



FRIENDS OF THE P.I. NIXON MEDICAL HISTORICAL LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

The P.I. Nixon Medical
Historical Library
The University of Texas Health
Science Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900
Telephone: 210-567-2400
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The Friends of the P.I. Nixon
Medical Historical Library was
organized to foster the growth,
development and use of a collection
of books, manuscripts, and other
materials relating to the history of
the health sciences. The collection
was brought together primarily
through the efforts of Dr. P.I. Nixon,
a physician and historian in San
Antonio. The Library bears his
name to honor his efforts.



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The Friends Annual Newsletter

No. 23



Annual Newsletter



Fall 2007

“AIDS AS A ZOMBIE CURSE: WHY SCIENCE ALONE CANNOT WIN THE WAR”

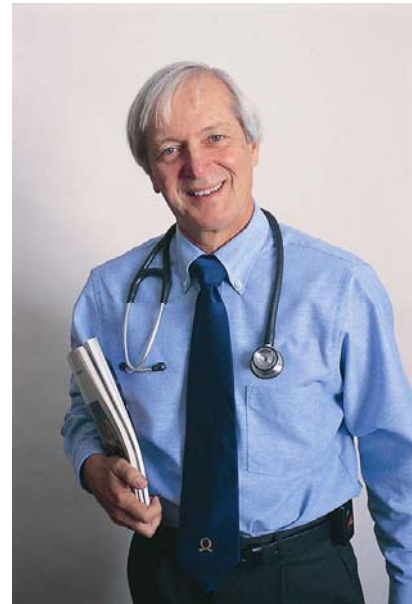
Guest speaker at the Friends 37th Annual Dinner-Presentation is **Arthur M. Fournier, M.D.**, Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Associate Dean for Community Health Affairs.

In 1969 Dr. Fournier earned his BA degree from Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, and in 1973, received his medical degree from Tufts. After completing his residency, Dr. Fournier practiced with the National Health Service Corps in Virginia before joining the University of Miami faculty. There, he was among the first to treat patients afflicted by AIDS and to recognize the socio-economic forces driving the epidemic.

Dr. Fournier has been the standard of excellence in healthcare education and community service for the past three decades – most remarkably for his work in the Haitian-American community in Florida and his tireless efforts coordinating student and faculty teams providing humanitarian healthcare services in Haiti.

Among his many honors are the 1997 the Lifetime Achievement in Transcultural Medicine Award, presented by the International Institute of Human Understanding, and his placement in Marquis *Who's Who in America*.

In 1994 Dr. Art Fournier co-founded Project Medishare, a group of physicians, healthcare professionals, and medical students committed to rebuilding the medical infrastructure of Haiti. *The Zombie Curse*, published in 2006, describes Dr. Fournier's 25-year journey into the heart of the AIDS epidemic in Haiti. It is a moving tribute to the courage and dignity of a people beset by the twin tragedies of poverty and illness. It is also a testimony to dedicated individuals who donate their time and energy to relieve suffering in parts of the world that are desperately underserved.



37TH ANNUAL MEETING DINNER AND PRESENTATION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007
Cash bar: 6:30 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Appetizer, entrée, dessert, coffee or tea

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
37 NE Loop 410 at McCullough

Cost: \$40.00/person
(\$20.00 for students)

Advance registration required
RSVP to Pennie Borchers (567-2400) by
November 8th

During the November 12th presentation, Dr. Fournier will share his stories about HIV/AIDS, voodoo, the student response to healthcare challenges, and the remarkably resilient Haitian people.

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR

EXHIBIT HONORING DR. KRONICK

David A. Kronick, PhD, (1918-2006), founding director of the Briscoe Library and Professor Emeritus of Medical Bibliography, was a true aficionado of rare books, dedicating himself to maintaining and augmenting the Special Collections.



“Our library was extremely fortunate in acquiring a gift from the Bexar County Medical Society of an extraordinarily fine collection of medical classics in first and early editions going back to the 15th century, which had been brought together by Dr. Pat Nixon. I regret I did not have the chance to meet him, but his son, Dr. P.I. Nixon, Jr., is a generous supporter of the collection who helped us to acquire additional rare books to add to the collection. The large collection of anatomical atlases for many years has served the anatomy department as a basis of historical review of anatomical studies and for exhibitions. I even applied my limited skills as a binder to build special boxes for some of the items, including a fine copy of a first edition of Vesalius’ Fabrica.”

An August library exhibit honoring Dr. Kronick was core material for a poster session presented in October at the annual SCC meeting (South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association) in Albuquerque. Featured in the exhibit were highlights from Dr. Kronick’s career, his publications on scientific and technical periodicals, and his role in placing the Health Science Center in San Antonio at the forefront of automation for medical libraries.



HISTORY OF ANATOMY ANNUAL VISIT, APRIL 2007



PLAGUE: PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT

In May a Library exhibit on ancient, modern, and re-emerging pandemics was installed in the lecture hall foyer display cases. Accounts of this dreaded, infectious disease date from ancient Babylon four thousand years ago, and plague has continued to inspire fear throughout the ages.

The Library display traced the spread of the Black Death from Central Asia across Europe and into North America. Modern pandemics such as AIDS, cholera, and avian flu, which threaten to compromise our health and security, were also given their place in the exhibit.

As part of the plague theme, the Friends hosted an excellent, historical presentation on the bubonic plague, given by Dr. Gregory Anstead.



THE DOROTHEA DIX EXHIBIT



Helen Bowman, a senior at the International School of the Americas in San Antonio, won 1st place in the 2006 National History Day Competition in Texas and went on to take 9th place in the nationals in Washington, D.C., last June for her exhibit on Dorothea Dix.

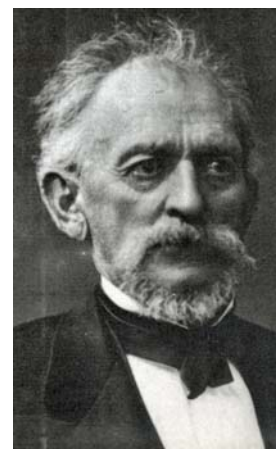
“Taking a Stand in History,” the competition theme, inspired Helen to create an exhibit on Dorothea Dix, one of her heroines. She had read of Dix’s remarkable achievements in her history textbook and could immediately relate. The fact that Helen’s own brother suffers from a brain disorder made her sensitive to the hardships and disparities involved with mental illness. Educating the public about these issues, Helen believes, will de-stigmatize mental health illness, the first step on the road to better healthcare.

Helen’s Dorothea Dix exhibit was on display in the Library four months.



125 YEARS UT-SYSTEM

Current and former regents, chancellors, and university officials from the U. T. System's fifteen institutions gathered on November 15, 2006, in Austin to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first meeting of the Board of Regents. For this special occasion the Library was able to provide the organizing committee with historic photographs from the archives, a bibliography of books on the University of Texas, and an exhibit on Ashbel Smith, first Chairman of the U.T. Board of Regents.



PALO DEL MUERTO
Ipomoea murucoides

EXHIBIT ON FOLK HEALING

A new exhibit on “Curanderismo” was installed in the lecture hall foyer display cases in September in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The exhibit was researched and mounted by Mary Alice Teveni Ayon, MS, Coordinator of the Spirituality and Medicine Program in the UTHSCSA Department of Trauma and Surgery, with the assistance of Christine Aguilar, MD, MPH.

The exhibit depicted Hispanic folk healing from various perspectives. The origins of curanderismo, typical ailments treated by curanderos, and commonly used medicinal herbs were among the themes covered. A richly decorated “Day of the Dead” altar completed this colorful exhibit.

“Curanderismo” was sponsored by the UTHSCSA Hispanic Faculty Association.

RARE ROMAN COIN DONATED TO NIXON LIBRARY

The P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library received the gift of a rare, Roman coin from the President of the Friends of the Nixon Library, Dr. Ron Philo, at the 36th Annual Dinner.



Dr. Philo, who is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, donated a beautiful coin known as a Flavian Dupondius from 74 AD, featuring a winged caduceus between crossed cornucopias on one side and Titus Caesar on the reverse. In Roman times, the cornucopia was a sign of prosperity as was the caduceus. Only later did the caduceus become a symbol of the medical community. Following the death of Nero, the last in the line of Julio-Claudian emperors, there was competition for a successor. Titus Flavius Vespasianus was chosen, and he and his son and grandson came to be known as the Flavian dynasty. Coins of this type from the Flavian period were primarily struck in Rome or Antioch for circulation in Syria.

A custom-made, Lucite stand allows the coin to be displayed from both sides. It is now on view in the Nixon Library Reading Room.

Many thanks to Dr. Philo for this handsome addition to our historical collections.

BOOK ACQUISITION

A first edition of Sir Charles Bell's *Essays on the Anatomy of Expression in Painting* has been purchased for the Special Collections.

Charles Bell, in addition to being the foremost British anatomist and neurologist of his time, was also a gifted draftsman whose elegance of pictorial style and accuracy of description were legendary. Expressions, movements and attitudes of the human body had always fascinated scientists as well as artists, but not until Bell's *Essays on the Anatomy of Expression in Painting* had they been treated in such depth. According to Charles Darwin, this 1806 landmark publication with its 26 illustrations and six detailed full-page engravings lays the foundation for the physiology and anatomy of facial expression.

The *Essays* attracted a wide audience. It went through seven editions in the century, was read by Queen Victoria and was said to have influenced Goethe. Most importantly, Bell's outline of the physiology of emotion led to his eventual demonstration of the distinct properties of motor and sensory nerves.

Essays on the Anatomy of Expression in Painting will enhance the superb collection of Charles Bell holdings in the Nixon Library.

NEW ORAL HISTORY OF DR. MARIO RAMIREZ

Mario E. Ramirez, M.D., who was Vice President for South Texas programs at the Health Science Center and member of the UT System Board of Regents, spent more than 50 years practicing family medicine in Starr County. During this time he was named Family Doctor of the Year and was the first Hispanic to be appointed president of the Texas Medical Association.

Dr. Ramirez established the first hospital in the county in 1958 and later, as Starr County judge, helped build Starr County Memorial Hospital.

He since has invested a dozen more years heading an innovative program that motivates young people to enter the healthcare professions. Dr. Ramirez is shown here with students in Rio Grande City at the new school named for him: the Dr. Mario E. Ramirez Elementary School.

Dr. Ramirez has consented to be interviewed by Pennie Borghers.

IN MEMORIAM

S. PERRY POST

Dr. S. Perry Post, Past President of the Friends and one of the Friends' most dedicated supporters, passed away this year. A San Antonio native, Dr. Post spent his entire life – aside from military service and medical school – in the Alamo City. Perry Post grew up in the days when San Antonio had less than 250,000 people and covered a much smaller area. The Post family lived for 57 years on Agarita Avenue at the extreme north end of town. Knowlton's Creamery was a dairy farm just a few blocks away, where cows grazed the brush land. There were only two San Antonio School districts at the time: Main Avenue for the Northside and Brackenridge for the South.

While in high school, Perry made up his mind to be a doctor and became president of the Pre-Med Club. Following graduation, he enrolled at St. Mary's University and was later accepted at UTMB-Galveston. After internship and residency training at Santa Rosa Hospital, Dr. Post was offered a medical practice in Boerne, but before he could establish himself, was called to military service. During his time at Fort Bliss in El Paso he met Dorothy Brown, who after a brief courtship became Perry's wife and his devoted partner in marriage for 64 years [surviving him by a mere three days].



The couple was separated for over three years during Dr. Post's military service in Hawaii, where he provided medical care to servicemen who were training and recuperating from battles in the Pacific. As Japan surrendered, Perry's orders came through to return to civilian life, and he went to New York for post-graduate courses in obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics before returning to San Antonio.

During the next decades Dr. Post practiced medicine and raised a fine family of three daughters - Martha, Marilyn and Nancy. He was twice named Physician of the Year by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. 1973 was a special year for Perry when he became President of the Bexar County Medical Society and Chairman of the Deacons at Manor Baptist / Woodland Baptist Church, where he attended services for over fifty years. It was also at that time that Dr. Post as Chief of the Medical Staff at Methodist Hospital was invited to join the faculty of the new University of Texas Medical School. As Professor in the Department of Family Practice and Director of the Student Health Center, Perry was physician to all the students, their spouses and children – a role he enjoyed until his retirement in 1983.

Dr. Post was an active senior citizen. He worked as director of family planning clinics on the south and east sides of San Antonio until 1998. Perry and Dorothy toured the country (and Canada) in their motor home and shared their interesting experiences in travelogues given at local retirement homes. And Perry took up new hobbies: making stained glass, organizing hiking expeditions, and becoming a docent for the Witte Museum. Perry was a devoted husband to Dorothy and delighted in his daughters and grandchildren. He also stayed true to the Friends, faithfully attending functions and giving of his time and efforts to promote interest in the historical collections. His Nixon Library presentation on early hospitals in San Antonio was particularly well-received. Dr. Perry Post was a wonderful friend, who will be greatly missed.

DR. ALOYSIUS THADDEUS

Past President and loyal member of our Friends group, Dr. Aloysius Thaddeus, died March 15, 2007, in San Antonio.

Dr. Thaddeus came to Texas from Chicago in 1936 and earned his MD degree from UTMB Galveston in 1943. He served in the Army Medical Corps in Europe during World War II before returning to Galveston to specialize in internal medicine. During his sixty years of private practice, Dr. Thaddeus gave generously of his time and energy to many who lacked the means to receive adequate health care. He was Chief of Staff at Baptist Memorial Hospital and Texas Southwest Medical Hospital and in 1981 was elected President of the Bexar County Medical Society. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Martha Ann, their four children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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The Briscoe Library and the P. I. Nixon Medical Historical Library appreciate gifts of books that enhance the collections. Items donated to the Library are accepted with the understanding that, upon receipt, these materials become Library property. Cataloging treatment and the right to determine retention, use, or disposition of the rare books will be at the Library's discretion. The donor will receive an acknowledgement letter specifying number and type of items, but IRS regulations prohibit Library staff from assigning a value to gifts.

You may also wish to make a monetary gift to the Library for the purchase of a book as a memorial or in honor of someone. The book will bear a label identifying it as a gift in memory of the deceased. Although Library staff will make the final book selection, donors may specify the choice of subject related to the health sciences. A fitting tribute to a health care professional is a book in his or her specialty. Arrangements for donations are made through the Library at 567-2400.