



# NCIPIT

## History of the Health Sciences Section Newsletter Medical Library Association Volume XII Issue 2 December 2000

---

Dear History of Health Sciences Section members:

The executive committee is still at work! Hope all is well with you. It has been awhile since our meeting in beautiful Vancouver. What's new, what isn't happening and where are we headed?

Once again, Heidi Heilemann has our section involved in a number of great activities for the upcoming meeting May 17-23, 2001 in Orlando, Florida. From a quick peek at the program schedule our section is co-sponsoring three different sessions with Sciences, Leadership and Management; Oral History; Medical Informatics; Research; and Consumer and Patient Health.

Whew! I will leave the program descriptions and meeting times for Heidi to describe. Please plan to attend these events and support our section at the MLA 2001 meeting.

We are looking for a new Membership Chair! If anyone is interested, please contact me immediately. The position requires developing and implementing tactics for increasing membership and for promoting the renewal of members. Help us get others involved.

Pat Gallagher is having nightmares with our website. Pat is currently looking for a permanent home for our site. We lost access at Duke

University when key personnel left the school. After many e-mails and phone calls, I think things are finally headed in the right direction. Hopefully, Pat will soon be able to notify us where the new site is located.

A special thank you to the executive committee, Fred Pachman (Newsletter Editor), Stephen Greenberg (Section Council Representative), Anne Maria Baxter (Secretary/Treasurer), Heidi Heilemann (Chair-elect), and Pat Gallagher (Website guru and Bylaws Chair) for their continued interest and support of the Section. Enjoy the holidays!

Barbara Van Brimmer  
Chair, History of Health Sciences Section

Curator - Medical Heritage Center  
Associate Professor  
Prior Health Sciences Library  
The Ohio State University  
376 West 10th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1240

vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu  
614-292-4891  
614-292-9919 (fax)

---

**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting  
May 9, 2000  
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre,  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada**

Present: Anne Maria Baxter, Dave Boilard, Barbara Van Brimmer, Patricia E. Gallagher, Stephen Greenberg, Heidi Heileman, Sandra Lynch, Diane McKenzie, Frederic C. Pachman, Colleen Weum

The meeting was called to order at 12:35PM by Barbara Van Brimmer, Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the treasurer's report was read and accepted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Election Results**

Per Nonnie Klein's report, Stephen Greenberg was elected to Section Council with 32 votes. The term of office is 3 years. There is currently no alternate, since the section has already rotated to the new voting system mandated by Section Council. Van Brimmer volunteered to appoint an alternate, but Greenberg requested one not be appointed at this time. Since he will be representing Section Council on the 2002 National Program Committee, Greenberg will not be able to attend the first Section Council meeting, but will attend the second. Discussion followed regarding Section Council meeting attendance.

**Action Items:**

Diane McKenzie volunteered to attend the first Section Council meeting as proxy and will provide report of meeting. Greenberg will arrange this with Section Council.

**Continuing Education**

Gallagher and Greenberg taught a half-day course in October 1999 in Philadelphia entitled Resources for the History of Medicine. Greenberg taught a full day course entitled The History of the Health Sciences: A One-Day Overview at this year's annual MLA meeting.

There were 13 attendees and the course was well received. Per Kathy Gaydos of MLA, the written course evaluations were favorable. BibKit #5, compiled by Gallagher and Greenberg, was published in October 1999. Cost is \$22.00 to MLA members. Publicity for the BibKit was done by MLA, a notice placed in INCIPIT, and also in the ALHHS (Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences) newsletter. Pachman raised the question of where and how to have the BibKit reviewed. The response was the editor of Watermark was thinking of reviewing the BibKit.

Gallagher, when asked if she would continue as the CE (Continuing Education) person, agreed. Pachman asked if Gallagher or Greenberg would agree to teach one of the History of Medicine courses in New Jersey and both were agreeable. Discussion followed regarding marketing and teaching of courses.

**Action Items:**

Pachman volunteered to ask Lilli Sentz to review the BibKit.

**Incipit**

Pachman reported two issues of Incipit were prepared and sent out to the 90 section members. He asked if more individuals would submit material for the content of the newsletter. Short contributions are acceptable. A few comments regarding membership problems were made. Pachman stated material for the newsletter would be a way to let individuals know what others in the section were doing and could be a way to encourage participation in the section. Deadline for submitting contributions is July 30, 2000. Pachman also asked for an assistant editor or co-editor so they could eventually take over as editor of Incipit. The next issue is scheduled for mailing in August 2000.

**Website**

Gallagher reported abstracts from papers presented at this year's HHSS sponsored programs would be available on the HHSS

Website. Suzanne Porter had asked if the exhibit to be held at Duke University could be highlighted on the Website. Gallagher thought this would be a good idea since Duke University hosts the HHSS Website. Currently the site features 270 links. It was suggested the site could feature exhibits being held at other institutions provided the exhibit would be for several months' duration. A call for papers could also be posted on the Website. Gallagher volunteered to post the message and guidelines for papers on the HHSS list.

Discussion regarding publicizing the Website ensued. The site is advertised on MLANET, but it was not felt to be sufficient. It was stated there had been some discussion of making the MLANET site fully searchable for all chapters also. Other items discussed were to have history of health sciences Websites sent to Pachman for publication in Incipit and suggestions for linking from other sites to the HHSS site. It was also stated the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) meeting and the ALHHS meetings were featured on the NLM Website.

**Listserv**

Heileman reported MLA hosted HHSS listserv but the section has not yet been billed for the service - an item that could be added to the section treasurer's report. At the time of the 2000 MLA annual meeting, 35 members had signed up for the listserv. Heileman also reported Carla Funk mentioned a high turnover at MLA Headquarters. Also reported was the discussion held at Section Council meeting proposing the cost for listservs and Websites hosted by MLA should be free to chapters and sections. SIGS would be excluded because they cannot have a treasury. Jerry Perry would most likely bring up the idea at the MLANET meeting that fees for listservs and Websites be abolished. Discussion then followed of space on the MLA site for pages and lists. A few sections and chapters currently use MLA to house their sites.

**Membership**

Van Brimmer reported Donna Trainor was retiring. Van Brimmer reported Trainor e-mailed information for use to create a pamphlet. A special thanks to Donna for her work.

McKenzie had attended the membership committee meeting as the HHSS representative and provided the HHSS business meeting attendees with a report. The goal of the Membership Committee was to increase the overall MLA membership. The idea was proposed schools with relevant departments and groups in various fields could be targeted as sources of new members. If new individuals could be identified, it would be good to call and speak to them personally rather than sending an e-mail or letter. The MLA membership committee held a potential new member's breakfast. At the breakfast, the administrators sat together rather than mix with the attendees which was not the intention of the individuals organizing the event. McKenzie stated the HHSS would benefit from having a tie-in. At the Membership meeting, a "Colleague Connection" was suggested where there would be a volunteer buddy system of linking up new or fairly new members with an established member. McKenzie suggested HHSS needed to have a couple of individuals available for new members who express an interest. The question was raised re: was the buddy system different than mentoring? Response: yes, this is a way to "hold the hand of new attendees." Van Brimmer stated she wanted to find a way to get people in the section to be more active and involved. Greenberg stated he would serve as a volunteer buddy for new people. McKenzie commented on the types of membership reports available from MLA. HHSS is encouraged to contact non-renewing members. Weum reported on her experience in attending section meetings. No one in the section actually welcomed individuals.

**Action Items:**

Van Brimmer stated she would send out a request on the list for somebody to take over

### Membership.

Van Brimmer stated she would put out a call for an individual to work with Membership. Van Brimmer and McKenzie stated they would work on Membership together. It was suggested Pachman put information in Incipit regarding membership. Gallagher stated she would send out a mailing to HHSS members asking for a volunteer to become the Membership person.

### Program Committee

Heileman reported on the programs sponsored by the HHSS at the 2000 MLA meeting. Approximately 30 individuals attended the first program, co-sponsored by the Oral History Committee, entitled Recording for the Future: Demystifying the Oral History Process. Informally, good comments were received. The Section also co-sponsored a second program with the Relevant Issues, Consumer and Patient Health information, International Cooperation, and the Medical Libraries section entitled Fast/West: Merging Trends in Medical Therapeutics.

### Section Council

Greenberg reported on the Section Council meeting from Susan Marshall's notes. The Medical School Libraries Section changed its name to Leadership and Management. Two new SIGS were formed, Voyager and African American Medical Librarians Alliance. Much time was spent discussing MLANET, funding, and usability. From the discussion came the idea that the Web should be a benefit of membership. There were 2 or 3 slots for business meetings, this was still under discussion. A question was raised regarding which individual had convened the African American SIG, but it was not known who had done so. Also reported was if a SIG wanted to do a program, they would need a co-sponsor.

### OTHER

#### Gottlieb Award

A general discussion regarding the publication of

Maggie Yax's paper in the BMLA (Bulletin of the Medical Library Association) was held. Yax was given the Murray Gottlieb Prize for the paper. Greenberg stated the publication of the paper in the BMLA would need to be pursued as it was not automatic. Greenberg stated last year's Gottlieb Prize paper has yet to be published in the BMLA.

#### Action Items:

Van Brimmer volunteered to contact the BMLA editor regarding publication of the Yax paper.

#### Contribution

Van Brimmer reported a thank-you letter was sent for the HHSS contribution to the McClure Excellence in Education Endowment. The person who won the award was from Texas.

#### New Business

#### Programming for 2001

Heileman reported on the meeting held to discuss possible ideas for programs for the 2001 MLA meeting. Suggested themes for programs were historical web sites in the history of medicine and history of medical librarianship: an American odyssey. The history of medical librarianship program could have a biographical or geographical focus. Also, papers in this program might focus on librarians significant in the development of libraries in their area. It was suggested the NAHRS (Nursing and Allied Health Resources) and Medical Informatics sections might be interested in co-sponsoring the historical web site program. Suggested Web sites included the NLM's Profiles in Science, PHDIL (Philadelphia Historical Digital Image Library), Duke University's site, and the American Association for the History of Nursing site. McKenzie commented oral history and medical societies might want to co-sponsor one of the programs.

#### Mentoring list on HHSS Website?

This issue was not discussed at the business meeting.

### Promotion of the Murray Gottlieb Prize

The question was raised regarding HHSS's promotion of the Gottlieb Award. Response was a Section could promote awards.

#### Action Items:

Van Brimmer stated she would look for a volunteer to promote the award. Pachman stated he could prepare a handout to be sent out with Incipit regarding the Gottlieb Award.

#### Goals for 2001

Look for small projects so people can get involved in the Section. It was stated Judith Overmeier did a poster on Gottlieb. People could be working on papers for the award. The question was raised if the section wanted to send out announcement on listservs promoting the award.

Barbara Van Brimmer adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Maria Baxter  
Secretary

---

### MURRAY GOTTLIEB PRIZE ESSAY AWARD

The Murray Gottlieb Prize is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences written by a health sciences librarian. The Gottlieb Prize was established in 1956 by Ralph and Jo Grimes of the Old Hickory Bookshop, Brinklow, Maryland, in memory of Murray Gottlieb, a New York antiquarian book dealer. The purpose of the prize is to recognize and stimulate the health sciences librarian's interest in the history of medicine. The author of the winning essay receives a cash award of \$100 and a certificate at the Medical Library Association's Annual Meeting.

Authors of papers submitted for the Murray Gottlieb Prize must be a health sciences librarian. Papers must treat some aspect of the history of medicine or allied sciences. Papers may be under consideration for publication at the time of submission, but cannot have been published.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, one side of paper only, not to exceed 25 pages. The title of the paper should appear at the head of the manuscript. The name, official title, address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address of the author must appear on a separate cover sheet, but no place else on the manuscript, to facilitate blind judging. A 150-word abstract should be included on a separate sheet of paper.

Entries are judged according to the following standards: bibliographic research, quality of the experimental design or of arguments developed to support a particular hypothesis, contribution to the study of the history of the health sciences, originality, and style (clarity, appearance, conciseness, structure). For further information, contact Anne Greenspan at the MLA Professional Development Department at 312/419-9094, Ext. 28 or [mlapd2@mlahq.org](mailto:mlapd2@mlahq.org)

---

### HHSS Website

After many years happily residing at the Duke University server, we've decided to move the website to MLANet. One big advantage will be the ability to use our new domain name <http://www.mla-hhss.org/> which will become active once we are fully installed at MLA HQ. Our thanks to Suzanne Porter and to Duke University for their many years of support. Please visit our new home sometime in January. Special thanks are due to Pat Gallagher who has worked hard to develop this site for our Section and its membership, and is managing this transition to a new home.

---

## History of Medicine Division Activities at the National Library of Medicine

As part of the National Library of Medicine's Getting to Know NLM program, sponsored by the NLM Diversity Council, the History of Medicine Division (HMD) presented a skit where HMD staff represented various individuals important in the history of medicine. Historical individuals and the "actors" who represented them included Sir William Osler - Stephen Greenberg, Al-Juzjani (for Avicenna) - Walter Hickel, Vesalius - Michael Sappol, Vesalius's "cadaver" - Gregory Pike, Elizabeth Blackwell - Carol Clausen, Florence Nightengale - Karen Pitts, Clara Barton - Patricia Tuohy.

Individuals influential in the development of NLM and the HMD and the "actors" representing them included John Shaw Billings - Paul Theerman, Fielding H. Garrison - John Rees, Christian Anfinsen - David Serlin, and Dorothy Schullian - Sandra Lee Parker Provenzano.

Most of the characters are familiar to individuals interested in the history of medicine, but by way of explanation for those whose names may be less familiar, Christian Boehmer Anfinsen, Jr. shared the 1972 Nobel Prize for work on the structure and function of proteins in living cells. he was one of the first chemists to synthesize and purify the protein interferon, which is now used to treat certain types of cancer. Christian Anfinsen donated a collection of papers and photographs to the NLM's History of Medicine Division.

Dorothy May Schullian joined the Cleveland Branch of the Army Medical Library, as NLM was then known, in 1944. Schullian served progressively as curator, historian, assistant chief, and finally chief of HMD.

Clio, the Muse of History, who introduced the program and asked questions of the historical figures was played by Elizabeth Fee, Chief

of the History of Medicine Division.

In addition to talking about the historical people they played, the "actors" also talked about the HMD collections relevant to those characters, and, where possible, the historical development of the NLM itself. Images for each character were run on a Power Point program behind the stage. Finally, one or two artifacts (books, letters, pictures, etc.) were displayed on a table for the audience to examine after the presentation.

(Thanks to Susan Speaker and Anne Marie Baxter for this contribution.)

---

### Position Available

The History of the Health Sciences section is seeking a new editor for its newsletter INCIPIT. Published twice a year, the newsletter serves as the primary communication tool to the 100+ members of the section.

My term as editor of this publication will finish next spring with publication of the pre-conference issue. If you'd like help out your colleagues and work the Executive Board to promote the Section, please contact Section President Barbara Van Brimmer or the editor.

Frederic C. Pachman AHIP  
Editor, Incipit  
Altschul Medical Library  
Monmouth Medical Center  
Long Branch, New Jersey 07740  
732.923.6645  
< fpachman@sbhcs.com >

---

### ? TWO COPIES ?

Yes, you received two copies of this issue. No, it's not because it was printed so late. Please take this second copy, attach a note promoting the HHSS, and send it to a colleague. Thanks.

---