



# THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 102 · 2004

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

READERS OF THE NEWSLETTER who attended the symposium in honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Osler Library on 16 October will remember with great pleasure the "virtual paper" delivered by Dr. Rick Fraser of our Department of Pathology. Dr. Fraser was in fact in Australia attending a conference at the time, but he had prepared a splendid animated PowerPoint with voice-over narration, about his latest discovery of Osler artifacts at McGill. We persuaded Dr. Fraser to transform his talk into the lead article for this number, and while it lacks the charming sound effects of the original (Emma Kirkby singing Handel!), it has preserved all of its excitement and interest. In the midst of his busy research career in pulmonary pathology, and his extensive publications on thoracic and lung diseases, Dr. Fraser has once again managed to unearth unexpected material evidence connected with Osler's work as a pathologist at McGill. ❁

## OSLER AND THE TEACHING OF MICROSCOPY AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Imagine a summer afternoon in Montreal. It is 1877 and the weather is sunny and warm. A young bearded student named Fred Greenwood, dressed primly in tie and jacket, ascends the steps of the McGill University Medical Building, half wondering if he would be better spending his time in nearby Mount Royal Park. He enters a darkened hallway inside and descends to a small and rather cool basement room wherein several other young men are already seated at a long table. Greenwood takes his place and soon forgets any misgivings about his presence. In fact, there is a subtle but distinct air of excitement and anticipation in the room and he is secretly happy to be a part.

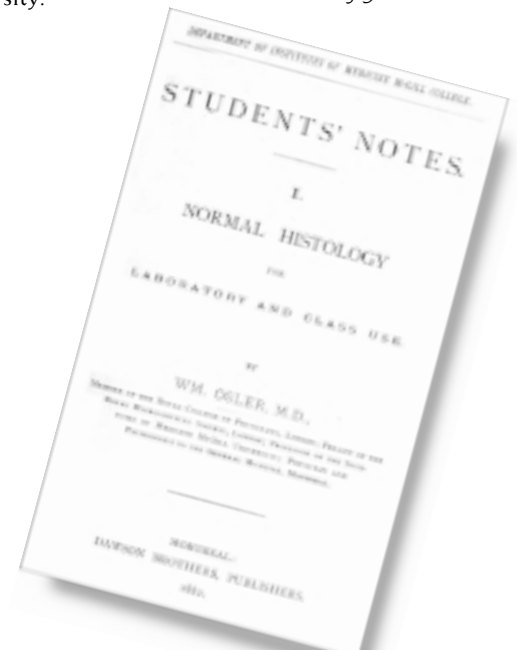
He and his fellow students – all part of the McGill medical school class of 1878 – begin to cut and shape small paper boxes about 1 1/2 x 3/4 inches in area and 1/4 an inch in height. Into one of these, Greenwood pours a heated mixture of 4 parts paraffin and 1 part lard until it almost reaches the brim. Carefully, he lifts a small fragment of hard, brown tissue approximately 1/2 inch square from a jar containing Müller's fluid, dries it thoroughly with blotting paper and fixes it in the wax mixture near one end of the box by means of a sharp needle. Additional wax is poured to cover the specimen and it is set aside. Once the wax is thoroughly hardened, Greenwood removes the paper covering, picks up the paraffin block in his left hand and, tightly grasping a straight razor such as used in the army, draws the blade from the heel to the tip, cutting as thin a section of the tissue-paraffin block as possible.

Greenwood looks up, noticing the approaching figure of the master of the class. The latter leans over his shoulder, examining the newly cut tissue fragment lightly floating on the surface of a container of Müller's fluid. "Capital lad! Capital!" he exclaims to the delight of all around and to the particular pride of Greenwood. "A thin smooth section of liver! That will suit you well for the afternoon, and indeed for the rest of this week's work."<sup>1,2</sup>

The story recounted above, although undoubtedly somewhat fanciful, is probably a very close approximation to what transpired at McGill in the early period of its transformation to "modern" medical teaching at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The "master of the class" was the young William Osler; the session attended by Greenwood was the first formal course in microscopy at the University.

by  
Dr. Rick Fraser

fig. 1



... he  
[Osler]  
bought 15  
Hartnack  
students'  
microscopes  
from Paris to  
be used in a  
practical  
course on  
microscopy  
and  
histology.

Presumably  
on the basis  
of his initial  
ideas as well  
as those  
developed  
while giving  
the course, he  
[Osler] wrote  
a student  
manual...



The origin of Osler's interest in microscopy can be traced to his association with William Johnson at Trinity College in Ontario. The latter was an ardent amateur naturalist who took Osler and other students on field trips in the vicinity of the college, during which time specimens were collected for microscopic examination. In fact, the microscope Osler first used was likely one that belonged to Johnson.<sup>3</sup> These field trips and the specimens derived therefrom opened up a new and exciting world to Osler. His enthusiasm is clear in a letter to his cousin Jennette, in which he stated – "... if you could only see the Algae, that green stuff that you see on ponds and stagnant water, it is so beautiful, the thousands upon thousands of small animals all alive and kicking that are in it."<sup>4</sup>

Osler had a similar relationship with James Bovell, who also taught at Trinity College and had a deep knowledge of natural history. He would gather specimens from sources such as ponds and bring them to Bovell's office where he would prepare slides and view them with his microscope, frequently in the company of Bovell and Johnson. "Often they would all (Johnson, Bovell and Osler) be immersed in microscopy at Bovell's on a Saturday morning, when a patient would show up and the pious doctor/scientist would curse the need to earn 'the damned guinea'."<sup>5</sup> Osler's first publications – in 1869 (Christmas and the microscope) and 1870 (Canadian Diatomaceae) – are clear testimony to both his interest in and proficiency at microscopy. It is difficult to know to what extent the attention to detail as well as accurate observation and description that are a necessary part of such microscopic investigations were an intrinsic part of his character or an early life experience that contributed to the presence of these qualities in later life.

In 1872, Osler traveled to England, where he registered for a course in practical physiology offered by Professor John Burdon Sanderson. His experience there furthered his microscopic knowledge in pathologic anatomy and in the nature of blood cells. It is likely that the more formal mechanism of learning entailed by

these classes influenced his subsequent decision to establish a similar course at McGill.<sup>6</sup> Back in Montreal in 1875, Osler became involved in treating patients with small pox. He was paid approximately \$600.00 for this service by the Montreal General Hospital, with which he bought 15 Hartnack students' microscopes from Paris to be used in a practical course on microscopy and histology. The McGill Faculty decided to have a formal summer session in 1876 at which Osler gave the first such course. Presumably on the basis of his initial ideas as well as those developed while giving the course, he wrote a student manual which was published in 1882 (Fig. 1).<sup>2</sup>

At the beginning of the manual, two courses related to microscopy are said to be offered, one in Normal Histology (further described as related to "the examination and preparation of the (sic) healthy tissues. Microscopes and reagents provided.") and the other in Clinical Microscopy ("a course specially designed to meet the requirements of the practitioner, including examination of sputa, urine, blood in disease, tumours, etc."). In his introduction to the manual, Osler stated:

*"A practical course on Normal Histology is advantageous in many ways: it affords you a practical acquaintance with the appearance and modes of preparation of tissues in health, it familiarizes you with the use of the Microscope, and it assists in the formation of those habits of accurate observation which should form an important part of your training. Keep in mind, from the outset that you are not to become Histologists, but Practitioners. So regard this course as one among many means to the end which should be ever before you, viz., proficiency in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Once in active practice, not a day will pass without an opportunity of using the Microscope to assist in the diagnosis of obscure affections. It is of equal importance with the Stethoscope, the Ophthalmoscope and the Laryngoscope and, ignorant of its teaching you cannot practice with due credit to yourself, or with full justice to your patients. To become expert in its use requires time and patience – not more time, however, than, with judicious economy, the hard-worked student can well afford, and not more patience than should "possess the*

*soul" of anyone who aspires to such a profession as medicine."*<sup>2</sup>

The manual continues with a brief description of the microscope and its proper use, followed by a discussion of how to prepare tissues for

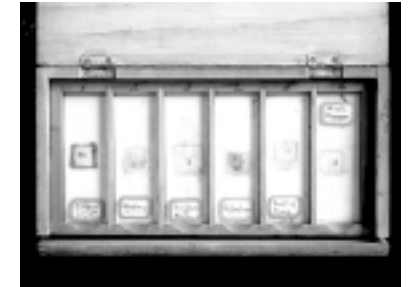


fig. 2

microscopic examination, including hardening and softening solutions and cutting, staining and mounting of tissue sections. The student was said to need the following materials: a pair of small fine pointed scissors, fine pointed forceps, 2 needles in handles, a razor, a section lifter (made by flattening out the end of a bit of copper wire), glass slips and top covers, watch glasses (1/2 dozen), labels and a small box with trays capable of holding 100 slides.

It is the last-named that is the centre-piece of this story. Fred Stowell Greenwood was a member of the McGill medical class of 1878, of which there were 27 graduates. He undoubtedly partook in the histology course given by Osler in 1877, as evidenced by a wooden box containing 56 slides, many of which were probably prepared more or less

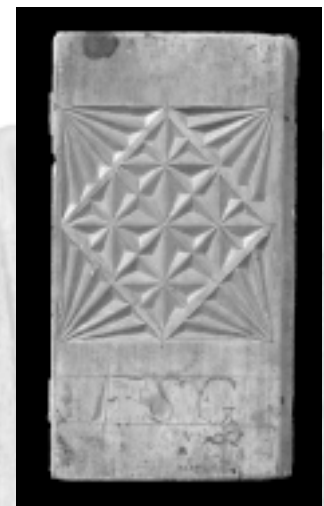


fig. 3

in the fashion described in the first part of this article. The box measures approximately 8 x 4 x 3 inches and contains 12 wooden trays (Fig. 2). The bottom surface of the top of the box bears the inscription in ink:

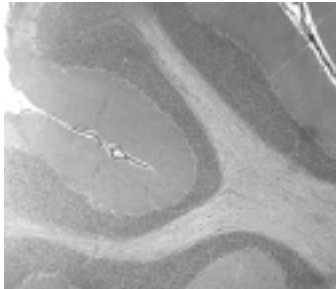


fig. 4

F. S. Greenwood  
McGill University  
Summer session 1877  
Montreal Qc

The top surface has been carved in a series of squares with elevated rays (Fig. 3). Next to these, the initials "FSG" have been inscribed in pencil; the first of these has in turn been carved, possibly by Greenwood himself in a time-honoured moment of daydreaming shared by many young students.

Most of the slides in the box illustrate normal histology, principally of humans. Examples include cerebellum (Fig. 4), spinal cord, esophagus and various portions of the gastrointestinal tract (Fig. 5), kidney, connective tissue (bone, cartilage and muscle), adrenal gland and cornea. The appearance of the tissue sections and the handwritten labels on the slides suggest that most of these were probably cut and stained by Greenwood himself. Other slides bear labels indicating that they were purchased from a supplier (e.g., C. Seiler or John C. Hutcheson). There are also 13 slides of animal tissue, mostly diatoms and other invertebrates (Fig. 6), and 14 examples of diseased tissue. The latter include carcinoma of the breast (Fig. 7), tuberculosis, cirrhosis, pneumonia, and coal miner's lung. The link between normal histology and pathologic anatomy that had undoubtedly been formed in Osler's mind as an important part of the concept of disease was thus evident

in the material that was used by his students.

Osler's manual includes some interesting descriptions that relate particularly to the practice of microscopy in Montreal. Two



fig. 5

methods were identified for tissue hardening. Freezing is described as being applicable to most tissues, as well as being both speedy and convenient. "During the winter months in this country, it is only necessary to expose an organ to the air for a few hours, or place it over night between the double windows, and it freezes hard enough to be sectioned with a cold razor."<sup>2</sup> Although picturesque, this was clearly not convenient for summer sessions, and a variety of other hardening fluids, including dichromate of potash, Müller's fluid (dichromate of potash, sulfate of soda and water), chromic acid, and others are discussed. The preparation and use of tissue stains is also described in detail, the two best considered to be carmine and logwood. The slides were mounted in dannar (equal parts of mastic, dannar, chloroform and turpentine), Canada balsam (balsam fir sap and chloroform) or Farrant's solution (equal parts glycerin and saturated arsenious acid containing gum arabic). Osler seemed to prefer the latter, offering his experience that "bits of fresh tissue stained in Beale's carmine and mounted in glycerin will keep for years, if properly sealed at the edges. I have slides prepared in this way 12 years ago, as good now as when mounted".<sup>2</sup>

The bulk of the manual consists of detailed descriptions of various materials that might be seen on the slides prepared or purchased by the student. This included foreign material (such as air bubbles and

dust), several types of protozoan and vegetable cell, fungi and bacteria (including examples of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Leptotrichia*, and spirochetes ("*Spirillum*"). There is an extended section on the blood of

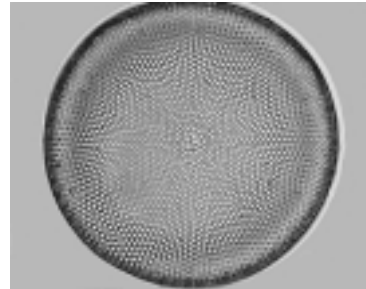


fig. 6

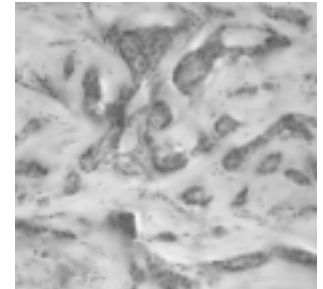


fig. 7

humans and of a variety of other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibia and fish. Subsequent sections include detailed descriptions of virtually every tissue and organ of the human body.

I found the slide box in the back of a dusty cupboard in room D3-237 of the Montreal General Hospital in the summer of 2001. I was preparing to move my office from the Royal Victoria Hospital to the General and was in the process of cleaning up the accumulated leftovers of years of Pathology Department work. Unlabelled or delicately faded surgical pathology slides, old diagnostic reports, and reviews of bureaucratic correspondence were sifted and discarded as if they were the detritus of an archeological dig. The box was located at the back of a floor cupboard, buried by the accumulation of years. It caught my eye as an interesting piece of work and was transferred to a clean drawer in my new office, where it remained undisturbed for over a year. Eventually, while waiting for a resident to finish a case in the autopsy room one rainy summer afternoon in 2002, I looked more carefully and found the inscription of Greenwood on the inner lid. One wonders if the ghosts of Greenwood or even Osler himself might have been abroad with subliminal suggestions.

The first slide I examined was labelled "scirrhous carcinoma of breast" and showed an infiltrating duct carcinoma almost as clearly as some intra-operative frozen sections

*"...I [Osler] have slides prepared in this way 12 years ago, as good now as when mounted"*



One wonders if the ghosts of Greenwood or even Osler himself might have been abroad with subliminal suggestions.



performed today. From that point, it was only a few short sessions at the Osler library and some additional microscopy work to realize the nature and significance of the discovery. Inside the box is a small piece of somewhat faded paper on which has been typed:

*"Donated to the pathology department library of the Montreal General hospital by Dr. Fred Greenwood. The property of his father - 1877."*

Frederick Cyril Greenwood, Frederick Stowell's son, graduated from McGill in Medicine in 1918. The date at which he gave the box to the pathology library at the Montreal General Hospital and the use, if any, to which the slides were subsequently put are not known.

In 2004, the surfaces of the slides were carefully cleaned and the tissue sections/smears were digitally imaged, mostly by Dr. Leena Narsinghani, who was working as a technician in the Pathology Department. Images of the original specimens, as well as many additional images remastered to "remove" dirt and enhance colour/contrast, were given to the Osler Library along with the box and its 56 slides at the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. ❀

#### References

1. Armstrong, George E. (MD 1877). "Student Reminiscences - Montreal Period". International Association of Medical Museums, *Sir William Osler Memorial Number Appreciations and Reminiscences*, Bulletin No. IX: 175, 1926. (Interpreted with poetic license).
2. *Students' Notes. 1. Normal Histology for Laboratory and Class Use.* William Osler, M.D. Montreal, Dawson Brothers, 1882.
3. Gwyn, Norman. "The Early Life of Sir William Osler". International Association of Medical Museums, *Sir William Osler Memorial Number Appreciations and Reminiscences*, Bulletin No. IX: 109-149, 1926.
4. Bliss, Michael. *William Osler: A Life in Medicine.* University of Toronto Press, 1999. Page 41.
5. *Ibid*, page 57.
6. *Ibid*, page 86.

## APPEAL TO THE FRIENDS, 2004 -2005

by Pamela Miller  
History of Medicine Librarian

"This is the kind of Library that makes a person happy to come to McGill," declared a new student on first visiting the Osler Library this fall. Our term was off to a good start. Early in the day, the desks fill up with more students even than last year, looking for the best seats.

It has been a busy year. By the time you read this, the Osler Library will have just celebrated 75 years of service to McGill University and to the broader community, an achievement guaranteed to make Sir William Osler proud of his decision to entrust his beloved books to this University. Our growth has not happened in a vacuum. Our survival has depended on years of devotion on the part of staff, researchers and friends who believe in the importance of the history of medicine in its widest sense, to our community.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a seminar entitled *Medical Books and Medical Libraries in Historical Perspective*, hosted by Dean Abraham Fuks. We are very grateful to AMS Hannah for funding this seminar. Four speakers provided us with four different perspectives of medicine and books through the ages. Professor John Harley Warner of Yale University spoke on "Words,

Images and Professional Identity in the Age of Osler". Nancy Siraisi, Emerita Professor, Hunter College & the Graduate Center, City University of New York, spoke on "Renaissance Physicians and the Study of



Osler Staff, Qingshun Meng, Mary Simon, Lily Szczygiel.

Antiquity". Ms. Terry Rutherford of Rutherford Book and Paper Restoration discussed a recent restoration of *Astronomici veteres*, an Aldine publication of 1499, which she had recently carried out for the Osler Library and Dr. Richard Fraser of the Department of Pathology, Montreal General Hospital prepared an amazing video version of the recently discovered histology slides described in this newsletter. About 125 guests attended the event, followed by the launching of the book *75 Books from the Osler Library* and an exhibition at the Osler Library on the same topic. This book was the brainchild of Professor Wallis who proposed to invite scholars to choose their favourite page from their favourite book and to comment on the reasons for their selection. The result is a stunning 182 page



Professor Faith Wallis, Dean Abraham Fuks celebrating 75 Books while Dr. & Mrs. Fraser Muirhead and Mr. Kendall Wallis look on.

publication with many coloured illustrations that shows the depth and breadth of the Osler Library's collections (see Notes for more information).

Osler Lecture by Professor Ian Hacking, Chair of Philosophy and History of Scientific Concepts, College de France, took place two weeks after our anniversary celebrations! Professor Hacking

containing 500 illustrations and 7 essays exploring Henry Wellcome's vast collection; *The History of Drug Containers and their Labels* by George Griffenhagen and Mary Bogard, published by the American Institute



*History of Medicine Librarian Pamela Miller and former Osler Librarian Dr. Philip Teigen.*



*Dean Abraham Fuks, speaker Professor John Harley Warner and Dr. Rolando Del Maestro.*



*Dr. C. H. Cabn & Mrs. Eve Osler Hampson, Dr. Susan Kelen (grand daughter of W.W. Francis, the first Osler Librarian).*

Most of the credit for the success of the book must go to Professor Faith Wallis and to Carmen Jensen of Instructional Multimedia Services (formerly ICC) at McGill University for the content and stunning design. Alan Forster of MedIT was responsible for the outstanding photography, assisted by Lily Szczygiel Public Services Assistant at the Osler Library.

The seminar gave us the opportunity to show off our new display cases, designed by Anderson X-Design, a gift of the Class of Medicine '78. A selection of books featured in the publication (as well as the histology slides) is on display and new selections from among the books will be displayed as time goes on.

Osler Day, including our annual meeting of the Board of Curators, the

spoke to a packed Martin Amphitheatre on "Analogue Bodies, Digital Minds". The lecture was followed by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Osler Banquet, during the course of which Professor of Anthropology Alan Young added to the hilarity of the evening by giving an anthropological introduction to the Osler silver, an integral part of the ceremony.

On top of planning for our celebrations, normal activities have continued throughout the year. Our purchase of current titles continues to increase. This year we ordered 1,154 new titles, 242 more than last year. It has been a particularly productive year for beautifully illustrated scholarly texts on the topic of medical collections including *Medicine Man, The Forgotten Museum of Henry Wellcome* published by the British Museum Press in 2003,

of the History of Pharmacy in 1999; *The Rise of Experimental Biology an Illustrated History* by Peter L. Lutz, Humana Press, 2002; the controversial Professor Gunther von Hagens' *Body Worlds The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies*, Institute für Plastination, Heidelberg, 2002; *Medizin in der Antike* by Ernst Künzler, Stuttgart, 2002; *L'Osedale di Cremona: Medicina, Arte, Storia*, edited by Gian Luigi Daccò and Mauro Rossetto, Milan 2001; and *La Imagen del Cuerpo Humano en la Medicina Moderna (siglos XVI-XX)* the catalogue of an exhibition sponsored by the Fundación Bancaja, Valencia in 1999. Stanley Burns published *Sleeping Beauty II: Grief, Bereavement and the Family in Memorial Photography*, New York 2002, with images taken from his own immense personal collection of medical photographs.

*83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Osler Banquet "To Osler"*



*Professor Faith Wallis autographing a copy of 75 Books while Vice-Principal Toni Masi looks on.*



This year we have, for a variety of reasons, spent more on rare books than in quite some time, purchasing 115 rare works to add to existing strengths in our collections including D.J. Larrey's *Relation Historique et*

*difficulties, financial and otherwise, in the management of this "most valued and noble inheritance."... Although never serving as chairman, that he lent himself to the surmounting of these difficulties we know... From a collection of a few thousand*

*part of physick contained in the works of Dr. Willis... London, 1685, further strengthening the Osler's Willis holdings. Dr. Robert Mitchell presented us with Friderich Hoffmann's, *Consultationum et**



Speaker, Professor Nancy Siraisi and Professor Nicholas Dew.



75 Books exhibition along with new display cases built by Anderson X-Design.



David Morin, Arch., pictured here, designed hanging panels reproducing pages from our rarest works.

As usual, donors have been generous with gifts from their own collections for which we are so very grateful.



*Chirurgical de l'Expédition de l'Armée d'Orient, en Egypte et en Syrie*, Paris, 1803. This volume plus Bernhard Siegfried Albinus' *Dissertatio secunda, de sede et caussa coloris Aethiopum et caeterorum hominum*, Leiden and Amsterdam, 1737, were auctioned at Swann's. The auction included medical books from the Maryland State Medical Society. Osler played a leading role in reviving this Library, founded in 1830, which by 1892 was facing financial and management difficulties. Osler helped find new housing, insisted on the employment of a trained Librarian, Marcia Noyes and contributed the first \$1000 towards its endowment fund. The temptation, therefore, to purchase works to fill gaps in our collection plus two items donated by Osler to the Library, proved hard to resist. Osler acquired the Albinus for the Library from the Frick Fund while in Europe in 1901. It contains a rare coloured plate by Jan L'Admiral showing the skin and nails of a black woman. In July, 1919, Marcia C. Noyes, Librarian of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland wrote in the Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin:

*The name of Osler is writ large in the history of the library from the time of his first connection with it in 1890;... Dr. Osler was elected a member of our Library Committee in 1892 in which year the committee reported*

*old books in 1829 it grew to 14,590 volumes in 1905, and has grown steadily ever since.*

Purchases from other sources include: Joseph Hyrtl's work on the blood vessels of the human placenta, *Die Blutgefäße de menschlichen Nachgeburt in normalen und abnormen Verhältnissen*, Vienna, 1870, and a mid-16<sup>th</sup> century work on physiognomy, a popular research topic these days, entitled *Gulielme Gratoroli Bergomatis atrium & medicin[a]e doctoris...* Lyons, 1558. This book contains manuscript notations and some words and sentences may have been crossed out by a contemporary censor. We have not forgotten dental history and have purchased, *Essai sur l'anatomie et la physiologie des dents, ou, Nouvelle théorie de la dentition*, by A. Serres, Paris, 1817. *The medical recipes of the late Doctor Taylor of Inmerkip*, Woodstock, Ontario, 1885 is a rare Canadian publication which we were delighted to add to our holdings.

As usual, donors have been generous with gifts from their own collections for which we are so very grateful. Dr. William Feindel donated four books by Thomas Willis: *Diatribae duae medico-philosophicae...* London, 1660 and the 1663 Amsterdam edition of the same work, *Pharmaceutice rationalis. Sive diatribe de medicamentorum operationibus in humano corpore*, Oxford, 1679 and *The London practice of physick, or, The whole practical*

*responsorum medicinalium centuriae tres...* Venice, 1737. Maureen Crane donated *Electricity and the Methods of its Employment in removing Superfluous Hair and Other Facial Blemishes*, by P.S. Hayes, Chicago, 1904. Dr. Theodore Sourkes donated *The Book of Snuff and Snuffboxes*, M.M. Curtis, New York, 1935. Professor Jacques Bernier presented us with *Maladies, Médecine et Société au Canada*, Société Historique du Canada, 2003. Dr. Rolando Del Maestro presented us with *Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman*, edited by Carmen C. Bambach, New York, 2003, the catalogue of the exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2003.

We have purchased microfilm and microfiche notably, *Sex & Sexuality, 1640-1940*, from literary, medical and sociological perspectives taken from the Wellcome Institute for the History of medicine and the Bodleian Library, and 2 units from *Incunabula: the Printing Revolution in Europe, 1455-1500*, edited by Lotte Hellinga, Woodbridge, Conn.

Donations to the archives consist of 10 cm. of archives presented by the late Irene Kon of family letters and documents concerning her family's close friendship with Dr. Norman Bethune. Karen Molson donated photographs of the well-known Montreal neurologist Dr. Colin Russel and correspondence

between Dr. Russel and his parents during World War I.

In this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we purchased 7 letters from Osler to Miss Reiba Thelin between June and October, 1904 from a collector in New York. Osler was in the process of helping Miss Thelin set up her practice as a tuberculosis nurse and although brief, the correspondence is informative and amusing.

We can now search the entire inventory of the Cushing papers thanks to the devotion of two casual employees whose work stretched over a five year period, Caroline Cholette, now working for Hydro Quebec and Michelle Diamond, currently working for a film company. As many of you know, the Cushing papers are the best archival resource for Osler's life and are copies of correspondence amassed by Harvey Cushing in the course of producing his award-winning biography of Sir William Osler. We are working on plans to make these summaries available via our web page. We began the project seven years ago with AMS Hannah support through their archive internship programme, which allowed us to process the Osler correspondence from his Oxford days. A summary of each letter was entered on an Access database. As time went on, we were able to work back to earlier letters from Osler's pre-Oxford period. Now summaries of the entire correspondence can be searched using the database, a huge time saver for the staff.

Concerning staffing, our search committee has been busily interviewing candidates for the position of Assistant History of Medicine Librarian and we are hopeful that the position will soon be filled. One more person will certainly relieve the demands on the Library staff which seem to turn into a deluge at the least provocation. In the meantime slightly reduced hours of service as well as casual employees have helped us cope with the demands. With extra help, we intend to make our resources more widely available to the public.

This brief report launches our annual appeal. Echoing the enthusiastic student (and our search rooms are full of students) it is a Library to be proud of thanks to the support of our Friends. ❀

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## FRIENDS OF THE OSLER LIBRARY

**T**he Library gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from Friends, both old and new, who have responded to the appeal for funds for the 2003-2004 academic year. Over the year, 212 Friends have given a total of approximately \$34,000 and they are listed below. Most of the contributions have come from Friends in Canada and the United States of America. However, very welcome contributions have also come from several other continents.

The appeal to the Friends for the 2003-2004 academic year concluded on May 31, 2004. Contributions received after May 31, 2004 will be recorded in the 2005 fall issue of the *Osler Library Newsletter*.

The appeal for the 2004-2005 academic year is made in this issue, No. 102-2004.

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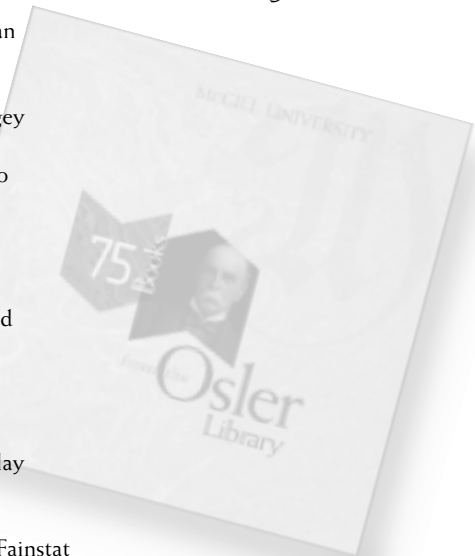
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### Dr. William Feindel

Congratulations to Dr. William Feindel, Honorary Osler Librarian who has just been named "un Grand Montrealais" by the Montreal Board of Trade.

### Osler Library Research Travel Grant

Dr. Karim Mukida, neurosurgery resident from the University of Toronto, received our grant this past year, visiting the Osler in July to carry out his research on Wilder Penfield's neurocytology research in Spain in 1924.

It is once again, time to send in applications for 2005. The deadline for submission is December 31<sup>st</sup> 2004. For all the details please go to <http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/travelgrant.htm>

### 75 Books from the Osler Library

This stunning 182 page, heavily illustrated book is available for sale at the Osler Library. Beautifully designed, filled with expert commentary, it provides a novel approach to the history of medicine and makes a great gift for Oslerians, doctors and book collectors in general. Copies will be ordered from our web page (<http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/publications.htm#75>) for \$40. Canadian Friends should remit in Canadian currency (the price includes GST), and American and international Friends in U.S. currency. The price also includes postage.

### E-mail List of Friends of the Osler Library

We would like to establish an e-mail list of our Friends in case there is information we want to send out quickly. If you would like to be on that list, please send an e-mail to [lily.szczygiel@mcgill.ca](mailto:lily.szczygiel@mcgill.ca). ❀

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