# Table of Contents

From the Chair: Inventories and Archives ........................................... 1

The Clendening Fountain Story ......................................................... 2

R.I.P. R.P.H.
Robert P. Hudson, M.D., 1926-2014 ............................................... 3

Ethics
Improving Ethics in the Hospital
Can the practice and art of “good” and “right”—Ethics—be improved? .... 3

Faculty Activities
Arthur Daemmrich, Ph.D. ................................................................. 4

Alumni Reunion Weekend .............................................................. 5

Events
Lunar Society ................................................................................. 5

New Kid on the Block
HOM Department Welcomes New Library and Archives Assistant .... 6

Lectures ......................................................................................... 6

Current Museum Exhibit .............................................................. 7

Upcoming Exhibits ......................................................................... 8

World War I .................................................................................. 8

“Logan Clendening’s Unattainable War” ......................................... 9

From The Clendening Library
Save the Date! ............................................................................. 10

Digitising Nightingale Symposium ................................................ 10

History of Medicine in Italy .......................................................... 11

“Neither a Borrower Nor a Lender Be. . .” ........................................ 12

Logan Clendening and “The Most Beautiful Book I Own” ............... 13

Welcome, Alex! ............................................................................ 13

Note From The Editor .................................................................. 13

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Cover Photo: Clendening Fountain by Shari Hartbauer
From the Chair: Inventories and Archives

I was browsing through old movies on my computer last week, surfing the digital files as one does. But I did not find clips from *Rashomon* or *The Wizard of Oz* — sad to say. I was clicking through a database of recently digitized video material from our medical center archives, which offered an unexpected and marvelous tour from the sublime and poignant to the quirky and obscure. These extensive archives contain over 4 terabytes of selected video material. The originals still line our basement shelves, filled with old reels of super-8 and 16 mm film, as well as video cassettes and other formats. In the digital database I found grainy, black-and-white footage from a garden party in the early 1960s showing Dr. Ralph Major, then chair of medicine, sipping a can of Schlitz beer and chatting up junior faculty. In a nearby folder was extraordinary color footage from the Second World War taken with a contraband handheld camera carried by the KU medical staff as they traveled with the 77th Evacuation Hospital following the Allied forces from Tunisia through Sicily back to Britain, and then with the advance through France and into Berlin. There was a poignant film of noted pediatric ethicist, the late William Bartholome, as he talked about finding value in his experience facing terminal, metastatic esophageal cancer — an early and deeply personal account that later became the basis of an influential interview with Bill Moyers.

Mixed with these gems was a tangle of other videos and film clips, including instructional films for equipment, training tapes, and bits of past lectures. The experience brought me back to a fundamental question that we ask at KU Medical Center with increasing frequency — what to keep? Historians are less comfortable with this question than they are with the second order questions, such as how to collate, interpret, and synthesize historical sources. But if everything won’t fit on the shelves, what is selected to become the future basis for second order questions? What to save — and how to preserve it and make it available in archives, libraries, and museums?

I recently encountered a version of this question in studying the writings of Dr. Julian Herman Lewis for a paper that will appear in the September issue of *Isis*. In researching Dr. Lewis, I had the good fortune to read a selection of his personal letters, still in the possession of his family. In the 1920s and 1930s, Lewis developed an idiosyncratic but powerfully insightful perspective on the racial biases that he perceived within clinical medical research. He was the first African American physician on the faculty of the University of Chicago and one of a tiny number of academic medical scientists to break through racial barriers in the age of Jim Crow. What will be the fate of his letters? The family has considered donating them to the archives at the University of Chicago, but hesitates to infringe on the privacy of this deeply private man.

We face similarly difficult choices in our collections in the Department. Can we accept a donation of thousands of volumes from a valuable, private rare book collection to add to the Clendening Library? The cost of cataloguing and shelving alone may be more than our entire annual library budget. In addition, the main Dykes Medical Library here has begun an aggressive program of off-site storage and deaccession of the little-used medical texts that crowd up “valuable floor space.” A couple editions of a textbook from the 1980s on spinal surgery hardly seem historical. Yet, they will be. And they complement our extensive archival collections in spinal surgery. Do we claim one? Both? We hardly aspire to be the dusty attic for the medical center. Yet, we already spill over into extensive off-site storage for our archival and museum collections. We hold, for instance, the pen used in 1949 by then Governor Frank Carlson to sign the Kansas Rural Health Program into law – alongside the original, signed version of the bill. These had seemed fine examples of dusty, attic-bound artifacts. Yet with the workshop on the history of rural medicine in collaboration with Jen Gunn and the University of Minnesota that will meet here next March, this pen may yet see the light of day again. And in the foyer of the library currently is an exhibit on the medical challenges of digging the Panama Canal. In a display case you can find the original handwritten pages of the autopsy report recording Dr. Samuel Darling’s discovery of human infection with histoplasmosis in 1904. These pages were rescued from scrap during a transition in Canal Zone administration and carefully preserved by our own Dr. Enrique Chaves-Carballo.

Digitalization has the strange, Janus-like effect of making certain information more readily available and useable, while rendering other information “too expensive” or suitably redundant to warrant little further attention. We are fortunate with the recent recruitment of Alex Welborn who is newly graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program. We will have someone assisting in the library and archives who has come of age in this new digital era. I expect he may face a career of these crucial negotiations.

Christopher Crenner, M.D., Ph.D., Robert P. Hudson and Ralph H. Major Professor and Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine
THE CLENDENING FOUNTAIN STORY

With the untimely death of KU physician and scholar Logan Clendening, M.D., on April 30, 1945, the world lost a great medical writer and historian, and the University of Kansas lost one of its premier teachers; one who inspired and encouraged his medical students to “seek and ye shall find, ask and it shall be given unto you.” In Clendening’s Last Will and Testament, he bequeathed all of his books dealing with the history of medicine and science, “and all books of a similar nature,” to the University of Kansas Endowment Association. He also bequeathed a $50,000 endowment to the four-year-old Department of Medical History.

On April 21, 1947, a cool spring day, over 600 people gathered in the KU Medical Center courtyard for the dedication of the fountain placed as a memorial to Logan Clendening, M.D., prominent KU physician and benefactor of the world famous Clendening History of Medicine Library. The interior wall of the fountain was inscribed: “Life is Short – and the Art is Long – to the memory of Logan Clendening, 1884-1945, from his friends.” Henry Haskell, editor of the Kansas City Star, spoke at the ceremony:

“It is appropriate that the memorial to Logan Clendening should take the form of a fountain. A fountain is no inert thing. It is full of life and interest, the movement of water suggests sparkle and animation – the qualities that were so conspicuous a part of Logan’s endowment. Any memorial to Dr. Clendening belongs in this great Medical Center which so absorbed his interest and to which he devoted so large a part of his life.

We have gathered today to pay an affectionate tribute to a friend who made his life count so richly – a friend who had the common touch and yet was distinguished by a spark of genius easy to recognize, hard to define.”

Sixty-seven years later, on July 14, 2014, a warm summer day, several hundred people gathered in the Murphy Courtyard for a ceremonial event to kick off a long-overdue renovation to turn a concrete jumble of parking lots and loading docks, with a bit of green space centered by an irreparable Clendening Fountain, into a quad-like gathering space for staff, students, employees, and visitors.

During the summer of 2014, under the stewardship of Christine Howard, grounds manager, landscape services planted flowers and shrubs in high visibility areas throughout the Medical Center campus, enhancing the concept that the grounds are an outward expression of the healthy culture and life-promoting work that exists within our classes, clinics, and offices. For the courtyard, an equally beautiful design was envisioned.

Steffani Webb, Vice Chancellor for Administration, and a courtyard committee will ensure that progress is smooth and efficient with completion set for summer 2015. KUMC student government leaders are enthusiastically involved. Input from alumni, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders is welcome, with a fund proposed for possible contributions from campus constituents. Meanwhile, the dismantled Clendening Fountain, along with nearly seven decades of memories, was carefully placed in storage for safekeeping, with plans for future incorporation into the new courtyard design to be announced. If you have a special memory of the Clendening Fountain, please send to:

Nancy Hulston
Adjunct Associate Professor
Archives and Museum Director
nhulston@kumc.edu
R.I.P. R.P.H.
Robert P. Hudson, M.D., 1926-2014

Robert P. Hudson, M.D., 88, Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine from 1966 to 1995, died on June 15, 2014, at home. Dr. Hudson graduated from the KU School of Medicine in 1952, and earned an M.A. degree in the history of medicine from Johns Hopkins University in 1965. Hudson authored Disease and Its Control, and co-authored, with Stan Friesen, M.D., The Kansas School of Medicine: Eyewitness Reflections on Its Formative Years, published numerous historical papers and book chapters, and delivered over 300 invitational lectures. He loved words and the ideas formed by them.

His personal and academic influence is best remembered by a few excerpts from the printed condolences accompanying his obituary:

“A man is known by what he leaves behind and clearly Dr. Hudson will long be honored and remembered by what he has left behind.…”

“He was a very interesting man with a great sense of humor and a tremendous love for his family.”

“A great scholar and humanist.”

“He taught…that the practice of medicine is truly an art and should at all times be carried out with greatest dignity and the highest quality of morality and character.”


ETHICS

Improving Ethics in the Hospital
Can the practice and art of “good” and “right”—Ethics—be improved?

More than thirty years ago, Dr. Bill Bartholome and colleagues founded a program of Ethics for the University of Kansas Hospital and Medical Center. Dr. Bartholome, who died of esophageal cancer in 1999, was a respected pediatrician and professor with a bent for social activism in matters pertaining to morals in medicine. He was one of two pediatric residents who went public in the late 1960s about parental withholding of nutrition from “Baby Doe,” a newborn with Down syndrome. Bill’s ethics interests expanded considerably in subsequent decades, and he became the Ethics go-to person linking the hospital and the School of Medicine.

When KU Hospital became an independent corporation, no longer under the University of Kansas system, an ethics partnership continued between the hospital and KU School of Medicine. In particular, the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine sustained all ethics services on which the hospital relied. That became and remains a contractual relationship involving maintenance of two ethics committees and consultation teams, one for pediatrics and the other covering everything else. Ethics education and policy review are also contracted services.
provided to the University of Kansas Hospital and Medical Center.

By most accounts and committee survey, Ethics is doing quite well at KU Med. Yet there is always room for improvement. Such is happening.

- Nurse ethicists Nancy Crigger, Ph.D., ARNP, and Maria Fox, M.S., APRN-CS, are co-investigators on an IRB-approved study of KU clinicians who have requested and/or been involved in an ethics consultation. Thus far, 30 survey questionnaires have been returned and 8 structured interviews completed. Qualitative analysis will yield results from which learning comes for quality improvement of ethics consultation in the hospital.

- The Pediatric and Hospital Ethics Committees have functioned so independently as to be rather “siloed,” until 2014. Mutual learning and collaboration occurs more frequently now that co-chairs and consultation team leaders from each committee attend both committees’ meetings at least occasionally. One indicator of benefit recently is that a collaborative ethics consultation was conducted on the pediatrics unit, involving the ethically complicated care of an older adolescent patient and her family.

- For many years, the Hospital Ethics Committee has been convened monthly in the School of Medicine, co-chaired by two Ph.D. faculty members from the contracted entity. In a difficult but warranted change, one of the HEC co-chairs from now on will be a hospital-based member appointed by the administration. Indeed, the first appointee is Terry Rusconi, Vice President for Performance Improvement at KU Hospital. Also, the committee will begin to meet in a hospital conference room rather than across campus.

Additionally:

- Efforts are underway to collaborate on the drafting and implementation of a new hospital policy on how to handle ethically and legally a disputed discontinuation of non-beneficial treatments.

- Membership on both ethics committees is under review for optimization of expertise, inter-disciplinary representation, and diversity.

- Planning has begun for expansion of ethics education to include more opportunities for nurses, social workers, chaplains, and other hospital staff.

- This expansion supplements in significant ways the numerous ethics education opportunities increasingly available for staff physicians, fellows, and residents.

All of this bodes well for an improved and enduring ethics partnership between School of Medicine and teaching hospital, teachers and practitioners, ethics consultants and the clinicians or administrators who consult them.

Tarris Rosell, Ph.D., D.Min.
Rosemary Flanigan Chair at the Center for Practical Bioethics
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine
Co-Chair, Hospital Ethics Committee and Consultation Team

FACULTY ACTIVITIES
Arthur Daemmrich, Ph.D.

This summer, Arthur circumnavigated the globe giving talks and meeting with scholars in Shanghai, China, and St. Petersburg, Russia. At two conferences attended by academics, health policy officials, and pharmaceutical industry leaders, Arthur presented early findings from a project that draws on long-range historical data sets to identify factors key to pharmaceutical firm location and investment decisions for research and development. In Shanghai, he also visited a newly built hospital to plan writing a case study of hospital management practices.

In St. Petersburg, he went to the Museum of Hygiene (Muzei Gigieny), which includes exhibits on the history of public health in Russia, and about the Russian physiologist Ivan Petrovich Pavlov, including a preserved dog from his famous research into conditioned reflexes.

Arthur also completed work on an article comparing the institutional histories of healthcare reform in the
United States and China and developing projections of their future pharmaceutical markets based on policy changes. The article, now published in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice and an open-source version, is available thanks to financial support from a special fund at the University of Kansas. Read it here: http://www.joppp.org/content/7/1/9

In early September, Arthur and Professor Emeritus Frederick Holmes will give a joint talk on the history of global health to residents and students in family medicine at the KU School of Medicine. Their talk, on September 3, 12:30–1:30 pm, Medical Office Building (MOB), Family Medicine Conference Room, will combine Arthur’s description of the emergence of global health as a concept and a history of its institutional development with Fred’s firsthand experiences of treating disease internationally and promoting global health reform.

Arthur Daemmrich, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Historian of Public Health

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

The department will hold an open house for the annual Alumni Reunion Weekend, October 10–11, 2014, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, in the Clendening Foyer. The department is currently featuring the exhibit “A Triumph of American Medicine: William Gorgas, Ancon Hospital and the Panama Canal.” Class yearbooks will be available for perusal and refreshments served.

EVENTS

LUNAR SOCIETY

Before the new school year began in earnest, I had the opportunity to learn about the KU Lunar Society’s past when I visited the KUMC Archives. Looking through a box of memorabilia from the group’s earliest years, I found a report on the Lunar Society published in 1961 by the recently late Dr. Robert P. Hudson. Hudson writes: “The Lunar Society of Kansas University originated in 1955. It was conceived by a medical resident who recalled a very real void in his medical education. This void was in the area which may be called the medical humanities—religion, economics, philosophy, law, ethics, politics, the man-made institutions as they apply to medicine.” He later writes: “The student comes to know that in the humanities there is no final authority. He has only to apply this conclusion to his precious science to have prepared himself for a life of receptivity to the new in medicine. He has surpassed an understanding of the scientific method. He is ready for the inadequacy of the scientific method.”

First Lunar Society meeting with (L-R) Drs. Robert Manning, Mahlon Delp and Robert Hudson

Dr. Hudson was integral to the formation and preservation of the KU Lunar Society, and I am proud to say that his words above are echoed in the group’s present spirit. Our discussion-oriented meetings allow members to follow their curiosity into new depths of understanding about themselves and the world around them, away from a circumscribed medical curriculum. The first presentation of our fall semester was given by fellow Lunar leader Brandon Hidaka. Entitled “Intellectualizing My Dad’s Cancer,” Brandon offered the audience insight into the difficult experience of studying medicine while simultaneously witnessing disease and death in his own family. Throughout this new academic year, the Lunar
Society will continue to nourish the love of wisdom in its members, and we are thankful to stand on the shoulders of true philosophers and leaders like Dr. Hudson.

The History and Philosophy of Medicine Department is pleased to welcome Alex Welborn as its new Library and Archives Assistant. Prior to taking up his new position, Alex served as Metadata Specialist in the Digital Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. He received his M.L.I.S. from the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2013. With a strong background in libraries and archives, Alex brings a diverse set of skills and an understanding of emerging trends to the Clendening History of Medicine Library and the KUMC Archives.

At the Kansas City Public Library, Alex managed the back-end database for the Library’s popular Civil War on the Western Border website, where he helped to contribute new content to the site and ensure access for the Library’s patrons. In addition to the Kansas City Public Library, Alex has held positions with the research library of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the corporate archives of the Lee Apparel Company, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archives. He has also completed internships at the Milwaukee County Historical Society and the archives of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, Kansas. As Library and Archives Assistant, Alex will support the Rare Book Librarian and the Archives Director in the daily operations of the Clendening History of Medicine Library and the KUMC Archives. He will also assist with long-term projects for the library and archives, the first being a planned update to the Digital Clendening online exhibit scheduled for later this year. Alex may be reached at 913-588-7087 or awelborn@kumc.edu.

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK**

HOM Department Welcomes New Library and Archives Assistant

The History and Philosophy of Medicine Department is pleased to welcome Alex Welborn as its new Library and Archives Assistant. Prior to taking up his new position, Alex served as Metadata Specialist in the Digital Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. He received his M.L.I.S. from the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2013. With a strong background in libraries and archives, Alex brings a diverse set of skills and an understanding of emerging trends to the Clendening History of Medicine Library and the KUMC Archives.

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**LECTURES**

Schedule for the 2014-15 Noon Luncheon Seminars Series in the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department

15 October, 2014—James Cook, “Iron: Then and Now”
12 November, 2014—Alan Poisner, “Nobel Prize Winners That I Have Known”
11 December, 2014—Paul Camarata, TBA
8 April, 2015—Arthur Daemmrich, “Thalidomide and Drug Efficacy Testing in the 1950s”

If you would like to present at a future seminar, please contact Ryan Fagan at rfagan@kumc.edu, or at 588-7040.

Schedule for the 2014-2015 Clendening History of Medicine Lecture Series

**September 04, 2014**

The Logan Clendening Lecture in the History of Medicine

Carla Keirns, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc., F.A.C.P., Stony Brook University

“Family, Money and Ways of Death: Geography and Hospice in the United States”
CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Commemorating the centennial of the opening of the Panama Canal is the exhibit “A Triumph of American Medicine: William Gorgas, Ancon Hospital and the Panama Canal.” This exhibit in the Clendening Library and Museum is in conjunction with the Linda Hall Library presentation, “The Land Divided, The World United: Building the Panama Canal,” which runs through December 31, 2014.

William C. Gorgas and Ancon Hospital

The opening of the Panama Canal to world commerce on August 15, 1914, was celebrated worldwide both as an engineering feat and a triumph of preventive medicine. Theodore Roosevelt considered an isthmian canal as a requisite for the supremacy of the US Navy in the world and promoted the excavation of the “big ditch” in Panama. Roosevelt was also aware that yellow fever and malaria were the main obstacles for the successful completion of the canal enterprise. The French had learned this lesson in a previous attempt (1881–1889), at a cost of $287 million and 22,000 lives. William Gorgas, armed with new knowledge that the mosquito was the vector of yellow fever, was able to eradicate yellow fever in Havana, Cuba, in 1901. Roosevelt appointed Gorgas Chief Sanitary Officer, in charge of the sanitation of Panama, in 1904.

Gorgas eliminated yellow fever within six months, but malaria was much more difficult to control in Panama. *Anopheles albimanus*, the malaria mosquito, had different feeding and breeding patterns than *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito. Once these differences were understood, a more effective and economical mosquito control program was implemented. The incidence of malaria among canal workers was reduced by 90 percent, from 821 per thousand to 82 per thousand workers in 1914.
Gorgas and his sanitation team were able to convert the isthmus from a “pesthole” into a healthy place to work and live. The successful completion of the Panama Canal was recognized worldwide as a triumph of American medicine.

The experience in Havana, Cuba, helped Gorgas to implement an effective sanitation program in Panama. The challenge, however, was greater in Panama because the target area consisted of the Canal Zone, a 500-square-mile territory, and the terminal cities of Panama and Colon.

Potable water, sewage disposal, garbage collection, street pavement, rat control, and ship quarantine measures were implemented. Mosquito control included drainage of stagnant water, cutting grass and brush, killing mosquito larvae by oiling and applying larvicide, screening all buildings and quarters, and killing adult mosquitoes by hand. Prophylactic quinine was provided freely to all workers in the form of tablets or quinine water. Forty thousand doses of quinine were dispensed daily for a total of more than a ton (2,600 pounds) per year. About 700,000 gallons of oil and 124,000 gallons of larvicide were used per year. The cost of this ambitious sanitation program amounted to about $2 million per year.

Curators for the exhibit, running through November 2014, are Nancy Hulston, Dawn McInnis, and Enrique Chaves, M.D., with special assistance from Alex Welborn, Archives and Library Assistant, and Jamie Rees, Student Library Assistant.

Enrique Chaves, M.D.
Clinical Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and History and Philosophy of Medicine

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

“Gifts from Providence” in December 2014, will showcase artifacts presented to our Clendening History of Medicine collections upon the closing this year of the Glenn R. Peters Medical Museum at Providence Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. This exhibit will be in collaboration with the Wyandotte County Historical Society Museum.

Spring 2015: “A History of Rural Health in Kansas,” in conjunction with a symposium honoring KU Medical Center’s place in history in establishing a nationwide model for rural health care.
in 383 newspapers, *Diet and Health*. Born in 1884 he was a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1907 and, after postgraduate work, was an Instructor in Medicine there five years later. Though he served honorably as a physician in the Medical Corps of the US Army during the First World War, his posting was a great disappointment, as he yearned to serve in France, not Texas.

Edward Clendening Lide Clendening Logan Clendening

In 1911 Clendening, the only child of E.M. and Lide Clendening, joined the Reserve Medical Corps of the United States Army with the rank of first lieutenant, clearly showing his interest in military medicine. Three years later, his father, unbeknown to Clendening, wrote to his friend, United States Senator William J. Stone of Missouri:

I am also frank to say that his Mother never thought he might be called upon to have somebody shoot at him, however, in the course of time, things develop. It now happens that this boy of ours is engaged to be married and the date of his wedding is set for July 22nd.

You can imagine, under these circumstances, how my wife regards the Mexican situation and as she is naturally a nervous woman, she is having at present but very little peace. I want you to thoroughly understand that there is no “yellow streak” in the Clendening family and that I am writing this letter without the knowledge of my son and only because his mother is so much perturbed.

The letter concluded that if young Clendening was called to serve in the field, please let it be after the wedding, or even better, after the honeymoon. His father closed with, “Be good to my boy if you can.”

Logan Clendening met Dorothy Hixon while she was visiting friends in Kansas City. Dorothy was the daughter of wealthy LaCrosse, Wisconsin, lumber and banking baron, Frank Pennell Hixon. They courted, mostly long-distance, for several years and were married on July 22, 1914, living happily in a rented apartment in Kansas City, Missouri, until Logan was called up on June 5, 1917, to serve his country in World War I. Thanks to his father’s letter to Senator Stone, Clendening, now a captain, was permanently stationed at the Fort Sam Houston Base Hospital, in San Antonio, Texas, and never served overseas. As the holiday season approached, Clendening’s mother, Lide, missed her only child dearly.

Clendening’s letters home were often concerned with his frustration at not receiving a promotion to major. In a letter to his father dated December 7, 1917, he listed the men that he served with who had been advanced over him, and complained:

The thing is humiliating and discouraging, and I won’t stand for it. I have worked as hard down here as I ever worked in my life; my work has been satisfactory to two commanding officers. Other men in the same position have been raised.

On December 20, 1917, in a letter that must have chilled his mother’s soul, he wrote regarding service in France:

I’m likely to go over anyway, because Dr. Binnie’s Base Hospital has been ordered to prepare for mobilization. That means they sail about Feb 1–March 1. I want to go. It’ll be a great sight. As someone said the other day, “A year from now this will be the greatest army in the world.” It’s the character of the men – the finest young men, fine types. We’ve had some forty or fifty first lieutenants down here, young doctors, who have just gone into the medical corps of the regular army. Finest bunch of young men I ever saw – All damn good doctors.

He was passed over, however, did not go to France, and remained in Texas for the duration of the war. Clendening wrote to his parents on October 13, 1918, and reported:

The war news seems to be fairly promising for an early peace. I rather regret it. Since we have them so much on the run I’d like to make a nice clean, satisfactory job of it, and hang the Kaiser.

Clendening was discharged in December 1918, and returned with Dorothy to Kansas City in time for Christmas. He never knew the real reason that he was kept state-side. Clendening became a very popular Professor of Medicine at the KU School of Medicine, and a nationally acclaimed author and columnist, until his death in January 1945, just before the end of the next world war.
Nancy Hulston, MA
Adjunct Associate Professor of the History of Medicine and Director of Archives
University of Kansas School of Medicine

(The background information and images are from The Archives of the University of Kansas Medical Center).


FROM THE CLENDENING LIBRARY
SAVE THE DATE!

Vesalius turns 500! Celebrate the 500th birthday of Andreas Vesalius, (December 31, 1514), on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Stop by the Clendening Foyer at noon to see his nearly 500-year-old publications, hear a bit about his life and his writings, and enjoy refreshments. Please plan to join us for this Quincentenary Celebration.

DIGITISING NIGHTINGALE SYMPOSIUM

In May 2014 I was invited to attend a Digitising Nightingale symposium in London hosted by the Wellcome Trust and supported by their Research Resources grant scheme. Organized by the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center (Boston University) and the Florence Nightingale Museum (London), the symposium featured the development of a website portal that will comprehensively list and link all of Nightingale’s online correspondence. This herculean task did not seem daunting to the organizers and participants, and I’m pleased to report that the Clendening Library’s Nightingale collection will be included in this website. Their goal of “improving access to previously unknown collections or materials” was created to allow scholars access to “experiments, ideas, and debates still in study today.”

Stability was a theme that kept recurring in the presentations. Creating stable URLs and document reference numbers was mentioned as a key component for a collaboration of this magnitude. One of the presenters showcased the pleasures and perils of their digitization project and mentioned a persistent problem: institutions kept changing their URLs. They were constantly reformatting their websites with new looks, new layouts, new software, and new URLs. Although routine website maintenance was factored in for that original project, the extreme number of URL changes during the project’s creation was totally unexpected. Because the Digital Clendening needs to be reformatted to KUMC’s new look and feel which will include new URLs, we will be joining the Nightingale digitization project after our update.

I was privileged to represent the Clendening History of Medicine Library at this stellar event which also featured other institutions’ holdings and digitization projects. One of the most impressive collections I heard about contains over 2,000 Nightingale letters that are not digitized but listed in their online catalog. Help in facilitating and funding the digitization of those letters was quietly suggested by a “let’s do lunch” proposal during the symposium. A fascinating presentation on the current relevance of Nightingale led to one of the closing statements: “Why should we pull Nightingale back in service? Because we need her.”

Florence Nightingale Museum artifacts
HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN ITALY

From London I vacationed to Italy for a week to stay with my brother, a native of Padua. I’d read Logan Clendening’s 1936 article, “The Doctor Abroad–Italy,” in Hygeia The Health Magazine published by the AMA for the general public. Of course I wanted to see everything that Clendening had mentioned, specifically the University of Padua, the alma mater of William Harvey and site of the Anatomy Theater of Andreas Vesalius. My brother took me to everything on my list as well as his list and my husband’s list!

The tour of the astronomical observatory, La Specola, ended at the top with an outside walkway around the turret room. This balcony provided a 360-degree stroll above the city. The Euganean Hills were a stunning backdrop to the scene. It was easy to imagine the reverse view from the Hills into Padua, with Padua as the background to Vesalius’s muscle men.

Citywide there is an astounding amount of art and building restoration occurring with incredible craftsmanship. We observed internal and external structural supports, plaster reconstruction with painting conservation or restoration, ultra-modern temperature and humidity controls, and state-of-the-art technology incorporated into old and newer (twentieth century) buildings.

My brother taught me that both a late morning coffee and late afternoon coffee or spritzer is a relaxing and re-energizing rest! He also introduced me to his favorite fruit, only available about two weeks every year. It was the medlar, the history of medicine fruit. If you’re interested in that description, check out my short article in the Watermark under “Nespola.” (Tip: it will come up much faster if you “save as” rather than “open.”)

The Watermark Volume 37 Number 3 (Summer 2014) http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/alhhs/Watermark_Vol_37_No_3_Summer_2014.pdf

I also visited the Basilica of St. Anthony as my dental hygiene friends had tasked me with reporting every detail of the Chapel of the Reliquaries containing St. Anthony’s tongue and mandible. A lesson in museum dehumidification came during a tour of the beautiful Scrovegni Chapel. Up to 25 ticket holders were admitted into a completely enclosed glass room where we were actually “dehumidified” as we watched a video on the chapel’s art. We were then led down a glass hallway to the chapel and given 15 minutes to view the artwork. Exactly 15 minutes later we were escorted back down the hall to the lovely garden area, passing by the next group being dehumidified.
“NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE. . .”

Shakespeare was wrong when his phrase relates to borrowing or loaning for exhibitions! A big thank you goes to the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas for loaning us their 1887 edition of Köhler’s *medizinal-pflanzen in naturgetreuen abbildungen mit kurz erläuterndem texte*. Dr. Karen S. Cook from the Spencer Library carefully led me through my first experience in borrowing rare material from another library. Thanks to her explicit instructions and coaching, I was able to make certain the Clendening could accommodate all the borrowing requirements, e.g., environmental, exhibition, display, and insurance. She even provided a book support built specifically for the book!

Featured in the Clendening Library’s Panama Canal disease display, the bark of the cinchona tree provided the origin of quinine used for malaria treatment. The beautiful *Köhler* illustration of the cinchona flower presented another detail of the “fever tree.” Because the image pigments are extremely subject to fading, the book was only displayed on the opening day and replaced with a photo image for the rest of the exhibition. Thank you, KU Spencer Research Library!
LOGAN CLENDENING and
“THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOK I OWN”

Dr. Logan Clendening was more than just a competitive book collector; he was compassionate, thoughtful, and generous. Check out the online issue of Plains to Peaks Post, v. 12, no. 4, April 2014, for my article on Clendening and his collection, http://nnlm.gov/mcr/p2pp/2014/04/clendening-history-of-medicine-library/

WELCOME, ALEX!

We’ve had a great summer in the library, showing our new colleague, Alex Welborn, all the library procedures and processes. He’s an excellent addition to our department and an energizing co-worker in the library. Stop in and meet him!

Dawn McInnis
Rare Book Librarian

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

You might have noticed an abundance of Logan Clendening related tales in this issue. Next year, 2015, marks the 75th anniversary of the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department of which he was the founder and first chair. We will be scheduling events and planning exhibits accordingly.
Friends of the Clendening

We welcome contributions that support the broad mission of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine and the legacy of Logan Clendening. Private support makes a great difference to the Department.

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