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IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. Charles G. Roland, author of the lead article in this issue of the *Newsletter*, has been a prolific contributor to Oslerian studies for many years, both through his publications and through his involvement in the American Osler Society.

That involvement reaches back into the pre-history of the Society, and at its May 1999 meeting in Montreal, Dr. Roland presented, for the record, the recollections which are the basis of this essay. Dr. Roland, now Hannah Professor Emeritus at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has also published numerous studies of twentieth century medicine, particularly in relation to war conditions, as well as a number of very valuable bibliographies of medical history.

He has served on the Library's Board of Curators, and we are delighted that he has agreed to share his uniquely privileged perspectives on the genesis of the AOS with our readers.✻

THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THE AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

The American Osler Society held its first formal meeting in 1971, an event that will represent not the beginning of this essay but, rather, almost the end. Though some portion of the founding story has been told by Alfred Henderson,¹ and again by Henderson and McGovern,² I believe that there is a duty for any society – particularly an historical society – to record its own origins as thoroughly as possible while the principals remain on the scene.

This essay is based on my personal involvement in the founding and the early years, on interviews or correspondence with other founders, and on examination of the limited published material. The contributions of the two primary movers, John P. McGovern and Alfred Henderson, will be documented. Some information is available about the process whereby the original contingent of Oslerians was selected, the constitution created, and the meeting arrangements made.

Zeitgeist is defined as a pattern of thought or feeling characteristic of a particular period or time. In the 1960s, the North American medical zeitgeist was such that the desirability and need for an international Osler society expressed itself in several minds more or less simultaneously. One factor helping to fashion this *Zeitgeist* was increasing concern among thoughtful physicians – and non-physicians – about the growing sterility induced by the prevailing emphasis on science in medical education. The concern was not a reaction against science but rather with the apparently concomitant loss

of humanity and humaneness in our profession. Technology threatened to substitute for caring. A humanist role-model was needed, and who better than William Osler?

The two minds most productively tuned to the desirability of creating a society were those of John P. McGovern, in Houston, Texas, and Alfred Henderson, in Washington, DC. Neither man remembers, now, exactly when the initiating thought began to flower in his mind. McGovern recalls discussing the topic with Grant Taylor while both men were attending scientific meetings in the mid-1960s. Henderson, in 1966 and 1967, "...brought the subject up to a number of Oslerians, including Wilburt C. Davison and Wilder Penfield.... All were of one accord – that such an organization was, indeed, overdue."³

Dean Davison played a pivotal role here. He was Jack McGovern's professional mentor and hero, and close friend, and Jack had already discussed his idea with Davison. Thus when Henderson called, Davison promptly suggested a meeting between the two men.

McGovern had occasion to attend a medical meeting in Washington in

by
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Fig. 1: John P. McGovern and Alfred Henderson, Houston, Texas, August 1970: planning the American Osler Society.

(Courtesy Al Henderson; photograph by Kathy McGovern.)



Fig. 2: Alfred Henderson, Tom Durrant, John P. McGovern, Houston, Texas, 21 February 1970.

(Courtesy J.P. McGovern; photograph by Kathy McGovern.)



Fig. 3: William B. Bean, first president, American Osler Society. (Courtesy Bill Bean.)



Fig. 4: George Harrell, ca. 1970. (Courtesy George Harrell.)

October 1967; there, at Davison's suggestion, he met Al Henderson for the first time. Al was then at the Smithsonian Institution, where they met.⁴ The two men quickly established the existence of mutual



aims. They agreed to work together towards creating an Osler society. As it turned out, Houston, Texas, was to be the birthplace and Jack McGovern the presiding man-midwife. Those who know McGovern, his enthusiasm for William Osler, and his boundless, restless energy, will not be surprised to learn that he devoted this energy to the cause unceasingly.

In the last half of 1969, Henderson twice traveled to Houston to meet with Jack and to discuss how to set up the society. (Fig. 1) The process was very much a "smoke-filled back-room" operation (though without the fumes since none of the founders smoked). Jack had been part of the establishment of another society and had come to believe that the initial planning should be done by the smallest possible group. He functioned as the nucleus of the AOS group.

McGovern and Henderson and, on one occasion, Tom Durrant, spent time together in Houston trying out ideas and making decisions (Fig. 2). At other times Jack, with regular consultation with Henderson and others, moved the planning and organization along. Various decisions and suggestions were tested on a few others, including Dean Davison, Grant Taylor, and myself.

A slate of officers was an early requirement. McGovern would have been happy to see his hero, Davison, as the first president, but the Dean urged that someone younger was needed. The apparently unanimous choice was William B. Bean, then Sir William Osler Professor of Medicine

at the University of Iowa (Fig. 3). That invitation epitomizes the process of our founding. On Sunday 30 November 1969, Jack McGovern called Iowa City and traced Bean to Clinton, Iowa, and to – not surprisingly – a tennis court.⁵ A call to the clubhouse brought Bill breathlessly away from his game. Jack explained what was happening, because at this stage Bean was unaware the society was being created. McGovern extended the invitation, Bean accepted, and returned to finish his set.

McGovern asked Henderson to nominate an officer and Henderson suggested Tom Durrant, whom Jack didn't know. Durrant had taught Henderson at Temple, and was interested enough to attend and participate in the second meeting between McGovern and Henderson. He was very positive about the new society, and he ultimately was named 2nd Vice-President. McGovern wanted to have well-known physicians among the first set of officers, to provide a cachet to the Society. In recent interviews, he has been candid about this – the aim was to find an initial slate of people who would do the job, but who were also prominent in American medicine.⁶ So as well as Bean and Durrant, George Harrell was invited to be an officer – Vice-President (and thus President-elect) (Fig. 4) – and Ed Rosenow Jr. to be Secretary-elect. McGovern was the first Secretary, Henderson the Treasurer-Historian. In 1974 this last position was transformed into the current Secretary-Treasurership; the other positions rotated upwards annually, Secretary to second Vice-President, and so on.

George Harrell was on the original slate of officers, having been invited both to join and to serve by Jack McGovern. Because these initial contacts were all made by telephone, documentary support is minimal. Harrell later recalled that at the time he joined, he had not thought of Osler in an historical sense⁷ – at least, I think that is what George recalled: one of the challenges of historical research is interpretation! Of course, George soon became a major laborer in the Oslerian vineyard.

This is perhaps the proper place to mention my own modest role in these

formative days. I had met Jack McGovern on a trip to Houston in about 1965, soon after I had joined the editorial staff of *JAMA*. It was the editor, John Talbott, knowing of my interest in Osler, who suggested that I should meet McGovern. Sometime in 1967 we agreed to work on a project relating to Osler, the end product of which was the book, *William Osler: The Continuing Education*, published in 1969.⁸ Thus we were in regular correspondence and met frequently about the book while the Osler Society began to take shape. Also I was organizing the special issue of *JAMA* for 22 December 1969, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Osler's death. Among those whom I invited to contribute an article was Jack McGovern. It was this connection that led McGovern to put my name forward not only as a Charter Member but also as a member of the initial Board of Governors. Moreover, McGovern and I talked on the telephone, frequently and at length, about various aspects of the new organization, the form it should take, who should be approached to join, and similar questions. So I was not among the very small group that met once or twice in Houston but was fully aware of what was happening, and I provided some input into the process.

An informal division of labor seems to have been worked out between McGovern and Henderson. McGovern, from the functional center of operations in Houston, played the larger role in contacting potential officers, governors, and Active Members, arranging for incorporation, and planning the Galveston meeting that became a sort of informal first meeting of Oslerians in advance of the Osler Society. Henderson began to draft a statement of purpose, design a logo, arrange for the printing of membership certificates and programs – his father-in-law was a printer – and other similar tasks (Fig. 5). This division was not absolute and never formal.

The officers and the members of the first Board were invited by telephone; no letters. Charter Members were largely invited by letter. For example, I invited Earle Scarlett, Earl Nation, Bill Gibson, Ray

Pruitt, Tom Keys, R. Palmer Howard, and Edward H. Bensley.⁹ All except Bensley accepted promptly and happily.¹⁰ Edward Bensley informed us that he had just discovered he belonged to 40 societies and had vowed to cut down. Characteristically, given this, and despite his great interest in Osler, he felt obligated to decline.¹¹

The statement of purpose of the fledgling organization was as follows:

The purpose of the Society is to unite, into an organized group, physicians, and others allied to the profession, with a common interest in memorializing and perpetuating the lessons of the life and teachings of William Osler; to meet periodically for the purpose of presentation and discussion of papers on the life and influence of Osler upon the profession, and to publish these essays as a Proceedings of the Society; to continually place before the profession a reminder of the high principles of life and humanism in practice of Osler, and to introduce these things to those entering the profession.¹²

One of my suggestions was that we not establish a journal. My reasoning was explained in a letter to Jack: "I would like to suggest an alternative procedure for the dissemination of the papers which might be presented at meetings of the group. I assume that the purpose of publication is to spread the gospel to those who are not as familiar with Osler as some of us. If this is the case I would suggest that this could be more effectively done by arranging to have the articles published in a variety of different journals in this country and perhaps abroad also. Inevitably a separately published Proceedings would have a small circulation and would not be seen by those we are trying to reach."¹³

This suggestion was followed and, therefore, the AOS does not have a journal. Perhaps ironically, though, we have published two volumes of *The Persisting Osler*, with a third being planned. This is a type of Proceedings – and I am one of the editors, with Jerry Barondess, and, for Volume One, Jack McGovern. Volume Three

is in preparation.

Among the original members of the AOS, some had, in 1969, a basically passive interest in Osler, admiring him as a role model but not doing research or writing about him. Examples would be Bill Beatty, George Harrell, Ray Pruitt, or Chauncey Leake. Of course, most or all of these became heavily involved in the ensuing years. Others had already taken a more active interest, including Jack McGovern, Bill Bean, Earl Nation, and myself.

Many of these original members were unacquainted. One instance of how the informal nomination process worked is that of Earl Nation. Earl, in a recent letter, has recorded some mystery about his involvement as a charter member. He wrote: "I am one of the fortunate ones, [although] not present at the formative meeting of the Osler Society, to have been selected to be a charter member. To this day I do not know how this came about."¹⁴ Nation goes on to say that his sole Oslerian contribution before this time was his compilation and publication of Osler's "Men and Books" items in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* as a small book. But that book is the clue to the explanation. I had read of the book and had obtained a copy from Nation, while I was still in general practice, and thus was very much aware of him. When Jack McGovern asked for suggestions for names of potential members in the new society, Nation's was one of those I put forward. Once the officers agreed, sometime towards the end of 1969 I called Nation in Pasadena and invited him to become one of us. Happily for the organization, he agreed. Needless to say, this is the well-recognized "Old Boys" system.

Palmer Futcher was another Charter Member. He recalls that he played no role in setting up the Society: "I just suddenly found myself a Charter Member - by heredity!"¹⁵ I should elucidate Palmer's jocular comment: his grandfather, R. Palmer Howard, was Osler's mentor at McGill; his mother was Marjorie Howard Futcher, and his father was Thomas B. Futcher, MD, Osler's resident and then faculty associate at Hopkins.¹⁶ If his inclusion was due to heredity, it certainly was remarkably

solid Oslerian heredity.

Among Palmer's inherited Osleriana was one of the original latch-keys to 1 West Franklin Street, the Osler home in Baltimore. The key was given to Tom Futcher when he



Fig. 5: Henderson's sketch of AOS membership certificate, from letter, Henderson to McGovern, 9 April 1970.

with other residents lived at 3 West Franklin, so that they could have access to Osler's library at will. And it is that original key that served as the model for the large-scale key that adorns the neck of the current President on formal occasions, and that, in miniature, appears on many jacket lapels today, and as a motif on the Society tie.

Another Charter Member, William C. Gibson, in a recent somewhat cryptic postcard, said, "I think you...thought I should be the anchor (a poor one) on the Pacific. Your idea is a good one but St. Alzheimer may be in the ascendant here!"¹⁷ Relative to Gibson's last comment, referring jocularly to himself in 1969, I should just point out that in 1998 – just short of three decades later – he had published not one but two books. Alzheimer indeed!

A word should be said here about the name of the organization. One possibility discussed was the William Osler Society of America.¹⁸ Though a serious suggestion, by the time it surfaced the organization had become a legal entity under our present name. Another proposition was the North American Osler Society, a move that might more fully have recognized the always strong Canadian presence in a society honoring a man who remained a Canadian citizen all his life. But this – obviously – did not happen either.

Jack McGovern arranged for the



Fig. 6: Dean Wilburt C. Davison, ca. 1960. (Courtesy J.P. McGovern.)



Fig. 7: Dr. Emile Holman, 23 March 1970. (Courtesy Emile Holman.)



Fig. 8: Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, 1963. (By permission of the Curator, Penfield Collection, Montreal Neurological Institute, item 63-0756.)

Society to be incorporated in the State of Texas. This acquired legal validity on 6 February 1970, with the document naming the initial five officers as a Board of Trustees, and signed, as incorporators, by Jack and two other (non-Oslerian) residents of Houston. Ultimately incorporation was revoked because the annual fee was not paid by the then Treasurer.¹⁹ In 1974 I took over as Secretary-Treasurer and re-incorporated the AOS in Minnesota.

On 22 February 1970, the Board of Trustees had its first meeting. It was at that time that the Board of Governors and the Charter Members all were formally elected.²⁰ A constitution was drawn up at this time. And the three Rhodes Scholars who had been Osler's students at Oxford – Davison, Holman, and Penfield – were named Honorary Members, though the formal announcement of this was postponed until it could be done with them present, at the April symposium in Galveston, Texas.

The 1970 Galveston meeting on Humanism in Medicine was seen by McGovern, Henderson, Davison, and others as a "trial run" for an Osler Society. Planning had begun in November 1968, when Jack McGovern and Grant Taylor decided to organize a symposium; originally it had been scheduled for Houston for late 1969, to be part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Osler's death in 1919. For various reasons this timing did not work out. But McGovern had been discussing the concept of a meeting with Chester Burns and Truman Blocker, at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. When the Houston plans floundered, President Blocker suggested coming to Galveston.²¹

The speakers who were selected for Galveston were seen as a potential core of members for the new society. This meeting played a significant role in the organizational *Zeitgeist*; at least one aspect of this was the opportunity of many members and prospective members to meet or to become better acquainted with the three men who were our initial Honorary Members – Drs. Wilburt Davison (Fig. 6), Emile Holman (Fig. 7), and Wilder Penfield (Fig. 8).

All three achieved prominence in medicine. All had been Rhodes Scholars and Osler's students. And they all revered the man, even into their eighth decades. Penfield has described himself as "...one of the

session."²⁶ This early, though completely informal, relationship with the American College of Physicians provided a nurturing environment. Our initial Secretary-Elect, Ed Rosenow, who was then the

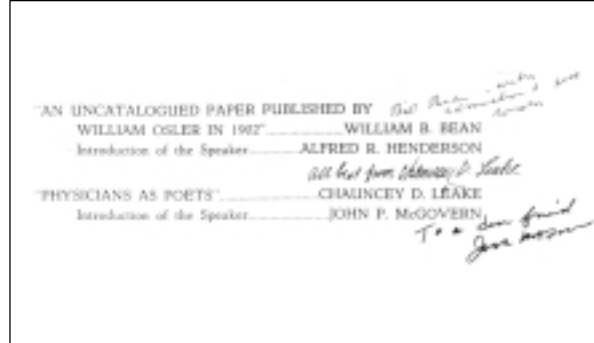


Fig. 9: Program for the first meeting of the American Osler Society, Denver, 1971.

hardy perennials who knew him in student days...."²² As Jack McGovern wrote, in this case regarding his relationship with Davison: "This influence of teacher upon student may well be the most realistic avenue to immortality - not an immortality of mere name but rather of spirit and philosophy."²³

Dean Davison knew Osler well; he saw him frequently between 1913 and 1915 and then, as his intern, essentially daily, 1915 through 1916.²⁴ Davison has written about his first meeting with Osler, in Oxford. He had been sent to Sir William to present his unusual request for an heretical alteration in an Oxonian tradition. Of course, Osler was supportive. Davison's trepidation vanished as he found the Oslers "so charming and friendly that I soon felt I had two friends at Oxford. My awe immediately turned to adoration and devotion."²⁵ That feeling never disappeared.

The initial formal meeting of the AOS was held in Denver on 1 April 1971. (Fig. 9) Bill Bean, the first and outgoing president, presided; nine of the original thirty members attended. Membership diplomas were presented at the business meeting, at which A. McGehee Harvey was elected secretary.

These sessions and dinner were followed by an open meeting attended by about sixty interested members of the American College of Physicians. Bill Bean and Chauncey Leake both spoke, very well, and my journal closes, "All in all, a good first

chief executive officer of the ACP, assisted greatly in establishing this ongoing relationship.

The next year we met in Montreal in conjunction with the American Association for the History of Medicine. The ACP and the AAHM have continued to be friendly neighbors for the AOS. And as the Montreal program of 1972 shows, we had already begun to grow. Instead of two papers there were four, including Harrell's presidential address on Osler's practice in Baltimore. Obviously, Harrell had begun to look at Osler historically.

In 1961, Robert Merton published a magisterial study of multiples – instances in the humanities, the arts, and science, where two or more people discover the same thing simultaneously and independently.²⁷ The impetus to create the American Osler Society seems to be yet another instance of this phenomenon.

Both Al Henderson and Jack McGovern participated fully in the early deliberations that resulted in the healthy birth of the American Osler Society. The record amply supports this observation. But I would go one step further and suggest that the key might well be Jack McGovern's boundless energy and focus, and, administratively, the dedication of his facilities in Houston – telephones, secretaries, meeting space, and so on – that made the creation happen. Without that drive we might well have remained merely a good idea unrealized. This opinion is widely supported, one of those in agreement

being the other original planner, Al Henderson, who, in discussing the creation in a recent letter to me, stated that its existence was "...much more to John McG.'s credit than mine...."²⁸ The weight of the documentation is convincing: John P. McGovern was indeed the principal founder of the American Osler Society. ❀

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A MAUDE ABBOTT COMMEMORATION

by Pamela Miller

Heritage Canada and McGill University paid tribute to Maude Elizabeth Seymour Abbott (1869-1940) during a plaque unveiling ceremony chaired by the Honorable Lucienne Robillard, representing the Minister of Canadian Heritage, on Friday the 10th of March, last spring. As most of you know, Maude Abbott was one of the early women to practise and teach medicine in Canada. After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts at McGill, Maude Abbott studied medicine at Bishop's University receiving her degree in 1894. (The first women were admitted to McGill's Faculty of Medicine in 1918.) In 1898 she was appointed assistant curator of the McGill Medical Museum and, encouraged by William Osler, developed it into a world-renowned institution. In this capacity, she became an expert in congenital heart disease, gaining further international attention with the publication of her *Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease*.

Luckily for us, Maude Abbott's posters on congenital heart disease, which she prepared for the 1932 centennial meeting of the British

Medical Association in London, are stored in the archives of the Osler Library. Six were selected for display and with the enthusiastic cooperation of Dr. Richard Fraser of McGill's Department of Pathology,



we were able to exhibit four heart specimens prepared by Drs. Osler and Abbott.

M. Jean-Claude Marsan, representing the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, opened the ceremony. Dr. Abraham Fuks, Dean of McGill's Faculty of Medicine, welcomed the guests and Dr. Richard Fraser gave an historical outline of Maude Abbott's career. Dr. Susan Kelen, clinical psychologist and representative of the Canadian Federation of Medical Women, paid tribute to Dr. Abbott's role in encouraging women to enter medicine. Dr. Kelen's presence was particularly appreciated because of the close relationship her family has had with this Library from the very beginning. Her grandfather was none other than W.W. Francis, Sir William Osler' nephew and the Osler Library's first Librarian. Her parents, Drs. Marian and Andrew Kelen were in the audience and Marian remembers Maude Abbott as a close family friend. The Honorable Lucienne Robillard, President of the Treasury Board and representative of the Honorable Sheila Copps, spoke of the significance of this dedication and then with the assistance of Dr. Fuks and Dr. Kelen, unveiled the plaque. Following the ceremony, the audience, made up of relatives, McGill staff and members of organizations influenced by Maude Abbott, was invited to join in a reception to celebrate the event. ❀

Dr. Abraham Fuks, Dr. Susan Kelen, and The Honourable Lucienne Robillard during the unveiling ceremony. The plaque will stand on the grounds of the McIntyre Medical Sciences Building.



Commemorative Stamp with the Portrait of Maude Abbot by M. A. Bell Eastlake

by Pamela
Miller



A REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE OSLER LIBRARY AND AN APPEAL

Sir William Osler's appeal to those interested in a more humane practice of medicine never seems to end. Visitors wanting to see the Library, perhaps sit at Osler's desk or see the first edition of the *Principles and Practice of Medicine*, and some of Osler's favourite books, regularly appear at the door. Then there are distinguished lecturers, brought to the Library as part of their visit to the University. Most of them know of Osler and are pleased to have a tour of his famous donation to the Medical Faculty. What is particularly fascinating, however, is the number of researchers who spend time working in Osler's library and archives on projects which Osler himself reported, suggested or identified and which are today not only still relevant but with scientific and technological advances, can be explored more thoroughly. The Library provides the tools. Osler's letters, notes and rough drafts are complemented by books he collected, copies of which are often now available only in this Library.

These are a few examples of the influence of Osler's Library. But of course the Library serves any number of other purposes. Doctors frequently ask whether medical students ever use any of this material. The underlying question of course is whether the collections are relevant to today's young medical trainees. The answer is yes. The Department of the Social Studies of Medicine offers courses in the Faculty of Medicine, as well as history, sociology and anthropology of medicine courses to undergraduates and graduate students, some of whom will later enter the Medical Faculty. Enrolment in these courses increases every year. It is the job of the Osler Library to provide resources for these students and we count on our Friends to enable us to furnish many of these resources.

McGill is a research institution whose students use the libraries heavily. Students come to the Osler from fine arts, philosophy, history, architecture, psychiatry, physical and occupational therapy, chemistry, biology, physiology, classics and sociology. Moreover, our reference staff realize that as soon as the students depart for the summer, the research room fills up with out-of-town patrons.

Our acquisitions this year, due in part to your help, are as rich and varied as possible: the history of everything medical from Aristotle to AIDS. Microfilm publications, which provide access to rare and remote material, include: 60 reels of microfilm containing the records and accounts of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries for the years 1606-1954, a set of film of medieval manuscripts from the Oxford Colleges on medical and natural sciences, filmed copies of Leyden medical dissertations in the British Library from 1593-1746, and finally, filmed copies of the Margaret Sanger papers.

Rare works on contagious diseases include: the 1787 publication of *Nähere Untersuchung der Pestanstekung*, by Pascal Joseph von Ferro, published in Vienna; M. Lanthois' *Théorie nouvelle de la phtisie pulmonaire*, Paris, 1818; George Randolph's *Enquiry into the Medicinal Virtues of Bristol Water* published in Oxford in 1745; and Bernardino Ramazzini's *Opera Omnia Medica et Physiologica* published in London in 1739.

Recent publications include new works on the history of diseases such as AIDS, anthrax, diabetes, the influenza epidemic of 1918, malaria, diphtheria, tuberculosis, cholera, multiple sclerosis and cancer, and a new edition of *Plagues and Peoples*, by William H. McNeill. Histories of psychoanalysis, ophthalmology, molecular biology, Australasian radiology, midwifery, insanity, the medication of schizophrenia, homeopathy and medicinal plants, can all be found on our "New Books" shelves. Histories of Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine have appeared and among these is the particularly fascinating work by Shigehisa Kuriyama entitled *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and*

Chinese Medicine.

Biographies include M. Calyce Newby's book entitled *Anderson Ruffin Abbott, the First Afro-Canadian Doctor*, who served as a surgeon in the American Civil War and who later continued his medical studies at the University of Toronto after the war, almost at the same time as William Osler. *Alice, the Making of a Woman Doctor*, by Fay Hercock tells the story of a remarkable New Zealand allergist and pediatrician. David Le Vay's *Alexis Carrel, the Perfectibility of Man*, explores the life of a gifted and complex surgeon-scientist.

Having watched Professor Michael Bliss research his biography of Osler, it was a pleasure to place the finished product on the shelf. How often does a Library have a major biography written about its founder? Professor Bliss has been kind enough to present to the Library his extensive notes and the manuscripts pertaining to his book. *William Osler, A Life in Medicine*, is now into its second printing in Canada and the U.S.

Institutional histories describe the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and the German Museum of the History of Medicine in Ingolstadt. *Manifesting Medicine, Bodies and Machines*, is a collection of essays on the role of medical museums (and medical artifacts) in their broad social setting.

Finally, under the heading of glorious reproductions, comes *The Great Herbal of Leonhart Fuchs*, (*De historia stirpium insignes*, 1542) edited by F.G. Meyer, E.E. Trueblood and J.L. Heller, published by the Stanford University Press. It is dedicated to the memory of, Leonhart Fuchs [1501-1566] who perfected the herbal as a botanical document, at a critical period when modern science was in its infancy. For a full list of our recent acquisitions you may write to Mary Simon at the Osler Library or send her an e-mail at: Simon@Library.McGill.ca, or check our web site at: www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/welcome.htm

A fine addition to our holdings was provided earlier this year by a gift of close to 400 titles from the former collection of the Toronto Academy of Medicine.

Conservation of individual rare

books continues to be a priority. We are half-way through the books selected for restoration thanks to Mrs. Eve Hampson's campaign to restore specific works from Sir William's collection. Mrs. Hampson, the Osler family representative on our Board of Curators, initiated the campaign in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Osler's birth and we are delighted with the progress of our conservator's painstaking work. In addition eleven more books have been restored as part of our on-going conservation work, thanks to your help. It is a thrill to see these books return, fit for hundreds more years of consultation.

An outstanding gift to the Osler Library Archives is the Geggie Family Fonds documenting over 100 years of rural medical practice in the Gatineau region of western Quebec. This material has recently been the subject of a Master's thesis at Queen's University. It provides a unique insight into the work of a dedicated family of McGill medical graduates.

Combined with a grant from Young Canada Works, your money helped to fund a project to organize and describe our archives according to the Rules for Archival Description, a Canadian archival descriptive standard. We will be putting this guide on our web page to give the public an idea of our rich holdings.

This brief overview of our activities launches our appeal. Hopefully, the description has given you an idea of the power of Osler's Library inside and outside the walls of the University, thanks to your help.✱

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The Library gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from Friends, both old and new, who have responded to the appeal for funds for the 1999-2000 academic year. Over the year, 265 Friends have given a total of approximately \$43,843 and they are listed below. Most of the contributions have come from Friends in Canada and the United States of America. However, very

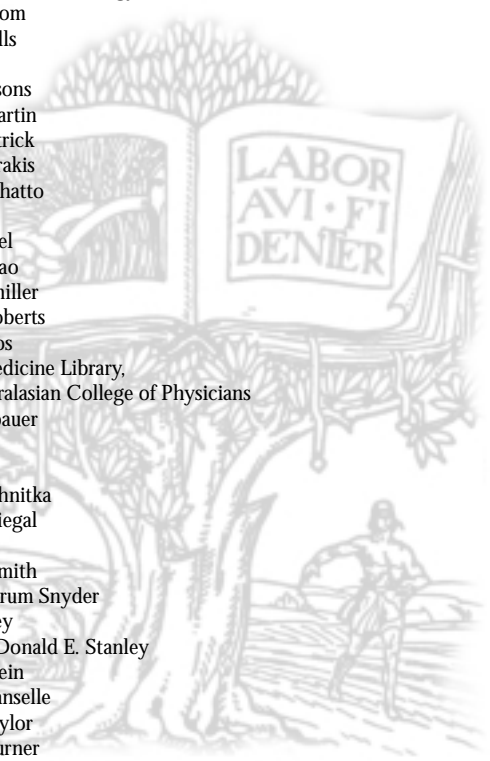
welcome contributions have also come from several other continents. The appeal to the Friends for the 1999-2000 academic year concluded on May 31, 2000.

The appeal for the 2000-2001 academic year is made in this issue, No. 93-2000.

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OSLER LIBRARY NOTES

Osler Library Fellowship

This year our Fellow is Constance Malpas a doctoral student at Princeton University. The title of her project is "Organizing the "New Pathology": Text and Texture in Twentieth-century Medical Science". This fascinating study will involve a comparison of the classificatory systems used to organize the museological and bibliographic collections of the Osler Library and the McGill Medical Museum at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Publications

Two new publications in the Osler Library Studies in the History of Medicine series are available for sale from the Osler Library. Volume two of *An Annotated Checklist of Osleriana*, by Earl F. Nation, Charles G. Roland and John P. McGovern has just been published along with a reprinted edition of volume one of this invaluable publication. *Willie: A Dream, A Dramatic Monologue Portraying Sir William Osler (with Commentary and References)* by Joseph W. Lella, is now in book form and is available from the Library along with the video version. Each volume sells for \$25 or \$20 for Friends. The price of the video is \$50.

Visits

We were happy to welcome members of the Society of the History of Anaesthesia in June who were visiting Montreal as part of the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists. They were able to examine rare works and archives pertaining to the history of anaesthesia collected by the Osler Library. Visitors from Norman Bethune University in China paid us a visit and were delighted to see items from our Bethune Collection.✱

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