

INCIPIIT

Volume XVIII Issue 2

Fall 2007

Greetings from the Chair

Please take note of the wonderful programs that **Michael Flannery**, our Program Chair and Chair-Elect, has put together for the 2008 annual meeting.

The theme for MLA '08 in Chicago is *Connections: Bridging the Gaps*, and our Section is co-sponsoring two contributed paper sessions. I think that these sessions are particularly relevant to President Mark Funk's slogan to "Only Connect".

With the African American Medical Librarians Alliance SIG we are co-sponsoring: **Opening Doors: The African American Connection in Medical Librarianship**.

With the Veterinary Medical Libraries Section and the Mental Health SIG, we are co-sponsoring **Interconnections: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Medical History**, which asks speakers to explore ways in which human physical health has been historically impacted by collateral fields such as veterinary medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and other disciplines outside the strictly biomedical sciences.

This summer our Section petitioned and was granted approval from the MLA Board for a permanent HHS Section position on the Murray Gottlieb Jury. I am pleased to report that **Lucretia McClure** accepted the appointment as the first HHS Section Liaison to the Murray Gottlieb Prize Jury. This prize was established in 1956 "to recognize and stimulate the health sciences librarians' interest in the history of medicine."

Heretofore, there was no assurance that the people on the jury would have the necessary expertise to judge historical scholarship and writing. Hence, permanent membership on the jury by a member of the Section provides guidance, authority and credibility in the selection of the best essay. Many of our Section colleagues have been awarded the prize, including Stephen Greenberg (1996) and Michael Flannery (2002). You can view a full list of prize recipients and topics at <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/gottlieb.html>

Please welcome our new Listserv Coordinator, **Cynthia Kahn**—she is also the *Incipit* editor—and our new Membership Chair, **Anne Maria Frketich**. Together, they have reviewed and coordinated the membership list and the listserv so both are current. Feel free to post items to the listserv hhss@mla-hhss.org

I want to acknowledge the work of the other Section officers and committee chairs. **Ed Holtum** has served as Secretary/Treasurer since 2006 and will continue in the post until 2009. **Patricia Gallagher** is Immediate Past-Chair, which includes taking responsibilities as the Liaison to the Oral History Committee. Our Section Council Representative is **Joan Stoddart**, and our Section Council Representative-Elect is **Patricia Gallagher**. **Suzanne Porter** continues to chair the By-Laws Committee. **Stephen Greenberg** is the Continuing Education Chair. And, we must not forget to thank our ever diligent web-goddess, **Patricia Gallagher**. If you would like

to work with any of the Section committees or offer your skills for Section projects, please contact me, any of the officers or committee chairs.

Join me in extending our appreciation to **Cynthia Kahn** and **Patricia Gallagher** for providing electronic versions of the *Incipit*. Most issues from 1997 to the present are available on the Section website: www.mla-hhss.org/incipit.html. If you have other issues that you are willing to digitize, please let Cynthia know.

Note that our own **Patricia Gallagher** is running for the MLA Board. I highly recommend her as a candidate and future Board member.

I hope to hear from many of you during the year and to see you all in Chicago at the History of the Health Sciences Section programs, our Section Business Meeting AND, of course, on the dance floor on May 18 with the Bearded Pigs.



Diane McKenzie
Section Chair

My email remains the same for now
diane_mckenzie@unc.edu
and although I am no longer working, I do check my email regularly.



East Wenatchee, Washington:
Diane's new home.

Connections: Bridging the Gap

It'll be here before you know it. MLA '08 will take from May 16th-21st, 2008 in Chicago, IL.

The theme of the meeting is "Connections: Bridging the Gap" and the focus is on "the future of librarianship. Does this focus require abandoning the past? As we embrace new technologies, what might we lose?" As librarians interested in the past, the emphasis of considering the future by discussing the past is quite interesting.

Continuing education (CE) will be offered at the annual meeting. Of note, the 400s competency–health sciences resource management–includes CE titled *First Do No Harm: Basic Strategies for Administering Archival Material in Health Sciences Libraries*. Another CE to be aware of is in the 200s competency–leadership and management–focused on *From Idea to Design to Finished Printed Product*.

A personal note: My younger brother, Dan

Kahn, graduated from the culinary arts program at Kendell College in Chicago last year. As part of his course, he completed an internship at Sola. I hope to enjoy a meal there when I'm in Chicago for Annual Meeting.

Links:

MLA '08
www.mlanet.org/am/am2008/

MLA '08 Blog
<http://npc.mlanet.org/mla08/>

Sola
www.solarestaurant.com/

"Only connect!...Only connect the prose and the passion... Live in fragments no longer...Only connect."

—E. M. Forster, *Howards End* (1910)



There Will Be Prizes

The Section Shuffle is a new event for MLA 2008. There will be two hours devoted to Section activities on Sunday, May 18, from 6 pm until 8 pm.

The Shuffle is an opportunity to promote and advertise Section membership and activities. HHSS will be participating in this event with the following *possible* activities:

- Members dressed in costume
- Pins
- Flyers
- Information on our continuing education programs

- a demo of Ed Holm's "version of turning the pages that can be done on a shoe-string"
- a guess-what-this-is contest.

We are in the very beginning of planning our role at the Shuffle. If you would like to help at any level, please email:

Diane McKenzie
diane_mckenzie@unc.edu

What are the prizes?

- (1) The winning section will be announced in a general session.
- (2) The winning section

will be highlighted on a sign in the Section Council Booth.

(3) The winning section will be publicized in the daily newsletter with a picture and

(4) An article in MLA News will highlight the Section and include a picture.

(5) Section members will receive a trophy sticker for their name badges.

(6) The winning section will receive a trophy icon for display on their web page

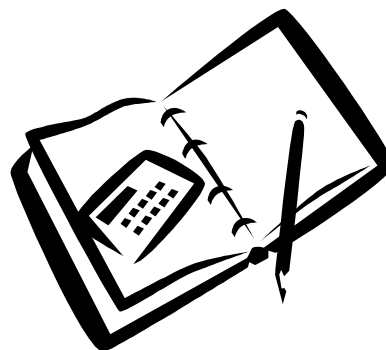


Treasurer's Report

The following reflects account activity for the period, June 1 of 2006 through May 31 of 2007.

Beginning balance as of June 1, 2006	Assets \$4,766.59
Contributions (\$100 each from Palinurus and Oral History Sect.)	\$200.00
Membership dues	\$849.10
	Debits
Speaker Reimbursement (Jeremy Norman)	\$130.31
Bank/checking account fees	\$15.90
Balance ending as of May 31, 2007	\$5,419.88

Submitted by
Edwin Holtum
Secretary/Treasurer
History of the Health Sciences Section (HHSS)



Call for Nominations

Suzanne Porter has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. This year we only have one position to fill—HHS Section Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee.

A number of years ago, the Section decided to not fill this position unless we found a very willing and elect-able candidate; the last per-

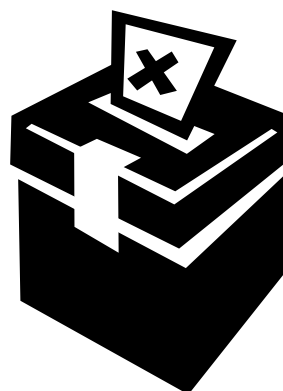
son from our Section to be on the MLA Nominating Committee was **Stephen Greenberg** in 2004.

Please tell Suzanne if you would like to run for this office or send her names of other potential candidates.

porte004@mc.duke.edu

The Section will hold electronic elections be-

fore February 2008.



HHSS Listserv

The listserv of the HHSS is open to members of MLA only. We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.

The HHSS listserv will be used to promote and

communicate activities of the section. It may also be used as a forum for its members to discuss relevant issues and concerns.

Be assured that email traffic will not over-

whelm any of us. It will, however, provide a convenient means to communicate. While joining the listserv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

MLA Oral History Committee

Over the past few months, the Oral History Committee has published the following histories which should be available on loan from your NN/LM.

- Robert Braude
- Robert Cheshire
- Phyllis Gillikin
- Nelson Gilman
- Vern Pings,
- Dorothy Whitcomb

There is a strong con-

nection between HHS Section and the Oral History Committee.

Patricia Gallagher, our Section past-Chair, officially serves as a liaison between the two groups.

In addition, **Richard Nollan**, former HHSS Membership Chair, is the Oral History Project Director.

The Committee is looking for people who are interested in conducting

oral history interviews and in editing manuscripts.

Contact:

Dee Jones, Current Committee Chair at djone4@lsuhsc.edu

Richard Nollan, Project Director at rnollan@utm.edu

URL:

www.mlanet.org/about/history/oral_history.html



Getting to Know...

Rare Books and Special Collections, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh

Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Libraries now have a presence on the Web. A new website was recently launched with information about these collections

www.hsls.pitt.edu/about/libraries/falk/rarebook/index.html

The Rare Books pages describe the history of the collections and some of the highlights. The collections include a significant number of early works in dentistry, a substantive group of books pertaining to the field of psychiatry and mental health, a unique

collection of books on rheumatism and gout (donated by Dr. Gerald P. Rodnan), and an outstanding collection of books relating to hernias and surgery (donated by Dr. Mark M. Ravitch). In the future we hope to enrich the site with images from some of the unique books in these collections.

Special Collections are few in number because the libraries are not actively collecting in this area.

There are two collections of note: the Detre Collection and the Insane Hospital Reports. Dr. Thomas Detre was director of the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and during his tenure as Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh was instrumental in the creation of

the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). His papers are extensive and chronicle over thirty years of innovation at Pitt.

The Insane Hospital Reports collection contains 25 bound volumes. Each one includes fifteen to thirty reports from mental institutions in the United States, generally for the same years; the bulk of the reports are from 1870-1882. The individual reports had been bound together, but detailed contents were not available up to this point. The finding aid includes a detailed list of reports in each volume, arranged by state, city, and hospital so that researchers can easily locate reports from institutions in which they are interested. More data regarding the reports is available in the library.

Leslie Czechowski, Head of Collection Services

University of Pittsburgh
Health Sciences Library
System
200 Scaife Hall
3550 Terrace St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Phone: 412-648-2049
Email: lczech@pitt.edu

ALHHS Call for Presentations

The ALHHS Program Committee invites proposals for the 2008 meeting of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences. The meeting will be held in Rochester, N.Y. on Thursday, April 10, 2008. All attendees will be expected to register for the ALHHS meeting.

The Program Committee seeks presentations that describe activities, projects, or other events being undertaken at your repository and specifically seeks presentations involving outreach

to the public, whether that is defined as your institution's administrators, students, and faculty, or as the "public" in the larger sense.

Drawing inspiration from the recent Watermark article on using outreach to increase our visibility, we seek presentations not only on such traditional efforts as publications, lectures, teaching, and exhibits, but also on initiatives using new web/digital technologies. We also welcome proposals for presentations on new collections, book projects, websites, col-

laborative efforts, etc. In general, presenters will be limited to 20 minutes.

For review by the entire Program Committee, please send the proposals directly to **Arlene Shaner** at ashaner@nyam.org.

The deadline for proposals is the end of the business day (5pm EST) on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Requests for audio-visual equipment will be made by the Program Committee upon finalization of the program.

OAS Call for Papers

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) would like to extend an invitation to you and your patrons to submit a session or single paper proposal for the 2009 OAH Annual Meeting, to be held in Seattle, Washington, March 26 to 29, 2009.

The call for papers is available on the OAH website and the deadline is February 15,

2008.

www.oah.org/2009

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