

Newsletter

Coalition of Canadian Health-Care Museums and Archives

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The CCHMA Annual General Meeting 2003

The Coalition's meeting with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) takes place Thursday, 8 May 2003, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Summit Room, on the 21st floor of the Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel, at 2 Lombard Place in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The hotel's phone number is (204) 957-1350. The CMA conference itself occurs at the same hotel, May 6-10. CMA members will find details about the conference, accommodation, and air travel arrangements in the program they received by mail. Non-members may wish to consider the offsetting advantages of CMA membership, but have access to the same information at: www.museums.ca Further information is available from Sue-Ann Ramsden, Conference Coordinator, at (416) 231-1251 or by e-mail at sramsden@museums.ca Although registration for the CMA conference is **not** required to attend the CCHMA annual general meeting, it is to participate in other events associated with the CMA program itself.

As CCHMA Chair for 2002-2003, Dr. James A. Low, Manager of the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, presides at the Coalition's annual general meeting this year, with Betsy Little, Executive Director of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, as current CCHMA Vice-chair and Chair-elect. A slate of officers for 2003-2004 will be presented by the Coalition's Committee on Nominations.

Among other Coalition business at Winnipeg, attendees will learn about the present stage of the application made by CCHMA to the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) for an exhibit on the subject of "The Healing Power of Plants" as part of the Virtual Museum of Canada supervised by CHIN. The Museum of Health Care at Kingston, Ontario, with Dr. James Low as project director, serves as lead organization, while the partners include CCHMA institutional and individual members, including: Coalition Secretary-Treasurer Felicity Pope; Simonette Seon-Milette for the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Dr. Ernst W. Stieb for the Ontario College of Pharmacists relative to the Niagara Apothecary museum at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario; Joan O'Mara and Dr. John K. Crellin for the James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum in St. John's, Newfoundland; and Carrie Brooks-Joiner for the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, Ontario.

An agenda for the CCHMA's annual general meeting will reach all institutional and individual Coalition members presently via the same avenue as this *Newsletter*. We encourage all to attend and participate actively at the AGM in Winnipeg. Only in this way may we reflect a good cross-section of opinions that our membership represents.

CCHMA members who have not yet renewed for 2003 are encouraged to respond, as soon as possible, to the original or reminder notice from Secretary-treasurer Felicity Pope to support the ongoing activities of the organization. Felicity also plans to distribute an **updated list of individual and institutional members in good standing** soon after the annual meeting.

The highly reputed Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain closed in January 2002 after 160 years of operation, as announced in an earlier number of this *Newsletter*. However, a recent flier from the Society suggests the

picture may not be entirely bleak. Although general access to the displays in the Society's Lambeth headquarters remain restricted, anyone may see specific items in the collection by making appointments as far in advance as possible, since most of the artifacts are now stored off site. Applicants may also make enquiries about items in the collection, archives, or more generally about the history of pharmacy. All these services are free of charge, except those involving photographic reproductions and those using the annual registers of the Society. CCHMA members may wish to get more specific details using the Society's Web site, which also contains a virtual exhibition and information sheets to download at: www.rpsgb.org.uk

The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) in London, Ontario, and particularly Executive Director Betsy Little and her staff proudly (and with much relief) throw open the doors of the permanent new home at 267 Dundas Street, Wednesday, 21 May 2003, with a program of planned events. For details call (519) 663-3087 or e-mail Communications Officer Catherine Riddell at: criddell@rri.ca

One major event of note, 22 May 2003, will be the induction celebration dinner at the London Convention Centre for six new distinguished laureates to be added to the Hall. They include **Dr. William Howard Feindel**, former director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, noted for his research on epilepsy and in neuroscience; **Dr. Charles H. Hollenberg**, responsible for shaping Cancer Care Ontario and Cancer Care International; **Dr. J. Fraser Mustard**, founding member of the McMaster University Medical School, founding president of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, now involved in Early Childhood Development, and noted for his research on platelet physiology and thrombosis; **Dr. Donald O. Hebb** (1904-1985), renowned researcher in the relationship between mind and brain, particularly in educational methods; **Dr. Charles B. Huggins** (1901-1997), urologist with extensive research on prostate cancer and Nobel laureate in medicine (1966); and **Sainte Marguerite d'Youville** (1701-1771), founder of the "Grey Nuns" Sisters of Charity of Montreal and a "Mother of Universal Charity," dedicated to helping the unfortunate.

The new CMHF home includes 3,300 square feet of space on three floors, including 1,600 of those for public exhibits and 635 for educational programming. Two main areas of the exhibit space are devoted respectively to "The Heroes" or laureates and to "The World of Canadian Medicine." The latter consists of interactive multimedia permanent exhibits intended to explain the areas of achievement reflected by the laureates; resource materials, such as reference books and Internet access; and special themed temporary exhibits. The new facility also boasts a learning centre for quality educational programming, a museum shop, and a "virtual vault" that transforms the original bank vault on the premises to workstations with Internet access or virtual displays. The overall objective is to create a relevant museum and learning centre focused on Canada's medical history that will appeal to the widest possible audience of whatever age, education, and interest level.

With its new facilities, the Hall of Fame also promises visitors many new exhibits to complement its portrait gallery. Details on these exhibits, hours of operation, etc., may be had at (519) 663-3087 or at its Web site: www.cdnmedhall.org

The Hall also plans to collect memorabilia, quotes, research papers, letters, slides, text books, instruments and other artifacts or archival material relating to individuals in its portrait gallery. Offers of donations or permanent loans of such materials from individuals or institutions, including CCHMA members, may be discussed with Catherine Riddell by phone or e-mail as noted above.

In 2003 the CMHF continues its Pfizer Canada Discovery Days in Health Sciences for high-school and university students across Canada, with six universities and affiliated medical schools in five provinces hosting the program: Calgary; McGill in Montreal; McMaster, Hamilton; Manitoba, Winnipeg; Memorial, St. John's; Western Ontario, London. CMHF laureates and other leading physicians and scientists share their experiences and advice.

Also continuing will be the Hall of Fame's award-winning, interactive CD-ROM "Hot Docs"; its reciprocally active education Web site profiling the laureates, "Medi-Centre"; resource guide for educators, "EduAction"; the CMHF and Great-West Life & London Life Scholarships, supporting two students with \$1,000 per year in a four-year undergraduate program in health sciences at any Canadian university.

"Visionary Anatomies" is the imaginative title given to a symposium--12 June 2003, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.--in the Lister Hall Auditorium of the world-renowned National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, in conjunction with an exhibition, "Dream Anatomy," of imaginative and evocative anatomical representations over the ages. The program will bring together anatomists, cultural historians, physicians, museum professionals, and historians of medicine and science to discuss historical, cultural, and scientific perspectives relative to the art and science of anatomy and anatomical presentation, past and present.

The program includes two panels, a curator's talk on the "Dream Anatomy" exhibition, and a dinner reception in the exhibit's gallery space. Featured participants include: F. Gonzalez-Crussi, Northwestern University School of Medicine, emeritus; Kathryn Hoffmann, University of Hawaii; Susan Lederer, Yale; Ruth Richardson, Centre for Medical Humanities, University College, London; Michael Sappol, National Library of Medicine; Nancy Scheper-Hughes, University of California, Berkeley; Gretchen Worden, Mütter Museum; and others.

The Library is located at the National Institutes of Health, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 38A, Bethesda, Maryland 20894. For instructions and downloadable registration forms go to: www.nlm.nih.gov/dreamanatomy/da_events.html

By cheque or money order: \$35 US, payable to the "Friends of the National Library of Medicine," mailed to The Friends of the National Library of Medicine, P. O. Box 75126, Baltimore, MD 21275-5126

By credit card: fax registration forms to (202) 462-9043. **For more information,** call (301) 594-1947 or see the Web site listed above.

The Musée des Augustines de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec has been closed temporarily since 30 April 2002 for an indeterminate period according to its director, Sister Nicole Perron, A.M.J. The arrangement relates to other activities concerning the section of the historic monastery on the site dating from 1695. Sister Perron assures us that health care will occupy an important place in the new exhibition space to be developed. We feel certain that all CCHMA members wish Sister and the Museum a speedy resolution of the situation for this remarkable example of Canadian health-care history. Founded in 1639, it is the earliest hospital established in North America north of Mexico and among the oldest in the British Commonwealth.

Congratulations to CCHMA member Jacqueline Stuart for the recognition of her significant contribution to her community and to Canada as curator of the Aurora Museum and Hillary House, Koffler Museum of Medicine represented by receiving a commemorative medal on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Niagara Apothecary museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario re-opens for the season, 7 May 2003. Minimum hours will be noon to 6 p.m. daily, with extended hours from 10 a.m. during busy periods, holidays, and local festivals to be established. Daily openings continue until Labor Day, then weekends until Canadian Thanksgiving. Group tours in off hours may be arranged, subject to the availability of staff, at (905) 468-3845 in season or at (416) 962-4861 off season.

As a practice, the Apothecary operated in the historic town from about 1820 to 1964, at its present site from 1869 to its close. It is the only Confederation-period building in historic N-O-L and since its restoration in 1971 has been owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF) and operated in a long-term agreement by the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP), the provincial statutory body, which also carried out (under the supervision of founding curator, Dr. Ernst W. Stieb) the restoration of appropriate professional aspects at the site--i.e. to make it look as nearly as possible like an operating pharmacy of its period, based on historical and photographic records. Its interior remains essentially unchanged from 1869, with most of the original matched set of stock containers, reputedly imported from Britain about 1835, returned to its shelves when it re-opened. During its open season, the Apothecary has regularly attracted approximately 100,000 visitors from around the world drawn to the Niagara area.

Among special new exhibits planned is one titled "One man's poison is another man's bread: The many faces of the pharmacist world wide." It will explore not only the different forms that representations of this provider of health care have taken, but also the names, both formal and informal, used for these practitioners at different times and in different places. Another exhibit being developed for the future will examine "The Canadian/Ontario Pharmacist as Optician," a major trend of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The intent is to explore this as a cooperative venture with the Museum of Visual Science and Optometry at the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

Finishing touches are underway for the presence of the Apothecary as an entity on the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Web site at: www.ocpinfo.com Details will be announced in a future CCHMA *Newsletter*.

The Bethune National Historic Site of Canada in Gravenhurst, Ontario, at Dr. Norman Bethune's birthplace--under the supervision of its site manager, Scott Davidson--unveils new on-site exhibits in June 2003, followed by the launch of a new outreach educational program. The exhibits will highlight four aspects of the famed physician's life: his medical achievements; his creativity; the influences on him of family, health, and sometimes controversial politics; and his enduring legacy in Canada and in China. Combined with a video display available simultaneously in English, French, and Chinese, the historic site will have some excellent tools to teach the story of this Canadian hero and his legacy.

Bethune's story ties very well into Ontario's grade ten history curriculum. Consequently the museum's new heritage education coordinator is networking with a number of teachers

and curriculum consultants to develop a program focused on Canada of the 1930's for delivery in classrooms by Bethune site staff. Using the story of Bethune as backdrop, the program will highlight social conditions during the great Depression, the roots of government health programs, medical discoveries of the period, and the role of Canadians in the Spanish Civil War. Responding to great interest shown by teachers, pilot programs will occur during 2003, with an official launch of the program to follow.

CCHMA members who wish to contact the Bethune Memorial site may do so at: telephone (705) 687-4261 or fax (705) 687-4935 or TTY (705) 687-7969 or e-mail: **Scott.Davidson@pc.gc.ca**

The Dental Museum at the University of Alberta, under the supervision of Dr. Geoffrey H. Sperber, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, celebrates the 85th anniversary of dental education at the University in Edmonton. Special activities have included an exhibit on dental technology over the past century and scientific symposia.

Collectors of pharmaceutical collectibles met in New Orleans, in late March 2003, for the tenth annual Collectors Circle Breakfast held in conjunction with the annual meeting there of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP). The gatherings began in response to a need observed by George Griffenhagen, a former curator of pharmaceutical collections at the Smithsonian, senior editor of a useful guide to American and Canadian museums and collections of pharmacy, a recognized expert on pharmaceutical philately, and long active in AIHP, national, and international organizations of pharmacy and the history of pharmacy.

A number of papers presented at various sessions of the AIHP also touched on pharmacy museums and collections, while one of the social functions included a reception at the historic *La Pharmacie Française*, now the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, in the heart of the city's old French quarter or *Vieux Carré*. The papers on pharmaceutical artifacts including some dealing with early illustrated broadsides and posters for proprietary or patent or non-prescription remedies, early American drug labels, and early patent medicine advertising.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions to its 2003 Roy Porter Essay Prize Competition. The prize goes to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine as judged by the Society's assessment panel. The prize honors the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and generous scholar. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in full or part-time academic programs. The winner receives 500 pounds Sterling (equivalent to ca. Can \$1,250 depending on the current exchange rate) and the winning paper may be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*. **The deadline for entries is 31 December 2003.** Further details and entry forms may be down-loaded from the SSHM's Web site: **<http://www.sshm.org>** Information may also be obtained from David Cantor, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, Executive Plaza North, Suite 2025, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-7309, USA or by e-mail: **competition@sshm.org**

“Winchesters” and “corbyns”--the difference between these two bottles intended for storing fluids in bulk is discussed in a brief note in the *Pharmaceutical Historian* (March 2003, p.16), the voice of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy. Winchesters, cylindrical in shape, usually contain two Imperial quarts or half a gallon, whereas corbyns, the writer suggests, were open to some speculation. Early 20th-century sources indicate that they were the same diameter as winchesters, but half the volume. However, apparently in the mid 1940's the terms were interchangeable, at least as used then by British Drug Houses, the pharmaceutical manufacturer. The writer of the note finishes by asking readers to throw whatever further light they can on the subject.

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Archives at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, edited by John Court, carries the usual complement of interesting material in its January 2003 issue. The feature article by Dr. Geoffrey Reaume, of Ryerson University's School of Disability Studies, discusses the Psychiatric Survivor Archives, Toronto (PSAT). An organization run by and for psychiatric survivors, PSAT aims to reflect the experiences of psychiatric patients, consumers, or survivors. The material collected will be open to all, but particularly for those with a personal psychiatric history. Materials ranging from documents to video and audio tapes have been collected or promised by individuals and groups as a suitable home for the archives is sought in 2003. The collection will not be limited geographically and intends to cover a wide range of published and unpublished material, including first person accounts, gender, patients and care givers, advocacy and activism, poverty, race and ethnicity, drugs, artistic expressions, etc. Those interested may check the Web site being developed--and intended to be linked to other sites, such as “Madness in Canada”--at: www.psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com

The first two Lil Hewton Bursaries of \$2,500 each awarded for 2003 by the Friends of the Archives go to one student in the History of Medicine Department of the McMaster University School of Medicine to support research for a doctoral dissertation on the subject of “The Relationship between Confined Children, Families, and the Orillia Asylum, 1900-1950.” The second winner is a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education exploring the ethnicity, gender, and class of patients as influences at the Hospital for the Insane, Toronto (Queen Street), 1915-1925; this student was motivated by seven years of personal experience working at the Clarke site.

A silver tea service--presented by colleagues of Dr. William Metcalf when he transferred in 1877 from the Queen Street facility of what is now the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)--found its way back nearly a century later in 1968 through the generosity of his grand-niece, Mrs. R. E. (Dorothy) Deane. Mrs. Deane's wish to visit the CAMH and see the tea service again recently provided an opportunity to enjoy tea with a number of present and former officials of CAMH and Friends of the Archives officials, as well as to compare mental health services over more than a century past.

More than 2,500 individual and scholarly items relating to the Addiction Research Foundation are now preserved and accessible in the CAMH archives at the Queen Street site as the result of a new finding aid produced by a Hannah Archives Intern during the summer of 2002; a hardcopy abstract of more than 100 pages also exists. They provide important historical research potential for various estates not only about the ARF, but also about alcohol- and addiction-related control efforts in Canada and world-wide. A summary is also available at: <http://aao.fis.utoronto.ca/Directory/Cdir.html#ON00008>

Memberships in the Friends of the Archives are available for \$20 annually and tax receipts issued for *donations* over \$10 sent to the Friends of the Archives, Museum of Mental

Health Services (Toronto) Inc., 1001 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON M6J 1H4. Telephone: (416) 535-8501 ext 2172 or fax: (416) 583-1308.

The 3rd international and first North American conference of the International Network for the History of Hospitals will take place in June 2003 at Montreal's McGill University--for notice of which we are most grateful to John Court. The aims are to examine these health-care institutions in terms of their development in place and time from the medieval period to the present and from every possible perspective of the patient, professional, and the state. More information is available from Professor Annmarie Adams, McGill University, 815 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec H3A 2K6 or e-mail: annmarie.adams@mcgill.ca or fax: (514) 398-7372 **OR** at www.cf.ac.uk/hisar/people/kw/inhh2.html or Dr. Keir Waddington, School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University, P. O. Box 909, Cardiff CF103XU, Wales, UK or e-mail: WaddingtonK@cardiff.ac.uk or fax: +44(0) 29 20874929

The Museum of Health Care at Kingston remains one of the most productive institutions of its kind in Canada, having achieved that distinction in a remarkably short period of time. Much credit obviously goes to its manager, Dr. James A. Low, and the excellent staff. During 2002, the Museum received more than 4,000 artifacts from nearly 50 donors, thus increasing its total collection to more than 28,000 health-care and related education artifacts, of which more than 17,000 are entered in the database and available on the Museum Web site: www.museumofhealthcare.ca and Artifacts Canada. Through its digital imaging project, there are now more than 4,500 artifact images in the collection catalogue. The Museum also has a reciprocal loan program with other cultural institutions, such as 12 neurosurgical artifacts lent to the Goethe Institut in Toronto to add depth and interest to its art exhibit, "Transposed Bodies." In addition, while most of its exhibits are in the Museum's home, the Ann Baillie Building, it also makes good use of several outreach galleries elsewhere on the Queen's University campus and elsewhere.

To maintain its active in-house and outreach programs, accommodate a rapidly growing collection, as well as meet expected museological standards, requires an increase in permanent and part-time specialized and support staff, and more space for exhibits and storage. This, in turn, means an increase in the operating budget dependent upon patrons, members, program sponsors, project grants, and operating grants.

All the Museum's activities and programs have translated into a commendable increase in public interest and attendance, which was up by nearly 30% in 2002 over the previous year. The Museum also witnessed a greater number of medical and academic group tours, including new Kingston General Hospital staff and new Queen's medical students as part of their orientation, as well as field trips for several Queen's history classes. Also up were hits on the Museum's Web site, averaging more than 500 per month. Greater attention was also paid to public awareness by increasing public relations efforts and building media contacts and publicity, as well as improving first impressions of visitors.

The Museum of Health Care worked hard to increase and strengthen its outreach programs, particularly with local schools through Ontario curriculum-linked subject material. It appears to this editor that considering the emphasis upon health care during wartime, as well as epidemics and pandemics in history, and the use as medicinals of natural substances in pioneer times, that many of the Museum's school programs will have greater relevance during the current conflict in the Middle East, the SARS outbreak, and increasing use again now by some of herbal preparations. That appears to be born out by the observations of the

Museum's education officer that barely midway through the 2002-2003 school year, classroom visits had more than doubled. Given the current world situation, those figures may show even greater increases before the end of the current academic year.

Comments about the CCHMA *newsletter* may be addressed to the editor via e-mail: ernststieb@golden.net or by post to: Ernst W. Stieb, 55 Whisperwood Court, Kitchener, ON N2P 2A9