

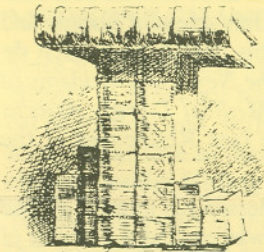
OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

McGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, CANADA

No. 36 – FEBRUARY 1981

THOMAS ARCHIBALD MALLOCH (1887-1953)

Disciple of Osler and staunch friend of the Osler Library



Thomas Archibald Malloch was born in Hamilton, Ontario, the son of Dr. Archibald Edward Malloch (1844-1919), through whom the young Malloch became a disciple of Osler. The elder Malloch and Osler were close friends for almost fifty years. They first met when Os-

ler, still a medical undergraduate, went to Hamilton to see a case of trichinosis with the older physician. Their friendship flourished until 1919, the year in which both Osler and the elder Malloch died. Archibald Edward Malloch published little and so did not become widely known in his lifetime, but he played a distinguished role in Canadian surgery. He had taken his medical course at the University of Glasgow, was chosen by Joseph Lister as his house surgeon, and, on return to Canada, was a pioneer in the introduction of antiseptic surgery to this country.

In view of the friendship between Osler and the elder Malloch, it was natural for Osler to take an interest in the son, especially when he learned that Thomas Archibald had entered medicine at McGill University, Osler's alma mater. Malloch received his medical degree from McGill in 1913 and embarked on further training as intern and resident pathologist and bacteriologist in Montreal. However this was interrupted by the outbreak of World War One, whereupon Malloch joined the Canadian Red Cross and, with the help of Sir William Osler, obtained a posting overseas.

In the account of Dr. Malloch's scrap-book of World War One in the October 1980 issue of the *Newsletter*, Dr. T.A. Malloch's son has related his father's experiences in that conflict and there is no need to repeat the details in this article. But one important achievement of that period is not mentioned in connection with the scrap-book and so is included here. One of Malloch's overseas postings was to a convalescent hospital at Burley-on-the-Hill in England. This was the ancestral home of the Finch family and Sir William Osler was quick to suggest to Malloch that he undertake a study of a friendship involving Sir John Finch (1626-1682). Malloch followed Osler's advice and, in 1917, published the results of his research in a book entitled *Finch and Baines: a seventeenth century friendship*. The last paragraph of Malloch's preface to this book is worth quoting because it illustrates so well the manner in which Osler be-

The October 1980 issue of the *Osler Library Newsletter* presented an article on Dr. Thomas Archibald Malloch's scrap-book of the 1914-18 War. This has stimulated several readers to suggest that they would welcome further information about Dr. Malloch with special emphasis on his relationships to Osler and the Osler Library. The leading article in this issue has been written in response to this suggestion.

friendied and encouraged a host of young men and women. Malloch wrote, "... to Sir Wm. Osler I owe a great debt of gratitude for his influence, which has been a continual stimulus. I have gone to him in every difficulty that has confronted me in this work, and in spite of the immense demands on his time he has ever proved to be, as he has been called before, 'The young man's friend.' "

After the war, Malloch took up post-graduate studies in London and, in December 1919, he joined the Osler household at Oxford as one of the attending physicians until Sir William's death. Then came his closest association with what might be called the world of Osleriana. He assisted Dr. Francis in the cataloguing of Osler's library and was one of the editors of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*. But he did more than this. Between spells of working on the catalogue, Malloch arranged and had bound, with annotations in his own hand concerning provenance, all of Osler's manuscripts found after his death. He also made a collection of Sir William's more ephemeral writings by obtaining back numbers of the various journals in which they appeared, a painstaking task. It must have become quite clear to all concerned that the Osler Library, when it came to McGill, would be greatly in his debt.

During this period at the Open Arms in Oxford, there was one incident, trivial perhaps, but worth recording since, as far as I am aware, it has not been published previously. It was described by Dr. Francis in two places – "Showman's Patter" (Francis' dictated description of books in the Osler Library) and a typewritten note pasted on a flyleaf of the Osler Library's copy of *Finch and Baines*. While Francis and Malloch were working together on the catalogue at Oxford, Malloch designed a book-plate for himself by copying the border of the device of Caxton, the first English printer (Figure 1). When he received the plates from the Oxford University Press and had finished admiring them, an extraordinary coincidence occurred. He turned to a shelf and took down a book which he had previously been on his way to fetch when interrupted by the sight of his book-plate. The book was Champion's *Art of Descant...* (*Bibl. Osl.* 4649). He opened it and could scarcely believe his eyes when he saw in it the book-plate of a certain W.H.C.* with the same border (Figure 2). As Francis remarked, it took all the gilt off his gingerbread.

*Wm. Haymans Cummings (1831-1915)

The decorated letter on this page is reproduced from *Le-Livre Moderne: Revue du Monde littéraire et des Bibliophiles contemporains*, publiée par Octave Uzanne, Paris, vol. 2, 1890 (*Bibl. Osl.* 7169).



T.A. Malloch's book-plate



W.H.C. book-plate in *Campion's Art of Descant* (Bibl. Osl. 4649)

There was another incident of the same period at Oxford, one so vastly more important than the book-plate, that it probably should not be called an incident. Malloch met a grand-niece of Sir William Osler, Katharine Elizabeth Abbott; two years later they were married.

To resume the story of Malloch's professional career, he returned to Montreal in 1923 and served briefly on the staffs of the McGill Medical Faculty and the Royal Victoria Hospital. He soon realized that his defective hearing was becoming a serious handicap and he decided to devote himself to medical librarianship, work for which he was eminently suited. Appointed Librarian to the New York Academy of Medicine in 1925, he continued in that post until his resignation due to ill health in 1949. His outstanding contributions to the growth of that splendid library and to many related projects during this period have been described in issues of the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* and the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* and will not be repeated here (see References at the end of this article).

His removal to New York did not lessen his interest and concern for the Osler Library. He was elected a Curator of the Osler Library and was present at the first meeting of the Board of Curators held on May 29th, 1929. Indeed, apart from the representative of the Osler family, he was the first elected Curator, the others being *ex-officio*. Between 1929 and 1947 he attended every meeting of the Board except one – seventeen in all. After 1947 severe and prolonged illness prevented him from making the journey to Montreal from New York. In addition, over those years in New York, Malloch and Francis maintained a voluminous correspondence helpful to both libraries.

The Osler Library was, of course, Malloch's main interest at McGill but he never lost an opportunity to serve his alma mater in other ways. There was one instance in which Malloch's advice had far-reaching effects which perhaps no one could have anticipated. In 1927 Dr. E.W. Archibald, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Department of Surgery at McGill, was looking for someone to take charge of his newly-established Sub-Department of Neurosurgery. On a visit to New York he dropped in to the New York Academy of Medicine for a chat with his friend Malloch. In the course of their conversation Malloch said he knew a young neurosurgeon in New York who might be interested in going to Montreal. He advised Archibald to get in touch with him and Archibald took his advice. The neurosurgeon's name was Wilder Penfield.

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E.H. Bensley

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE CHANGES ITS NAME

Since its inception in 1966, the McGill Department of the History of Medicine has witnessed major changes in medical education, and, with them, a gradual transformation of its own mandate so that, today, it involves a number of disciplines besides History.

The full-time staff of the Department now includes not only two historians, but a sociologist and an anthropologist. Besides teaching courses through the respective departments in the Arts Faculty in all of these subjects, members of the Department have primary responsibility for several courses in the core curriculum of the medical school—Behaviour, Medical Ethics and Jurisprudence, History of Medicine, and the Social Aspects of Medicine—along with various offerings in elective and options programs on these and related subjects. To help with these various teaching commitments, an associate professor of medical law, an associate professor of religion in medicine, and an associate member with degrees in both philosophy and theology are also attached to the Department. Research in the Department similarly reflects this breadth of subject matter.

In view of this expansion of the responsibilities of the Department, a change of name seemed desirable. The new name, approved by the Board of Governors in December 1980, is Department of Humanities and Social Studies in Medicine.

History is, and will continue to be, a central interest of the Department. This is assured not only by the presence of the Osler Library, which is solely devoted to History, but also because of a fully endowed Chair—the Thomas F. Cotton Chair of the History of Medicine. Besides, the Department believes that history is of great importance to the other subjects which it helps to integrate in a way which is meaningful to physicians and medical students.

Don G. Bates, Chairman
Department of Humanities and
Social Studies in Medicine

Editorial Committee for the *Newsletter*: E.H. Bensley, Editor; Philip Teigen, Osler Librarian.

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THE DOZINGHEM CEMETERY

The October 1980 issue of the *Osler Library Newsletter* contained a photograph bearing the following legend— "A view of a part of the Dozinghem Cemetery where Revere Osler was buried." This came from the Osler Library archives but no record of its source could be found at the time. Since then we have learned that this photograph was taken in January 1965 by Dr. Robert A. Devloo of the Mayo Clinic and the print sent to the Osler Library by Dr. Thomas E. Keys.

MADLINE EARLE STANTON

The Osler Library has received the sad news of the death on October 25th last of Madeline Earle Stanton, formerly Librarian of the Historical Collections of the Yale Medical Library. Miss Stanton was a good friend to Dr. Francis and the Osler Library. She was one of the contributors to the volume *W.W. Francis: Tributes from his friends*, published by the Osler Society of McGill University in 1956. Her tribute, entitled "A Bouquet for Bill," was beautifully worded, perceptive, and highly imaginative. I well remember the joy we felt when we read her manuscript. She was a good friend not only to Francis but also to all of us who were involved in any way with the Osler Library. I recall with pleasure the warmth with which she received me when I visited Yale as Beaumont Lecturer in 1962. She was well known as librarian and historian. She was also well known as a great lady.

E.H. Bensley

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