The Benjamin Vaughan Historical Medical Collection

Insights into the nature of medical practice in a particular period can come not only from what has been written by and about practitioners of the day, but also from the content of their book collections - the titles that are present and those that are not. With the books may come an added historical dimension if noteworthy annotations are found. The 247 item Benjamin Vaughan Historical Medical Collection offered here provides a major opportunity to study the evidences of an early 19th century American medical practice through a practitioner's annotated medical book collection. Though it is likely other medical books were at one time part of this collection and are now dispersed, what is here is extensive and of considerable scholarly interest and apparently unstudied.

Having been instrumental in keeping these books intact as a collection, we are pleased to offer them in the annotated hand-list below. They deserve to be properly housed, conserved, and preserved.

Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835), born in Jamaica, a friend of Benjamin Franklin (Vaughan collected, edited, and annotated his Political, Miscellaneous and Philosophical Pieces, 1779) and Joseph Priestley, (Priestley dedicated his Lectures on History, and General Policy (1788) to Vaughan), came to America at the end of the 18th century. Though he was a medical student at the University of Edinburgh in the early 1780's, his activities in England did not include medicine. Vaughan, an American sympathizer, was instead very active as a diplomat and frequently in the employ in confidential matters of the Earl of Shelburne. His most important work in this area was in the Anglo-American peace negotiations of 1782. Later in the decade he published a book on free trade and a series of letters sympathetic to the French Revolution. But Vaughan's political activities and ideas led to his flight from England and his eventual joining of his family in Hallowell, Maine in 1792 (the town was named for his maternal grandfather).

At Hallowell, Vaughan retired from his active diplomatic career. He continued with his writing and is credited with a number of publications as author or editor, including communications of his agricultural experiments to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society under the signature 'A Kennebec Farmer'. (Also see: Austin 595 and Catalogue of an Exhibition of Early and Later Medical Americana, no. 38.) Vaughan was a member of many scientific and literary societies, perhaps most notably, he was an Honorary Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

It is clear from the books in this collection, that Benjamin Vaughan arrived in America with many of them. Especially evident is that he purchased a number of the books while a student at Edinburgh. Once here, he continued to add new publications, largely English and American imprints and a few French, to his medical library, and he began to practice medicine in Hallowell. Vaughan's entire library is said to have been the largest in New England with the exception of Harvard's.

Benjamin Vaughan annotated his medical books with occasional critical comments and cross-references, but mainly his notes are digests of medical information contained within the books along with extensive indices. The nature of these annotations suggests an interest in easy retrieval of the information, most probably as an aid to his medical practice.

Almost all of the books have Vaughan's autograph ownership signature and/or his engraved bookplate. A few books have his father's (Samuel) engraved bookplate and/or signature, or that of one of his brothers. (A small number of books have found their way into the collection in the 19th century, particularly a few books of Dr. Daniel Cony of Augusta and about a dozen books given as a gift to the Vaughan Library in 1861.) Most of the books contain Benjamin Vaughan's annotations.

The collection is rich in books which treat the medical problems of primary concern in Vaughan's day: inoculation, fevers, epidemics, and cholera. Other subjects which are prominently represented include: plague, gout, urinary tract disorders, climatic medicine, pharmacopoeias, surgery, pediatrics, military medicine, ophthalmology, anatomy and physiology, ulcers, and diseases of the West-Indies. Some of the collection's highlights include: the first edition in English of Beer; two editions of Joseph Black's dissertation; the first edition of Cheyne on Gout; the first edition of Clarke on Disease of Children; the first appearance of James Gregory's Conspectus Medicinae Theoreticae (1780); Harvey's Opera Omnia (1766); the second (first complete) edition of Hunter On Teeth; the first edition of Hunter on Animal Aeconomy; the second (first complete) edition of Jenner; the first edition in English of Larrey's Military Surgery; Rush's edition, with his presentation inscription, of Pringle's Disease of the Army; the first edition in English of Scheele's discovery of oxygen; the first edition, presentation copy with Vaughan letter laid-in, of Thacher's On Hydrophobia; the first edition of Towne's Diseases in the West-Indies; the first edition of Vetch's Ophthalmia; and the first edition of Watt on Chincough. Other authors represented include: Bard, Bell, Blackwell, Brodie, Carpe, Cleghorn, Cox, Crawford, Fothergill, Haller, Hewson, Hosack, LeDran, Lind, Musgrave, North, Smellie, Tissot, Wardrop, White, etc.

In the hand-list binding and condition have not been noted. It appears that for more than a century these books have not been attended to, and consequently many are in need of binding repair. A large number of volumes are uncut and in original boards. Many of these are in need of new backstips. Of the books which are in contemporary leather bindings, many require rehinging or rebacking. In a few cases covers are lacking. An effort has been made in evaluating the collection to allow for appropriate repairs. Further details are available on request.

Price for the Collection: $50,000.


6. ANDREW, JOHN. The practice of inoculation impartially considered. Exeter, (1765). [FIRST EDITION. [Not in Wellcome or NLM.


9. ASSALINI, P. Observations on the plague, on dysentery, ophthalmym of Egypt, on yellow fever of Cadiz and the description and plan of an hospital. New York, 1806. [FIRST AMER. EDITION. [Austin 89.

10. BAGLIVI, GEORGII. Opera omnia. Leyden, 1710. [SEVENTH EDITION. [NLM (18th C.), p.27.


14. [BARKER, JOHN]. An account of the present epidemical distemper amongst the black cattle. London, 1745. [FIRST EDITION. [Wellcome II.100. Not in NLM.


17. BECLARD, P.A. Additions to the general anatomy of Xavier Bichat. Boston, 1823. [FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH. [Cordasco 20-0061.


20. [BELL, BENJAMIN]. Extract from Bell's system of surgery... by Nicholas B. Waters. Phila., 1806. [THIRD EDITION. [Austin 175.

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31. BLACKALL, JOHN. Observations on the nature and cure of dropsies...To which is added an appendix containing several cases of angina pectoris. London, 1814. [I] SECOND EDITION. [I] This ed. not in Wellcome. G-M 2209, citing 1st ed. but noting the 2nd ed. as more important than the first. Bedford Cat., no. 612.


42. BUCKINGHAM, J.S. Evidence on drunkenness presented to the house of commons. London, 1834. [I] FIRST EDITION.


60. COCKBURN, WILLIAM. Some observations of the power and efficacy of a medicine against loose-ness, bloody fluxes, etc. London, 1757. [I] FIRST EDITION. [I] NLM (18th C.), p.92. This ed. not in Wellcome.

61. COLLIGNON, CHARLES. An enquiry into the structure of the human body relative to its supposed influence on the morals of mankind. Cambridge, 1771. [I] THIRD EDITION. [I] This ed. not in Wellcome. NLM (18th C.), p.92.


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<th>#</th>
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<td>An experimental enquiry into the effects of tonics and other medicinal substances on the cohesion of the animal fibre.</td>
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<td>DOSSIE, ROBERT.</td>
<td>An essay on spirituous liquors with regard to their effects on health.</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>DUNCAN, ANDREW.</td>
<td>Medical cases, selected from the records of the public dispensary at Edinburgh: with remarks and observations.</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
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<td>A complete treatise on the origin, theory and cure of the lues venerea and obstructions in the urethra.</td>
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Note: The text contains references to various editions, publications, and notes on publication history.
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*Note: The above list includes the title, author, location, and relevant edition information for the specified medical texts.*


131. JACKSON, JAMES. Cases of cholera collected at Paris... in the wards of Mm. Andral and Louis... Boston, 1832. [I] FIRST EDITION. Presentation Copy. [I] Cordasco 30-0509. Not in Waller, Wellcome, Osler, Cushing, Orr, Reynolds, Dawson Cat. 91, Heirs.


139. JOHNSON, JAMES. A treatise on derangements of the liver, internal organs and nervous system. Phila., 1825. [I] FIRST AMER. EDITION. [I] Cordasco 20-0341.


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151. LIND, JAMES. An essay on the most effectual means of preserving the health of seamen in the Royal Navy. And a dissertation of fevers and infection. Together with observations on the jail distemper... London, 1778. [I FIRST COMBINED EDITION. | This ed. not Wellcome or NLM.

152. THE LONDON PRACTICE OF PHYSIC. London, 1792. [I FIFTH EDITION. | This ed. not in Wellcome. NLM (18th C.), p.276.

153. LORIOT, M. A practical essay on a cement and artificial stone justly supposed to be that of the Greeks and Romans. London, 1777. [I THIRD EDITION.


156. MANN, ARIEL. Address to Medical Society of Maine. Bath, 1823. [I FIRST EDITION. | Not in Cordasco.


158. [MASS. MEDICAL SOC.]. The acts of incorporation of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Salem, 1806. [I FIRST EDITION. | Austin 1216. Includes in addition, "Medical papers" & "Medical communications" by members which might originate from Austin 1221.

159. [MASS. MEDICAL SOC.]. Acts of incorporation... Boston, 1816. [I Austin 1217.

160. [MASS. MEDICAL SOC.]. Report on spasmodic cholera. Boston, 1832. [I FIRST EDITION.


163. MEADE, WILLIAM. Experimental enquiry into the chemical properties and medicinal qualities of the principal mineral waters of Ballston and Saratoga. Phila., 1817. [I FIRST EDITION. | Austin 1246.


165. MEDICAL ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS. Published by a Society in Edinburgh: Edinburgh, 1771. [I Vols. 1-6. FIFTH EDITION. | This ed. not in NLM. G-M 3422 (citing 1st ed., 1733 of vol.1 containing paper by Calder).


206. SCUDAMORE, CHARLES. Cases illustrating and confirming the remedial power of the inhalation of iodine and conium in tubercular phthisis... London, 1834. [SECOND EDITION. ]


211. SMITH, NATHAN. Medical and surgical memoirs. Baltimore, 1831. [FIRST EDITION. ]


220. TIMBREL, WILLIAM H. Practical observations on the management of ruptures... Boston, 1809. [I] FIRST AMER. EDITION. [I] Austin 1910.


224. TOWNSEND, JOSEPH. Elements of therapeutics. London, 1801. [I] THIRD EDITION.


---

Arnold, Thomas, m.d. Observations on... Insanity, lucidity, or madness.

V. 2


V. 4

Philosophy of medicine: or, medical extracts on the nature of health and disease (fourth edition) V. 2. London 1799.

Miller, James, F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E. The Principles of Surgery.

Philadelphia, 1856

British Medical Journal edited by Ernest Hart London

1877 v. 2
1878 v. 2
1884 v. 2
1883 v. 1
1882 v. 1 v. 1
Des Hallucinations no title page

Swieten, Baron van - Commentaries upon Boerhave's
v.1 v.9 Aphorisms concerning the knowledge and cure of diseases.
v.16 v.14 (Found under Boerhave H. on page 4)

Durant - Memoirs and select remains of an only son.

Adams, Joseph m.D. - Philosophical Treatise on the Hereditary
peculiarities of the human race.

De Haen, Antonii - Praetentiones in Hermanni Boerhanve - V.1

Rush, Benjamin, M.D. - Works of Thomas Sydenham, M.D. on acute
and Chronic diseases.

Crichton, Alexander, m.D. - Inquiry into the nature and origin of
mental derangement.

Hale, E. Jr, M.D. - History and description of an epidemic fever commonly
called spotted fever.

Leuret, F. - Traitement Moral De La Folie

Guislain, Joseph - Traite Sur L'Alienation Mentale et sur
les Hospices Des Alienes.

New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery Jan. 1818 v.7 no.10
(Often)

Observations on the scarlatina Anginoso, or sore throat.

Letters on the Union Canal of Pennsylvania.

Observations on the Scarlatina, Anginoso, or Sore Throat. (Folder)

Letters of the Union Canal of Pennsylvania. (Folder)

Letters and Essays on ... of the West Indies

Medical Extracts on the nature of Health and Disease v.1, 3, 4, 5

Essays and Observations, Physical and Literary v.3. v.2

Medical Observations and Inquiries. v.3, v. 2 + v.1

Lewes D. - The New Dispensatory

Sharps, J. B. Report from the Committee of the House of Commons on
Madhouses in England.
Dunlopison, Robley - A Dictionary of Medical Science
Miller, James - The Practice of Surgery
Histoire Generale De La Chine v.2
Tyrrell, Frederick - Lectures of Sir Astley Cooper practice of Surgery v.1, v.2
Bell, Charles and John - Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Body v.1
Louis, Ch. A. - Anatomical, Pathological and Therapeutic Researches on the Disease v.1 of Gastro-Enteritis
Lancet for 1842-43 vol. 2.
Eberle, John M.D. - Treatise on the practice of Medicine v.1, v.2
Gross, Samuel D., M.D. - Elements of Pathological Anatomy v.2
Todd, Robert Bentley - Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of man
Spurzheim, J.G., M.D. - Physiognomical System.
LETTERS OF BENJAMIN VAUGHN TO BENJAMIN RUSH
Hallowell, District of Maine to Philadelphia

Manuscript Correspondence of Benjamin Rush UV18, found at the

November 10, 1798 (MSS 39)
Copy of a letter sent to Professor Mitchell of New York,
containing a copy of a letter that Benjamin Vaughn wrote to
Dr. Priestly on the question of phlogiston.

November 11, 1798 (MSS 40)
Correction of the previous letter.
"I have suggested to the Boston bookseller through a friend,
that Dr. Curries book may probably succeed in American
edition."
Notes that he sent the correction to Dr. Mitchell also.

December 31, 1798 (MSS 41)
"I have taken pains in this state to draw attention to the
subject of the late pestilence, and to have it noticed in
Congress."

February 17, 1799 (MSS 42)
Dr. Vaughn asked for the latest edition of "your Medical
Inquiries," Dr. Mitchell on Contagion, Dr. Hosack's account
of fever, and other American works on the subject of modern
fever. "What is sent to me will, by me, be communicated
through the neighborhood. Though the post be shut to us, we
must employ the stages in private channels." "If it will
save you trouble, I will gladly pay the expense of
amanuensis for your own remarks, which probably will not be
very long."

April 29, 1799 (MSS 43)
"Why Dear Sir, confine "your family physician" to the common
"domestic remedies of the United States," and not comprehend
all the remedies easily obtainable here."

June 22, 1799 (MSS 44, p. 3)
"As to Dr. Brown, when I attended lectures at Edinburgh
1780-81, he was in the height of disrepute for drinking and
irreligion and for manners as vulgar as they were
profligate."
July 28, 1799 (MSS 45)

August 2, 1799 (MSS 46)

August 14, 1799 (MSS 48)

November 30, 1799 (MSS 50)

February 22, 1800 (MSS 52)

March 1, 1800 (MSS 53)

April 18, 1801 (MSS 54)

June 21, 1801 (MSS 55, p. 3)

"Bleeding is now in such repute in our town, that our patients send to the doctor not for his advice, but to be blooded."

December 19, 1803 (MSS 56)

January 10, 1804 (MSS 57)

Mentions W. Gorham "having inclinations for the medical profession."

July 8, 1806 (MSS 58)

August 19, 1806 (MSS 59)

 Tells of a letter that he wrote to Mr. Jefferson proposing a weekly literary and philosophical paper.

November 4, 1806 (MSS 60)

February 20, 1807 (MSS 61)

June 4, 1807 (MSS 64)

October 28, 1807 (MSS 63)

August 16, 1807 (MSS 65)

November 11, 1807 (MSS 66)

December 4, 1807 (MSS 67)
October 21, 1985

to: Garrell S. Mullaney, Superintendent, AMHL

from: J. Gary Nichols, State Librarian

subj.: Storage of the Vaughan collection

Replying to your memo of October 15: I agree that it is unwise to expose the Vaughan collection to further environmental damage. While there is no really good environment locally for the books at the moment, you may be aware that major environmental control planning and installation is underway here in this building, with completion in the Spring of 1986 projected or, at the latest, October 1986 according to earlier guestimates.

We have some room in our "Safe", which is a security area in which our most valuable maps, manuscripts, rare books, etc. are kept under highly restricted access. Given that we will have environmental control soon, the Safe is the best storage location that comes to mind, and I would be willing to store the Vaughan collection there pending the final resolution of the collection's long term management.

Please let me know if you wish to proceed with this option.

cc: Commissioner Robert E. Booze, Educational and Cultural Services
Paul Rivard, Maine State Museum
Donald Wismer, Coordinator of Public Services, Maine State Library
Editorials

The old AMHI books and Maine’s heritage

All’s well that ends well. The old medical books from the Augusta Mental Health Institute which were sold (contrary to established state procedure) to a private collector, who subsequently resold them to an out-of-state book dealer, are back in Maine.

Although several facts about the sale raised suspicions, the state decided not to pursue a civil complaint because the books were returned, with the collection enhanced by a catalogue. There can be no quarreling with that result. Yet the tale of the books points out something more significant about the state’s historical artifacts and documents, and about their proper treatment.

The medical books, originally part of the estate of Dr. Benjamin Vaughan of Hallowell, who died in 1835, were housed at AMHI in what Supt. Garrell Mullaney termed a “deteriorating” condition. He approved their sale to Charles Robinson, a local psychologist, for $2500, without seeking bids. Robinson subsequently resold them to a Massachusetts book dealer for $25,000, and the collection was ultimately appraised at more than $50,000. The state certainly got much less than full value, which undoubtedly played a part in their voluntary return. More to the point, the state was seemingly unaware that the books possessed significant value.

The irony is that, save for Mullaney’s ill-advised action, the books might still be mouldering away at AMHI. And if some of Dr. Vaughan’s heirs hadn’t been around to protest, they might have already been dispersed. Now, returned to the custody of the attorney general, they will presumably find a more appropriate home.

The books obviously possess historical significance beyond their monetary value, though that is considerable, too. Yet that value was recognized only when they were in danger of being lost.

How many other historical assets of note does Maine have, in similar circumstances? There is a lesson here beyond the obvious one that proper procedures be followed whenever the state is selling something. Maine state government also needs to be more aware of the frequently priceless objects and historical documents entrusted to its care, and to be more vigilant in their preservation for succeeding generations, who will want to know about their past.

Peace in Je

FRANKFURT, Germany — While everybody else was absorbed with the backlash of terrorism in the never-ending Arab-Israeli conflict, a poignant ceremony took place here Sunday morning.

Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem, was awarded the prestigious annual Peace Prize of the Association of German Publishers. Manfred Rommel, the mayor of Stuttgart and son of Erwin Rommel, the World War II German commander famed as the “Desert Fox,” delivered the speech of tribute on the historic but austere Paulskirche.

The profound symbolism of the event was clear to all. Teddy, as everyone called him, scornfully looked his usually rumpled, casual, impetuous self. He wore a dark suit with a vest and dark tie, his hair neatly brushed, his face solemnly composed. But he was himself.

Candid as ever, he told the audience he had wondered, “after all that has happened in Germany,” whether “a Jew and an Israeli can accept this prize.” But he decided that reconciliation and the idea of peace must take precedence over the past. For his wife, Tamar, and his daughter Osnat, it was the first visit to Germany. Born in Vienna in 1911, Teddy was a youthful Zionist who went early to Palestine.

He had chosen Rommel to present

Puerto Rico ignored
In reference to the editorial of Oct. 17, 1985, "The Old AMHI books and Maine's heritage.

The concern expressed in this article about the preservation of priceless objects and historical documents entrusted to state agencies is one shared by the State Library. We have long been aware of the rapid deterioration of these materials. Action in response to this problem and environmental controls will be installed in the Cultural Building this year, but much more is needed. Legislation has been drafted to appropriate necessary funds earmarked for the preservation of historically valuable collections throughout the state and requesting funding to assist with this effort.