



THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 107 · 2007

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

IN THIS ISSUE

THIS ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS THE Osler Library's purchase of what appears to be a unique publication, an unknown 16th century edition of Galen's *Therapeutics to Glaucon* – unique in that it is a translation from Latin into French, the earliest known vernacular translation of a work from antiquity of a medical text. William Kemp, research associate with the French Department at McGill is the author of the featured article and the specialist who brought this work to the attention of the Osler Library. Our ability to purchase the text results from the James Darragh Rare Book Endowment, recently established by The Harold Crabtree Foundation. It fits in perfectly with Osler's wish to build the French language holdings of his collection.

Dr. Richard Golden offers us a graceful article on Osler, this time concerning another incunable in our collection, presented to Osler by fellow members of the Colophon Club.

We mourn the passing of two distinguished members of McGill's Faculty of Medicine and supporters of the Osler Library, Dr. Charles Leblond and Dr. Patrick Cronin, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. We note the recent meeting of the American Osler Society in Montreal and draw to your attention, the Library's unexpected presence in outer space.

As this issue goes to press, we are saddened to hear that Dr. John McGovern, Oslerian benefactor extraordinaire, has passed away. A full appreciation will appear in our next issue. ❀



THE EARLIEST KNOWN FRENCH TRANSLATION OF GALEN (CA. 1530) AT THE OSLER LIBRARY

The Osler Library has recently acquired from the rare book dealer Bruce McKittrick a previously unknown 16th century edition of a French translation of Galen's *Therapeutics to Glaucon* (*Ad Glauconem de methodo medendi*).¹ The title of the book is *Le deuxiesme liure de Claude Galene intitule lart curatoire a Glaucon*. (Fig. 1) This quarto volume contains 32 leaves, but it is incomplete at the end, lacking

roughly one gathering. It stands apart from the other, slightly later editions of French translations of Galen, in that it was printed in a Bastard Gothic type, as can be seen in the accompanying illustrations of the title page and of the first page. (Fig. 2) The colophon may have contained the date of impression, but the title page does not – though it provides the name of the Parisian printer, Jérôme Denys or Denis.

by
William Kemp*

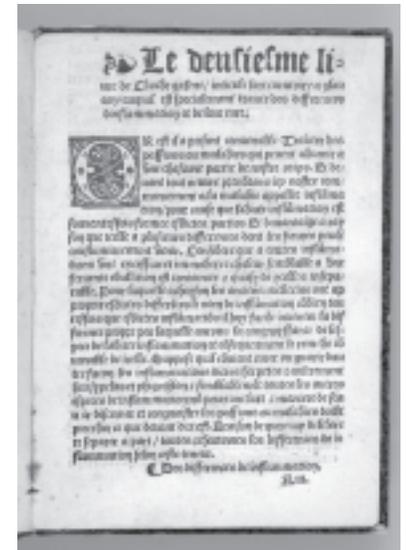
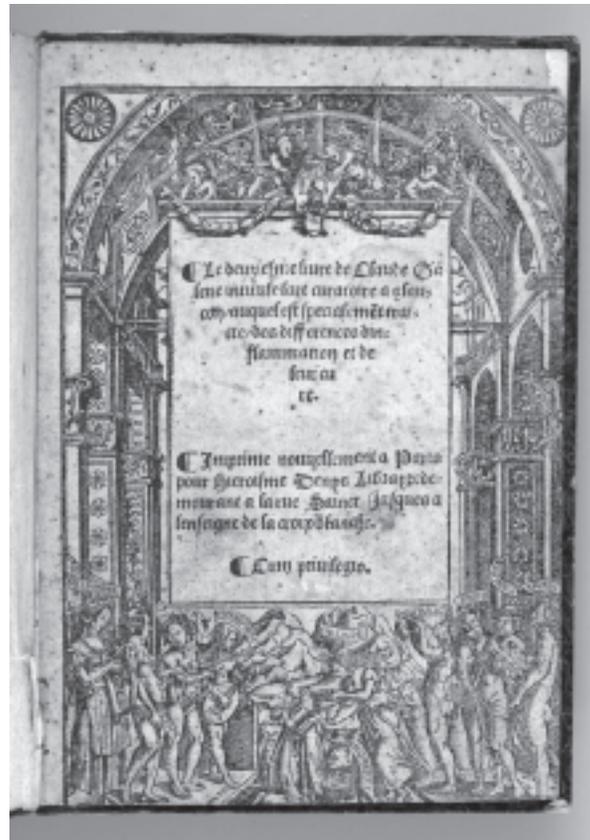


Fig. 2 Start of Galen's *Le deuxiesme liure lart curatoire a Glaucon*.

Fig. 1 Galen's *Le deuxiesme liure de Claude Galene intitule lart curatoire a Glaucon*.

Here are a few perspectives that give some idea of the significance of this latest addition to the Osler collection.



In all likelihood, the translation is based on Simon de Colines's 1528 reprint of the new Latin translation of *De arte curativa ad Glauconem libri duo* by the humanist Niccolò Leonicensio (†1524).² With 1528 as a *terminus a quo*, and the fact that Denys is not known to have printed any titles after 1530 or 1531, we can confidently assign our Galen a date of ca. 1530. This makes the Osler Galen the earliest printed vernacular translation in any language of a substantial medical text from Antiquity, and the first such

Library, or major medical historical libraries (Wellcome, Yale, Johns Hopkins). Nor does it appear in any of the key databases like WorldCat, the Catalogue collectif de France, or COPAC in the UK.

Here are a few perspectives that give some idea of the significance of this latest addition to the Osler collection. Among the milestones of Renaissance medicine are, of course, the discovery, description, naming and proposed cures for syphilis (Leonicensio's *De morbo*

the new anatomy of the human body by Vesalius, published in Basel in 1543 (Osler 567).⁴

Less spectacular but still crucial was the work of Renaissance humanists who edited the texts of the medical writers of Antiquity, especially Hippocrates and Galen.⁵ In 1510, Wilhelm Cop from Basel, physician to King Louis XII of France and translator of Paulus Aegineta and Galen, wrote: "In view of the multitude [of ancient texts] that [the Venetian printer] Aldus' diligence

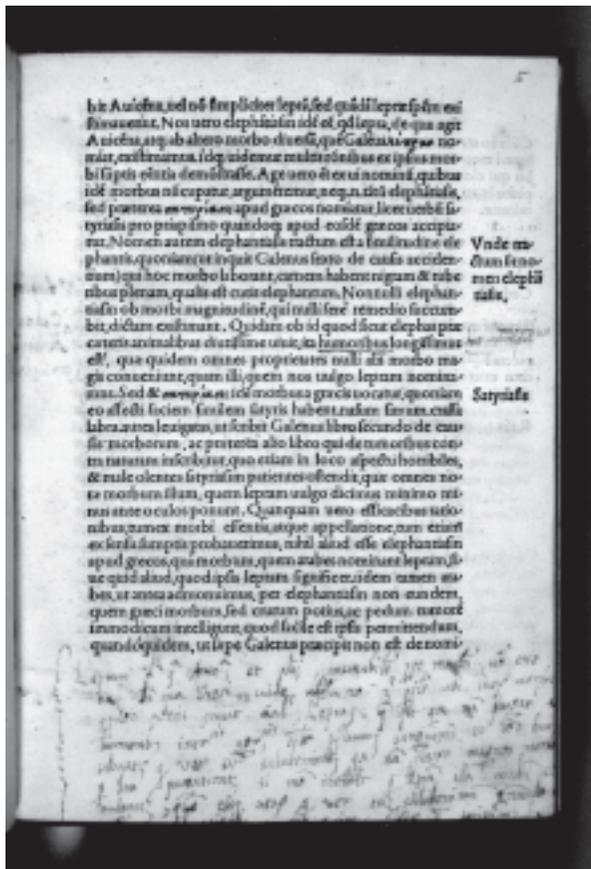


Fig. 3 *De morbo gallico* by Niccolò Leonicensio. Page a5r, discussing various illnesses including elephantiasis and satyriasis, with numerous marginal notes.

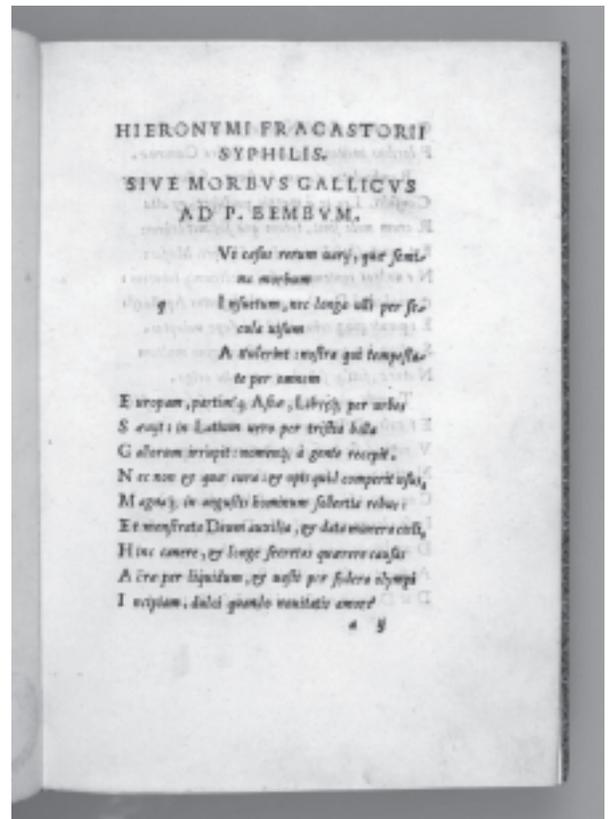


Fig. 4 Beginning of *Syphilis sive Morbus Gallicus* by Girolamo Fracastoro.

translation in French.³ No copy of this edition is recorded in any other major library, such as the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the British Library, the Bodleian

gallico, 1497 (Osler 7452) (Fig. 3); Hutten's *De Guaiacum*, 1519 (Osler 4974 and 4975); Fracastoro, *Syphilis, sive Morbus gallicus*, 1530 (Osler 4817) (Fig. 4), as well as

has recovered for us, I thought it worth trying to restore the ancient medical authors also to something of their former glory".⁶ Among these humanists must be

numbered François Rabelais, who published an edition of the *Aphorisms* of Hippocrates in Greek and in Latin at the press of Sebastian Gryphius in Lyons in 1534 (1545 Paris edition: Osler 153, 164 (Fig. 5) and 394).⁷ The recuperation of ancient medical treatises, techniques and wisdom involved locating manuscripts, printing editions, translating and commenting on this large corpus. In the case of Hippocrates and Galen, that meant editing the original Greek texts, translating them into Latin and then into the

vernacular languages of Italian, French, Spanish, German and English.

The imposing Galenic corpus was printed in Greek at the Aldine Press in Venice in 1525 (5 vol.: Osler 350).⁸ Latin translations of individual works of Galen were produced in quantity in Italy during the last decades of 15th century but, beginning in the 1510s, France entered the field with five editions from Lyon and nine from Paris. From the 1520s on, and for several decades, Paris

dominates: during the 1520s alone, Lyon produced 6 editions of Galen, while Parisian printers put out a remarkable 42 editions.⁹ Among the early Latin editions of Galen printed in Paris between 1513 and 1520, Thomas Linacre's translation of *De sanitate tuenda*, Paris 1517 (Osler 372), as well as Willem Cop's translation of *De affectorum locorum*, Paris 1513 and 1520 (Osler 379, etc.), are worthy of note. Major Paris printers got involved in this effort: Henri I Estienne (fl 1500-1520), Simon de Colines (1520-1546), Simon du

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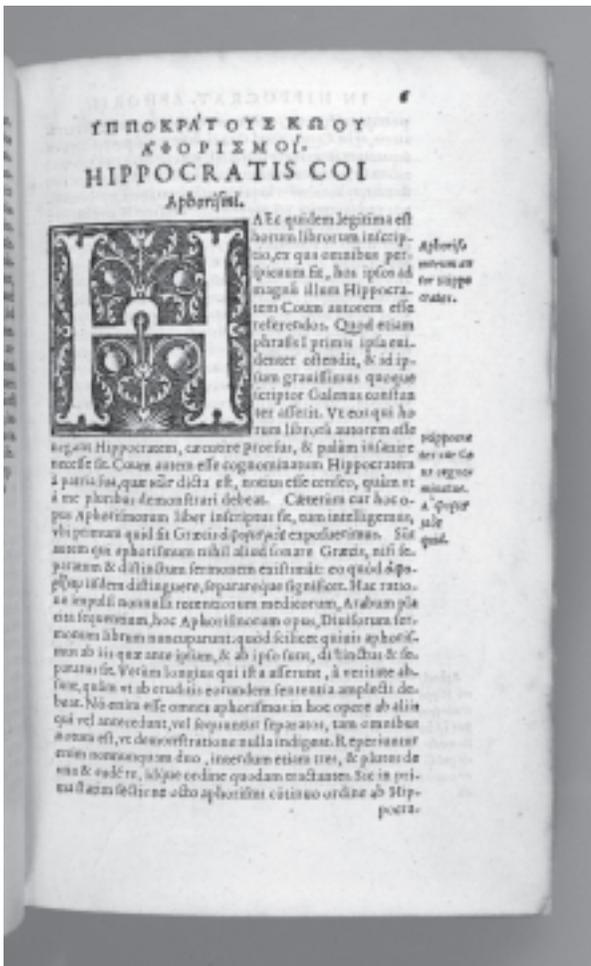


Fig. 5 Hippocrates' Aphorismorum sectiones septem....

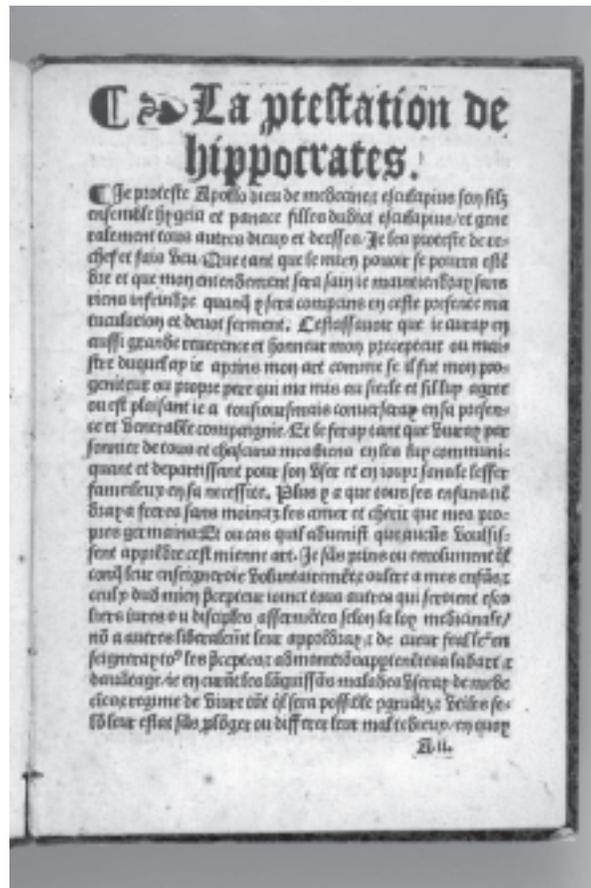


Fig. 6 The beginning of "La ptestation" or oath of Hippocrates.

It was one of Osler's most progressive wishes for his Library that it would actively collect historic works of medicine in the French language...



Bois (fl 1526-1529), Christian Wechel (1526-1554), to name only a few. Such translations both facilitated and promoted the transfer of Greek medical terms into Renaissance medical language, which was basically Latin.

In the first half of the 16th century, Paris shared the market for medical books with Lyon, but dominated in the production of Latin translations and Greek editions of Galen. Nevertheless, the first important group of vernacular translations of Galen's *Therapeutics* in French was printed in Lyon between 1537 and 1539, beginning with the 4th Book in 1537 and the 13th and the 14th in 1538. In 1539, there appeared an edition of Books 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13 with a preface by the editor, Étienne Dolet, a defender of Ciceronian Latin but also, from 1538 on, one of the early promoters of the French language, "le françois, langue du roi François Ier". Editions of Books 2 and 14 followed. Collected volumes containing these translations of Books 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13 and 14 of *Therapeutics*, printed in Lyon, are held in Paris and London, as well as at Harvard, Yale and the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda.¹⁰

The principal translator was the surgeon Jean Canape, *vulgarisateur par excellence*. His work came out at the end of a long period of friction between the surgeons and the barbers-surgeons in Paris. During the 1490s, the surgeons *de robe longue* ("of the long robe," i.e. members of a learned profession) forbade the dispensation of courses in French to the lower-class barber-surgeons, *de robe courte* ("of the short robe," or members of a craft), insisting that that they follow courses on anatomy in Latin.¹¹ Their corporation

blocked Willem Cop, *maistre regent* ("regent master" or professor), from giving his courses in French in 1498.¹² Durling attributed the late appearance of French translations of Galen to this sectarian rivalry: "Such professional jealousy goes far, he claimed, to explain why we do not find French versions of Galen until the late 1530s".¹³ This may well be true, but we now have an earlier translation to take into account.

Following in Cop's footsteps, Canape wrote in 1541 in the appendix to his translation of Galen's *Mouvement des muscles*: "l'art de medecine et chirurgie ne gist pas du tout aux langues, car c'est tout ung de l'entendre en Grec ou Latin ou Arabic ou francoys, ou (si tu veulx) en Breton Bretonnant, pourveu qu'on l'entende bien. Jouxte la sentence de Cornelius Celsus, lequel dict que les maladies ne sont pas gueries par eloquence, mais par remedes". ("The art of medicine and surgery is not confined by language. It is irrelevant whether you understand it in Greek or Latin or Arabic or French – or deepest Breton, for that matter – provided you understand it! It is the opinion of Cornelius Celsus that diseases are not cured by eloquence, but by remedies.")¹⁴ Shortly thereafter, in 1545, the barber-surgeon Ambroise Paré, who had read Galen in French, published what appears to be the first original medical treatise to be printed in French, his *Maniere de traicter les playes*.¹⁵

This overall picture of the development of medical studies in France and of the major role of the Lyonese in vernacular translations during the reign of François Ier (1515-1547) has been evident at least since the middle of the 19th century. Fairly

recently, this view has been confirmed by the extensive bibliographical studies on editions in French by Stone (1953) and on editions of Galen by Durling (1961).¹⁶ It now appears, however, that the earliest French translation of a medical text from Antiquity was published in Paris in about 1530, roughly seven or eight years before the Lyonese imprints. Indeed, the ca. 1539, Lyon edition of the 2nd Book of Galen's *therapeutics* seems to represent a reprint of the text of Denys's edition.

This edition of Jérôme Denys raises numerous questions. The dating of the appearance of many Greek medical terms in French must be adjusted. The history of the title border should be investigated, as well as the career of the bookseller Denys (fl 1527-1530). It will also be interesting to study the translation of the Hippocratic oath that was printed on the recto and verso of the second leaf of the volume, as a sort of preface to Galen. (Fig. 6) How accurate are the translations? Who might the translator be? If this translation is really from about 1530, how can we best explain the lapse in time before the Lyonese launched their editions of the *therapeutics* in French? In collaboration with Professor Faith Wallis (History), Professor Diane Desrosiers-Bonin (French) and Professor Évelyne Berriot-Salvadore (Montpellier, France), we hope to study this exceptional artifact. One aspect of this research project will be to publish the text of this edition with the pages from the original on the Osler Library website.

It was one of Osler's most progressive wishes for his Library that it would actively collect historic works of medicine in the French language, and thus

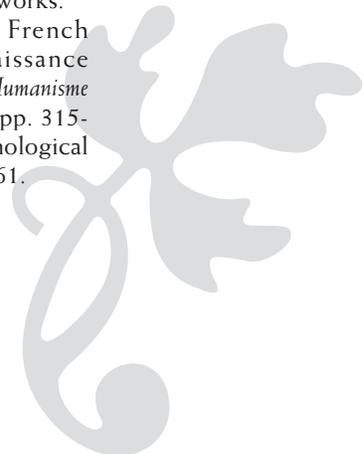
stimulate scholarly collaboration between the linguistic communities of Montreal. This is a fine addition to Dr. Osler's remarkable collection of early medical imprints, which remain a fundamental strength of the Osler Library. ❁

* I want to thank Faith Wallis for corrections to and suggests for this text, as well as for her enthusiastic support of this project.

References

1. The text is to be found in the *Opera omnia* of Galen, ed. C.G. Kühn, Vol. XI (Leipzig: Cnobloch, 1826), pp. 71-146.
2. On Leonicensis, see Dina Bacalexi, "Trois traducteurs de Galien au XVI^e siècle : Niccolò Leonicensis, Guillaume Cop, Leonhart Fuchs", in *Lire les médecins grecs à la Renaissance. Aux origines de l'édition médicale : actes du colloque international de Paris, 19-20 septembre 2003*, ed. Véronique Boudon-Millot and Guy Cobolet (Paris: Boccard, 2004), pp. 247-69 at 248-50.
3. Among the few medical writings printed in French prior to 1530, two at least should be mentioned: (1) Jean Chéradame's c.1523 translation of Ulrich von Hutten's *L'expérience et approbation touchant la médecine du boys, dict Guaiacum*, printed in Paris and then Lyons (see Kemp, "Les éditions de la version Chéradame du *Guaiacum* de Hutten (c. 1523-1529) et les débuts de l'humanisme médical en français", *Gutenberg Jahrbuch*, 1992, pp. 161-189); (2) The French version of Giovanni da Vigo's *La pratique et chirurgie* (Lyons 1525 et 1537; Paris 1530; Latin ed., Rome 1514, Lyons 1516 and 1534: Osler 3330 and 4173). For a recent evaluation of Da Vigo, see Raffi Gurunluoglu et al., "Review of the 'Chirurgia' of Giovanni de Vigo: Estimate of His Position in the History of Surgery", *World Journal of Surgery*, 27 (2003), pp. 616-23.
4. Osler numbers taken from William Osler, *Bibliotheca Osleriana: a Catalogue of Books Illustrating the History of Medicine and Science* (Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1969). For short descriptions and illustrations of two of these books, see *75 Books from the Osler Library*, ed. Faith Wallis and Pamela Miller (Montreal: Osler Library, McGill University, 2004), pp. 40-41 and 82-83.
5. For basic, up-to-date information on Galen and Hippocrates during the Middle Ages, see *Medieval Science, Technology, and Medicine: an Encyclopedia*, ed. Thomas Glick, Steven J. Livesey and Faith Wallis (New York: Routledge, 2005), pp. 179-182 and 224-226.
6. Cited by Richard J. Durling, "A Chronological Census of Renaissance Editions and Translations of Galen", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 24 (1961), pp. 230-305 at 236-237.
7. See Caroline Magdelaine, "Rabelais éditeur d'Hippocrate", in *Lire des médecins grecs à la Renaissance* (n. 2), pp. 61-83.
8. See *75 Books from the Osler Library*, p. 9.
9. Information taken from Durling's "A Chronological Census" (1961).
10. Good descriptions of these editions, printed by Guillaume Guelques, are provided in Baudrier's *Bibliographie lyonnaise. Recherches sur les imprimeurs, libraires, relieurs et fondeurs de lettres de Lyon au XVI^e siècle*, Vol. 5 (Lyons, Brun; Paris, Picard, 1901), pp. 288-294: *Le Deusiesme Liure*, no date (p. 289), *Le Quatoriesme Liure*, 1538 (p. 292), *Le Troiesiesme* [and 4th, 5th, 6th and 13th] *Liure*, ed. Dolet, 1539 (p. 293). Other composite volumes of these editions are held in the Bibliothèque municipale in Amiens and in Épernay, as well as the Académie de médecine, the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève in Paris, plus the Royal College of Physicians in London.
11. Ernest Wickersheimer, *La médecine et les médecins en France à l'époque de la Renaissance*, (Paris: Maloine, 1906), pp. 137-142.
12. Ernest Wickersheimer, *Dictionnaire biographique des médecins en France au Moyen Âge*, (Paris: 1936; reprinted Geneva: Droz, 1979), pp. 235-236.
13. Durling, "A Chronological Census" (n. 6), p. 241.
14. Ferdinand Brunot, "La langue au XVI^e siècle", in *Histoire de la langue et de la littérature française dès origines à 1900*, Vol. 3: *Seizième siècle*, ed. Louis Petit de Julleville, (Paris: Colin, 1897), pp. 639-855 at 674-75.
15. On this work, see Paule Dumaître, *Ambroise Paré, chirurgien de quatre rois de France* (Paris: Perrin, 1986), chap. 6 (pp. 81-87); also Gurunluoglu et al., "Review of the 'Chirurgia' of Giovanni de Vigo", p. 620, as well as Mireille Huchon, "Définition et description : Ambroise Paré chirurgien méthodique et huguenot", in *Ambroise Paré, 1510-1590: pratique et écriture de la science à la Renaissance. Actes du colloque de Pau, 6-7 mai 1999*, ed. Évelyne Berriot-Salvadore and Paul Mironneau, (Paris: Champion, 2004), pp. 201-227 at 207. Other candidats for the title of first original medical text printed in French: Symphorien Champier's *Le guidon en francoys* with his additions (Lyons, 1503; and Lyons, 1520), as well as his *Myrouel des Appothiquaires et pharmacopoles* (Lyon, 1531). Dr. Osler's collection includes most of Champier's major Latin works.
16. Howard Stone, "The French Language in Renaissance Medicine", *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, 15 (1953), pp. 315-346; Durling, "A Chronological Census" (n. 6), pp. 260-61.

This is a fine addition to Dr. Osler's remarkable collection of early medical imprints, which remain a fundamental strength of the Osler Library.



Osler transformed a potential sinecure into a multifaceted endeavor that brought new achievements and honors...



WILLIAM OSLER AND THE COLOPHON CLUB: A LAST TRIBUTE

by Richard L. Golden

At the peak of his career, William Osler came to England in 1905 to assume the chair of Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford. Alarmed by occasional anginal pain and the death of his 60-year-old brother, Britton Bath Osler, from coronary artery disease, Osler was strongly motivated by the need for surcease from the burdens of an increasingly stressful career.^{1,2} To his colleague William Thayer,³ he wrote: "I am on the down grade, the pace of the last three winters have been such that I knew I was riding for a fall. Better to get out decently in time, & leave while there is still a little elasticity in the rubber."⁴

Embracing his new appointment at Oxford with distinctive intensity and passion, Osler transformed a potential sinecure into a multifaceted endeavor that brought new achievements and honors to this final phase of his career. Osler entered fully into the intellectual life of England and among the many organizations he was invited to join was the Bibliographical Society (founded 1892) to which he was elected a 'candidate member' on March 19, 1906. (The Society's membership was limited to three hundred and the rolls were full.)⁵ Osler, passionate bibliophile and collector, wrote to a friend: "I have been elected a member of the Bibliographical Society, which is most interesting. I attended the first meeting last Monday and

heard a very good paper on the old Chapter House at Canterbury..."⁶

A.W. Pollard,⁷ the Secretary described this first attendance: "The Society needed new inspiration, and Osler brought it. ... A meeting had begun, when the entrance of a stranger with an attractive mobile face, alert figure, and notably light tread, caused a whispered secretarial inquiry as to who he was. The answer came back that it was Professor Osler, and the Secretary had an instinctive conviction that his coming meant much for the Society."^{5,6} Indeed it did, for Osler served on the Society's Council beginning in 1910, was elected Vice-President in 1911, and President from 1913 until his death in 1919.⁵ Osler, the longest serving president (undoubtedly a function of the Great War), described this as "an embarrassing honour, as I feel so horribly amateurish with all these professional fellows like Pollard—but it is a very nice group of men & I have been on the Council for three years as Vice-President."⁸ Osler gave his first paper at the Society's monthly meeting in November 1909 speaking on "The Library of Robert Burton."^{5,9} For his presidential address on January 19, 1914 he spoke on "Printed Medical Books to 1480."^{5,10} The address was later edited, a preface provided by A.W. Pollard, a bibliographical description by V. Scholderer,¹¹ and the monograph published posthumously (1923) by the Bibliographical Society as *Sir William Osler's Incunabula Medica: A Study of the Earliest Printed Medical Books 1467-1480*.^{5,10,12}

In his address¹³ Osler explained:

Not an expert bibliographer, but a representative of an ever-increasing group of ordinary book-lovers, I have

tried in the casual studies of a life devoted to hospital and consulting practice to glean two things, the book biographies of the great men of science, and the influence of their books in promoting the progress of knowledge. The anatomy of the mind of a man as shown in his book, and the physiology of the book itself, so far as it has had a definite function, though not perhaps bibliography proper, serve to illustrate its story. And this plan of study has its place. Revolutions are more rapidly effected in the arts than in the mind. Harvey's demonstration of the circulation of the blood was scarcely accepted by his own generation, but within a few years after Jenner's discovery the civilized world was vaccinated. It is not surprising to find the invention of printing spread so rapidly that, before the close of 1480, ... some 350 printers had been at work. It is estimated that the total output of the early presses in the fifteenth century amounted to twenty million copies. ...

As my profession has never before been honoured by the presidency of the Bibliographical Society, it seemed appropriate to try to indicate the influence which the introduction of printing had on medicine, to get, if possible, a mental picture of professors and practice at the time from the characters of books that they thought it worth while to have printed ...

In describing Osler's work as president, the Secretary, A.W. Pollard, wrote: "'work' is not quite the right word, for he brought us

life and high spirits and would give us no less even to the end."⁸

The Colophon Club was the inner circle of the Bibliographical Society, founded in January 1905, when the Council approved the proposal to form a Dining Club "with a view to showing hospitality to the readers of papers and the Foreign and American Members, and to the promotion of good fellowship." Its members (initially thirty-five) were elected from the officers, Council, and other invited

president of the Society he was *ex officio* president of the Club from January 1913 until his death in 1919,¹⁵ bringing to it his characteristic energy and contagious enthusiasm. The London dinners from 1905 until 1914 were held at the elegant Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant in Regent Street (near Piccadilly Circus) and provided intellectual, fraternal, and gastronomic pleasures for these ardent Edwardians, who in the early years consumed a hearty repast of "hors-d'œuvre, two kinds of soup

further insight into the Club and Osler's influence:

Many of us will remember Sir William most vividly as the president of the Colophon Club, composed of London members of the Bibliographical Society who dine together two or three times in a session and entertain readers of papers, especially any who come from a distance. The Club takes its name from the Colophon or final paragraph in early books, giving details as to their authorship, printer, place and date. The Greek word taken over to denote this means a crowning stroke, and under Osler's chairmanship the Colophon dinners formed an extraordinarily pleasant climax to the Society's meetings. He was always in high spirits, always ready with some graceful compliments to the readers of papers, and full of friendliness and good stories. No dinners were held during the war but he called for one in January 1919 and outdid himself in his efforts to make it a success, incidentally insisting on providing champagne on the patently false pretext that it was the Secretary's birthday! Many of those at the dinner never saw him again, but they would hardly have a brighter memory of him.¹⁹

"'work' is not quite the right word, for he brought us life and high spirits and would give us no less even to the end."

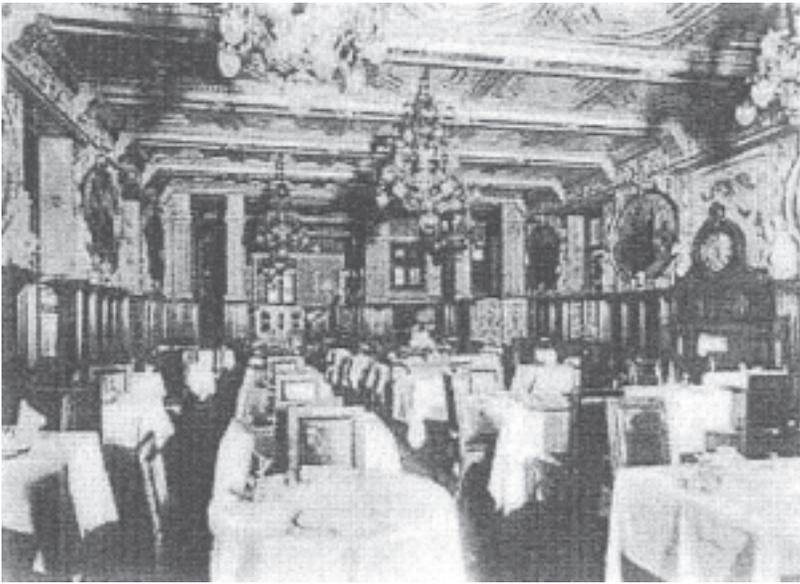


Figure 1. Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant, London, ca. 1912.

members of the Society.¹⁴ Osler became a member of the Club in December 1907 but did not attend a dinner until 1909.¹⁵ In June 1911 he hosted an unusual extra-London meeting at Oxford and wrote to a friend: "I wish you could have been here Saturday night. I had the Colophon Club—a sort of inner circle of the Bibliographical Society—at dinner at Christ Church—a very interesting group of men."¹⁶ As

(one thick, one thin), fish, a meat course with vegetables, followed by game with salad, ham, an iced pudding and dessert" served with "a bottle each of hock, claret, and port."¹⁴ (Figure 1)

James Atkinson (1759-1839) once described bibliography as "dry, dusty, tedious accursed, hateful," a view perhaps shared by some, but not by Osler's fellow Colophonists.^{17,18} Pollard gives



The book was accompanied by a presentation letter from Pollard, on the stationery of the Bibliographical Society, ...



A meeting of the Colophon Club on July 12, 1919 paid tribute to Osler's seventieth birthday presenting him with a choice incunabulum, Johannes Jacobi's *Regimen contra pestilentiam Epidemiam*, c. 1498 (figure 2), the most popular plague tractate of the fifteenth century.^{5,14,20,21} The book was accompanied by a presentation letter from Pollard, on the stationery of the Bibliographical Society, that palpably expresses the devotion of the Club:



Figure 2. Johannes Jacobi's *Regimen contra pestilentiam Epidemiam*, c. 1498

Dear Sir William,

The best of good wishes for your Seventieth Birthday from all of your book-loving friends. The little book which comes with this is a present from those of them who have really eaten a Colophon Dinner under your Chairmanship. I hope you have not got the book already, but in any case you must look on it only as a handy form in which your Brother Colophons could put on record their affection for you. Needless to say, as we are Colophons, you must look at the end.

Ever yours,
Alfred W. Pollard²²

On a leaf of delicate laid paper bound in at the end is printed the names of the twenty-six members of the Club,²³ the cream of British bibliography, and their accolade:

*Presented to Sir William Osler
on his 70th Birthday by practicing
members of the Colophon Club as
a little token of their affection for
an unsurpassable President*

12 July 1919

Another example of this presentation sheet is known²⁴ (Figure 3) and it seems likely that a very limited number of copies were printed for distribution to the members of the Colophon Club either at the meeting or when it was announced.

Osler, in bed with bronchial pneumonia, wrote a poignant and prescient letter of thanks later that month to his friend Alfred W. Pollard.²⁵

Dear Brother Colophonist,

You will be interested to know how your President survived his admission into the ranks of the 'last lappers'. From our standpoint the birthday was a great success. The anniversary volumes with articles from 150 contributors²⁶ are themselves a direct encouragement to bibliography. As for the *Regimen contra pestilentiam*, which you & others so kindly sent, please accept my hearty thanks for such a gem—both author & printer have already stimulated my interest, which is the test of the value of any incunabula. An untouched 1859 Omar²⁷ inscribed to Prof. Max Müller²⁸ with the compliments of the translator was a pleasant surprise on the breakfast table. A present of the snuff-box of our lamented friend Bannister,²⁹ whose Vatican mixture had stimulated the pineal gland of all the chief continental bibliographers, has induced your President to take up a habit of such undoubted antiprogeric value.

That a well-ordered 70th birthday may have all the advantages of the final exitus may be shown by the July number of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin,³⁰ which leaves nothing to be said. The end of the number brought the thrill of the day, when I saw revealed the utter shamelessness of my life—and the true reason of our Secretary's attachment to me! A bibliography of my writings extending to 730 articles!³¹ An illuminated

address from the staff at Bodley (not to have worshiped at whose shrine I count the day lost), the promise of a medico-literary anthology in my honour,³² with greetings from scores of dear friends helped to complete a very happy day....

In the letter Osler refers to a silver snuffbox that he inherited from

provided Osler with an entrée to the wonders of the Library during his visit to Italy in February 1909.^{29,33,34}

Osler died on December 29, 1919 and this last birthday gift from the Colophon Club that so pleased him, now rests in the Osler Library, McGill University, where, as he aspired, "my astral self, like the Bishop of St. Praxed³⁵ could peek at the books I have

disorders. *Am. J. Cardiol.* 1978; 60: 175-178.

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"...this last birthday gift from the Colophon Club that so pleased him, now rests in the Osler Library..."

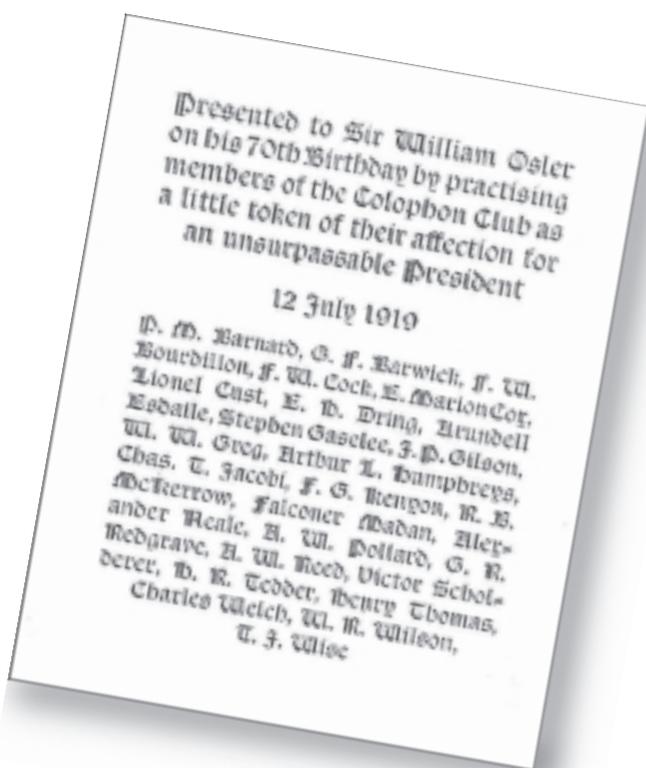


Figure 3. Presentation of the Colophon Club to Sir William Osler, July 12, 1919.

the Rev. Henry Marriot Bannister, an eminent musicologist. Rev. Bannister habitually pursued his studies in the winter at the Vatican and during the summer at Bodley, leading Osler to quip that he was the only amphibian Catholic that he knew — Roman half the year and Anglican the remainder. Bannister's friendship with the Vatican Librarian, Monsignor Achille Ratti (later Pope Pius XI),

loved, and enjoy the delight in which kindred souls still in the flesh would handle them."³⁶ ❀

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...it is clear that Osler's purchase of the first Arabic manuscripts for his library preceded his correspondence with Sa'eed.



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Notes from the Osler Library

Dr. Charles Philippe Leblond died earlier this spring at the age of 97. A distinguished researcher with over 430 scientific articles to his name, Dr. Leblond was active until the end, a frequent attendee at lectures and events at the University. A great supporter of the Osler Library, he is seen here



Charles Leblond in 1960

attending a Medical Library Christmas party in the Strathcona Building in 1960.

Dr. Patrick Cronin, Dean of Medicine from 1972 to 1977 died in Switzerland last January. Dr. Cronin visited the Osler Library and kept us up to date with wonderful letters about his research activities and family news, including the complications surrounding the completion of his degree in science from Princeton University...in the year 2000! In

2002 he donated his father A.J. Cronin's report on first aid in Welsh coal mines, published in 1927. This report, found among some forgotten family papers, formed the basis of A.J. Cronin's novel *The Stars Look Down*, later made into a highly successful film.

Johnson Sketchbooks Found

In issue number 104, we lamented the disappearance of Rev. Arthur J. Johnson's sketchbooks, following the closing of the

March edition of the *Medical Journal of Australia* and in the on-line version at: <http://www.mja.com>. The title of the article is, "Everyone is Entitled to a Good Doctor". The article discusses professionalism, the Bristol effect and education among other topics, and the abstract's final sentence states, "The advantages for patients are self-evident, but the trustworthiness, influence and good name of individual doctors and the medical profession collectively would be enhanced if

associations included the American Osler Society whose president this year was Dalhousie University's former Dean of Medicine, and keen medical historian, Dr. Jock Murray, the American Association of the History of Medicine, the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences and the Medical Museum Association. Along with organized tours, many researchers chose this occasion to consult our collections and we were delighted by their enthusiasm for our work and resources.



Patrick Cronin (middle) at convocation with Gertrude Kalz and Francis McNaughton, May 1974 (Photo by Ralf Emery reproduced here though efforts to reach Mr. Emery were unsuccessful).



American Osler Society members visiting the Osler Room.

Canadian Museum of Health and Medicine. It is a great pleasure to report that they have been found and are now located in the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology.

Sir Donald Irvine

Those of you who were unable to attend Sir Donald Irvine's inspiring talk at last year's Osler Lecture, are now able to read it either in hard copy in the 5th of

together they were able to show that the house of medicine is being maintained in good order."

History of Medicine Conferences in Montreal

During the first week of May, four conferences took place in Montreal. Although not hosted at McGill, many of us served on the local arrangements committee and the Osler Library welcomed visitors throughout the week. The



Jock Murray,
President
of the AOS
2006-2007.



...many researchers chose this occasion to consult our collections and we were delighted by their enthusiasm for our work and resources...



Charles Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer of the AOS and McGovern Award Lecturer Abraham Verghese.



Steve Greenberg and Jim Young examining the Willis exhibit.

Osler Library Studies in the History of Medicine

Dr. Richard Golden has published *The Transatlantic Voice*, Number 10 in our Osler Library Studies in the History of Medicine, a painstaking reconstruction of a manuscript that Osler worked on for many years, but never published. The organized appearance of the publication hides the fiendish disorder by means of which this manuscript has defied the most dedicated of Oslerians, save Dr. Golden. The 67 page book sells for \$20 for our Friends (\$25 regular price) and



Dafydd Williams

may be ordered from our web site at <http://www.mcgill.ca/osler-library/about/introduction/sales/>.

The Osler Library in Outer Space

The Osler Library sometimes receives bizarre requests. This one, however, from McGill's University Relations Office, surpassed them all. Dr. Dafydd Williams, Med. '83, will be acting as Mission Specialist for STS-118 on the 22nd assembly mission of the International Space Station. Dr. Williams, who has already performed 3 spacewalks, wanted something small from the Osler Library to take with him on his mission, scheduled for June 28th. Fortunately for all of us, the Osler Niche postcard based on a photograph taken by Karen Coshof in 1976, fit the request perfectly. Dr. Williams' affection for the Osler Library stems from his time spent here as a student, studying in the Osler Room.

Osler Day

November 7, 2007 is our next Osler Day. Our speaker is Dr. Rita Charon, an expert in narrative medicine. ❁

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Legal Deposit 1/2007
 ISSN 0085-4557
 Legal Deposit 1/2007
 ISSN 1712-7955