

# THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 123 · FALL 2015

Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada

## New Acquisition: Photographs by James R. Lockhart

*Annmarie Adams*

The Osler Library is delighted to acquire a splendid collection of 146 glass slide negatives by Dr. James R. Lockhart (1890-1980), many taken when he was a medical student at McGill from 1918-21. Lockhart practiced in Carleton County, New Brunswick, and played a significant role in the establishment of a private hospital in Bath, New Brunswick, repurposed from an old hotel in 1935. Lockhart was serving as a medical orderly with the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital formed by McGill University during the First World War when he met his first wife, Anne Elliott, a nurse. The photographs were discovered by Emily Lockhart, James Lockhart's great grand-daughter, in the basement in her grandmother Alice Lockhart's home in Bath, New Brunswick, following her death in 2013. A professional photographer in Toronto, Emily Lockhart contacted McGill when she recognized shots of the campus among the images. "I had no idea he was a photographer," she exclaimed in 2014, clearly thrilled to have discovered her great-grandfather's talent in her own field. As a tribute to her great-grandfather she added a selection of his images to her professional website, which is much more convenient than viewing the fragile glass negatives: <http://emilylockhart.ca/jameslockhart/>.

A quick perusal of the images shows that the James Lockhart Fonds is stunning for both its subject matter and its documentary style. Dozens of shots show hitherto undocumented views of McGill's medical buildings and the nearby Royal Victoria Hospital. During Lockhart's time at McGill, medicine was taught in the neoclassical Strathcona Medical Building, which had been designed by Montreal architects Brown & Vallance in 1909 following a tragic fire in 1907 that destroyed an earlier medical building, aptly named Old Medical. Lockhart photographed the exterior of the elegant Strathcona building, as well as its stairways,



Photo of a single figure in the medical museum, item 41, James Lockhart Fonds, P194

classrooms, offices, furniture, displays, and memorial plaques. Particularly significant among these pictures are glimpses of the medical museum that occupied the rotunda of the Strathcona Building after 1911 under the curatorship of Maude Abbott. These include close-ups of students and instructors at work among the specimens, as well as the building's original stained-glass skylight (Item 21), removed some time in the 1960s or 1970s and of which no physical traces remain.

At least two photos show the display cases closely enough for viewers to identify Abbott's careful placement of wet specimens as well as skeletons. Item 21, for example, captures three rows of Abbott's cases showing how animal skeletons, human skeletons and human skulls were exhibited separately. An oversized slide (Item 68) shows how bones were displayed in rectangular, glass boxes of varying heights and in the open air on crowded wooden tables. We know from historical sources that McGill medical students flocked to the museum in great numbers. According to Abbott's autobiography "the

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# McGill



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# New Acquisition: Photographs by James R. Lockhart

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entire final year had enrolled itself in groups which came [in] weekly in rotation, so that I met every student once weekly in serial demonstrations which covered all the material that was worth studying by the end of the session." Lockhart's photo of a single figure in the hugely significant museum (Item 41) reveals the intimate relationship the atrium afforded between student and specimen. In the photograph, the student (or is he a professor?) is seated at a desk against the wall, reading a very large book. Matching his formal architectural surroundings (and in stark contrast to today's university casual fashion standards), he wears a jacket and tie. He turns and glances towards the photographer, presumably Lockhart himself, whose lens captures the sweep of the nearby skeletal collections displayed in freestanding glass cabinets. Note that Abbott believed the firsthand experience of the museum developed the student's "intellect, discrimination, agreement and retentiveness." According to her, ten minutes in the museum equaled a week's reading, echoing the well-known aphorism that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Lockhart's photos of the Royal Victoria Hospital are equally interesting, and distinct from the views documented in other archival collections. Particularly valuable are the medical student's photographs of the Ross Memorial Pavilion at a distance, obviously taken before the construction of the adjacent women's pavilion in 1925. Both buildings were designed by well-known American hospital specialist Edward Fletcher Stevens and they were frequently photographed together. Another Lockhart image (Item 4) shows the hospital from Pine Avenue, long before expansive parking lots spoiled the grassy terraces originally planned by British architect Henry Saxon Snell, with a couple of Model-T Fords zipping by (perhaps looking for parking!). Several of Lockhart's photographs of the hospital are taken from the McGill sports field, showing the old bleachers and the landscape of Mount Royal Park in the background.

Two other subjects were well-documented by James Lockhart's camera: the streets of Montreal following the

end of the Great War and the physician's ensuing family life in small-town New Brunswick. The New Brunswick part of the collection includes delightful shots of houses, a logging operation, rivers and lakes, barefoot children, pets, bags of grain, wicker furniture, canoes, and distant views of towns and factories. Tom Lockhart, Emily's father and James Lockhart's grandson, thinks they extend as late as 1926, as many include shots of his father John, who was born in 1922 (and like his father graduated from McGill Medicine).

The Lockhart photograph collection acquisition is timely and significant. As McGill is currently restaging Abbott's museum in a section of the rotunda it once occupied, these detailed shots of how it looked and worked are of enormous value. And with the Royal Vic facing an uncertain future, new views of its storied past are welcome. The Lockhart photos are rich historic documents, revealing the multi-faceted daily life of a medical student after World War I, but they are also just exceptionally beautiful images. The compositions, the close views, the stark contrasts, the technical mastery of low lights, even the abstract views of body parts in petri dishes are breathtakingly beautiful. According to his graduation write-up in *Old McGill*, the student loved mountain climbing and gymnastics but there is no mention whatsoever of photography. Was Lockhart's passion for photography a well-kept secret? Luckily for us the secret's out and researchers can now appreciate

the artistic talents of this McGill-trained physician.

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*Prof. Annmarie Adams is a member of the Osler Library's Board of Curators and Director and William C. Macdonald Professor at the School of Architecture, McGill University. She is the author of *Medicine by Design: The Architect and the Modern Hospital, 1893-1943* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008) and co-author of *Designing Women: Gender and the Architectural Profession* (University of Toronto Press, 2000). Her research has garnered numerous awards, including the Jason Hannah Medal from the Royal Society of Canada, a CIHR Health Career Award, and a YWCA Woman of Distinction prize.*



Informal portrait of James Lockhart lounging in a chair, item 99, James Lockhart Fonds, P194

# Sanitizing Style: A New Exhibition on through December

No longer with a trailing skirt  
She sweeps the sidewalks bare.

Collecting germs, collecting dirt,  
All swaddled up for fair.

The cities now hire men adept  
At sweeping what those long  
skirts swept.

— The Toronto Star, Oct. 9, 1925

**B**y the time of the publication of these lines, germ theory had pervaded every aspect of daily life in the Western world. Discovered in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the theory, elaborated by scientists such as Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, led to numerous changes in everyday living. A new exhibition at the Osler Library highlights one such example. Following the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, public health advocates rallied to create treatment and prevention programmes, including public health campaigns and anti-spitting legislation. They also recognized the danger posed by tuberculosis-infected sputum on the streets swept up in the trailing skirts favoured by fashionable women of the day. This exhibition explores the legitimacy that germ theory lent to the late-nineteenth century movement to reform women's dress, bringing together books, images, artifacts, and clothing pieces from collections across McGill University.

The Guest Curator for this exhibition is Cynthia Tang. Cynthia is a PhD student in the Department of History at McGill specializing in the history of medicine. She works with Dr. Thomas Schlich of the Department of Social Studies of Medicine on a CIHR-funded project looking at the rise of minimally invasive surgery as a disruptive practice. She holds a BSc in Toxicology from the University of Toronto and an MSc in Immunology from the University of Waterloo. Assistant Librarian Anna Dysert co-curated, along with Catherine Bradley, Head of Wardrobe in the Drama and Theatre Program of McGill's Department of

## The Osler Library

EXHIBITION MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-5PM DAILY 2 CENTS

# SANITIZING STYLE

## GERM THEORY AND FASHION AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

**NO MORE TRAILING SKIRTS! RAISE HELMLINES FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION!**

**WHAT A WOMAN'S SKIRT SWEEPS UP.**

**Disease Germs Gathered From the Streets in Abundance.**

It is a well-known fact that the trailing skirts of women are a great source of germs. These germs are collected from the streets, sidewalks, and public places, and are carried home on the skirts. This is a great source of infection, especially for tuberculosis.

The remedy is to raise the helmlines of the skirts. This will prevent the skirts from sweeping up the streets and sidewalks, and will thus prevent the collection of germs.

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**TUBERCULOSIS HOLDS SWAY IN QUEBEC**

**RECORD OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS IN QUEBEC**

Quebec, Canada, in the winter of 1900-1901, was the scene of a great epidemic of tuberculosis. The epidemic was the result of the collection of germs from the streets and sidewalks, which were carried home on the trailing skirts of women.

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**TUBERCULOSIS IN QUEBEC PROVINCE**

**Plan to Fight Disease is Being Formulated.**

It is a well-known fact that the trailing skirts of women are a great source of germs. These germs are collected from the streets, sidewalks, and public places, and are carried home on the skirts. This is a great source of infection, especially for tuberculosis.

The remedy is to raise the helmlines of the skirts. This will prevent the skirts from sweeping up the streets and sidewalks, and will thus prevent the collection of germs.



**WOMEN VICTIMS ARE MANY.**

**French-Canadians Are the Chief Sufferers.**

It is a well-known fact that the trailing skirts of women are a great source of germs. These germs are collected from the streets, sidewalks, and public places, and are carried home on the skirts. This is a great source of infection, especially for tuberculosis.

The remedy is to raise the helmlines of the skirts. This will prevent the skirts from sweeping up the streets and sidewalks, and will thus prevent the collection of germs.

On Exhibit from September through November at the  
**Osler Library of the History of Medicine**  
**McIntyre Medical Building, McGill University**  
**3rd Floor, 3655 Promenade Sir William Osler**

English, as costume curator.

The exhibition *Sanitizing Style: Germ Theory and Fashion at the Turn of the Century* is on now at the Osler Library through December 2015 and is accessible Monday to Friday during library opening hours.

# McGill Medical Graduates, 1833 to 1877

David S. Crawford

**D**uring research on early McGill medical graduates and their theses (a list of which is available at <http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/McGill-medical-theses/mcgill-theses.html>), several names stood out; some graduates were well known and have been profiled in major biographical dictionaries, others have been featured in local medical or institutional histories, and a few individuals were subjects of published biographies. A number of members of multi-generational medical families are represented. Though the majority of early McGill medical graduates are relatively little known today, a few are proving to have interesting backstories. Among the latter are two of the Sparham brothers.

The Sparhams were a large medical family in eastern Ontario, probably all descended from Thomas Spareham [sic] an army medical officer or orderly who came to Canada with the United Empire Loyalists and practised in both Meyer's Creek (now Belleville) and the Village of Waterloo, near Kingston.<sup>1</sup> His son, Thomas Spareham (Jr.) was a surgeon, and in the 1860s and 1870s, four of the latter's sons were also physicians registered to practise in Ontario: Terence and Eric Benzel, both in Brockville; Emanuel Bayard, in Kemptville; and George, in the Village of Waterloo. Two of the brothers were McGill graduates: Terence graduated in 1841, and Benzel, whose graduation thesis was on the inflammation of viscera, received his MD in 1852. Of the other brothers, Emanuel did not have a university medical degree but was licensed in both Quebec and Ontario and was appointed as coroner for Kemptville. George graduated from Queen's in 1859 and was licensed in Ontario.\*

## Terence Sparham

Terence, the oldest son, was registered in Ontario on June 23, 1841, and practised first in Kingston and then Belleville. He was a prolific inventor as well as a physician, and held a number of patents including several for prosthetic appliances<sup>2</sup> and at

least one for “fire-proof roofing cement.” He was the joint proprietor of the Beacock & Sparham artificial limb factory in Brockville and founded the Sparham Fire-Proof Roofing Cement Company, which was based in Montreal and active all over eastern North America.<sup>3</sup> Terence moved to California and British Columbia during the gold-rush years in the late 1840s and early 1850s but returned to practise in Brockville for over 40 years and was the city's coroner in the late 1870s.<sup>4</sup>

## Eric Benzel Sparham

Eric Benzel registered in both Quebec and Ontario and practised first in Picton, but soon moved to Brockville. He was clearly a fairly ambitious and up-to-date young man: in 1853 he published an article describing the excision of a tumor using chloroform (assisted by his brother Emanuel)<sup>5</sup> and in 1857 applied unsuccessfully for the chair in midwifery at the recently established medical school in Kingston.<sup>6</sup> He also saw himself as a crusader and modernizer, and in 1856 wrote an article on “medical deprecation” in which he deplored the number of doctors recommending patent medicines, writing, “They have studied human gullibility and got rich by pampering it,” and complaining that, “several who hailed from McGill College during its infancy pretend to know more than its present professors.”<sup>7</sup> Though the target of this latter statement about general physicians claiming to possess specialist knowledge without additional training was unnamed, and indeed Sparham may have had several targets in mind, Thomas Reynolds (who also practised in Brockville) responded in a subsequent issue of the *Medical Chronicle*, with an article beginning, “It cannot be a matter of interest to your readers, that your columns should be filled with the scurrilous scribblings of some country Esculapius [sic], having no better occupation for his time than libelling his brother practitioners.”<sup>8</sup>

Reynolds, who had graduated from McGill in 1842 and registered in Ontario that same year, was actually quite a

\* As the names of the provinces were in a state of flux during these years, the current terms Quebec and Ontario are used rather than Upper and

Lower Canada or Canada East and West.

1. Brearley D. *Physicians: a Directory of Short Character Sketches About Physicians From the Belleville Area (roughly 45 mile radius) in Ontario Who Graduated Before 1940*. [Belleville, ON?]: Quinte Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society; 2010–2015. [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canqbogs/pdf\\_files/Physicians\\_DrBrearley.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canqbogs/pdf_files/Physicians_DrBrearley.pdf)

2. Kirk-Montgomery A., McKellar S. *Medicine and Technology in Canada 1900–1950*. Ottawa: Canada Science and Technology Museum, 2008.

3. The Sparham Fire-proof Roofing Cement Co. in: Campbell, JDS (9th Duke of Argyll). *Industries of Canada: City of Montreal: Historical and Descriptive Review, Leading Firms and Moneyed Institutions*. Montreal: The Historical Publishing Company, 1886. pp. 139–40.

4. [Terence W. Sparham Obituary]. *New York Herald*. 1902 January 15: p. 18, col. 1; Powell RW. *The Doctor in Canada: His Whereabouts and the Laws Which Govern Him: a Ready Book of Reference*. Montreal:

Gazette Printing Co., 1890. p. 310.

5. Sparham EB. Observations on tumors—Cystic sarcoma of the neck, successfully removed by extirpation. *Medical Chronicle*. 1853 June; 1(1):12–15.

6. Hodgins JG. *Documentary History of Education in Upper Canada From the Passing of the Constitutional Act of 1791 to the Close of Rev. Dr. Ryerson's Administration of the Education Department in 1876*. v. 13, 1856–1858. Toronto: Warwick Bros. & Rutter, 1906. p. 138.

7. Sparham EB. Medical Depreciation. *Medical Chronicle*. 1856 January; 3(8):293–6.

8. Reynolds T. Medical Defamation. *Medical Chronicle*. 1856 March; 3(10):377–9.

9. Steward DJ. The early history of anaesthesia in Canada: the introduction of ether to Upper Canada, 1847. *Canadian Anaesthetists' Society Journal*. 1977 March; 24(2):153–61.

10. Appointments. *Medical Chronicle*. 1858 October; 6(5): 239.

progressive physician who had studied in Edinburgh after getting his McGill MD. He submitted several articles to medical journals and was one of the first doctors to operate using ether in Ontario, in May of 1847.<sup>9</sup> He was also one of the leading lights in the Independent Order of Oddfellows and its Ontario Grand Master from 1856 until his death in 1859. Whatever the merits of Sparham's arguments, none of this criticism seemed to affect Reynold's career; in 1858 he was appointed as an Associate Member of the Medical Board of Upper Canada.<sup>10</sup>

Benzel seems to have produced no further publications, and for the next 20 years he practised quietly in Brockville, apparently well regarded. In December 1874, however, his world collapsed—he was accused of murder. “The rumor, generally credited at the time, and accepted as true by the prosecution, but in some important particulars denied by the defence, was, that Miss Sophia Elizabeth Burnham, at the instigation of her seducer, William Greaves, Grand Trunk Ticket Agent, applied to Dr. Sparham to be relieved of the “fruit of her shame,” and that he, after having administered to her, without success, certain drugs to procure an abortion did, furthermore, use an instrument upon her, with a like intent, but with a fatal result.”<sup>11</sup>

At the March 1875 trial at the Court of Common Pleas, in spite of much conflicting evidence, both Sparham and Greaves were found guilty and sentenced to death, with execution scheduled for June 23, 1875. An appeal was not allowed but a number of pleas and requests to reconsider were submitted, including several petitions “from inhabitants of Brockville and surrounding areas,” a petition from the convicting jury, and representations from “several medical gentlemen of known standing” who supported the defence's contention that the Miss Burnham had died of blood poisoning due to smallpox present in the victim's home at the time of her death.<sup>12</sup> The arguments were convincing, and on June 14, 1875, the Privy Council commuted the sentences to life imprisonment.<sup>13</sup> By

August 1875, it was reported that Sparham had been assigned duties as bookkeeper in the laundry at Kingston Penitentiary.<sup>14</sup>

Efforts to clear Sparham's name continued: in 1876, a pamphlet of over 70 pages was published (by his brothers?) pointing out inconsistencies in the evidence and elaborating on the views of medical witnesses for the defence.<sup>8</sup> This was reviewed quite favourably in the Sanitary Journal which noted “Truly, medical men are, more than any other class, sometimes placed in most peculiar and trying circumstances.”<sup>15</sup>

In 1882 Sparham was pardoned and released.<sup>16</sup> He then apparently returned to Brockville and eventually started to practise again but was convicted of practising medicine without a licence — it seems that his licence had been cancelled on July 15, 1875, shortly after his murder conviction. In June 1885, Sparham applied to the Ontario Medical Council to have his medical licence reinstated but on June 12, 1885 the Registration Committee ruled that because he had been found guilty of a felony\*\* the Medical Act required that his name be automatically erased from the Register and stated that the Council had no power to reinstate licences.<sup>17</sup> In July 1885 he appealed the conviction of unlawful practice to the Court of Queen's Bench and though the court did not reinstate his licence, this conviction was “quashed without costs” when it found that notice of his suspension had not been given.<sup>18</sup>

After this setback, Sparham presumably ceased to practise but he clearly still had supporters and continued to be listed, with his brother Terence, in the local Brockville business directory as “physician.”<sup>19</sup> In May 1887, he was made an honorary member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Memphis, along with a number of mid-western American medical “men of eminence.”<sup>20</sup>

Why the members of the Memphis Medico-Chirurgical Society gave this honour to a convicted abortionist in another country is unclear. E. Benzel Sparham died in 1894.<sup>1</sup>

*David S. Crawford is Emeritus Librarian, McGill University Library.*

\*\*McGill never rescinded Benzel Sparham's MD, though it withdrew the 1876 MDCM degree it had awarded to Thomas Neil Cream, the mass

murderer who was at one time suspected of being Jack the Ripper and who was executed in England in 1892.

11. *A Defence of Dr. Eric Benzel Sparham, Charged and Convicted of the Crime of Murder: Being a Medico-Legal Inquiry into the Cause of the Death of Miss Sophia Elizabeth Burnham, His Supposed Victim.* Brockville, ON: Leavitt & Southworth, 1876.

13. Gadoury L, Lechasseur A. *Persons Sentenced to Death in Canada 1867–1976: an Inventory of Case Files in the Fonds of the Department of Justice.* Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1994.

17. Ontario Medical Council. *Canada Lancet.* 1885 July; 17(11):326, 327.

20. Editorial Department. Medico-Chirurgical Society. *Mississippi Valley Medical Monthly.* 1887 September; 7(9): 424.

12. Sharpe RJ. *The Lazier Murder: Prince Edward County,* 1884. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011. p. 121.

14. Appointments. *Canada Lancet.* 1875 August; 7(12):372.

15. To Correspondents. *Sanitary Journal.* 1876 April; 2(4):[129].

18. Regina v Sparham. in *Ontario Reports,* v.8. Edited by C Robinson and JF White. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison, 1885. pp. 570–5.

*Acknowledgements: As usual my colleague and friend Deanna Cowan tidied up my prose and wrestled with my references; any errors that remain are mine alone.*

16. Appointments. *Canada Lancet.* 1882 December; 15(4):128.

19. *The Union Publishing Co.'s Farmers' and Business Directory for the Counties of Carleton, Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, Lanark, Prescott, Russell and Stormont.* Ingersoll, ON: Union Publishing Co., 1886/87.

# FRANK OSLER: The Not-So-Famous Brother

*David Gregory*

**T**he Osler family is certainly one of Canada's most famous families. While Sir William Osler is well known for his major contributions to medicine, four of his five brothers also gained notoriety in their respective professions. One brother, Frank, did not. Considered by his siblings and parents as the black sheep of the family, his life took a different and disappointing turn away from their expectations.

All of Frank's brothers had set the bar for achieving successful careers. Featherston (born 1838) became an Ontario lawyer and judge. Sir John A. Macdonald had even offered him a position on the Supreme Court of Canada. Britton Bath (born 1839) was one of Canada's most successful criminal lawyers, and was selected by the federal government to be the prosecuting lawyer for Canada's most famous trial: the Louis Riel trial of 1885. He later defended Canada in the construction dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the contractor Andrew Onderdonk. Brother Edward (born 1842) practised law in Toronto and Winnipeg. Edmund (born 1845) was knighted in 1912 (one year after Sir William) for his contribution to Canada's banking system. His significant business activities included time as president of the Dominion Bank (later TD Bank), president of the Ontario Quebec Railway, director of the Canada North West Company and director of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He also served twenty-one years as a Member of Parliament.

In 1847, Francis (Frank) Llewellyn Osler, the second youngest of the Osler sons, was born a twin with sister Charlotte to parents Featherstone and Ellen. Throughout his life, people remarked how similar Frank looked to his younger brother, William, born in 1849. But that is where the similarity ended. Frank was more of a free spirit than his famous brothers. Ellen described her nineteen-year-old son this way: "Frank is wandering about....trying to get employment and we have again to supply him with money to return home....I do not see what he will fit for or (how he will ) get employment." It turned out that she accurately predicted how Frank would

lead his life.

Frank quit school and decided to become a sailor like his father had done in his youth. By fall 1866, Frank was in Boston, Massachusetts, and by the following spring was employed on a ship named "G Ammo." At one point, Frank had been at sea for 109 continuous days. By 1872, Frank had given up his life as a sailor and was living in Mud River, outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1877, he was splitting his time between Winnipeg and farming in British Columbia. On May 24, 1882, at age 35, Frank married eighteen-year-old Isobel (Belle) Maude Fowler of Nova Scotia, in "the township of Assiniboia, East Territories" (Saskatchewan). By this time, Frank's brother Edmund was very wealthy and provided financial assistance to Frank and the other Osler brothers too. Frank was not very responsible with money, so after his marriage, Edmund arranged to provide a quarterly allowance with the funds going directly to Isobel.

In the fall of that same year, Frank worked as a "land guide" near Moose Mountain, in Kananaskis country, just west of Calgary, Alberta. He assisted with new land owners in that section of the country. On October 4, 1884, Frank visited the historic Bell Farms, also known as the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. This was a 53,000-acre farm east of Regina, Saskatchewan, and was a tourist attraction for passengers from the nearby railway station. Frank continued his occupation as a land agent in Manitoba until at least 1891. The couple's only child, Ralph Featherstone Lake Osler, was born in Winnipeg on October 17, 1891. Thanks to Edmund's financial assistance, Ralph frequently visited his uncle's large estate in Toronto, named Craighleigh (now Craighleigh Gardens), and became well known to his relatives there. By 1901, at age fifty-four, Frank was living in Nelson, British Columbia, and working as a mining officer.

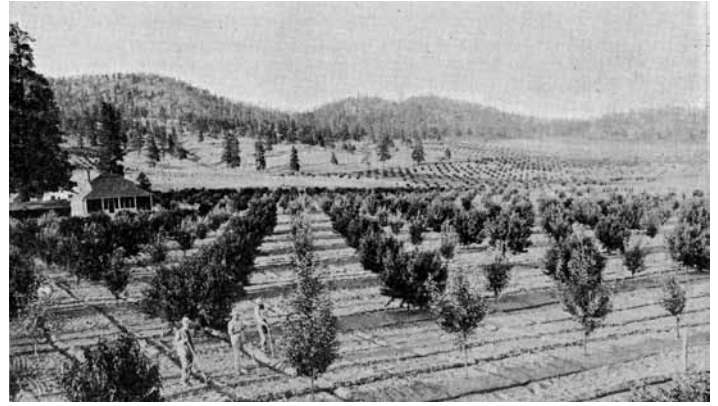
Brother Edmund continued his generous financial support. In 1902, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, founded the community of Summerland in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Shaughnessy convinced most of the Board of Directors of the C.P.R., including Edmund, to purchase fruit orchards in Summerland. In 1903,



Frank Osler in Italy in 1925. Photograph courtesy of McGovern Historical Center, Texas Medical Center Library, Houston, Texas



Frank Osler (in top hat) co-founded the Summerland Curling Club. Frank looked very similar to his brother Sir William. Photograph courtesy of Okanagan Archive Trust Society



Sir Edmund Osler's orchard with Frank Osler's orchard on hill on left in 1907. Photograph courtesy of the Summerland Museum

Edmund bought an orchard for himself and one for Frank in Summerland's Prairie Valley. Frank, Isobel, and Ralph moved to Summerland the same year. Frank became a successful orchardist, and in 1910 won an award at Summerland's Fall Fair for his Fameuse apple, also called the Snow apple. He was active in the community, helping to establish the Summerland Curling Club in 1907. By 1909, the club had joined the valley-wide Okanagan Curling Club and won the Henderson Cup in its first year. Frank was the skip for Summerland's third rink.

In 1909, at age 18, Ralph attended Trinity College in Port Hope, Ontario. He later went to McGill University and, while there, became the private secretary to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. Ralph returned to the Okanagan Valley and became the private secretary to J.J. Warren, the president of the Kettle River Valley Railway during its construction through the Okanagan. Ralph was well-liked by all who knew him, and was a popular figure in Summerland.

The 1911, Canada Census listed Summerland resident Frank Osler as a farmer. Strangely, when Frank completed the 1891, 1901, and the 1911 Canada Census, he listed his country of origin as England. Just prior to the beginning of World War I, Frank and Isobel moved to England, and remained in Europe for the rest of their lives. When World War I began, their son Ralph was one of the first to enlist from the Okanagan Valley, and on November 9, 1914, with twenty-four others, joined the Rocky Mountain Rangers (H Company). In Europe, he fought with the Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) of the 16th Battalion. From the trenches in Belgium, Lieutenant Osler wrote several letters to family and friends. On November 29, 1915, he wrote to Summerland hoping to receive some of "my Okanagan peaches." On May 8, 1916, he wrote, "it's a funny

world and you never know where you get off." On May 21, he wrote that he was in "the worst dugout in Europe." Ralph was wounded in the battle of Ypres on June 14, 1916, and died two days later. His name is remembered on the Summerland cenotaph, and his photograph is displayed on the community's remembrance street banners.

In 1933, at age eighty-six, Frank was in a nursing home in London England. In the June 1982 issue 40 of the *Osler Library Newsletter*, biographer Anne Wilkinson described her visit with Frank as he lay dying in a nursing home. "He lay in a big brass bed. First he looked like William, then like Edmund. His head belonged to an elder statesman, a bishop, a retired general. I looked everywhere for Frank. I found instead, Ellen's six sons gathered together in this last survivor. Time had already diminished the gap between the strong and the weak and death was about to close it." Frank Osler died shortly after Anne Wilkinson's visit. Frank's life-time wandering had come to an end.

*David Gregory is a McGill graduate (DDS'76). He was the former mayor of Summerland, British Columbia, from 2005-2008 and is active in several historical societies.*



Frank Osler's son, Ralph. Photograph courtesy of Osler family

# OSLER LIBRARY 2015-2016

*Christopher Lyons, Head Librarian*

Long-standing and revered institutions like the Osler Library lead a paradoxical existence. On the one hand, their renown imbues them with a feeling of pride and a sense of solidity. There is always the danger, though, that this can lead to complacency and result in increasing irrelevance. The energy, drive, and vision of their founders can grow stagnant. The Osler Library is extremely fortunate, however, in that the ongoing support of the number of remarkable and generous people whom we call our friends gives us the inspiration, enthusiasm, and means to continue to grow and move in new directions.

On April 18th the Osler Library had a very special event in which it celebrated a number of its builders and benefactors, both past and present. It was an opportunity to recognise the work done by so many people to make the Osler Library a great history of medicine institution. The event began by celebrating the achievements of Dr. W.W. Francis (1878-1959), as well as the generosity of his descendants, whose recent donation was described in the *Osler Library Newsletter* (OLN) no. 122. Dr. Francis was the primary author of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*, the catalogue of Osler's collection, and was the first Osler Librarian from 1929 until his death in 1959. Dr. Francis' grandchildren, Dr. Susan Kelen and the Honourable Michael Kelen, spoke of Dr. Francis and his life-long devotion to Osler and the Osler Library. Mrs. Pamela Miller, former head of the Osler Library, remembered Dr. Joseph Stratford (1923-2007), MDCM '47, F.R.C.S (C), Professor of Neurosurgery at McGill University and Chief of Neurosurgery at the Montreal General Hospital, and a strong supporter of the library. Two very rare incunables by one of Osler's favourite authors, Symphorien Champier (1471-1538), were acquired with a generous anonymous donation made in his memory, and displayed at the event (see OLN no. 121). Dr. Stratford's son Mr. Huntly Stratford was there to represent the family. Dr. Bernard Brais shared his memories of Dr. Edward Bensley (1906-1995), after whom the Osler Library Travel Grant has been named. The Dr. Edward H. Bensley Osler Library Research Travel Grant was endowed through a generous gift from the Pope-Jackson Fund (see OLN no. 121).

The McGill Medicine Class of 1961 was recognized for their class gift to fund a stunning, full-colour reproduction of a thirteenth-century Islamic pharmacopeia by the celebrated twelfth-century Andalusian physician and scholar Abu Ja'far al-Ghafari, who is considered the greatest botanist and pharmacologist of the Islamic period (see OLN no.122). The manuscript is unique. When Osler purchased it he did not realise that he had the most complete manuscript of this



Mr. Chris Lyons and Mr. Huntly Stratford with one of the Champier books purchased in memory of his father, Dr. Joseph Stratford

most important work in existence; the only other ones were fragments. Heavily illustrated, the manuscript is now widely available for the first time. There are also six critical essays that analyse various elements of the work. Judy Mendelsohn, who represented the Class of 1961 and whose late husband, Dr. Melvin Mendelsohn, was a class member, noted that medical history was of particular interest to members of the class.

The Class of 1982 was recognised for its class gift to the Osler Library's general endowment fund. The class raised over \$75,000 which will support the work of the library in perpetuity. The fund is unrestricted, so it will be used to support acquisitions, restoration, and other activities carried out by the Osler Library. Dr. Patrice Archambault, who attended on behalf of his class, felt that giving back to the university was the right thing to do.

The final segment of the event was a recognition of the life and work of Dr. William Feindel (1918-2014), Honourary Osler Librarian and Osler Library Curator. Dr. Feindel stood out in a world of outstanding individuals at McGill and the Montreal Neurological Institution, which he headed. His passions embraced medicine, books, music, and history, especially that of the seventeenth-century neurologist Thomas Willis and of William Osler, with whom he shared a birthday. Dr. Rolando Del Maestro, Chair of the Standing Committee of the Osler Board of Curators, and Professor Emeritus John Grew, former Dean of the McGill Faculty of Music, shared their thoughts and memories of him.



# ANNUAL APPEAL

The final activity was the unveiling of five seventeenth-century anatomical paintings acquired in honour of Dr. Feindel. These were produced in Cambrai either by or for the French anatomist and medical professor Dr. Amé Bourdon (1636 or 1638-1706) to illustrate his lectures. The paintings are approximately six feet high and illustrate the skeletal, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, and muscular systems. These were most likely used as visual aids in teaching anatomy, as well as in dissecting. Painted on silk, the artistry shows a combination of European Renaissance and Oriental influences. Illustrations like this are exceedingly rare. These were held by the family for about 300 years, then in a couple of private collections. They were acquired by the Osler Library earlier this year thanks to a very generous lead gift by Dr. Mario Molina, who is a member of the library's Board of Curators. They are a wonderful and important addition to our rich collection of anatomical illustrations. Professor Mary Hunter, an art historian, spoke about the many research questions the paintings generate and the speculations her colleagues have already begun to develop. In perhaps the most moving moment of an emotional day, Mrs. Faith Feindel, Dr. Feindel's widow, unveiled the paintings with two of her children. This addition to the library's rich anatomical collection seems a fitting tribute to the memory of Dr. Feindel, who, like Osler himself, epitomized someone whose appreciation of the past nurtured his vision for the future.

Another special occasion celebrated by the library was the centenary of the establishment of the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital by McGill University near the beginning of the First World War. The exhibition *We Will Remember Them: The No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) in the First World War 1915-1919* ran from February to June and detailed the contribution of McGill University to healing the broken bodies that were the casualties of the First World War. When the war began in 1914, Dr. Herbert Stanley Birkett, Dean of McGill's Faculty of Medicine, organized a general hospital



Painting of the respiratory system, Bourdon, c.1670



Painting of the skeletal system, Bourdon, c.1670



Mrs. Faith Feindel unveiling one of the Bourdon paintings



Visitors viewing the Bourdon paintings

to serve in France. The No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill), was a 1,000-2,000 bed unit located behind the front lines. Faculty members became the medical officers, assisted by medical students who acted as orderlies. The nurses were drawn from women trained at the Royal Victoria and Montreal General Hospitals' schools of nursing. Other universities in the empire and the United States, such as the University of Toronto, Harvard, and Laval, followed McGill's lead and organised their own hospitals. The No. 3 C.G.H. left Canada in 1915 for England before establishing itself in Dannes-Camiers, France, in August 1915. From 1916-1919, the hospital was located in Boulogne, France. From 1915-1919, the hospital admitted 143,762 sick and wounded patients, and performed 11,395 operations. Amongst the items on display

*Continued on page 10*

## Osler Library 2015-2016 Annual Appeal (continued)



Mr. Chris Lyons and University Archivist Ms. Lori Podolsky installing the #3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) Exhibition

*Continued from page 9*

was a handwritten copy of John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*. The library is very fortunate in the support received for its exhibitions by Gail Beck, O.Ont., Med'78 and Andrew Fenus, MLS'74.

The library has acquired a number of wonderful and rare items for its collection; in fact this is the main activity funded by our friends and endowments. We always try to purchase rare items that complement material already held in the library. It is particularly gratifying when that material relates to Osler,



Dr. Susan Kelen and the Honourable Michael Kelen

McGill, or Montreal medicine. It is rare to hit all three targets, but thankfully we were able to do that when we acquired an important and extensive archive of a nineteenth-century medical doctor based in Montreal named John Bell (1845-1878) from a dealer in the United States. Dr. Bell was born near Toronto and served with the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Civil War before coming to McGill to study medicine. He earned an MDCM in 1866, six years before William Osler. He was a busy physician and researcher, as well as a colleague and collaborator of Osler's. In fact, when he died in Hamilton of pneumonia in 1878, Osler was one of the two people who retrieved his body. He was also the brother of George Bell, the geologist who taught at McGill and worked with the Geological Survey of Canada. The archive consists of several hundred letters, merchants' invoices, medical case notes and Dr. Bell's medical kit. It is an intricately detailed record of the life of a Montreal medico, and is multifaceted in that it reveals both his professional and personal life. The letters to and from his brother are particularly interesting in that they document their shared interest in geology and natural history, thus revealing the variety of scientific interests held by many medical men at that time. The archives provide an exceptional research opportunity, and we very pleased to have acquired them.

Thanks to your ongoing support, the Osler Library continues to grow and thrive, thus ensuring that a celebration of its builders and benefactors will be an ongoing affair.

# The Pam and Rolando Del Maestro William Osler Medical Student Essay Awards

*Pam and Rolando Del Maestro*

**W**e have the honour of endowing the Pam and Rolando Del Maestro William Osler Medical Student Essay Awards offered by the Osler Library of the History of Medicine. Medicine has an enduring history. Physicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals have endeavoured for millennia to improve the care of individuals afflicted with illness and disease. Their stories and their quests create an interwoven fabric that wraps around the many centuries of time.

We wish to support the medical students at McGill as they explore the historical, social, ethical, and humanistic side of medicine. Their investigations to unravel the past will hopefully lead to a further understanding of the role that medicine has and will play in the enhancement of the human condition. This essay contest, initially established by the Medical Students' Osler Society and the Board of Curators of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, awards prizes to three selected students whose essays are judged to be superior. Essays are written with the assistance of a mentor during their medical school training and are submitted each October. The three finalists are chosen to present their essay orally on Osler Day. The first place winner receives the prestigious Osler Medal. The top essays are published on the library website.

The current values of the prizes are \$1,000 for the winning essay, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place. These awards provide opportunities for all medical students to further appreciate their linkages with past generations of selfless and caring physicians and investigators. The analysis of the past allows each of us to create a moral compass to understand the present and embrace the future.

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine is one of the



2013 Osler Essay Finalists Julia Hickey, Jennifer Pors (with medal), and Susan Ge with Dr. Rolando Del Maestro

world's great libraries and carries on a tradition of excellence.

Each student visiting the library, surrounded by Dr. Osler's books and ashes, feels in tune with the rhythm and poetry of medicine and the slow but progressive advancement to eradicate disease and make the world a better place. Between its walls one can appreciate the palpable and consuming interest of the intellect of humanity and its books, delve deeply into the human condition, and understand its textures, nuances, and needs. We encourage others to also support the Osler Library in creative ways that will not only preserve but enhance this library for future generations.

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*Rolando Del Maestro is the William Feindel Professor Emeritus in Neuro-Oncology at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital and Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Osler Library. Pam Del Maestro is a neuroscience nurse and co-founder (with Rolando Del Maestro and Steve Northey) of the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.*

# Stories of Montreal's Neuro-History: A RESEARCH REPORT

*Eric Oosenbrug*

In 1934, with generous financial backing from the Rockefeller Foundation and private donors, Wilder Penfield founded the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI). Like many Canadians, my introduction to Dr. Penfield was watching the Heritage Minutes shorts on CBC. During my undergraduate years I passed The Neuro every day going down Mont Royal on my way to class. I would notice each day, inscribed on a stone plaque outside the main entrance to the institute, the following quote by Wilder Penfield: “The problem of neurology is to understand man himself.” At this time it seemed to me intuitive that medicine would take its subject (human beings) as its problem. Only as time passed, and as my interests shifted from the design of psychological experiments to the study of the discipline’s history, was the magnitude of this problem finally felt. Understanding always influences, and is in turn influenced by, other ways of understanding: How does knowledge of ‘man himself’—his behaviours and beliefs—shape medical practice? And, conversely, how has neurological knowledge affected understandings of our Selves? These are the questions I have set for myself and that led me to the collections at the Osler Library Archives.

The MNI and Montreal are key sites for the ‘neuro’-history of Canada yet little about this institution has been written until recently (e.g., *The Wounded Brain Healed: The Golden Age of the Montreal Neurological Institute, 1934-1984* by William Feindel and Richard Leblanc, McGill-Queen’s University Press, January 2016). Before a field of “neuroscience” had coalesced, the MNI and McGill University were experimenting with new models of research and clinical integration that brought together neurologists, physiologists, surgeons, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Traditional boundaries between medical specialties were transformed dramatically during the postwar period, developing new sub-specialties and disciplines. New spaces, such as laboratories, clinics, and rehabilitation centres, blurred boundaries between medicine and the human sciences. By challenging basic assumptions—for example, the active role of behaviours and beliefs in effective care—these new disciplines hoped to affect the way medicine itself was understood, practiced and taught.

While the MNI is widely known for its technical and methodological achievements in medicine (for example, the pioneering use of new neuroimaging technologies), it is less well known for its role in innovations that occurred outside its walls. Among these innovations are the creation



Portrait of a young Joe Stratford

of the first pain centre in Canada by Ronald Melzack and the first palliative care unit established by Balfour Mount (both in 1974) as well as the development of a field of ‘transcultural studies’ in psychiatry by Eric Wittnower and Jack Fried (in 1955). These inter-disciplinary collaborations, advanced through close partnerships with the MNI and McGill, helped establish Montreal as a site for world-class twenty-first century integrative medicine. My historical research aims to explore how the human sciences, such as psychology, contributed to this rise to prominence.

Several individuals are key to this history, among them, Wilder Penfield, William Cone, Donald Hebb, Ronald Melzack, Brenda Milner, and Joseph Stratford. Thanks to the generous support of the Mary Louise Nickerson Fellowship in Neuro History, I

was able to spend two weeks this summer examining the collections of some of these individuals at the Osler Library Archives. It would be impossible to summarize in so few words the remarkably diverse contents of these collections. I do, however, want to share some of what I examined in the collection of someone integral to the kinds of collaborative practices I have described: Dr. Joseph Stratford (1923-2007).

Joseph Stratford came from a family of doctors; he graduated from medical school at McGill University in 1947 and trained in England before returning to Montreal to complete his residency under William Cone at the MNI. He specialized in surgery and taught at McGill before being appointed Professor of Surgery and Director of Neurosurgery at the University of Saskatchewan. Doctors resistant to Tommy Douglas’ experiment in universal healthcare went on strike in 1962. This led to increasingly challenging conditions in Saskatchewan which prompted Stratford to again return to Montreal, joining the Montreal General Hospital as Director of the Division of Neurosurgery. Joseph Stratford died in 2007 at the age of 84.

I was initially drawn to Stratford’s interest in complex pain and encountered his work when I began exploring the legacy of experimental pain research in Canada. I learned that Stratford had long been concerned with helping patients with intractable pain, likely stemming both from his early surgical training with Cone in the 1950s and the tragic stroke which left his wife partially paralyzed in 1965. This summer I investigated these leads and unexpectedly came upon a plethora of intellectual exchanges in his recently processed collection at the Osler Library Archive. I found medical agendas, professional

correspondence between his colleagues at the Montreal General Hospital and the MNI, as well as personal research materials on the causes and treatments of pain, publications and drafts, and daily appointment books. These materials offered insight into a range of topics with which Stratford was involved: task force initiatives, surgical innovations, public lectures, and medical briefs, just to name a few. For a historian of recent medical history they are invaluable.

The mechanical model of an alarm bell at the end of a string offered by Descartes in the seventeenth century continued to serve as the conventional notion of pain up through the early postwar period. Under Cone, Stratford explored the neural pathways in spinal injury, investigated surgical treatment for chronic pain sufferers, and began thinking about pain and sensation in new and interesting ways. The challenge of intractable pain was not something with which many physicians engaged; in many ways it seemed futile, there were too many human factors and vague symptoms involved. Yet documents in this collection affirm Stratford's position among those early promoters who understood that chronic pain sufferers needed something better than the treatments available and recognized the important contributions to medicine being made by those in the human sciences. This is demonstrated through Stratford's collaborations with psychologist Ronald Melzack, who, with Patrick Wall in the 1960s, developed a new theory of pain that extended the role of the brain and central nervous system in pain phenomena and opened the door to non-invasive pain treatments. The Stratford Fonds highlights the role Stratford played in furthering the application of these theories through his efforts to establish a close-knit neuro-intensive care unit, as co-founder and Director of the MGH-McGill Pain Centre, and through his work revitalizing what is now the Alan Edwards Pain Centre.

Tracing the avenues through which this eminent neurosurgeon contributed to the integration of psychological knowledge into medical practice is challenging. However, Stratford's role in creating spaces that welcomed (and in some cases necessitated) the 'softer' sciences of 'man himself' is evident through records of his professional activities. McGill physicians of the postwar period like Stratford, Mount, Wittnower, and Fried, demonstrated great insight by their choices to eschew long-standing disciplinary boundaries in order to establish spaces (both physical and abstract) that continue to foster collaborative practices and act as intellectual trading zones for psychological knowledge in health and the neuro-sciences.

While historians have examined the politics and social unrest that characterize Montreal and Quebec in the 1960s and '70s, an investigation of the intellectual culture, personalities, and circumstances that brought a uniquely 'Montreal style'

of medicine and psychology during this same period has yet to be explored. My time at the Osler Library Archive yielded some invaluable, if unexpected, historical insights. I expected to find more about the history of the pain centre but instead found myself exploring the life and work of a visionary neurosurgeon who brought together some of Montreal's great medical luminaries. The pieces I have begun collecting this summer contribute many intertwining and divergent stories that can be told about Montreal's neuro-history. I look forward to continuing to work with the knowledgeable and generous staff at the Osler Library Archive and the McGill University Archives who helped guide and refine my research this summer.

*Eric Oosenbrug is a PhD candidate in the History and Theory of Psychology program in the Department of Psychology at York University in Toronto. His dissertation research focuses on the development of pain research during the mid-20th century in Montreal.*

#### DONATION OF ORIGINAL OSLER PORTRAIT TO THE LIBRARY



In September, Dr. Eduardo Garcia Flores generously presented the library with the original portrait of Sir William Osler that for many years hung on the walls of the Osler Clinic in Monterrey, Mexico, which he founded in 1976. Dr. Garcia Flores is a neurosurgeon who did his residency at the Montreal Neurological Institute and was mentored by Dr. Theodore Rasmussen. This original portrait contains a record of the hands through which it passed, including those of Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. Theodore Rasmussen. We're delighted to give this lovely piece of history its new home in the Osler Library.

# Four Scholars Awarded Support for Neuro History Research at the Osler Library

The Osler Library has a worthy complement of researchers visiting us this year with the support of our various research grants. This summer, our panel selected two scholars to receive the Mary Louise Nickerson Fellowship in Neuro History and two scholars to receive the Dr. Dimitrije Pivnicki Award in Neuro History and History of Psychiatry for 2015-2016.

The Nickerson Fellowship is held this year by Eric Oosenbrug and Dr. Patricia Rosselet. Eric Oosenbrug is a PhD candidate in the history of psychology at York University. His project centres around the development of pain research during the mid-twentieth century in Montreal, and particularly at McGill. You can find a report on his work at the library on page 12 of the Newsletter. Dr. Patricia Rosselet holds an MD/PhD from the Université de Lausanne in Switzerland. She will be working on a survey of medical imagery in twentieth-century neurological textbooks. Our congratulations to the

winners, along with our thanks to the Nickerson family for their generosity.

The Pivnicki Award this year has been granted to Shana Cooperstein and Dr. Boleslav Lichterman. Shana Cooperstein is a PhD candidate in art history at McGill University. The Pivnicki Award is supporting her dissertation research this semester into the neuroscientific assumptions underlying nineteenth-century French art and drawing pedagogy. Dr. Boleslav Lichterman is a historian of medicine from Russia who will be working on a study of the management of head injuries during World War II and the subsequent influence on the specialty of neurosurgery. Our ongoing thanks goes to the family and friends of Dr. Pivnicki who generously funded this research award, as do our congratulations to the recipients.

For further details about the 2015-2016 Pivnicki and Nickerson winners, please visit the Osler Library's blog at <http://blogs.library.mcgill.ca/osler-library/?p=815>.

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## A RESEARCH REPORT FROM DR. EDWARD H. BENSLEY OSLER RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENT

*Dr. Sasha Mullally*

Over the course of the spring and summer 2015 semesters, I conducted several weeks' research at the Osler Library. This partially overlapped with a Visiting Professorship at the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy, a position with no stipend attached, but which secured me a temporary McGill email and access to some amenities of the Institute. I arrived in Montreal mid-April, and immediately began work at the Osler. For the first ten days or so, I undertook general research on the structure, format and evolution of medical registries assessing several early twentieth-century iterations of medical registers from Britain, the United States as well as Canada. Not only did this allow me to document the evolution of profession-sponsored medical registers in general, but it provided an opportunity to examine the inclusion of Canadian licensing legislation and physicians in British and American directories, and assess the rationales for this practice. I then began to examine the specific evolution of the *Canadian Medical Directory*, looking at early volumes from the 1930s, noting the changing organization, format, and other elements (such as advertising) over the course of the century. I then spent four weeks, broken up over the course of May and June documenting the registration of foreign-trained physicians in Canada (those whose medical education did not take place in Canada, with plans to cross-reference against biographical/obituary data in the coming semester), focusing on physicians who immigrated to specific rural, remote, and industrial locations in Canada from 1955 to 1975. I created

a database of physicians who transited through and served North Sydney, Sydney, and Sydney Mines (NS), Asbestos (QC), Sault Ste. Marie (ON), St. Catharines (ON), Thompson (MN), Drumheller (AB), and Prince George (BC). In July, I spent an additional seven days doing follow-up work on the British medical registers, looking at how that publication documented licensing reciprocity agreements with various Canadian provinces.

I would like to thank the awards committee that granted me the funding to pursue this research, as it greatly helped to offset my accommodations and travel to and from Montreal over this period of rather intense research activity. I plan to use some of this research in an article on immigrant doctors recruited to Canada to practice in western and northern mining towns in the 1960s and 1970s. Other results of the research will appear in a book on the history of foreign-trained physicians in Canada during the inaugural period of the Medicare system. The book is in preparation, co-authored with Dr. David Wright of the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy and the Department of History and Classical Studies, with plans to submit to McGill-Queen's University Press next year.

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*Dr. Sasha Mullally is professor of history at the University of New Brunswick. She holds a doctorate in history from the University of Toronto and is a specialist in the social history of medicine and health in Canada and the US. She is currently co-investigator on a study of the history of medical diasporas in Canada, a SSHRC- and AMS/Hannah Foundation-funded research project.*

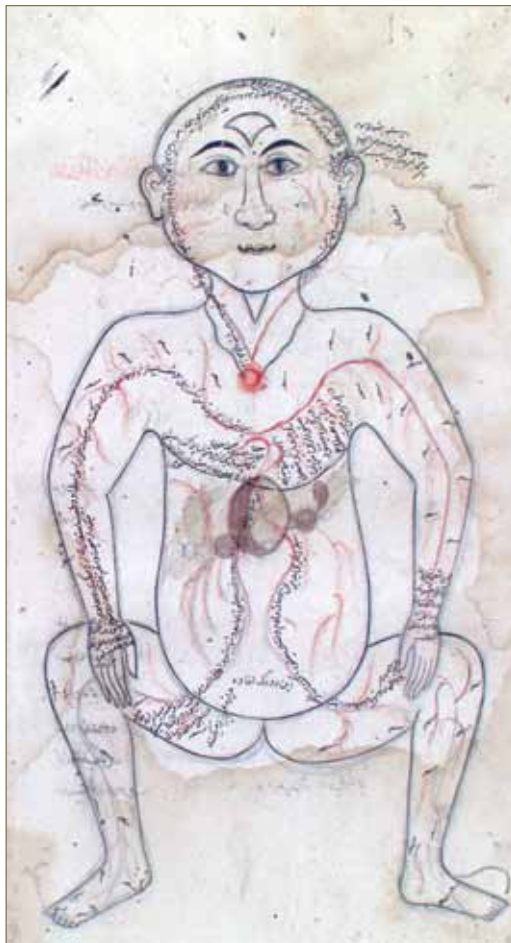
# SPECIAL EXHIBITION: History of Science in Islam

Sean Swanick  
and Anna Dysert

**A** new exhibition at McGill's Islamic Studies Library highlights some of the prominent texts from multiple McGill libraries that exemplify the intellectual depth, knowledge, and curiosity of Muslim scholars. The history of science and Islam dates back to the time of the prophet Muhammad. A significant corpus of scientific thought existed already by the eleventh century, as scholars exchanged ideas in madrassas throughout Muslim lands from al-Andalus to Bukhara. Their scholarship was transmitted through lengthy manuscripts replete with *hāshīyah* (marginalia) and *sharh* (commentary). Indeed, many manuscripts include reading notes documenting how and where a text was being read and attesting to the role it played in a lively scientific culture.

From the eighth century on, a flourishing of scientific thought took place, as caliphs provided patronage to scholars in centres such as Baghdad, who were engaged in the work of translating, interpreting, and building upon the work of Ancient Greek and Hellenistic philosophers and physicians. But the emergence of Arabic as a lingua franca of science by the tenth century was not only a means of preserving the works of Latin and Greek but of further investigating humanity's understanding of the world in which we live. *Hukamā* (philosophers, doctors), such as Ibn Haytham, Nasir al-Din Tusi, al-Ghazzali, and Ibn Sina, were instrumental in furthering scholarship in various branches of the sciences.

A rich tradition of translating, transmitting, and transforming, the history of science in Islam is as enveloping as it is broad in scholarship and ideas. From optics to astronomy, from medicine to mathematics, from astrolabes to pendulums, Muslim scholars' contribution to contemporary knowledge is as far reaching as it is diverse. Indeed, we are



Anatomical illustration from Ibn Manṣūr's *Tashrīh-i badan-i insān*, 18th century, Osler Library, B.O. 7785/75

reminded every day of the impact of this history on various fields through commonly used words such as alchemy or chemistry (*al-kīmīyā*), algebra (*al-jibra*), zero (*sifr*), and the star name Betelgeuse (*ibt al-Jauzā*).

The exhibition contains a representative portion of McGill's unique collections from the Islamic Studies Library, the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, and Rare Books and Special Collections. Some of the highlights include the Osler Library's copies of Ibn Manṣūr's *Tashrīh-i badan-i insān* ("Anatomy of the Human Body") and Ibn Sina's *al-Qānūn fi'l-tibb* ("Canon of Medicine") as well as the facsimile of al-Ghāfiqī's *Herbal* published in 2014.

Sean Swanick is Acting Head Librarian of the Islamic Studies Library at McGill. He has curated many previous exhibitions, including on the acclaimed medieval scholar Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, Wilfred Cantwell Smith (the founder of the Institute of Islamic Studies and the Islamic Studies Library in 1952), Islamic calligraphy, and the *Shahnameh*, a Persian epic poem.

## SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK AT THE OSLER LIBRARY

Science Literacy Week ([scienceliteracy.ca](http://scienceliteracy.ca)) is a yearly, nationwide event encouraging Canadians' appreciation and understanding of science. It was celebrated this year over seven days with nearly 300 events happening across Canada. The McGill University Library Science Literacy Week task force put together a week's worth of events in partnership with the Redpath Museum and Let's Talk Science McGill. The Osler Library was an active participant, hosting a tour of the library that highlighted many of the library's historical treasures of medical science, welcoming a group of grade school students to tour the current exhibition, and collaborating with the Islamic Studies Library on a dedicated exhibition.



Assistant Librarian Anna Dysert showing a number of books to visitors. PHOTOGRAPH BY LAUREN GOLDMAN

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The library gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from the Friends who responded to our last Annual Appeal for funds for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Just under 200 people contributed approximately \$90,000 to the Annual Appeal. With additional special gifts the library raised \$235,000.

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The 2015-2016 Annual Appeal can be found with this issue of the *Osler Library Newsletter*.

We heartily thank all our Friends who sustain the Osler Library. Below is a list of those who have given us permission to print their names.

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THE  
OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
NUMBER 123 - FALL 2015  
*Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada*



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#### Legal Deposit:

2/2015 ISSN 0085-4557 (Print)  
2/2015 ISSN 1712-7955

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