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Email gazette@sshm.org
Web http://www.sshm.org
OFFICIAL NOTICES

Annual General Meeting, Friday 5th September 2008

The AGM for 2007 will be held at the sshm2008 conference on Friday 5th September at 12-1pm in CPD02, first floor, CPD centre, Glasgow Caledonian University.

Nominations are invited to the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, following the 2007 Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee consists of sixteen members, twelve of whom are elected. Four members stand for election each year, serving a three year term of office. The joint editors of the Society’s journal, Social History of Medicine, the edited series editor, and the monographs editor are exofficio members of the Executive Committee. Candidates must be members of the Society of at least one year’s standing. Proposers and seconders must also be members. Members of the Society may nominate themselves or another member. The nomination form (on the back cover of this issue) should be completed, signed by the proposer, the seconder and by the nominee.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Children, Disability and Community Care from 1850 to the Present Day

The School of Health Science, Swansea University together with The Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter
Sketty Hall, Swansea
24-25 October 2007

This two-day multi-disciplinary conference was generously sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

The conference was organised by Professor Anne Borsay and Dr. Pamela Dale, who managed to combine serious scholarly discussion with an informal and friendly atmosphere. This was especially important for those who were attending their first conference and/or presenting their first paper. The venue was Sketty Hall, an elegant building in beautiful grounds and, most importantly for the sole delegate who attended as a full-time wheelchair user, totally accessible.

The overall aim of the conference was to emphasise the importance of community care in social policy and historical research and this was achieved by exploring a variety of issues across a range of chronological periods and geographical regions. Over the two days, sessions were divided between Medicine and Health Care, Institutional Care, Community Care, and Evaluation.

The first two keynote speeches were given either side of the first parallel session. After the official opening by Professor Melanie Jasper and Professor Anne Borsay, Harry Hendrick presented his paper, on the appropriate subject of ‘Childhood’. The second, given by Anne Borsay, discussed the development of disability history, asking whether we in the UK now have a ‘new disability history’ similar to that in the USA.

The two sessions dedicated to Medicine and Health Care was a truly international affair. Firstly, Daniela Sechel discussed how vaccination against smallpox led to a form of social control over parents in Hungary and Romania, 1800-1830, fostering new attitudes and responsibilities amongst parents. Then, Jose Martinez-Perez examined the relationship between the poliomyelitis epidemics and the professional development of orthopaedic surgeons in Spain, 1929-1936. Ending the first session, Wendy Gagen discussed issues surrounding Spina bifida and prenatal screening in Great Britain during the 1970s. The second day’s session was opened by Matthew Smith, who discussed the origins of hyperactivity in the USA, 1957-1968. Smith argued that the need to improve the academic performance of American children during the Cold War led to children previously applauded for being energetic, creative and adventurous now deemed to be in need of psychiatric treatment. The session was concluded by Jonathan Toms, who discussed the concept of ‘maladjustment’ in post-war child guidance and psychiatric social work.

Subjects covered by the two sessions on Institutional Care related to areas within the UK. The first session was opened by Dee Hoole who, in her first conference presentation, examined
Stanley Hall, a home for ‘idiot’ and ‘imbecile’ boys in the West Riding in the early part of the twentieth century. This was followed by Carmen Mangion, who looked at the training of ‘deaf’, ‘blind’, ‘crippled’ and ‘feeble-minded’ children in the six specialist institutions run by Catholic organisations in nineteenth-century England. This morning session was concluded by Lesley Wade, whose paper focused on Charlotte Seymour Yapp, a poor law infirmary matron and author of the 1915 text, *Children’s Nursing*. The second session took place after lunch. Iain Hutchinson concentrated on Scotland’s two institutions for ‘mentally-impaired’ children during 1855©-1914, discussing contemporary aims and influences. Finally, Pat Starkey looked at London’s ‘House of Charity’. The paper discussed how children living outside the metropolis were identified as being in need of its services, the processes by which they were sent, the care they received, and the attitudes of the staff.

The final session of the first day dealt with the subject of Community Care. Mary Claire Martin, highlighting the fact that the history of children’s experiences of disability has traditionally focused on the working class went some way in redressing the balance by focusing on the upper and middle classes. The paper included personal memoirs and analysed contrasting and changing attitudes towards those cared for by their families, during 1850-1950. Joy Merrel then examined the merits of partnership working across the statutory and voluntary sectors with a look at the Sure Start Scheme in Caerphilly.

The session entitled Evaluation took place on the morning of the second day, with Pamela Dale discussing health visiting and disability issues before 1948 and Angela Turner’s examination of special education in Glasgow since 1945. Finally, AN Williams, Consultant community paediatrician at Northampton General Hospital, discussed the work of neuroanatomist Thomas Willis (1921-1675). Willis’ writings provide an important perspective into seventeenth-century medical care and are an ongoing source of medical and historical history.

One of the most compelling presentations of the conference was Sally French’s plenary speech. Drawing on the personal experiences of visually impaired young people, Sally contrasted the experiences of those in the 1950s and 60s with those who were at school at the time of the research. Interspersing her talk with her own memories of time spent at a school for the visually impaired served to make Sally’s presentation all the more informative and memorable.

The second day included two plenaries and two keynote speeches. Steve Thompson’s plenary explored the mixed economy of child welfare provision in the industrial valleys of South Wales between 1850© and the formation of the post-war welfare state. Then, Robin L. Rohrer delivered his keynote speech on the subject of the psychological needs of childhood cancer patients and survivors, 1970 to the present.

After lunch, the third plenary was given, by Rosa Ballester, M. Jose Baguena and M. Isabel Porras. Their subject was Spanish health services and polio epidemics, 1940-1980. The fourth keynote speech, and the final presentation of the conference, was given by John Welshman. John’s paper, entitled ‘From training to social education: research, policy and care in the community, 1948-2001’, provided a fitting conclusion to the two-day event as it brought us back to the overall theme of the conference, aspects of community care.

The closing panel, comprising Marie Nelson, Staffan Forhammer, Amy Rosenthal, and chaired by Anne Borsay, brought an end to an extremely successful conference.

Sue Wheatcroft
University of Leicester

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**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**Who Cared? Oral History Society Annual Conference 2008**

**University of Birmingham Medical School, 4-5 July 2008.**

On 4 July 2008, more than 120 academics descended on the University of Birmingham Medical School to take part in the Oral History Society’s annual conference. Sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social
History of Medicine, the two-day, themed event commemorated the 60th anniversary of the National Health Service and focused on oral histories of health and illness. With so many more contemporary medical historians focusing on the twentieth century, and therefore engaging with oral sources, the themes of the conference appeared particularly well suited to the occasion.

The conference programme comprised nearly 50 papers, which were divided into five main themes: Professional Histories (including experts and elites); Institutional Histories; Counter Histories (challenging interviews); Healthy Encounters? (which addressed informal caring); and Therapeutic Communities. These were supplemented by two further keynote addresses; a roundtable session and a closing poster session. Participants were a broad group, representing practitioners of oral history (from Britain, Denmark and America), archivists, librarians, medical practitioners, former patients, professional historians, as well as representatives from medical history Centres in London, Warwick, Birmingham (the conference hosts), Exeter, Glasgow, Manchester and Ireland.

The Professional Groups strand comprised 11 papers and together reconstructed the lives of a wide range of medical professionals, often in their own voices. The first session included papers by Jonathan Reinarz (University of Birmingham), Rodger Charlton (University of Warwick) and David Wright (RCS, Edin.), whose papers charted aspects of the educational experiences of hospital consultants, GPs and surgeons, collectively noting gaps in medical training and discriminatory practices against female medical students. The following Professional Groups panel featured papers by Christine Ferris (Sheffield Hallam), Tilli Tansey (UCL) and Sue Armstrong and Olivia Bennett (Panos), which together reconstructed the relatively ‘hidden’ careers of x-ray workers, laboratory technicians and pathologists respectively. Further sessions included papers by Jane Brookes (Manchester) and Parvati Raghuram and Joanna Bornat (Open University), which developed other sub-themes, including geriatric medicine and race, which resonated well beyond their individual panels.

The Counter Histories sessions featured an array of fascinating and challenging research projects. A
panel comprising Alex Mold (LSHTM), Wendy Rickard (London South Bank University) and Krista Woodley (University of Brighton) discussed the particular difficulties faced when research involves illegal drug users, HIV and haemophilia. All papers were excellent examples of challenging oral history conducted very sensitively. The latter paper in particular proposed a support framework which offers interviewers and interviewees the support of counsellors and convincingly argued that this could be both affordable and was necessary for good practice.

The Therapeutic Communities stream got off to a great start with detailed accounts by John Adams (Open University), Gary Winship (University of Nottingham), and Matthew Bowen (Goldsmiths University), outlining how the therapeutic community movement has influenced psychiatric treatment through the work of David Clark and Annie Altschul, for example, and at places ranging from Fulbourn Psychiatric Hospital in the 1950s to Henderson Hospital in the present day. These accounts, along with later contributions by Trish Thomas and Joanne Williams (Sussex Partnership NHS Trust), Maddy Loat (Camden & Islington Mental Health & Social Care Trust), Craig Fees (Institute for Therapeutic Environments) and Carole Reeves (UCL), were enriched with details gathered through oral history interviews which provided new insights into the role of medical professionals, as well as clients, involved in therapeutic communities.

That oral history interviews are often in themselves therapeutic, and even empowering, was one of the themes to come out of the Healthy Encounters stream. Michelle Winslow and Kate Walsh (University of Sheffield), for example, built on Joanna Bornat’s insight that the life story can help to maintain a sense of who you are (1994). Maura Cronin (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) similarly pointed to the value of oral history, not only to research, but also in providing someone to listen. The additional research value of oral history was seen by many of the speakers as deriving from its ability to generate narratives that run counter to previously accepted claims, such as an observation by Ali Hagger (University of Exeter) that the recollections of housewives who experienced neuroses contradicted feminist claims that the banality of the domestic role is to blame.

Amongst the Institutional Histories strand were contributions from Annie Skinner (Oxford Brookes University) on the change, or lack of change, in the provision of institutional care for the poor elderly with the coming of the NHS. Kath Start and Carol McCubbin presented on a study of nursing at their own healthcare institution, St George’s Hospital, London. As part of the Nurses Voices archive at Kingston, the speakers argued, through the testimonies presented, that styles of nursing developed as a result of nurses’ close affinity with the hospitals in which they trained.

The two keynote lectures were delivered by Aneez Esmail (University of Manchester) and Virginia Berridge (LSHTM). The first was delivered at the outset of the conference and introduced the theme of the contribution of minorities to the development of the NHS. Rather than offering a narrative account of work in the health services, the paper offered a provocative view on racism and recruitment, which was rooted in very personal circumstances. It also presented some reflections on the culture of certain ‘Asian specialisms’, including geriatrics, psychiatry and general practice, linking certain traditions of knowledge in these fields with the education that practitioners received in their countries of birth. Virginia Berridge’s paper offered some reflections on ‘history from below’ from the oral history tradition in medical history, before engaging with her own substantial contribution to both the medical history and oral history disciplines. In so doing, her talk offered a very broad, intelligent, as well as entertaining, guide to the oral history of health policy in Britain.

The second day of the conference also featured a Round Table Session, which explored the oral history tradition in the history of medicine. Chaired by Jonathan Reinarz, the Round Table panel comprised Michelle Winslow (University of Sheffield), Joanna Bornat (Open University), Tilli Tansey (UCL), Craig Fees (Institute for the History and Work of Therapeutic Environments), Graham Smith (Royal Holloway) and Julie Anderson (Manchester), who explored current challenges facing oral historians of medicine. In particular, the session discussed the often contentious relationship between oral history and medical history and the need for greater training in oral history methods, as well as the ethics of conducting interviews more generally. Some of
the discussion also focussed exclusively on archiving oral history collections and the potential for sharing research material. It was also hoped that special issues of medical history journals would provide an additional forum for some of this exciting and innovative research and the methodological questions they pose.

Finally, in the closing session poster participants presented their work, giving a sense of just how adaptable oral history can be to a variety of projects. The speakers also reflected on what they had gained from attending the conferences. Most of the presenters were beginning or in the early stages of oral history projects. This included the Queen Mary’s Hospital Archives study, led by Gordon Jones, which is aiming to make the unique history of this hospital accessible. Gaynor Reid (University of Liverpool) spoke movingly on community involvement in research using oral history. Along with a user volunteer from the Halton health project, Gaynor argued for high quality training in oral history. Others in the closing session, including David Justham, Fran McCabe (University of Sussex) and Helen Lloyd (University of Oxford) reminded delegates of the power of oral history in exploring the history of medicine.

With so much work in the history of medicine focussing on the twentieth century, many more scholars working in this field will be conducting interviews and using oral evidence in their research. For this reason, it is likely this will only be the first of many conferences which will allow historians in this field an opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the oral tradition. For the time being, this conference offered a few medical historians a unique opportunity to engage with an important discipline the impact of which on medical history will continue to increase.

Jonathan Reinarz (University of Birmingham)
Shelley Trower (University of Plymouth)
Graham Smith (Royal Holloway)
has history been used to frame and produce policies for organizational change?

For details see http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/history/

The conference will be followed in the evening by our annual History Centre lecture, given by Professor Rudolf Klein "The Bevan-Morrison debate: the shape of things to come in the NHS?"

Martin Gorsky
Centre for History in Public Health, LSHTM

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sshm Glasgow 2008
History and the Healthy Population: Society, Government, Health and Medicine

Glasgow Caledonia University, 3-5 September 2008.

Keynote speakers:
Professor Anne Crowther (Glasgow)
Professor Deepack Kumar (Delhi)
Professor Catherine Kudlick (University of California, Davis)

With over 150 papers, speakers from Asia, Africa, Australasi, North America and Europe and three days of events, this year’s meeting of the Society for the Social History of Medicine is the largest history of medicine event hosted in the UK.

Organised by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow, a collaboration between the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian University, and the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Glasgow, the conference aims not simply to showcase the latest research but to provide the opportunity to meet colleagues and to develop ideas. Social events include a reception in Glasgow’s City Chambers and the conference dinner at the Hunterian Museum.

For further details, the conference programme and a registration form please see:
www.gcal.ac.uk/historyofhealth
www.gla.ac.uk/historyofmedicine
www.sshm.org

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

Medicine and the Workhouse

University of Birmingham, 31 October – 1 November 2008.

The Department of Modern History and the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Birmingham are organising a conference on ‘Medicine and the Workhouse’, which aims to draw together many of those scholars currently working on issues relating to Poor Law medicine. The event will be a two-day conference, the first day addressing the Old Poor Law and the second the New, with, of course, plenty of opportunities to compare the two. More than a dozen papers will be presented by a number of scholars who have or are making a notable contribution to this relatively neglected sub-field of the history of medicine.

Participants include:

Steven King (Oxford Brookes University, UK)
Susannah Ottaway (Carleton College, USA)
Graham Mooney (Johns Hopkins, USA)
Kevin Siena (Trent University, Canada)

Those wishing further information or attending, please contact:

Dr. Leonard Schwarz
Dept of Modern History
University of Birmingham
e-mail: L.D.Schwarz@bham.ac.uk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Royal College of Surgeons

At the Royal College of Surgeons of England a project that aims to encourage more engagement by Medical Historians with the printed holdings has begun. These books have for too long remained under lock and key in Library stores and were only available to those motivated enough to visit the building in London and work with the catalogue cards stored onsite to find what they
needed. Now a chance to investigate all sorts of new aspects of the collection of printed material owned by the College from provenance to foreign language material to bindings is available.

In recent years, the College Library has identified and prioritized the need for the systematic cataloguing and conservation of its’ historical collections, the award of two grants from the Research Resources in Medical History scheme set up by the Wellcome Trust, has enabled the cataloguing of approximately 26,000 out of a total of around 28,000 items in its collection of tracts and pamphlets thus far. A third part of the same funding stream, awarded to allow the Library to catalogue and make available online its’ printed monograph collection from 1800-1849, commenced last year.

The initial project began in May 2007 and aims to add details that previously only existed in the Library’s antiquated (and sometimes baffling) card catalogue to the Library’s online catalogue (just click the login button on the opening screen). The bibliographic records covering the nineteenth century monographs are now also available via Copac academic and national library catalogue.

The Nineteenth Century monographs collection

The nineteenth century monographs collection comprises an estimated 8,500 items covering all aspects of medicine from immunology to herbal remedies and is not purely related to surgery. Natural history and other scientific subjects are represented, reflecting the work of nineteenth century College museum curators. Typical items to be found in the collection are:
Continental works on topics such as surgical treatment of wounded soldiers; Biographical works of famous surgeons by their distinguished colleagues;
Famous works such as those of Charles and John Bell reprinted under varying imprints, dates and in different languages; Colourful and detailed plates relating to topics such as comparative anatomy, zoology and anthropology.

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Image of a man showing the anatomy of the neck: Bell, Charles. Darstellung der Nerven, 1820.

Access to the Collection

When cataloguing is complete it will be possible to search for the collection items within the Library’s online catalogue (by simply clicking the login button on the opening screen). The bibliographic records covering the nineteenth century monographs will then gradually become available via the Copac academic and national library catalogue. Copac is a union catalogue, giving free access to the merged online catalogues of members of Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and in addition some non-RLUK institutions such as the College. The College’s nineteenth century items will join over 32 million records that are currently on the Copac database. This section of our collections may be consulted under the Library’s conditions for members and researchers. The Library was established primarily to serve members of the College and as such is not generally a public service. However if a reader contacts the Library and makes a request to view items within our collections, explaining their research need, they can usually be accommodated. Consultation in the Library’s historic Barry Reading Room is on an appointment basis. Whilst at present the catalogue contains only sporadic records for the rest of the rare book collection there is a long term plan to catalogue everything in the early printed collections working back from the nineteenth century to the earliest printed works from around the 1470s.

Benefits of the project

Use of the nineteenth century monographs has been limited because they are kept out of sight of Library users in various storage areas around the College. Also, in the past they were organised by size and time period rather than subject and listed only on terse, hand-written catalogue cards. Cataloguing will reveal the contents of the collection by creating online descriptions for all the books. It will also allow the Library to produce statistics on the condition of the collection, a key aspect of the project that is running parallel to the cataloguing. Many of the items have interesting evidence of their provenance that will be recorded as part of the new online records. For more information and how to contact the College Library visit our webpage at: 
http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library

Corinne Hogan
Project Cataloguer
Nineteenth Century Cataloguing Project
Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London, WC2A 3PE

www.rcseng.ac.uk
020 7869 6520
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Jakob Ruf. Leben, Werk und Studien

The five volumes and the two CDs printed by NZZ Libro (Zuerich) contain the first edition of the complete German and Latin works by Jakob Ruf (1505-1558), the first biography and a volume of interdisciplinary studies with a full documentation of the iconographical (theatrical and medical) material to appear in print. This publication is the outcome of a research project at the University of Zuerich (2004-2008) with an interdisciplinary team of medical historians, philologists, theater scholars, and theologians under the direction of Hildegard Elisabeth Keller. For the first time, this neglected figure in the history of medicine, science, literature and theatre – a major author from the 16th century in the German-speaking area – is brought to the attention of early-modern scholarship.

Jakob Ruf, a truly remarkable individual, was born in Constance in 1505 and some years as an adolescent in the monastery at Chur where he learnt Latin, but abandoned the monastic life and trained as a barber-surgeon in Constance and Lindau before moving to Zurich after the Reformation. There, he became a prominent figure in the day-to-day and intellectual life of the city. With no university education, he nonetheless became the town surgeon, serving, in this as in other capacities such as the midwives-instructor, in a position that the city usually reserved for the university-trained.

His location between the world of learned academic medicine and the world of commoners was important to Ruf’s life and also his works. In addition to books on medicine (including the first-ever treatise on ophthalmology), astrology, astronomy, and the history of science, he also wrote a very ambitious and richly illustrated book for the instruction of midwives, the so-called Trostbuechlein (the Latin version is entitled De conceptu et generatione hominum). The German version is the first educational handbook for professional women, but addressing also lay-people (published in 1554). In addition to writing in German, he also mastered Latin. Moreover, he was a playwright and director, writing and staging plays on political and biblical topics, including a Zurich’s first production of William Tell and a reenactment, in Zurich’s open-air theatre, of the story of Creation.

The five volumes edited by Professor Keller and her team retrieve Ruf from the mists of history by a historical reconstruction of his live and works, the context of his activity in social and cultural history and his position within the early-modern system of knowledge.

Hildegard Elisabeth Keller (Hrsg.)
JAKOB RUF. LEBEN, WERK UND STUDIEN
5 Bände im Schuber mit einer Audio- und einer Multimedia-CD-ROM
3550 Seiten, 450 s/w Abbildungen
Format 16,5 x 24 cm, Halbleinen, gebunden
Subskriptionspreis bis zum 31. Juli 2008:

ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions to its 2008 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSHM’s assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar.

The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded £500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, Social History of Medicine.

Deadline: 1 February 2009

For further details and entry forms see: http://www.sshm.org/prize/prize.html

Alternatively, please contact: Lutz Sauerteig, SSHM Membership Secretary, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University, Queen's Campus, Wolfson Research Institute, University Boulevard, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH, United Kingdom
SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2008 ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE MEMORIAL COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

I have read the rules for the SSHM’s 2008 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Memorial Competition. I agree to abide by these rules.
I declare that I am eligible to enter this competition according to the terms of rule 2 (please see website for further details)

Signature: ..........................................................................................................

Full Name: ........................................................................................................

Date: ...................................................................................................................

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SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Candidate...........................................................................................................

Proposed by......................................................................................................................
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

Seconded by....................................................................................................................
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

I accept nomination for election to the Executive Committee

........................................................................................................................................
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

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they are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or general membership. While
every care is taken to provide accurate and helpful information in the Gazette, the Society
for the Social History of Medicine, the Chair of its Executive Committee and the Editor of
the Gazette accept no responsibility for omissions or errors or their subsequent effects.
Readers are encouraged to check all essential information appropriate to specific
circumstances.

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