

OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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The Tudor and Stuart Collection

Books, literary and scientific, were Sir William Osler's second vocation. His first purchase was the Globe Shakespeare, but most of his early collecting efforts, as a student and young doctor in Canada, went toward the development of a working library. In Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Oxford, he added more English literature. He was a generous collector, and libraries in every city where he lived benefited from his gifts. The Bibliotheca Osleriana, his famous collection in the history of medicine, is now at McGill University in Montreal, while the English literature collection he and his son began to develop is the foundation of the Tudor and Stuart collection at Hopkins.

Edward Revere Osler was born in Baltimore in 1895 and killed in Belgium in 1917. He was not much attracted to reading as a child, and when he was 13 his father wrote to a friend: "butterflies, fish and sketching are [Revere's] special fancies. He will never do much with his books." Four years later a change had come about, and Osler wrote proudly: "Revere ... sent in his first bid to Sotheby's, £1 for Landor's *Pericles and Aspasia* and got it!" Revere's new interest developed rapidly and although influenced by his father, he became a knowledgeable collector in his own right. He began to focus on works of the Tudor and Stuart period.

After his death his parents thought of making a memorial gift and because of their happy years in Baltimore selected Hopkins to receive it. Osler had been impressed with the Elizabethan Club at Yale and thought a similar one would be useful here. On October 30, 1918, Osler wrote to President Goodnow that he was giving the University Revere's books and his own in English literature, and setting up a fund to support a club in the English Department which would encourage the study of Tudor and Stuart literature. The interest of the fund was to be spent on books of the period, and to "promote good fellowship and love of literature among the members," who were to include undergraduates as well as graduate students and faculty. Osler also suggested honorary members from among his own friends.

Osler died in 1919, and the first and largest group of the books which he intended to be the "nucleus of the Club library" did not arrive from Oxford until 1922. It was accompanied by a typewritten handlist with the title Bibliotheca E. R. O. A second, smaller



Revere Osler

group was sent after Lady Osler's death in 1928. There were about 750 books altogether, and each book has a bookplate which Revere had designed and etched for his collection. It shows a Gothic window with the arms of Christ Church College, Oxford, where he was a student, and fishing tackle and woodworkers' tools, for Revere did not abandon his earlier interests when he discovered books. He was artistic, a good amateur cabinetmaker, and a fisherman of real skill. The collection includes a few titles on prints and furniture and a substantial and interesting group on fishing. Revere read the books he collected and once used a new fishhook as a bookmark. He had several editions of *The Compleat Angler*. A facsimile of the first edition, the gift of a family friend, contains the record of Revere's first salmon, caught in Scotland in August 1913. The fish weighed 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds and was the main course of a dinner at the Culag Hotel, Lochinver, the next day. Revere pasted the menu, signed by his guests, and decorated with the fly he used to catch the salmon, inside the front cover of the book.

Both Revere and his father often wrote in their books, and pasted or laid letters and clippings in them. It is possible to trace the growth of this very personal collection through its inscriptions and memorabilia, which reveal in many cases who owned a

particular book and illustrate the different personalities of the two collectors. Revere enjoyed bibliographical minutiae. His copies of George Herbert's *The Temple* and *A Priest to the Temple* have lists of other editions and their formats in his tiny, legible handwriting. Osler took a personal interest in his favorite authors. He particularly liked Shelley and owned first editions including a copy of *Queen Mab*, 1813, signed by the poet, but also many biographical and critical studies. He cut articles and reviews from journals and had them bound in groups, together with ephemera such as the program of the first performance of *The Cenci*. His copy of the first *Keats-Shelley Bulletin* has a tipped-in letter reminding him that he had offered to contribute to the maintenance of the poets' graves in Rome. Osler also liked Keats and wrote an essay on his medical studies. Other favorite authors were Fuller, Donne, and Milton.

Both collectors put catalogue clippings in their books. They bought at auctions and from a variety of dealers. In May 1914 Revere found a copy of *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* "for 2d at the Norwich Book Stall."

Revere entered Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1914, but withdrew at the end of the year and on February 24, 1915, joined a Canadian military hospital unit in England. Just before leaving home he played a bibliographic joke on his father. The Oslers had been amused by accounts of the "Fortsas Catalogue," a famous hoax which deceived a number of Continental collectors. Disguising his handwriting as much as he could, Revere wrote a letter to himself, signed with the name of a bookseller in Norwich, offering rare books for sale from the collection of "Elias Brumley," an old bibliophile, recently deceased, who had lived over the bookseller's shop. There were six items, described in tempting detail and reasonably priced. Revere briefly fooled a friend of his with the letter, but Lady Osler was so completely taken in that Revere was embarrassed and when he confessed that Brumley and his books were a fiction, she was disappointed. They decided to try the joke on Sir William, who was ready to go to Norwich the next day until he noticed weakness in the description of No. 5, a manuscript of Avicenna, and burst out laughing. "You young scoundrel!" he said. "You've fooled your Dad."

Revere went to France with the Canadian unit later in the year, but felt guilty at being in a protected position when so many his age were in real danger. He joined a British artillery brigade as a lieutenant in the spring of 1916.

In January 1916 Revere began an acquisition book which is now in the Chesney Medical Archives at Hopkins. He noted successes and failures at auctions, prices paid, and gifts given and received. On April 13 he bought, "for Dad," an edition of the *Regimen Sanitatis* "not in Graesse or the Surgeon General's Library." It is now in Montreal. Two days later he paid 11 shillings for "The Art of Angling by R. Brooks. The third edition, MDCCLXX." While in Newcastle-on-Tyne in the summer for training at the Royal Artillery Barracks, he received a copy of the first edition of the "Fortsas Catalogue" as a gift from his father. It is in the collection with the Brumley letter bound in. On October 16 he bought several books with a cousin at Southampton just before sailing for France. At the end of the year he was on the Somme with the 59th Brigade, Battery A, of the Royal Artillery and seeing a good deal of action, but he did not forget his collection and in December sent a successful bid for a book by Izaak Walton's friend Charles Cotton from Mouquet Farm on the Somme.

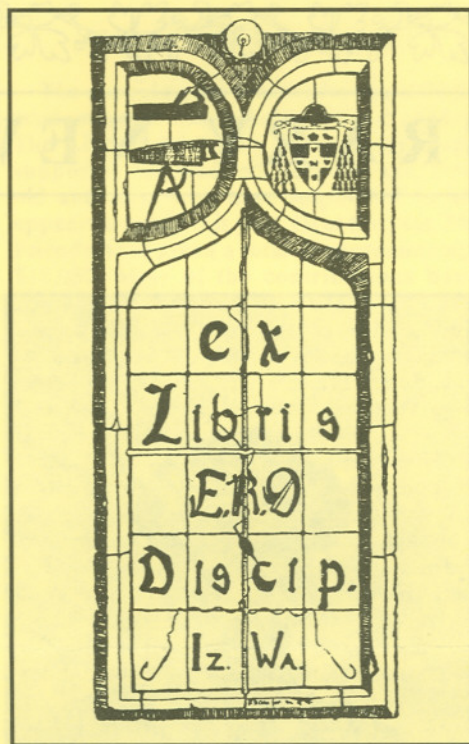
He was back at Oxford on leave in May 1917, made more purchases, and brought his records up to date. There are 73 items in the acquisition book. The final entry, made on May 12, is for a work of John Bunyan: *One Thing is Needful, or Serious Meditations upon the Four Last Things, Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell*.

Revere's battery was near Ypres on August 29. The day had been quiet. With his commanding officer and 18 men, Revere was bridging a shell-hole to enable the guns to be moved forward. A shell no one had heard coming made a direct hit on the group, killing or wounding eight of them. Revere was severely wounded and died the next day.

The new Tudor and Stuart Club established in his memory was not organized until 1922, after the first shipment of books came from England. The first meeting was held on May 11, 1923. Two offices in Gilman Hall were joined to serve as a club room, and Mrs. Robert Brewster of New York, one of the honorary members nominated by Sir William Osler, had it decorated in a Jacobean style with glass-doored bookcases on one wall.

In adding to the collection, the club decided to emphasize Spenser and assembled an excellent group of first and early editions and supporting material. It also bought other early books. For its new acquisitions it adopted a new bookplate, with the Tudor, Stuart, and Hopkins University arms.

Somehow the club's collecting direction was lost over the years when it began to acquire a great deal of 20th-century literature. The collection expanded into an adjoining office before the club stopped buying altogether. When inventories revealed serious losses, some of the books considered most valuable were placed in a safe in the club room, and in 1969 they were sent to the Garrett Library on permanent loan. Also the contents of the room next door were moved to the Eisenhower Library, and only the books in the bookcases, mostly from the Oslers' original gift, remained with the club. In 1983 the Eisenhower Library assumed responsibility for



Revere's bookplate, showing his different interests. He describes himself as a "disciple of Izaak Walton." A plane, saw, and compass are at the top left, Christ Church College arms at the top right, and a fishing line with hooks and floats hangs down from a reel at the top center of the Gothic window.

these last books as well, and standard sets replaced them on the shelves of the club room.

The collection today includes almost 1,500 titles, which are kept in Evergreen House and Special Collections in the Eisenhower Library. The library adds 16th and 17th century English books to the collection using income from a bequest of Lady Osler, and sometimes receives gifts for the collection.

In 1919 Sir William Osler gave Mrs. Brewster three books of poems, by Shelley, Tennyson, and Shakespeare, as a present for her little daughter Sylvia when she would be grown up. He hoped they would eventually be part of "the E. R. Osler Library, Johns Hopkins University." Sylvia kept the books all her life, and last fall her daughter brought them to the Eisenhower Library to join the original Osler gift.

Carolyn Smith
Rare Books Librarian, MSEL
The Johns Hopkins University

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We regret not being able to reproduce two of the original accompanying illustrations, and have substituted our own photo of E.R. Osler for the one that appeared in Ms. Smith's original article.

Thanks to Dr. John P. McGovern

Over the past two years, Dr. John P. McGovern, a member of our Board of Curators, has donated \$25,000 U.S. to be used for the refurbishing of the Osler Library. This most generous gift has enabled us to replace all the carpeting in the Library except for that in the Francis Wing which is still in very good condition. However, the carpets in the Wellcome Camera, Bibliotheca Osleriana, periodicals room, offices and mezzanine had become quite stained and shabby in the 25 years since the Library's opening in 1965. The new carpet is a decided improvement. We were also able to refinish 4 teak study tables, refinish and reupholster 11 chairs and have a replica made of a bronze lamp which had been stolen 6 years ago. We would like to thank Dr. McGovern for this great improvement to the appearance of the Osler Library.

Dr. McGovern has also donated \$5,000 U.S. to be used as a travel fund for the Osler staff. The first recipient was our long-time Selection/ Acquisitions Assistant, Mrs. Zlata Blazina, who used the fund to support her trip to Kingston, Ontario to attend the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of the History of Medicine, where she presented a paper on *Magister Ivan Mednich, Plague Doctor in Renaissance Dubrovnik*.

Osler Library Fellowship

The Selection Committee for the Osler Library Fellowships met in February 1991 and awarded the Student Fellowship to Mr. Mark D. Fox and the Scholar's Fellowship to Dr. Walter J. Vanast. Mark D. Fox is a Fellow of Clinical Ethics at the School of Medicine and Graduate Department of Religion at Vanderbilt University (Theological Ethics) to where he is pursuing an M.D. and Ph.D. He will be in Montreal from June 17-July 14 pursuing his interest in the ethics of character as it relates to the Hippocratic Oath and the practice of medicine. Mr. Fox is particularly interested in researching the evolution of medicine as a moral art and the emergence of the professional identity of the physician during the Greek and Roman eras.

Dr. Vanast is a neurologist who in 1988 gave up his practice in Edmonton to concentrate on studying towards a Ph.D. in the History of Science and Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Vanast will probably be coming to the Osler Library in September to do further study on the underlying medical theories on which governments and missionaries based their response to disease, particularly tuberculosis, among Canada's northern people.

Each year, the Osler Library offers a Student's Fellowship to medical students, and a Scholar's Fellowship to historians and physicians working on research projects appropriate to our collections. A stipend of \$1200 is provided through the endowment fund of the Class of Medicine of 1936, and through the Faculty of Medicine, in order to permit researchers not resident in Montreal to work at the Library. Details of the application procedure are available from Dr. Faith Wallis at the Osler Library, and the deadline for applications is December 31 of each calendar year.

The Unveiling Ceremony for Two Commemorative Stamps Honouring Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. Harold Griffith

On Friday, 15 March 1991, at 10:00 a.m. the Osler Library was the site of the unveiling of two stamps commemorating Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. Harold Griffith.

Dr. Penfield (1891-1976), a world leader in neurological research and neurosurgery, is known to Montrealers as the founder of the Montreal Neurological Institute. His granddaughter, Mrs. Kate Williams, Direc-

tor of McGill's University Relations Office, assisted in unveiling the Penfield stamp.

Dr. Griffith (1894-1985), a former chair of McGill's Department of Anesthesia, is known principally for his introduction in 1942 of the muscle relaxant curare as an anesthetic. Dr. Griffith's widow assisted in the unveiling of the Griffith stamp.

These two stamps were part of a block of four. The other two persons to be honoured were Dr. Jennie Trout, the first Canadian woman licensed to practice medicine in this country, and Sir Frederick Banting, a co-discoverer of insulin.

The Osler Library is honoured to have been chosen for this event, and wishes to thank Canada Post Corporation.



Medical History Club of Ottawa Visited the Osler Library

On April 24, 1991 the MHCO made its second trip, (the first was in 1984), to the Osler Library. Eleven members travelled by train from Ottawa to Montreal, having breakfast on the way. In Montreal they were joined by Dr. R. Forsey. After an enjoyable coffee break in the library lounge, the Club had a tour of the holdings led by Wayne LeBel, Assistant History of Medicine Librarian. Judging by the various discussions that were stimulated by what was seen, the tour was obviously enjoyed by all. Wayne LeBel and Eleanor MacLean, Acting History of

Medicine Librarian during Faith Wallis' sabbatical year, were both able to join the Club for a luncheon in the Board Room of the Montreal General Hospital (MGH). Before returning to the Library for the afternoon lecture series planned by the Club, Dr. Forsey led a history tour of MGH, including some art work of Dr. Tait McKenzie, the subject of one of the afternoon lectures. Only one student from the undergraduate Osler Society was able to attend the lectures because of final examinations. Lectures included *Osler and Tait McKenzie* by Pat Grant; *Osler and veterinary medicine/pathology* by Dr. T. Dukes; *Osler and dermatology* by Dr. R. Forsey; and *Osler's appeal* by Dr. Earle Cooperman. Members of the Club were able to

investigate the Library's holdings after the lectures before having to return to catch the train back to Ottawa and have their Dinner on the return trip.

MHCO members have been gathering regularly since January 1977 in order to discuss topics in the History of Medicine. It is an informal group that meets in members' homes and is composed primarily of physicians with interests in pediatrics, neurology, psychiatry, surgery, dermatology, pathology, and obstetrics and gynecology as well as general medicine both in university and private practices. Several veterinarians who specialized in serology, pathology, virology and regulatory disease control and two medical librarians are also members. Professors for the History of Medicine at the University of Ottawa also participate. The Club has no constitution, no by-laws, and no dues. The only responsibilities of membership are to attend meetings when in town and to host and present some historical medical topic in turn. As well as

member presentations there have been, from time to time invited guest lecturers. Currently there are 25 active members. Meetings are held from September to June, except for December and January. Each year since 1982 there has been an Annual Dinner with an invited guest speaker or a visit to some historical location around Ottawa. The Club's trip to the Osler Library had special significance since few meetings pass without some connection to or remark about Sir William Osler.

Dr. T. W. Dukes



Eleanor MacLean and Dr. Yonezo Nakagawa

Osler Exhibit

On March 27th, Eleanor MacLean, Acting History of Medicine Librarian flew to Osaka, Japan to ensure that a collection of artifacts relating to Sir William Osler arrived safely in Kyoto for exhibition during the 23rd General Assembly of the Japan Medical Congress. It turned out to be a good thing, too, because most of the next day was spent sitting in the Customs office preparing a much more detailed list – and having it translated into Japanese – of what we'd shipped. Among the items were a charcoal sketch of Osler; the grants of his coat-of-arms and baronetcy; a portrait of William Harvey, Thomas Sydenham, and Thomas Linacre; Osler's desk set; fountain pen; paper weight; magnifying glass; scissors; microscope slides he had prepared; letter openers; the remains of his stethoscope (the rubber tubes have rotted away); and a silver cigar box given by him to the McGill Field Hospital staff in France in World War I. The display, along with a collection of blown-up photos, was part of an exhibit on the history of Japanese medicine, Paracelsus and Osler. An odd juxtaposition, perhaps, but Osler's emphasis on patient care is highly regarded in Japan. The exhibit was beautifully mounted in the Museum of Kyoto and attracted nearly 20,000 visitors in the 6 days it was open. After seeing the artifacts safely through customs, I supervised the opening of the crates in the Museum and, at the end of the exhibit, helped pack everything up again for its safe return home. Dr. Yonezo Nakagawa, President of the Congress and a renowned Professor of Medicine and newspaper essayist, was an excellent host for both the conference and for my mother and me during our visit to Kyoto.

Friends of the Osler Library

The appeal to the Friends for the 1990-91 academic year concluded at the end of May. The Library gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from Friends, both old and new, who have responded to the appeal for funds this year. Over the year, 364 Friends have given a total of approximately \$18,057. Most of the contributions have come from Friends in Canada and the United States of America. However, very welcome contributions have come also from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and West Indies.

Dr. P. G. Ashmore was inadvertently omitted from the list of Friends in the February issue of the *Osler Library Newsletter*. The present list acknowledges his donation.

The names of Friends whose contributions were received after January 31, 1991 are listed below.

The appeal for the 1991-92 academic year will be made in the October *Newsletter*.

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- * Gregory K. Bergey
- * André Bouthillette
- Fernande K. Cantero
- Elizabeth Crahan
- ✓ Rebecca Dainow (In honour of Dr. T. Sourkes on being named Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry)
- Paul J. Edelson
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