

INCIPIT

Volume XX Issue 2

Fall 2008

Greetings from the Chair

There is a lot going on with the HHS Section. We drew up a very ambitious plan for the year and work is proceeding on all projects.

Cynthia Kahn and **Emily Molanphy** are investigating the use of new communication tools for the section - perhaps a blog, perhaps a Wiki, perhaps something entirely new. They will also be working with Webmistress **Patricia Gallagher** on an updated look for the Section website. Patricia will continue to review the content of our popular links pages.

Lucretia McClure is leading a task group to explore issues and create an agenda to promote the recruitment, support and retention of qualified history librarians in health sciences libraries. One of their first jobs is to create a bibliography on the topic. Her committee includes **Ed Holtum**, **Michael Flannery**, and **Suzanne Porter**, with consulting help from **Erlich Meyerhoff**.

Joan Stoddart is chairing a group looking at academic health sciences library directors' interests in history collections and what support they would like from HHS Section. The project was sparked when we no-

ticed a good number of library directors are members of the Section. Her committee is staffed by **Diane McKenzie**.

The Section Nominating Committee was chaired by **Patricia Gallagher** and staffed by **Colleen Weum**. They provided a slate for elections and conducted the Section's online voting using Survey Monkey. Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote. It took about one minute so if you were a non-voter, please remember to build that one minute for the HHS Section into your schedule for next year. The results of the election are reported in this newsletter.

Suzanne Porter has graciously taken on updating of the Policy and Procedures Manual. Changes to the membership of Section Council affect our manual, but it is also a good idea to update things periodically. If you are or have been an officer or committee chair, Suzanne may ask you to review the duties and responsibilities of your office.

At the request of members, a stipend was established to help defray costs for members with Section responsibilities that require attendance at the annual

meeting, specifically Program Chair, in-coming Program Chair, and Section Council Representative. The stipend is similar to those offered by other sections. Members of the stipend task force are not eligible for financial support.

We have one more project that is still waiting to get underway. This project will look at the publication of history papers in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)*. The project grew out of the Section's work on the Murray Gottlieb Prize Jury over the past few years.

And, speaking of the Murray Gottlieb Prize, I want to acknowledge the excellent work of **Lucretia McClure** as the first Section Liaison, and also to welcome the incoming 2009-2010 Section Liaison **Heidi Heilemann**.

REMEMBER to renew your membership in the History of the Health Sciences Section. As of July 15, 2008, the Section had a whopping 92 members. But, we notice that there were several long time members who were not on the list—stay connected—fuse with the history of health sciences section.



Diane McKenzie
Section Chair

diane_mckenzie@unc.edu

Interested in helping with a committee?

Contact **Joan Stoddart** joans@lib.med.utah.edu to work on the academic health sciences library directors' interests in history collections committee.

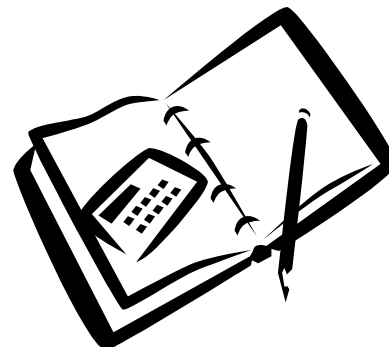
Contact **Diane McKenzie** diane_mckenzie@unc.edu to work on the *JMLA* project

Treasurer's Report

The following reflects account activity for the period, June 1 of 2007 through May 18 of 2008.

Beginning balance as of June 1, 2007	Assets \$5,659.48
Membership dues (\$129.15+\$584.50)	\$713.65
Payment (Section Shuffle)	Debits \$75.00
Balance ending as of May 18, 2008	\$6,298.13

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



Election Results

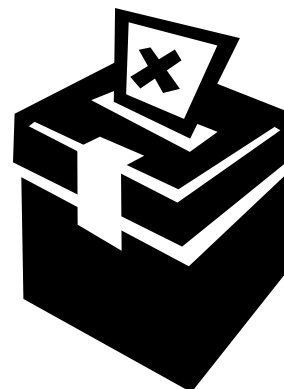
Thank you for taking the time to vote in our recent election. We had 56 electronic ballots and 3 paper ballots. The slate was unanimously confirmed by the membership.

Please join me in welcoming our new officers, who will begin their terms of office after the Annual meeting in May.

Chair Elect: Joan Stoddart
Secretary/Treasurer: Dee Jones
Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee: Diane McKenzie

Also beginning his term of office at the end of the meeting will be our new Chair, **Michael Flannery**.

Submitted by
Patricia E. Gallagher
Colleen Weum
Nominating Committee
History of the Health Sciences Section (HHSS)



HHSS Listserv

We invite all MLA and HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.

The members-only 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 overwhelm 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.

Instructions for Signing On

- Send an email message to major-

domo@mlahq.org

- Leave the subject line blank
- In the body of the text, enter: subscribe
hhss@mla-hhss.org
your email@place.org
- Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
- Receive confirmation and begin participating

When searching the web for reliable websites on the history of the health sciences, television is not something that comes immediately to mind, but it should. PBS, known for their excellent shows on history and health, has created some excellent websites that continue long after the show is not available on the air. The History of the Health Sciences Web Links Page www.mla-hhss.org/histlink.htm provides access to a number of these resources. Before you venture off to look for them, let's discuss some of the varied topics.

The 1918 Influenza epidemic was discussed in some detail on The American Experience in 1998. The show's website www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/influenza/ provides an interesting overview of issues surrounding the epidemic. Descriptions of the epidemics effects on three cities and a letter from a physician treating victims in an army camp put the disease in con-

text, while a timeline and map of the disease's spread across the country show the speed with which the epidemic crippled the country from coast to coast.

Nova's 2007 presentation, The Most Dangerous Woman in America www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/typhoid/ dramatizes the story of Mary Mallon, aka Typhoid Mary. Included on the website is an essay by medical historian Judith Walzer Leavitt, which discusses the public health vs. personal rights issues surrounding Mary Mallon's incarceration. Also included is a history of quarantine and a letter from Mary Mallon, in which she protests her imprisonment.

Red Gold: The Epic Story of Blood www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/ from 2002, looked at a variety of issues surrounding the history of blood transfusion. From clinical information on the makeup of blood, the operation of the circulatory system, and the

mechanisms surrounding the blood donation process, to a detailed look at blood history. This timeline of historical "blood" events, includes biographies of researchers such as Andreas Vesalius and William Harvey.

A companion website to the American Experience 1997 show A Midwife's Tale www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/midwife/ examines the life of Martha Ballard and is based on the book by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. A transcript of the show, illustrations from Ballard's diary and a timeline of Ballard's life within its historical context provide information about Ballard and life in America prior to the Revolution.

To find these and other PBS shows within the History of the Health Sciences Histlink pages, use your CTR-F keys to search "PBS" on the main and History of Diseases www.mla-hhss.org/histdis.htm pages.



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Editor—Cynthia Kahn

NLM HMD Finding Aids

The Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program at the History of Medicine Division (HMD), National Library of Medicine (NLM) is pleased to announce the

release of a new finding aids search and delivery platform based on the University of Michigan's DLXS software.

For the first time users can search and browse

the content of NLM's 190+ existing EAD encoded collection guides, with plans to add 300+ EADs describing all NLM HMD manuscript holdings.

<http://oculus.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?>

MLA '09 Annual Meeting and Exhibition

“Aloha Kakou E Komo Mai”

The MLA '09 Annual Meeting Wiki <http://mla09.wetpaint.com/>

begins with this Hawaiian greeting meaning: “greetings to you all and welcome”. Stay on top of developments in the annual meeting at the Wiki

and the MLA website www.mlanet.org/am/am2009/

Aloha—see you in Honolulu May 15-20, 2009.



Contributed/Invited Sessions

“Promotion & Development Fusions for Special Collections,” a contributed/invited papers session co-sponsored with the Technical Services Section, will showcase different ideas of how digitization projects and other library projects can be dovetailed into various promotional mechanisms or used for program development of

special collections. Various activities and collaborations (both within library units and other academic departments) with digitization and institutional repositories for the access of historical materials will be highlighted.

“Infusing History into the Curriculum,” a contributed/invited papers ses-

sion co-sponsored with the Public Services Section and the Libraries in Curriculum SIG, will present various programs and other collaborations in which special collections can offer real and/or potential curricular support to academic departments (e.g. schools of medicine, medical sociology and history departments).

Invited Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Knuth



The HHS Section is co-sponsoring an invited speaker session with the Relevant Issues Section. Dr. Rebecca Knuth, Associate Professor in Library and Information

Science, University of Hawaii, will speak on “Threatening Fusions: When Ideologues and Demagogues Meet Ideas and Libraries.”