Exploring the History of Medicine

Or, five thousand years of medical history in five weeks ... to which is added appropriate commentary on a vast array of other subjects including the invention of writing, clay tablets, papyrus & palm leaves & paper along with the printing press and movable type, with a brief history of bookbinding including descriptions of the various materials used in the art with fine examples from many ages, plus the conservation and restoration of a handsome volume ... all of this and much more to inform & stimulate interest in the subjects presented ...

Presented for the distinguished members of the M2 Class in the year MMXII of the Common Era by their Special Collections Librarian, [Ron Sims], Distinguished Lecturer, Seer of the Past, All knowing (with the aid of 21st century technology ...)
Medical School Library

Dr. Irving Cutter (1875-1945), Dean of the Medical School from 1925 to 1941, was responsible for the library’s extensive collection development.

He began his working life as a book salesman for the Ginn Company and remained a "bookman" all his life. Dean Cutter saw the Medical Library as his personal project, and during his tenure expanded its holdings from 13,000 to nearly 92,000 volumes.

Most importantly for the historical collections, Cutter capitalized on the Great Depression by purchasing European rarities at bargain prices. Dean Cutter was a noted rare book collector in private life, specializing in obstetrics & gynecology and William Harvey.
In 1896, Dr. G.V. Black and Dr. Theodore Menges purchased personal libraries of many different American dentists to establish a dental collection at Northwestern University Dental School. William H. Trueman, an avid collector of pre-1800 dental literature, donated his collection to the Dental School in 1925. Books, prints, and paintings by the French, English, Dutch, and Flemish were collected by Dr. William Bebb during two European visits in the early 1920s. A special effort was made to collect early works on anesthesia, a topic of particular interest to the founders.
Ἀριστοτέλης, (384 ΒC – 322 ΒC)
Ἱπποκράτης (c. 460 BC – c. 370 BC)
Humoral System as adopted by Hippocrates from Aristotle

Fig. 4. Plan of the Hippocratic humoral system in *On the nature of Man.*

Roman-Greek Medicine
Aelius Galenus or Claudius Galenus (September AD 129 – 199/217)

Incredibly prolific writer …

Physiology and Anatomy
Hygiene
Etiology
Semeiotics
Pharmacy
Instruments of Clinical Practice
Therapeutics

Commentary on Hippocrates' Aphorisms
Aulus Cornelius Celsus (ca. 25 BCE—ca. 50 CE)

_De medicina_ …1st-century medical treatise

Book I – Diet, hygiene, and the benefits of exercise.
Book II – The cause of disease, its symptoms and prognosis.
Book III – Treatment of diseases, including the common cold and pneumonia.
Book IV – Anatomical descriptions of selected diseases.
Book V – Medicines, including opiates, diuretics, purgatives and laxatives.
Book VI – Ulcers, skin lesions and diseases.
Book VII – Classical operations, such as lithotomy and removal of cataracts.
Book VIII – Treatment of dislocations and fractures.
Persian & Islamic medicine

c. 980

ابن سينا
The opening decoration and invocation to Allah from a 16th century manuscript of Avicenna's Canon (Yale, Medical Historical Library, Cushing Arabic ms. 5, copied in 1006 H./1597-98 A.D.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avicenna’s four primary temperaments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morbid states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjective sensations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foods &amp; medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relation to weather</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rambam (Hebrew acronym for "Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon")

Moses ben-Maimon, called Maimonides and also known as Mūsā ibn Maymūn Arabic: موسى بن ميمون

1135 CE-1204 CE

Ephraim, a Jewish physician attending St. Basil, Scobsser (1487)
School at Salerno

The cradle of Western medical education was the medical school in Salerno, Italy, on the Amalfi Coast. Christian, Islamic and Jewish medicine flowed together creating a medical renaissance. The school, probably in existence as early as the 10th century, was famous throughout the Western world by the 13th century. At the center of medical training was the knowledge of herbs, both their medicinal and “magical” properties. The school at Salerno possessed the oldest academic botanic garden in Europe.

Today, only ruins of an ancient citadel may be seen above the modern Salerno.

The school is remembered for *Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum*, or the Salerno Book of Health. First printed in 1484 and regularly reprinted in various forms, this influential poem, in Latin, set forth the Salernian rules for hygiene and medical treatment. The text, in rhyme, is filled with practical suggestions for maintaining health, at a time when medicine was largely ineffective in curing illness.

The National Library of Medicine has created an online exhibit of its collection of Salernian manuscripts at:

The first printed herbals, as well as other texts in medicine, science, literature and the arts appeared after the invention of the printing press by Gutenberg (about 1450) and relied on ancient authors for texts. The accessibility and standardization of these works perpetuated the influence of these venerable authors. The most famous in *materia medica* was the Greek, Dioscorides, who lived at the beginning of the Common Era, circa 60.

His medicinal plants formed the basis of modern botany, establishing the link between botany and medicine, and giving rise to the herbal.

It was the medieval physician's duty to fear God and know his Dioscorides! The term 'botany' is coined from Dioscorides, who used the Greek term *botane*, meaning herb. Modern pharmacology stems from his attempts to systematize medicinal plant knowledge.

His text *De medica materia* was published in 1529 by Joannes Soter, though originally compiled circa 60 AD. The text, in parallel columns in Greek and Latin, is based on the 1518 edition published by Aldius Mantius [Medical Rare Book 615.1 D62v 1529]
Medieval Western Medicine

Physician’s handbook
Medieval Medicine

Hildegard

Bosch

Guido da Vigivano
Medieval Medicine

Sts. Cosmas & Damian

Manuscript depicting healing
2000 B.C. “Here, eat this root.”
1000 A.D. “That root is heathen, say a prayer.”
1850 A.D. “That prayer is superstition, drink this potion.”
1940 A.D. “That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill.”
1985 A.D. “That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic.”
2000 A.D. “That antibiotic is artificial, here, take this root.”—Anonymous

Among the Galter Special Collections rare books in materia medica is *Hortus sanitatis, germanice* subtitled *Gart der gesundheit* (Garden of health) dating from 1515. [Medical Rare Book 615 H78] Originally published in 1485, *Hortus sanitatis* in its many editions and translations, was the most popular and influential herbal of its time, serving as an encyclopedia of the plant, animal and mineral kingdoms and the medical applications of their products.
The Library’s German language edition is filled with quaint hand-colored woodcuts depicting life in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance period.
This text was printed by Renatus [Reinhard] Beck in Strasbourg (Alsace).
Gutenberg Press
circa 1440
Guy de Chauliac
c.a. 1300-1368
This treatise on surgery by Pietro d'Argellata was first printed in 1480. The text was derived mainly from earlier authorities but it does also contain much that was based on d'Argellata's personal experience and observations. D'Argellata was chosen to perform the post mortem on Pope Alexander V (d. 1410), when poisoning was suspected.

Argellata was Professor of Medicine at Bologna.
Leonardo da Vinci
Bibliography ...

Western medical tradition : 800 B.C.-1800 A.D. / members of the Academic Unit, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London: Lawrence I. Conrad ... [et al.]. Cambridge, Eng. ; New York : Cambridge University Press, c1995. Temporary Location Galter Health Sciences Library: Special Collections WZ 40 W5274 1995


Exploring the History of Medicine

To be continued …