

## *News, Notes, and Queries*

### Colloquium 'The Body, a Historical Category'

Lausanne, 1–2 December 2000

A few decades ago, the body came back with a vengeance as the inevitable figure of any discourse in human sciences. In one form or another, the body seems to have invaded the entire network of our social and cultural preoccupations: in literary genealogies as well as major trends in visual arts, in political issues as well as technological and scientific developments. The aim of this colloquium is to open questions such as: "What have been and what are the systems and models of the body?" and "How is the body to be grasped and deciphered in its multiple historical movements?"

Organized jointly by the Institut romand d'histoire de la médecine et de la

santé and the Faculties of Letters of the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva, this colloquium will be the occasion of meetings and discussions, across traditional academic disciplines, of some of the most stimulating interpreters of the body today, physiologists, historians, anthropologists, philosophers, art historians, sociologists and others. The official languages will be English and French. For further information contact: Guillemette Bolens, Vincent Barras, Andrea Carlino, Institut universitaire d'histoire de la médecine, 1 chemin des Falaises, CH-1005 Lausanne (Tel.: 21-314-7050; fax: 21-314-7055.)

### Research Resumes at the Bakken Library and Museum

The Bakken's recent expansion and renovation project has resulted in improvements that have significantly enhanced library and museum storage, access, and services. Completed in 1999, the \$6 million project doubled the total size of the Bakken and included the construction of two new classrooms, an education workshop, three exhibition galleries and an aquarium for electric fish. A beautiful new reading room was added to the south end of the original building, and two existing adjacent library rooms were also renovated and rearranged. Together with the new reading room, they constitute a quieter, better organized library suite that for the first time permits direct access of researchers to the entire secondary and reference collections. A photocopy machine has also been added, for more convenient duplication services.

The focus of the Bakken's collections is the history of electricity and magnetism and their applications in the life sciences and medicine. Related materials include mesmerism and animal magnetism, nineteenth-century ephemera concerning alternative electromedical therapies, miscellaneous scientists' letters, and trade catalogues. The instruments include electrostatic generators, magneto-electric generators, induction coils, physiological instruments, recording devices, and accessories. The Bakken offers Visiting Research Fellowships for the purpose of facilitating research in its collection of over 11,000 books, journals, manuscripts, and prints, as well as more than 2,000 scientific instruments.

A catalogue of books and manuscripts, as well as information on research fellowships may be found on the Bakken's

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web site, or at no charge by contacting the Librarian. To receive information about conducting research at the Bakken, contact Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian, at, [ihrig@thebakken.org](mailto:ihrig@thebakken.org). Or you may call 612-926-3878, ext. 227, or send your

request, along with your name and mailing address to: Elizabeth Ihrig, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4623. Appointments are recommended in order to ensure the best service.

### **Bakken visiting Research Fellowships**

The Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers visiting research fellowships for the purpose of facilitating scholarly research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, prints, and instruments. The fellowship is a maximum of \$1,300 and is to be used to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of

residence is one week. The deadline for the next year is 1 February 2001. For further details contact: David J Rhee, Executive Director, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416, USA. (Tel.: 612-926-3878, ext. 213; fax: 612-927-7265; e-mail: [rhees@thebakken.org](mailto:rhees@thebakken.org); [www.thebakken.org](http://www.thebakken.org)).

### **The Estes Award**

This award, established in honour of J Worth Estes, will be made annually for the best published paper in the history of pharmacology during the previous two years, whether appearing in a journal or a book collection of papers. The choice of topic reflects Worth Estes' long tenure as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Boston University and his own scholarship in the history of pharmacology.

For the purpose of this award, the history of pharmacology will be broadly defined to include ancient and traditional materia medica, folk medicines, herbal medicines, the pharmaceuticals and medications of the modern era, pharmaceuticals, and the like. It shall encompass the discovery of medicaments, basic investigations regarding them, their characteristics and properties, their preparation, and their therapeutic applications.

While the Committee will be monitoring relevant journals and books where such papers might appear, they welcome nominations of papers that would be eligible for consideration. The nomination should consist of a letter citing the work nominated, along with a copy of the paper. For the current award, candidate papers will be those published in 1999 and 2000. Nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Committee: Dr John Parascandola, Public Health Service Historian, 18–23 Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, USA. Nominations must be received by the Committee Chair by 16 January 2001. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the AAHM in the form of a written acknowledgement. As a result of a generous contribution in honour of Worth Estes from one of our members, the award will be accompanied by a check for \$500.

## New York Academy of Medicine Research Fellowships in the Academy Library

The Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine (for a scholar in residence), and the Audrey and William H Helfand Fellowship in the Medical Humanities are awarded each year. Both fellowships provide stipends of up to \$5,000 to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for a flexible period between 1 June 2001 and 31 May 2002. Besides completing research or a creative project, each Fellow will be expected to make a presentation at the Academy and submit a final report on the project. Applications are invited from anyone—regardless of citizenship, academic discipline, or academic status—who wishes to use the Academy's collections for historical research or for a scholarly or creative project in the medical humanities. Preference will be given to (1) those who show the need to use resources that are uniquely available at the Academy, and (2) scholars or creative artists in the early stages of their careers. Applicants may compete for either the Klemperer or the Helfand Fellowship, but

not both. Applications must be received by the Academy by 5 February 2001; candidates will be informed of the results by 31 May 2001.

More information on the fellowship programmes is available on the World Wide Web at [www.nyam.org/history/libfell.html](http://www.nyam.org/history/libfell.html). The application form and instructions for completing it are available at [www.nyam.org/history/histinstr.html](http://www.nyam.org/history/histinstr.html). Potential applicants for either fellowship are advised to visit the Academy website ([www.nyam.org](http://www.nyam.org)) to acquaint themselves further with the Academy and its library. When using the online catalogue of the Academy Library, please be aware that entries for a considerable portion of the collections have not yet been converted to electronic form. Requests for application forms or further information should be addressed to: Office of the Associate Librarian for Historical Collections and Programs, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029, USA. Email: [history@nyam.org](mailto:history@nyam.org). Tel.: 212-822-7314.