

## *News, Notes, and Queries*

### Royal College of Surgeons of England Nineteenth Century Cataloguing Project

At the Royal College of Surgeons of England in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, visitors to the library reading room, designed by Sir Charles Barry in the 1830s, are often taken aback as they enter and see for first time the spacious elegance of its proportions. The fact that this is a working library ready to answer the needs of a greater variety of readers than that first impression suggests, may only dawn on the casual observer later. This is not simply a congenial environment for visiting members, students, delegates and course participants to pore over copies of *The Times* or the latest *College Bulletin*. Behind the pleasing façade of the book-lined reading room, with its gallery level stretching upwards to an impressive moulded ceiling, this is a library of hitherto somewhat hidden treasures. The College library team have, however, been working towards encouraging engagement with these notable and diverse collections. One of a series of projects aimed at attracting historical researchers is the nineteenth century cataloguing project, which tackles the electronic cataloguing of a collection of around 11,500 nineteenth century works. This work is funded with the generous assistance of the Research Resources in Medical History scheme of the Wellcome Trust (further details are available at: <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library/projects/19thcenturycatproject>).

Medical historians, who could have been forgiven for overlooking the library's historical printed collections in the past, will now have remote access to the expanded catalogue, which contains the newly added nineteenth century material, as the project progresses past its first

year. They will also have the fruits of a previous project that individually catalogued around 26,000 tracts and pamphlets, many of which may be the only instance of such items catalogued to this level in the UK. The details of the current project's collection were previously available only by physically searching an antiquated, and sometimes puzzlingly arranged, handwritten card catalogue. Though these cards may, one day, be studied for their own significance, covered as they are in the copperplate script of various past librarians, their usefulness at present is much reduced. Whatever fate or library policy decides for the old catalogue, the present and future of locating items within the collection will be entrusted to modern user-friendly research tools. To this end the collection is being catalogued to international bibliographic standards and the records created will be available not only through the College's own online catalogue but also via the COPAC academic and national library catalogue.

The final surprise for potential readers? The collection includes far more than surgery or even medicine, encompassing natural history, veterinary science, art, travel and topography, gardening and astronomy. It is in fact a collection as interesting and varied as the College members and staff who have contributed to it for over 200 years. With plans for further cataloguing projects, renovation of the library space and conservation of the collections afoot, historical researchers' needs are firmly on the agenda at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

*Call for papers*  
2009 AAHM Annual Meeting

The American Association for the History of Medicine invites submissions in any area of medical history for its 82nd annual meeting, to be held in Cleveland, OH, 23–26 April 2009. The Association welcomes submissions on the history of health and healing. Abstracts must be received by **15 September 2008**. E-mailed or faxed proposals cannot be accepted. The AAHM uses an online abstract submissions system

which can be accessed along with detailed information on submission at the main website: <http://histmed.org>. Please address specific questions to the Program Committee Chair, Howard Markel, MD, PhD, University of Michigan, 100 Simpson Memorial Institute, 102 Observatory, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0725, USA; tel.: 734-647-6914; e-mail: [howard@umich.edu](mailto:howard@umich.edu).

*Call for papers*  
Thirtieth Annual Samuel J Zakon Award  
in the History of Dermatology

The History of Dermatology Society announces that papers are now being called for the thirtieth annual Samuel J Zakon Award in the History of Dermatology. This competition is open to historians and dermatologists in practice or training. Manuscripts should be submitted to

Mark C Valentine, MD, Chairman, Samuel J Zakon Award Committee, 3327 Colby Avenue, Everett, WA 98201, USA, by **1 November 2008**. Essays may relate to any aspect of the history of dermatology not heretofore published. For further information, e-mail: [mark1105@aol.com](mailto:mark1105@aol.com).

*Call for papers*  
Special Issue of *History of Psychiatry*

To be published in early 2010, this Special Issue, titled 'A Hundred Years of Evolutionary Psychiatry (1872–1972)' (guest editors: Pieter R Adriaens and Andreas De Block) seeks to explore the history of evolutionary accounts of mental disorders. For convenience, it will focus on the period 1872–1972 marked by the publication of Darwin's *The expression of the emotions in man and animals* and Tinbergen's *Early childhood autism: an ethological approach*. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: the correspondence between Darwin and Sir James Crichton-Browne; the phylogenetic speculations of Freud and other psychoanalysts; John Bowlby's attachment

theory; post-war evolutionary attempts to make sense of the persistence of mental disorders (including the 1964 *Nature* paper on schizophrenia, written by Julian Huxley, Ernst Mayr, Abraham Hoffer and Humphry Osmond); and Tinbergen's theories on childhood autism. Contributions on other "evolutionary psychiatrists" are also welcome.

Papers should be historical in nature. Scholars are invited to send a 500-word proposal to Pieter R Adriaens at [Pieter.Adriaens@hiw.kuleuven.be](mailto:Pieter.Adriaens@hiw.kuleuven.be) by **1 November 2008**. Final contributions should not exceed 7500 words inclusive of notes and references. The deadline for final submissions is **1 April 2009**.