. They married in 1944 during a short visit to Montreal. She was the daughter of Arthur Theodore Speid, Professor of Chemistry at Bishop's University. His caring and charming wife brought him a rooting to Quebec and a strong attachment to Lennoxville, where even late into his life he enjoyed returning to the Family Uplands house that serves now as the office of The Uplands Cultural & Heritage Center and The Lennoxville-Ascot Historical & Museum Society (LAHMS).

At the end of the war he returned to his medical and research career at the MGH and McGill. He worked as a clinical biochemist and toxicologist and finished his hospital career as director of the Department of Metabolism and Toxicology. His scientific career was extremely productive and culminated in the publication in 1958 of his textbook

Handbook of Treatment of Acute Poisoning. As a researcher he privileged working with human samples. "What do you think of animal experimentation?" he asked me in the mid-1980's when I got more involved in research. He told me that though he was not strictly against it, he and his wife since that had no children had become extremely fond of cats. He stated with some humor that she and their kittens had convinced him not to engage in such research.

As he was rising in his academic career his role at the McGill Medical Faculty increased. When the medical historian Lloyd Grenfell Stevenson (1918-1988) left the Deanery in 1963, Dr Bensley as associate Dean stepped in as acting Dean for two years and then served as Vice-Dean for a few more years. His interest in history started to grow in the later stages of his career. He became increasingly involved in the Osler Library following Stevenson's departure. He was made Honorary Osler Librarian in 1979. For close to two decades anyone visiting the Osler Library would notice the dignified older gentleman with white hair, thick glasses and a slow shuffling gait that appeared to live within its book shelves. The ones who had the privilege of sharing tea with him would learn about Sir William Osler, William Willoughby Francis and McGill and other Canadian Medical Luminaries for which he wrote many entries in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. He continued his role as a mentor to generations of medical students with an interest in the humanities who joined the Osler Society like myself. To all he was attentive, ensuring that the Oslerian tradition found new converts. He arranged meetings with some of the senior McGill staff of the time who shared similar interests such as William Feindel (1918-2014), who was to replace him as Honorary Osler Librarian, the famous pediatrician Jessie Boyd Scriver (1999-2000) or Harold N. Segall (1897-1990) who introduced the ECG in Montreal.

Edward Bensley was a man who cared indeed about science and increasingly about history as he aged, but he mostly cared about people. Through his thick lenses you could feel his concern that his advice was understood correctly so we could find our own professional path. It is fitting, therefore, that a travelling fellowship to the Osler Library carries his name since it is here that he intellectually nurtured generations of students, fostered their interest in history and also encouraged them to develop their own originality. Let this fellowship continue this Bensley mentoring in the purest Osler tradition.



Osler Library Acquires Two Rare Incunables

Dr. Joe Stratford



Thanks to an anonymous gift, the Osler Library has acquired two extremely rare incunabula books published in 1498 and c. 1500 for our collection. These were written by Dr. Symphorien Champier (c.1471-1539), a French Renaissance physician whom Osler admired a great deal and collected extensively.

The donation was made in memory of Dr. Joe Stratford, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C.), Professor of Neurosurgery at McGill University and Chief of Neurosurgery at the Montreal General Hospital for 30 years. In the 1970s, he and Professor Ron Melzack founded the first multidisciplinary pain clinic in Canada at the MGH which is now the McGill Pain Centre. He was deeply involved in initiatives to improve palliative care and was active in the Victorian Order of Nurses. He is remembered for his kindness and compassion.

The rarer of the two books, *Isagoge in gram[m]aticam disciplinam [et] logicam*, published in Lyon in either 1497 or 1499/1500 is a grammar and logic book and Champier's first work. More importantly, it is the only known copy in the world.

The second work is the first edition of *Dyalogus... inmagica[rum]artiu[m]destructionem*. Also published in Lyon by Guillaume Balsarin in 1498, the work is a study of witchcraft and the occult, which was a topic of particular interest to Osler. This is a particularly fine copy of this rare work in which, in dialogue form with his student, Champier defines, explains, accepts or rejects a wide variety of occult practices from a medical perspective. He recognizes, for example, that the allegedly possessed need a healer, not an exorcist. The work includes a full page woodcut illustration of Wisdom lecturing fools and the ignorant. WorldCat lists only 6 libraries that hold this work internationally. Neither of the two great historical medical libraries, the National Library of Medicine nor the Wellcome Library, own copies of this work.

Symphorien Champier was born in a small village near Lyon, France and studied at the University of Paris. He entered medical school at Montpellier in 1495 and finished his degree in 1503. He was an active physician, treating both

rich and poor, and the founder of a hospital and the medical school in Lyon. He was also a major figure in Lyon during the Renaissance. An unusually active author, he wrote not only a number of medical works but numerous treatises on philosophy, history, and theology. He was a leading proponent of medical humanism, and a mentor to Michael Servetus, whom Osler esteemed greatly.

Not surprisingly, Osler was an admirer of Champier's, describing him in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* as "a man of large and liberal culture, of a truly noble nature, an admirer of learning and a patron of the learned....Indefatigable in his proper calling, there was yet nothing which interested the citizens of Lyons that did not interest him.... A true physician, a great and good man."

Osler actively collected his works, amassing 14 for his library and giving others as gifts, as was his tendency with his favourite books. When sending one book to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, he noted that "Champier was a great old character and all his books are worth buying."

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Wisdom lecturing fools and the ignorant

Unfortunately, Osler wasn't able to acquire everything he sought during his life time. The competition for Champier's works was strong, and the prices relatively high. In one 1909 auction the prices of two early Champier works that Osler bid on unsuccessfully were sold at prices two and three times higher than what he paid for a copy of the very rare 1543 first edition of Copernicus' monumental work on the solar system.

In addition to their value as works by a notable medical author and humanist, these two works are important in the history of printing. Lyon became one the main centres of printing in the 15th century and was, after Paris and Venice, the most important printing centre in Europe prior to 1601. All the early works of Rabelais, Louise Labé and a group of Lyonese poets, and much more, were produced there.

McGill's Osler and Rare Books and Special Collections libraries have a representative collection of Lyon imprints, including several from the 15th century. Researchers from McGill and elsewhere are currently studying these works. There is a Lyon Project taking shape in which McGill researchers are collaborating with those from other Montreal-area universities to create a database of pre-1601 Lyon books in the city. This project involves training students during the summers to create bibliographic records in the database, working on the historiography of early Lyonese imprints, and developing more technical knowledge involving printing and types.

The two works were acquired from Bruce McKittrick, a long-established antiquarian book dealer in Philadelphia with whom the Osler Library has done a considerable amount of business. Thanks to Professor William Kemp, La Chaire de recherche du Canada en histoire littéraire, UQAR, and Research Associate, McGill University, for alerting the library to the Isagoge and providing expert advice throughout the process.

Because the Osler Library has such rich holdings, filling in gaps in our collection of very rare and important works or authors is an expensive undertaking, and fundraising efforts like this ensure that our collection grows. The McGill Library, specifically the Osler and Rare Books and Special Collections, has over 300 incunabula, which is the largest collection in Canada.

Aristotle's Masterpiece: **Report of the 2014** **Osler Library Research** **Travel Grant Winner**

By Mary Fissell

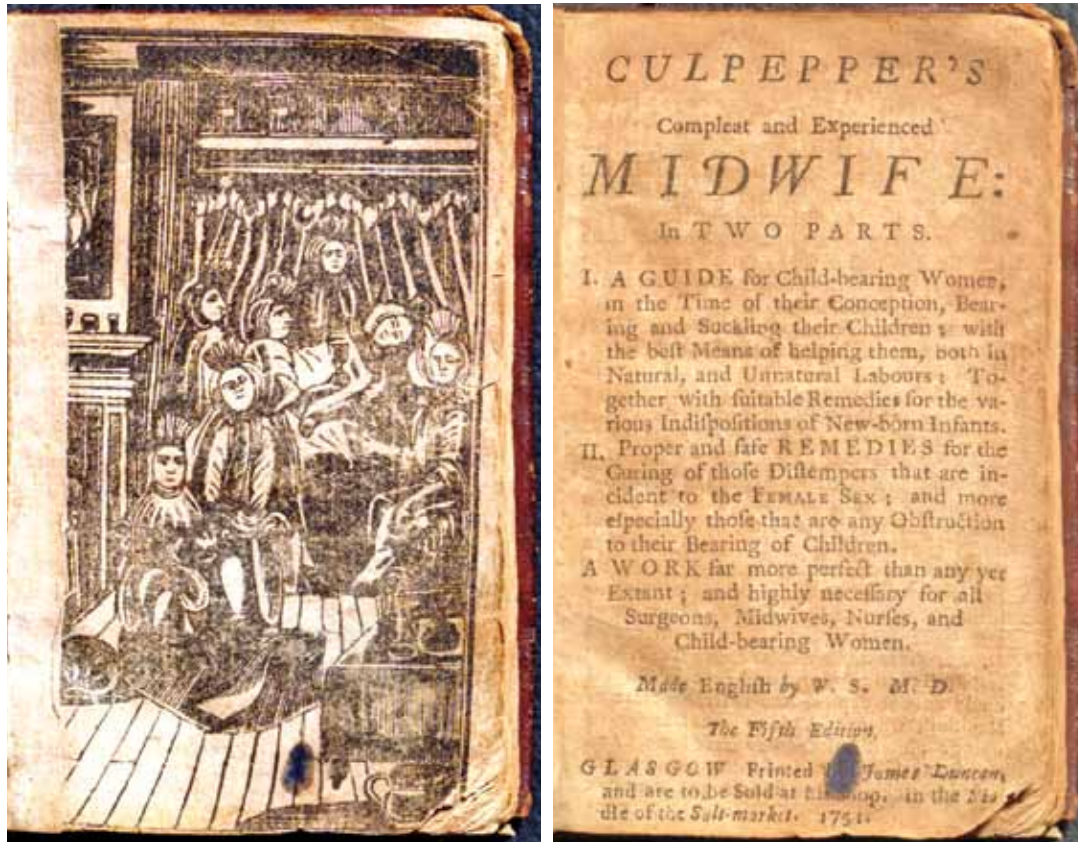
Mary E. Fissell is a professor in the Department of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University.

I was very pleased to conduct research in the collection of the Osler Library in May 2014, for my book project on the history of *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, a popular work on what we would now call reproduction. Since the library itself is undergoing renovations, I consulted the Osler books in the main Library's Rare Book Room, including a copy of the Masterpiece that seems to have been Osler's own copy!

As a part of the Masterpiece project I have been building a bibliography of the Masterpiece and the pseudo-Aristotle texts associated with it; I plan to publish the bibliography once I have completed the monograph. Such bibliographic work, fiddly though it is, has been essential to understanding the larger publication and reading history of the work. I was delighted to find some very helpful works in the Osler holdings. For example, the 1751 Aristotle's compleat and experienced midwife, published under the title *Culpepper's Compleat and Experienced Midwife*, is a gem. Only three other copies are known in the world. It was published in Glasgow, a rare north-of-the-border Aristotle text. To my surprise, it had a frontispiece, a version of the usual one, but mirror-image, suggesting it had been reproduced by pasting down a copy of the usual image onto a blank woodblock and cutting out the image -- resulting in a reversed print. Obviously the publisher felt the book was likely to be successful enough to justify this added expense. This book claims to be the 5th edition -- none of the previous 4 Glasgow editions survive, but having examined this copy, I do not find it unlikely that they may have once existed.

Two other books in the collection helped me to resolve vexing bibliographic issues. In each case, I was trying to resolve if a collection of the usual four pseudo-Aristotle texts had been published together as the Works or merely bound together, or possibly put together by an enterprising bookseller in an ad-hoc version of the Works. In the case of the 1776/1788 volume, each of the 3 copies I have examined has a slightly different array of the 4 texts in it,

albeit with the same title page. Seeing the Osler copy helped to clarify the printing and publishing practices of the Hawes/Crowder collective of publishers who dominated the late 18th century publication of the Works. Since each of the 3 copies I have examined has a slightly different assortment of the 4 texts, it seems that Hawes/Crowder did not hesitate to warehouse various printings of Aristotle texts until needed, even over periods of a decade or more, suggesting that they saw the works as steady sellers. Similarly, seeing the 1799 Philadelphia copy, elements of which were included in a later 1815 edition, helped me understand how this book was compiled by a particular Philadelphia printer/bookseller.



Frontispiece and title page of *Culpepper's Complete and Experienced Midwife*.

Glasgow: James Duncan, 1751

I have also been collecting ownership inscriptions as a way to analyze patterns of readership, and was delighted to find an 1824 woman reader -- Mrs. Abbie Richards. Since the inscription includes a place name (Bristol, Maine) I can try to find her in genealogical records. So far I have been able to trace about half of the inscriptions in this way; such information affords useful insights into just who was reading this book.

At the other end of the spectrum for bibliographic research, I have been working on the larger context of the Aristotle texts, both in terms of the history of the book, and of reproduction. In particular, I have been reading very broadly in the kinds of books that a reader might have read alongside, or instead of, the Aristotle texts. Basically, there are two big groups of books: the surge in midwifery texts, 1730s-1760s, and the cacophonous array of books on sex and marriage, 1830s-1870s. I've developed something of a side interest in Sarah Stone, the second English midwife to publish a book. I was delighted to have the opportunity to read two books that I have never seen before, important to understanding both Stone and the world of midwifery ca. the 1730s, just when the Masterpiece really takes off. In one of those happy moments of research serendipity, I read Hendrick Deventer's work on midwifery, and then a

book by John Allen, who has never been discussed in the secondary literature on midwifery, but whom I will argue is significant because he mentored Stone. Having just read Deventer, I could see very clearly how much Allen's section on midwifery owed to Deventer's text! I can therefore make much stronger links between Stone's practice and Deventer's -- because I now know that, even in remote rural Somerset, she had access to this important Dutch author in English translation. I have long wondered about some of the sources for her innovations, and now I have been able to trace at least one of them. I also got a better grasp on midwifery practices across the Channel by consulting Barthelemy Saviard's work on surgery -- again, not discussed in the midwifery literature, but he provides wonderful insights into midwifery practices at the Hôtel-Dieu in Paris, where he was both a surgeon and a man-midwife.

These are just some examples of the works I was able to consult in the Osler Collection. I am grateful to the committee for the opportunity to come to Montreal and work in the collection; I have a rich set of notes to digest and ponder as I move into the writing phase of this project.

A World War One Remembrance: Finding Revere and McGill's First World War Hospital

by Susan Kelen



Revere Osler, First World War.

William Osler Photo Collection,

CUS_091-004_P. Osler Library

Susan Kelen is the daughter of Dr. Marian Francis Kelan (1922-2014) and the granddaughter of Dr. W.W. Francis (the first Osler Librarian and a relative of Sir William's). Her piece describes her efforts to find the grave of Osler's son Revere, who was killed and buried in France during the war, as well as the location of the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital, a military hospital which was organised by the Faculty of

Medicine and staffed by McGill faculty members, students and nurses from the Royal Victoria and Montreal General hospitals from 1915 to 1919.

I took a World War One Battlefield Tour in Belgium and France this fall. The participants were asked whether there was anything in particular we wanted to find or see. I asked for help finding Revere Osler's grave and also, if possible, the location of McGill's First World War field hospital - the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital. My grandfather, W.W. Francis, served as Registrar at the hospital between 1915 and 1918.

Finding Revere Osler's grave itself was easy, but getting to the cemetery wasn't. There were many turns and so many roundabouts that I lost count. I ended up on a narrow road in the middle of the countryside.

Initially, I thought I would have to find my own way to Dozinghem Military Cemetery in West Flanders, Belgium to find Revere's grave. I imagined that I would have had to take a taxi out there, on my own. The prospect of finding the cemetery was daunting. Even with the directions from the Internet I am not sure I could have found it - the directions read like a Google translation - and I found the road names

unpronounceable. To my great relief, I found that my tour guides were more than pleased to get me there.

Dozinghem Military Cemetery is located off a narrow country road. The sign points down a wooded lane. The cemetery itself is hidden from sight. Once down the lane and out of the woods there was the walled graveyard. Sunshine was burning off the morning mist. Cornfields surrounded the cemetery. There was not a house to be seen. The graveyard was full of identical white gravestones, all in neat rows with flowering plants here and there. Three thousand soldiers are buried there.

I had Revere's section number and row number and with some help from the other participants, I "found" him. So here he was, 2nd Lieutenant, E.R. Osler, identified as belonging to The Royal Field Artillery. To stand at his grave was bittersweet. I wondered how his life would have been if he had lived. Trying to cheer him up, or rather me, I "spoke" to him silently. I told him that I had found his books among my grandfather's effects and that they were going to be given to the Osler Library.

In some odd way, I felt I was telling him he would be reunited with his parents - albeit their ashes.

It is an unusual experience standing at a grave of someone who died almost a hundred years ago, someone I knew so much and so little about. Still, I felt a sense of closeness from the visit. I could imagine Revere looking down at me from the heavens, surprised to see a descendant of Bill Francis'. So for an instant, history came alive; the act of remembrance is powerful.

A few days later, we traveled to Boulogne-sur-Mer, a walled city in northern France. I was hoping to find the site of the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital. The tour organizers cautioned me - they were doubtful that we would be able to find it.

The only clue I had was a postcard of a burnt out Jesuit College, which I had found among my grandfather's papers. The postcard said that the College was on Route de Calais. On the back of the postcard, my grandfather had written that this was the site of the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill). Subsequently, I found out that the College had existed on that site for 40 years and they had had 400

students. The College had burned down in 1907.

I had seen a book of photographs documenting life at the hospital. The No. 3 Canadian General Hospital was established in 1915 and served the Allied forces until the end of the war. It was staffed by McGill trained doctors and nurses. The hospital started with 500 beds and grew to 1,950 beds. The hospital would have had many buildings plus tents, so I was looking for a sizable property.

I got help with the detective work from the assistant leader of my tour group. We had only two hours to do our investigations while the rest of our group explored Boulogne. We phoned tourist information. We enquired at city hall. We talked to some seniors working in the Cathedral. No one had ever heard of a Jesuit College being in Boulogne, ever.

It was discouraging; nothing looked promising, at least to me. We decided to walk towards the Route de Calais. We found that some of the street names had been changed, but fortunately not the Route de Calais.

We dropped into a hotel on the corner of Calais and rue Charles de Gaulle to use a telephone to contact the city's "Patrimoine" (heritage) department.

We were delighted when someone answered the phone – it is becoming unusual in this day and age to have someone answer. *Patrimoine* was able to tell us that currently there is a school on that street, and it has large grounds. It is called The Lycée Privé St. Joseph, and it might be the site that we were looking for.

The hotel desk clerk was not just helpful but interested in our quest. When she heard that the site we were searching for was possibly where the Lycée was located now, she sprang into action. She researched the history of the Lycée St. Joseph on the Internet and there, deep in the history, she found that the school had been built on the site of the old Jesuit College.

So we found the site and now we had the exact address!! We found the location of No. 3 Canadian General Hospital to be at what is currently 26 route de Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer. The Lycée St. Joseph is a junior college. The building's facade is not impressive with its 50's style architecture. The tour bus made a stop at the site so I could get out and take a quick photo and then off we went. I know that my tour group was puzzled that I was so excited to find this white cement school. I was asked to explain to the tour participants why I was so pleased. This was the place where there had been McGill's First World War hospital. It was a place where Dr. John McCrae had worked, where the Queen of England and Sir William Osler had visited and where Revere Osler



Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium. Author's photo



Revere Osler's grave in Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium.

had started his military foray. And it was the place where my grandfather had been. As the bus turned the corner, while we were driving away, I saw the extent of the property and also I noticed a garden. I had seen a photograph of a grotto in the book on history of the hospital. I wonder if the grotto, which I knew dated back to the Jesuit College, was still there in the garden.

How excited and pleased I was that I had found the site! I was standing on the same ground where my grandfather had walked. I could imagine him biking the one kilometer to the walled gates of Boulogne-sur-Mer. And I know that the walled town would have looked pretty much the same as when my grandfather had been there during the war, having just seen it myself.

In my research when I returned home, I found out that the McGill Hospital compound was 26 acres, which is much bigger than I ever imagined. I am not sure that the Lycée St. Joseph still owns all of that property. I also found out that that between 1917 and 1918 the hospital

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2014 ANNUAL APPEAL

People come and go, but the Osler Library endures, and indeed continues to thrive, even when it is not open! These past few months have taught me this. As our renovations come to an end, and we prepare to reopen in January, I have come to realize just how much the library means to so many of us. Seeing the books being carefully unpacked and returned to the shelves has been deeply satisfying. Knowing that these treasures, collected for over a century and lovingly added to each year, are now housed in an improved library space is a source of deep satisfaction and pride for the Osler Library staff.

At a conference held at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia last December entitled *Emerging Roles for Historical Medical Libraries: Value in the Digital Age*, several historians and library directors made a strong case for seizing the new opportunities emerging for rare book libraries, particularly in the digital realm, as well as maintaining access to the physical books and archives as well because we can learn so much more from them than the textual information. The library has continually strived to do just that, through our acquisition, teaching, exhibition and digitisation activities. As our newsletter articles attest, it is good to see that the library and the Oslerian tradition that it supports continues to play a relevant role in the life of McGill University, the medical profession and beyond in these times of change. It is in large part due to your ongoing support that we have been able to grow from strength to strength.

Despite the renovations, we've been busy this past year. Reference services continued both online and in person. I gave a number of talks, including a number to classes on finding research material. I also had the great good fortune to be invited to speak at the Malloch Circle series at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) last Winter on the theme of Sir William Osler as a book collector. It was wonderful to meet a number of medical bibliophiles, including several friends of the Osler Library, and strengthen the strong historical bonds which exist between the Osler Library

and the NYAM. These date back to the close ties between the Osler and Malloch families, particularly Archie Malloch, the Academy's famed librarian, who was a surrogate son to Sir William and Lady Osler (figure 3).

Last October, we were also very pleased to mount a special exhibition in the Faculty of Medicine deanery during Homecoming. We had a great time meeting about 300 alums who very much enjoyed having the library come to them this year. We had an extensive display of material focusing on the history of the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, which was organised and staffed by McGill Faculty of Medicine personnel and nurses from the Montreal General and Royal Victoria Hospitals in France during the First World War.



Allison Smith and Lily Martin carefully putting the rare books back in order. [fig. 1]



Diego Ewing from Scott's Transport placing the books back on the shelf. [fig. 2]



Treasuries from the Osler Library, Homecoming 2014. [fig. 3]



Hippocrates, De natura hominis [fig. 4]

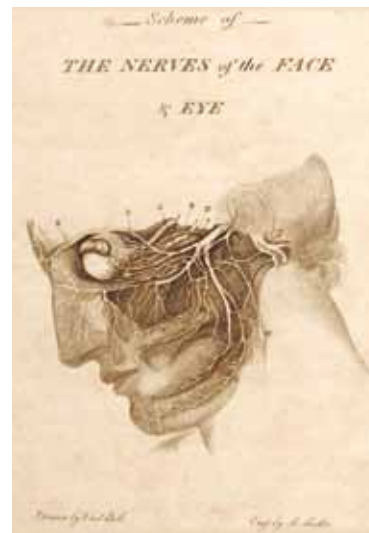
We also exhibited some of our recent acquisitions, including one of the first printings of the Hippocratic Oath.

This is part of a very rare collection of Hippocrates' writings published in the 1480s in Rome. Edited and translated into Latin by Andrea Brentius, *De natura hominis. Add: De victu; De tuenda valetudine; Medicinae lex; Iusiurandum; Demonstratio quod artes sunt; Invectiva in obtretractores medicinae* was purchased with a generous donation of \$45,000 from Justice John Gomery (figures 4 and 5). As well, Dr. J. Fraser Muirhead, MD, CM, McGill '54, visited the exhibition and was shown one of the library's rare books which had been restored using funds from an endowment he established for this purpose. The Beverly Millar Muirhead (McGill PT-OT 1954) fund was named after his deceased wife and is dedicated to the restoration of rare

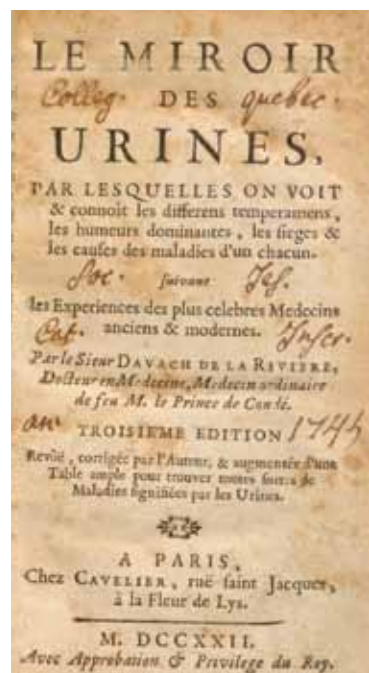
books in our collection, which is an important activity in that it ensures that selected items can be used by readers. He is also making a second gift in memory of his late daughter Diana Catherine Muirhead. The fund will be renamed the

Beverly Millar Muirhead and Diana Catherine Muirhead Fund and will be devoted to the same purpose. All books restored using this fund are recognised in the library catalogue and the book (figure 6).

Thanks to the annual donations made by you, and our endowments, we were able to add a number of fascinating items to the collection, some of which are already being used by researchers. We acquired the three incunables from the first fifty years of printing (1450-1500), as noted above and in the Champier article, giving us the largest collection in Canada. We've also obtained the first edition of Sir Charles Bell's *A Series of Engravings Explaining the Course of the Nerves*, which was published in London in 1803 (figure 7). Charles Bell, and his brother John, were Scottish anatomists and surgeons who published extensively and whom Osler collected. Neither felt that artists could capture the degree of accuracy they wanted for their books so they did their own drawings, as the example here shows. Charles Bell is



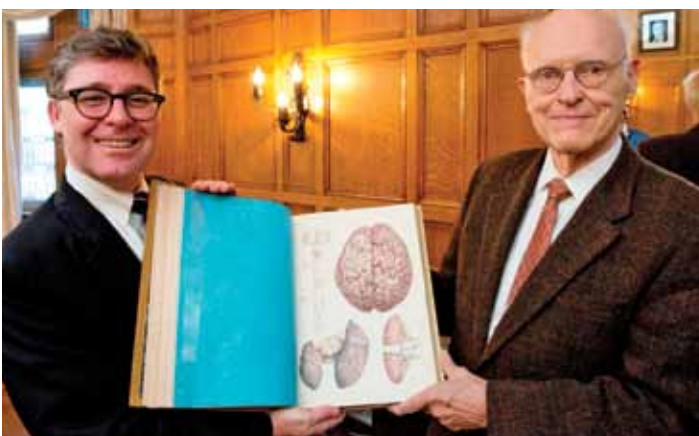
Charles Bell. A Series of Engravings Explaining the Course of the Nerves, 1803. [fig. 7]



Jean Davach de la Rivière. *Le miroir des urines*, 1722. From the library of the Jesuit College of New France. [fig. 8]



Chris Lyons and Justice John Gomery, 2014. [fig. 5]



Head Librarian Chris Lyons with Dr. J. Fraser Muirhead. [fig. 6]

best known for his discoveries of the nervous system, such as Bell's palsy.

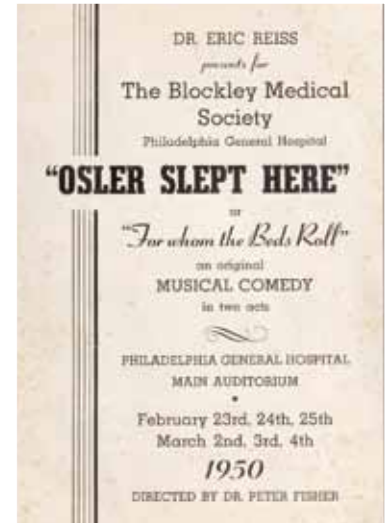
The past year has been a good one for purchasing rare and unique items. Jean Davach de la Rivière's French work on urinalysis, *Le miroir des urines* (figure 8) (1722), is not necessarily in itself significant, indeed we already owned a copy. What makes this purchase special is that the title page indicates that it once belonged to the Jesuit college library in Quebec City. This library was established in colonial New France and was the first one in Canada. The library was disbanded and the collection dispersed when the British conquered Quebec in 1759. This book, which found its way to the Osler via a 19th century practitioner working south of Montreal, amongst others, provides evidence of the medical knowledge circulating amongst the early European settlers in North America.

The library also acquired two very rare and interesting items of Osleriana. At the Toronto Antiquarian book fair I purchased a note book that has the names of two students from McGill's 1876 medical class: Thornton Craig and Christopher Lang (figure 9). Both were classmates of the notorious Thomas Neill Cream, the Lambeth Poisoner who was also at one time believed to be Jack the Ripper. These general pathology notes date from the Fall of 1875, so one wonders if perhaps they were students of Dr. Osler's, who began teaching in 1874. This would make an interesting research project. The notes are in a beautiful hand, which suggests that perhaps they were purchased, or recopied, by a professional. Like all students, these two did like to doodle occasionally. On page 142, for example, there is a margin note, "in college this year, God knows where next year." Earlier this year we purchased what appears to be the only copy to be held in a library of *Osler Slept Here, or For Whom the Beds Roll, an Original Musical Comedy in Two Acts*. This is a vinyl lp recording of the 1950 performance by the Blockley Medical Society of the Philadelphia General Hospital, where Osler once worked (figure 10 and 11). According to the handbill, the show enjoyed 6 performances. If anyone has any more information, or wishes to hear the recording, please contact the library.

On a more serious note, in recognition of the centenary of the start of the First World War, the library has been acquiring material associated with that conflict. One intriguing item is a nurse's photo album from the No. 1 Canadian General Hospital in Etaples, France, 1915-1917. This is an oblong black leather album with 165 mostly captioned black and white photographs. A very different collection of photographs is the German *Röntgen-Atlas der Kriegsverletzungen*. Published in Hamburg in 1916, this is an atlas of x-rays and related photographs of war wounds, some of which are



McGill student pathology notebook, 1875. [fig. 9]



Programme notes, *Osler Slept Here*, 1950. [fig. 11]

stereoscopes (figure 12). Although a fascinating book in terms of war medicine, the photographs of the soldiers, particularly their faces, is a critical reminder of the human cost of war.



Osler Slept Here, 1950. [fig. 10]

As I wrote earlier, the library is growing from strength to strength. As this appeal and others articles in the newsletter attest, we've had great support from you, our friends, this past year in terms of building our collections, supporting our work and helping scholars come to McGill to carry out research.

The Osler Library was founded on beneficence and the belief that a library can serve not only as a repository of information and knowledge, but as a source of inspiration. This was Sir William's dream, and this is our reality. Thank you for sharing the dream.



Image from *Röntgen-Atlas der Kriegsverletzungen*, 1916. [fig. 12]

Continued from page 7

was subject to air raids by the Germans, usually on nights with full moons. Not only did the hospital staff have to worry about bombs but they also had to worry about the debris from bombs falling close by. In addition to the bombing, they had to contend with falling shrapnel from the anti-aircraft guns.

The bombers did hit targets just outside the hospital grounds. Several houses and one other hospital in Boulogne were destroyed.

Two nearby Canadian Hospitals had to close and their staff reassigned because of damage and loss of life of their key staff members. The McGill Hospital was just lucky that they weren't hit. If a bomb had hit them, resulting in a telltale fire, then the German fighter planes would have used the fires as a beacon and been relentless.

The McGill Hospital did have one bomb that fell on their grounds but did not explode. Debris from a nearby explosion sent a rock through the Matrons' sleeping quarters. And a German bomber, flying a day time reconnaissance mission, dropped a note saying they were to be on the hit list for that night.

So I found out that my grandfather had been in the line of fire and that he wasn't in a cushy job far from the front. It gave me a whole new sense of what he had experienced in the war, and also respect. I would have been terrified if I had lived in those conditions.

I know that the Lycée St Joseph has no idea of their history. The school moved to the site in 1947 and there is no



Lycée St Joseph on the site of the No 3 Canadian General Hospital, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.

Author's photo



Medical staff and patients at McGill's No.3 Canadian General Hospital in France.

reference to a First World War hospital in their history. The school will be proud to know that they can say that they were associated with Dr. John McCrae - whenever they find out.

McCrae is celebrated in northern France and Belgium, and his name and the lines of his poem "In Flanders Fields" are on street banners and on plaques in parks.

But what they will never know is the satisfaction I felt in finding the location of The No.3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) and what it was like for me to be walking in my grandfather's footsteps.

References

ⁱ Everything John McCrae was part of the tour already.

ⁱⁱ No. 3 Canadian General Hospital in France (1915, 1916, 1917) Views illustrating life and scenes in the hospital. Middlesex. 1917

ⁱⁱⁱ Thank you, Doris Moffet, Norm Christie's Battlefield Tours.

^{iv} R.C. Fetherstonhaugh. The No. 3 Canadian General Hospital 1915-1919. Montreal: The Gazette, 1928.

‘CARDIAC GREETINGS’¹ FROM DOWN UNDER: Introducing a New Generation of ‘Ozlerians’²

By Nadeem Toodayan

Nadeem first came to my notice through the excellent online tribute to Sir William that he made and posted to YouTube, “Sir William Osler: The Father of Modern Medicine” <http://youtu.be/djshP-Lp4f0>. In writing to congratulate him, I discovered a real 21st Century Oslerian.

“Feel something of thyself in the noble acts of thy ancestors, and find in thine own genius that of thy predecessors”³

– Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682)

Dear Fellow Oslerians,

I am a young resident doctor and amateur medical historian from Brisbane, Australia. I was drawn to the study of medical history through a somewhat innate affinity for medical eponyms, a passion which started innocently enough during my middle years at medical school. The drive to learn everything eponymous in medicine introduced me to many medical greats and it was primarily through one of these figures (Harvey Cushing) that I became more seriously acquainted with the brilliance of the man behind ‘Osler’s nodes’. Some four to five years on now, those much enjoyed eponymous wanderings have become more focused and I am proud to confess my fully-fledged obsession with all things Oslerian.

As with many others who have come to admire Sir William Osler before me, I was much drawn to his unique character and personality. Not only was he hard working and self-effacing in the truest sense, he also espoused the highest ethical principles in medicine, and all this he did with invariably good humour. Sincerity, charity, equanimity – such lofty ideals he embraced, such timeless truths were his teachings. On top of all this, Sir William’s passion for medical history has been particularly appealing for me, and when others have been less than interested in my historical works, Osler’s voice has been all the more encouraging. Truthfully, not a day passes that his life fails to inspire me and through this growing bond it has become my innermost aspiration to share his legacy with others.

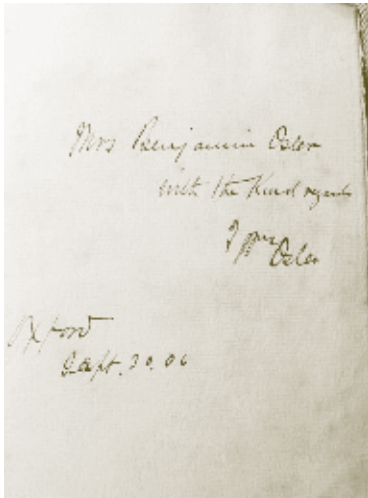
Most recently, this longing to share Osler’s legacy was realised through producing a personalised video tribute



A bad case of ‘Osleraemia’⁴, here characterized by bibliomania, hoarding of historical medical items, and a visceral attachment to the life and teachings of Sir William Osler (1849-1919). PHOTO BY ZAHEER TOODAYAN

which was uploaded to YouTube – a popular public video sharing website. Altogether the ten minute compilation briefly outlines Sir William’s wonderful life and through a special selection of images, specific quotations, and other annotations, highlights some of the more important milestones in his seventy years. To keep it palatable to a general audience, his strictly medical contributions have been excluded. This shouldn’t take away from its instructive value and I believe it may be enjoyed by doctors, medical students, historians, and lay people all the same. The video, which goes by the title *Sir William Osler: The Father of Modern Medicine*, is the latest addition to the YouTube channel *limewaveZ* which itself hosts a number of other such birthday tributes to important historical figures in medicine and science⁵. My twin brother Zaheer, who is also a junior doctor (and helped to record the books for the video), originally founded the channel, and we both contribute to its historical content regularly.

Sir William Osler never visited Australia in person, and yet his spirit continues to linger here all these years on. Indeed there currently works in Hobart, Tasmania, a physician and gastroenterologist by the same name of the master – yes another Dr. William Osler! This Osler is a direct South African descendant of Sir William’s paternal great uncle Benjamin Osler (1775-1821), who boarded the *Weymouth* with 32 others in 1820 to emigrate from England to Algoa Bay on South Africa’s Cape of Good Hope^{6,7}. Dr. William Thomas Benjamin Osler (born 1960), who often goes by the shorter name of Dr. William Osler (!), graduated in medicine in Cape Town in 1986 and became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in the year 2000⁸. He is the



Dr. William Osler's copy of *Counsels and Ideals*. This copy was presented by Sir William Osler to the above named ancestor of Dr. William Osler. Confusing isn't it! Courtesy of Dr. William Osler

son of Thomas Graham Osler (1906-1974) and grandson of Thomas Henry Osler (1875-1936), who was himself a great grandson of Benjamin's and the original founder of the South African Osler medical dynasty⁹. Our 'Dr. William Osler' reports being questioned about his ancestry during past fellowship examinations but reveals that others seem to have been more interested in the family's impressive rugby tradition! He confirms being named after Sir William and has in his possession a fine presentation copy of Sir William Osler's *Counsels*

and *Ideals* (1905), which was originally handed to one Mrs. Benjamin Osler by Sir William Osler himself when she visited Oxford in September of 1906¹⁰.

Osler's specific influence on Australian medicine and practitioners has been very well summarized by Dr. Milton Roxanas^{11,12} and is not at all surprising given his universally altruistic appeal. Despite this cosmopolitan trend, 'the father of modern medicine' remains something of an obscurity to many Down Under. With very few exceptions, most people in my experience have never heard of the man, and I often find myself trying to convince others that the Osler in 'Osler's nodes' is far more significant than just the painful acral erythematous nodules of infective endocarditis! In my generation, there seems to exist a degree of laxity to say the least when it comes to discussing historical topics, and few seem to understand the importance of the historical lens when it comes to seeing clearly as a practitioner. What the attitude is elsewhere, I cannot say, but in an age of ever-increasing sophistication in medicine, a good dose of Osler is sure to exercise a very welcome humanising influence on both the student and practitioner of modern medicine. Along with all those who believe in the priceless value of Osler's legacy, my aim is to teach and treasure the Osler tradition here in Australia and to join ties with others who are interested in the same. Hopes are high, and with the master's name and teachings so palpably at hand, who knows what the near future could hold? A new and enlightened generation of 'Ozlerians' may just be around corner.

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A shared history of epidemiology and transcultural psychiatry: Circulation of knowledge or impact of international scientific mobility?

By Emmanuel Delille

Emmanuel Delille, one of the winners of the Dimitrije Pivnicki Award 2014, is a historian, member of the Institute for History of Medicine Berlin and associate researcher at Centre Marc Bloch (a French institute for social sciences associated with the Humboldt University Berlin). One of his major interests is the history of psychiatry; including intellectual networks and comparative history between France and Germany. He is also interested in the history of epidemiological methods and the shared history (“histoire croisée”) of medicine and anthropology in the 20th century. Within this field, he is currently researching the history of cross-cultural psychiatry for his up-coming book. The subject will be a case study of the circulation of knowledge between Montreal and Paris, and between the French and the English-speaking scientific communities.

The topic of my research is the history of transcultural psychiatry (“ethnopsychiatrie” in French) after the Second World War. The best-known protagonist in this field is certainly Georges Devereux (1908-1985), author of *Reality and Dream: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian* (1951), which was also presented in the film: *Jimmy P.* (Desplechin, 2013). Devereux built a career as an anthropologist and a psychoanalyst, first in the U.S., then in France in the 1960’s. In addition, one could name dozens of other scientists who were involved in transcultural psychiatry in the 1940s – working with Native Americans on reserves, or with Japanese Americans in internment camps during the Second World War. These researchers, trained in anthropology and medicine, started the first epidemiological studies in mental health and wrote several monographs into the 1960’s. Indeed, the period of the Second World War and the Cold War was an important one for this field, particularly in the universities located at the boundary between the French and English-speaking scientific communities: e.g. Buffalo, Columbia and Cornell in New York State; Harvard in Massachusetts; Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia; and McGill University and l’Université de Montréal in Québec. The latter are located in Montreal and they constitute the ideal location to observe the “transition” (see: Alice Bullard) between ethnocentric or colonial psychiatry, and academic cultural psychiatry endowed with specialized university training and the study of migrant populations.

But first, a definition: “cultural psychiatry concerns itself with the mentally ill in relation to their cultural environment within the confines of a given cultural unit, whereas the term transcultural psychiatry denotes that the vista of the observer extends beyond the scope of one cultural unit to another” (1963). We owe this definition to Eric Wittkower (1899-1983), head of transcultural psychiatry at McGill University, where the first transcultural psychiatry programme in a university was established in 1955. Wittkower was born into a German Jewish family and received his training at the Faculty of Medicine in Berlin, where he specialised in internal medicine. As a result of the 1933 Anti-Jewish Law (Gesetze zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums), Wittkower lost his position and left for London. He became a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and international specialist in psychosomatic medicine. In 1951, he joined McGill University’s Department of Psychiatry, located within the Allan Memorial Institute. In 1956, together with the anthropologist Jacob Fried, Wittkower edited the international newsletter *Transcultural Research in Mental Health Problems*. This publication allowed Wittkower and his colleagues to collect information from all over the world, develop teaching methods and establish training in transcultural psychiatry in a university setting. What is particularly interesting is that faculty members and students had backgrounds in medicine and the social sciences, and came from both the French and English scientific communities in Montreal.

Around 1959, Wittkower hired a series of new collaborators at McGill. Two significant figures were Brian Murphy (1915–1987) and Henri Ellenberger (1905-1993). The former was trained as a physician at the University of Edinburgh and, after the Second World War, became a renowned epidemiologist. Traditionally, this discipline dealt with infectious germs and contagious illnesses. Psychiatric epidemiology, on the other hand, emerged in the post-war era during a fecund period in which social scientists were increasingly consulted in order to understand chronic illnesses. In 1945 Murphy worked for the Red Cross and for the United Nations Refugee Resettlement Association (UNRRA), and International Refugee Organisation (IRO), studying the psychiatric problems of refugees awaiting their journey to Israel, Australia and England from transit camps

located in Italy and Germany. With the data he collected in these transit camps, he co-wrote and edited *Flight and Resettlement* (UNESCO, 1955). In 1950, Murphy studied public health at the London University School of Hygiene, and went to Singapore to study the role of cultural factors in mental health (mental disorders, suicide and juvenile delinquency). After that, he did a PhD in sociology at the New School of Social Research (New York) on juvenile delinquency. When he was hired at McGill, Murphy dedicated his academic career to psychiatric epidemiology, working with physicians and social scientists within the French and English-speaking scientific communities.

How did this knowledge circulate? As a historian, I would like to revise this shared history based on the main articles in which Ellenberger and Murphy summarized transcultural psychiatry in the 1960's for a French publication *Encyclopédie Médico-Chirurgicale* (EMC). This series of articles is the first synthesis of this emerging field in France. Indeed, it gives a very precise overview of the circulation of knowledge between North America and Europe.

Ellenberger was a psychiatrist trained in Paris (his archives are now at Sainte-Anne Hospital). He had been a colleague of Devereux in the U.S. in the 1950's before he was hired at McGill. He became famous as a historian of medicine for his book *The Discovery of the Unconscious: The History and Evolution of Dynamic Psychiatry* (1970). In contrast, his work on transcultural psychiatry with Murphy left only very few traces, and is almost unknown today. Ellenberger observed the distribution of mental disorders in various populations, according to five basic problems: "cultural relativism", "cultural specificity", "cultural colouring of symptoms", "distribution within the same ethnic group" and "pathogenic cultural factors and biocultural interactions".

While Murphy's notion of a "population at risk" (including immigrants and members of a country's large transient population) is very far from our contemporary definition of a "risk factor", his concept is an interesting intermediate between transcultural psychiatry of the post-war period and current epidemiological concepts. Following another pioneer of psychiatric epidemiology, Alexander Leighton (1908-2007), Ellenberger and Murphy referenced studies that found that a minimal level of mental illness is to be

expected where there is strong social cohesion with positive values, while a maximum level of mental disease occurs where there is social disintegration and where the individual is isolated and deprived of positive cultural values. But there are also cultural factors such as religiosity that tend to repress mental illness.

Contemporary historians of science can complement the findings of archival and library research with another level of analysis generated by mapping software, which provides a visual representation of scientific networks. This allows one to change the scale of analysis from micro to macro-history and to pin-point the impact of scientific communities. I chose the software CorTexT (IRIS), which extracts digitalized bibliographical metadata from large databases, such as Medline and Web of Science, and maps them. Now, when I compare the results of my research in the archives with those produced by CorTexT, it is interesting to note that I barely found a clearly defined scientific community around Wittkower, Ellenberger and Murphy, partly of course because they were very mobile during their academic careers. What my findings demonstrate is that one cannot write the history of psychiatric epidemiology without taking into account the history of transcultural psychiatry, since my research shows they were strongly interconnected.

I am grateful to the Dimitrije Pivnicki Award Committee, which offered me the possibility to carry out my research in the McGill Library and the university archives of McGill and l'Université de Montréal during two stays in Montreal in 2014. My greatest thanks goes to Christopher Lyons, the Head of the Osler Library, Lily Szczygiel and their colleagues, particularly the staff of the Life Sciences Library. I wish to especially express my gratitude to Professor Allan Young, who invited me as a visiting scholar to the Department of Social Studies of Medicine (SSoM) during my second stay in Montreal, and for the passionate discussions on the shared history of psychiatry and anthropology. Many thanks also to Professor Laurence Kirmayer, Professor Anne Lovell, Tanya Murphy, Irène Ellenberger, and Michel Ellenberger for their patience in answering my questions. Last but not least, I wish to thank Professor Alberto Cambrosio, Director of the SSoM, and his colleagues, for their encouragement, critique and interest.

Archives

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The library gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from the Friends who responded to our last Annual Appeal for funds for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Close to 200 people contributed \$80,000 to the appeal to support the library's work. With additional special gifts to purchase specific books for the collection, and contributions to endowed funds, the library raised over \$250,000. Thank you all so very much!

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