



LIBRARY NEWS



Donation of rare 17th century book on surgery

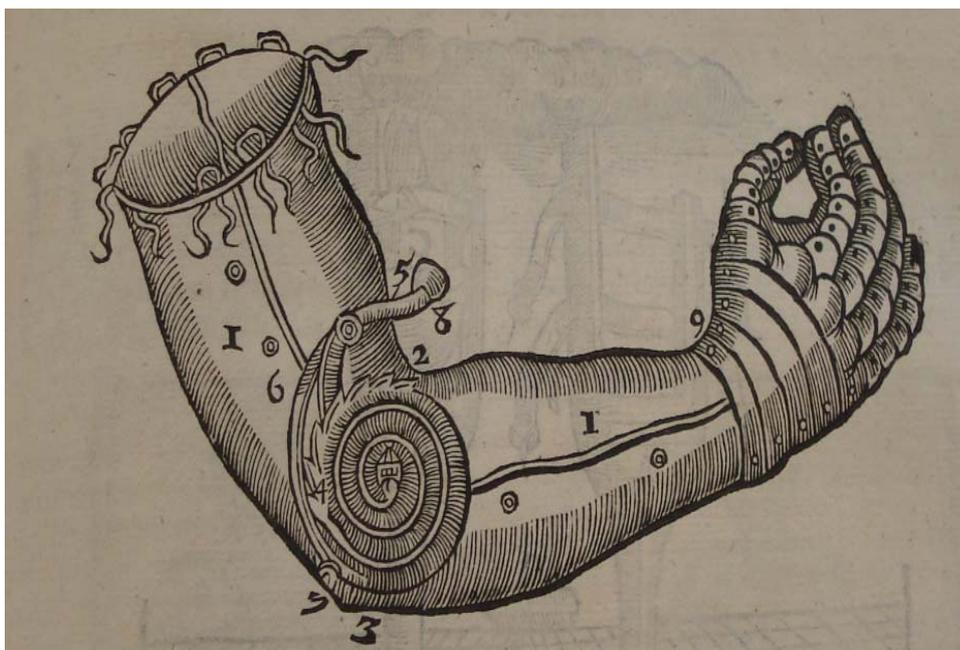
As the result of a very generous donation by Dr Richard Williams, the Library recently acquired a copy of one of the great early books on surgery: Paré, Ambroise (1510?-1590). *The workes of that famous chirurgeon Ambrose Parey, translated ... by Th. Johnson.* 4th ed. London: Mary Clark for John Clark, 1678.

Paré was the official surgeon to four French kings in the 16th century, and did much to establish modern methods of surgery, especially in the field of military medicine. He abandoned the practice of cauterizing wounds, and revived the use of the ligature during amputation, as well as inventing several new surgical instruments and promoting the use of artificial limbs. He was also an important figure in the history of obstetrics.

The English version of his work contains more than 400 fascinating woodcuts, including anatomical diagrams of the veins, arteries and nerves and illustrations of artificial limbs fitted to knights in armour.

This copy of the book was in Dr Williams' family for more than three generations and was greatly treasured by them. The family understand that one of their ancestors was an artist who may have received this book from the Rothschild family as part payment for a commission.

The book will be housed in the Scholars' Centre Rare Book Collection.



"The Form of an Arm made of Iron very artificially"
Taken from Book XXIII "Of the Means and Manner to repair or supply the Natural or
Accidental Defects or Wants in Man's Body."

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New Treasures from Friends

Two exciting new purchases by the Friends of the Library have recently enriched the Library's collections: a new facsimile of the one of the British Library's best-loved manuscripts, and a facsimile set of one of the great works about the Dutch East Indies.

The Luttrell Psalter is one of the finest treasures of the British Library. Commissioned by Sir Geoffrey Luttrell in the first half of the 14th century, it contains the text of the Psalms, and is famous for the vitality and inventiveness of its decoration. It has many lively and humorous images of rural life, including ploughing, harrowing, corn being cut, a woman feeding chickens, and food being cooked and eaten. There are wrestlers, hawkers, bear baiters, dancers, musicians, throwing games, a mock bishop with a dog that jumps through a hoop – and a wife beating her husband with her spinning rod.

The *Luttrell Psalter* became famous in the 19th century, and was displayed for many years in the British Museum, on loan from the Weld family. In 1929, it was bought for the Museum at a record price of 30,000 guineas – but only after a planned public auction was cancelled. It is now British Library Additional MS 42130.

Our copy of the British Library's new facsimile edition is housed in the Scholars' Centre (Rare Q091 2006 LUT).



An image from the margins of the *Luttrell Psalter*

Francois Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën (Old and New East-Indies)* is a massive compilation of information about the geography, history and ethnography of the Dutch East Indies. Originally published in five volumes between 1724 and 1726, it contains more than 3,500 pages of text and more than 360 maps and engravings.

Valentijn's work is particularly interesting for its coverage of the voyages of Tasman and Vlamingh to Australia, with a series of charts and maps based on now-lost manuscript sources. Valentijn also published the first European drawing of a black swan, to accompany his account of Vlamingh's expedition.

Our copy of the recent facsimile edition of Valentijn's great work is housed in the Scholars' Centre (Erulkar 959.802 1724 OUD).

From Tokyo to Perth

Dr Masako Mitsumata, Director of Nihon University School of Medicine Library in Tokyo, visited the UWA Medical and Dental Library in June. Dr Mitsumata, a qualified pathologist, came to Australia to participate in the 15th International Vascular Biology Meeting which was held in Sydney in early June.

Dr Mitsumata was interested in how the Medical and Dental Library is managed and the various library services we offer.

Carol Newton-Smith, Manager of the Medical and Dental Library, explained that Dr Mitsumata's visit "enabled us to understand some of the challenges that our international colleagues face. The librarians at Nihon all have to be bilingual, they need to be able to use international databases and fluently read scientific research in English."

Nihon University is a private institution situated in the middle of Tokyo. Nihon has many more students than UWA, but the Medical School is similar in size.

"Dr Mitsumata told me that their Library isn't open to the public and she was impressed that ours was," Carol said. "We enjoyed her visit and she is very keen for us to visit her library in the future."



(Left to right) Dr Masako Mitsumata, Gina Sjepcevich, Carol Newton-Smith, William Hamilton, Felicity Renner

Sharr thing: Jessica Shortis wins ALIA Medal

The Library congratulates Jessica Shortis on winning the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) F.A. Sharr Medal for 2008. The Sharr Medal is awarded to the first-year library graduand in Western Australia who 'exhibits the most potential and is most likely to have a positive impact on their preferred stream of the library profession.'

Jessica joined the Library team in August 2007 and currently shares her time between the Law Library and Information Resources Access Management.

We shall let Jessica tell the story of what she had to do to win this prestigious honour in her own words:

"To win the Medal I gave a 10 minute presentation on an important issue in my chosen field. My presentation was on Generation-Y and its demand for instant gratification in the academic library. Then I had a second interview where I had to present three of the major issues facing library and information services today and how an association such as ALIA might deal with them. The three issues I looked at were the adoption of rapidly changing technologies; staff skill levels in new technologies; and public perception of libraries. For each of these areas I developed some strategies that ALIA could adopt in order to face the challenges they present."

At the Medal presentation ceremony, Sue Hutley, Executive Director of ALIA, said that Jessica gave "thoughtful and insightful answers in both her interviews, demonstrating a strong understanding of the issues facing the library profession... The panel strongly believes that Jessica will be an excellent ambassador for ALIA because of her passion and commitment to the profession as well being intelligent, capable and articulate."



Jessica Shortis with her Sharr Medal

After-hours service takes the next step

The Library now employs a pool of professional library staff to assist readers with information and research queries after hours. One librarian will be rostered during each evening and weekend shift to provide services to all library patrons.

Although they will be physically located in the Reid Library, they will be able to assist readers in person, over the phone or via email. Staff from any Subject Library can refer a reader to the librarians.

Feedback from readers via the LibQUAL surveys and from library staff has indicated that there is a clear need for professional library services after hours. This initiative will significantly improve the level of service provided to clients, particularly postgraduates who often find it difficult to see a librarian within standard working hours

To contact a librarian after hours please phone (08) 6488 2342 or use the online Ask a Librarian service:

http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/library_services/ask_a_librarian

House of Commons Parliamentary Papers online

The House of Commons Parliamentary Papers (HCPP) have always been one of the great sources for British – and global – history and politics. They are a huge and rich record of the social, political and economic development of Great Britain, its former colonies and the rest of the world, especially in the 19th century. And yet, up to now, they have been difficult to use effectively – requiring researchers to navigate an esoteric system of numbering and citations, and to cope with such exotic formats as the long-obsolete microcard.

In contrast, the electronic HCPP service, which is now available at UWA, is a true revolution. It provides access to about 180,000 documents (more than 9 million pages) published between 1801 and 2003/4. These include Command Papers, Bills, and Reports of Committees, as well as papers and reports presented to the House of Commons.

The whole collection can be easily searched by keyword, title, or a variety of other options, and can also be browsed by subject (19th century only) and by year. There is also a personalised archive feature, which allows users to save searches and store relevant documents.

There are nearly 800 papers relating to Australia - ranging from an 1810 report on the numbers of convicts transported to New South Wales through to a 2004 treaty on the avoidance of double taxation.

To access this resource do a title search for HCPP in the Library catalogue.

Hole in one

The new Science Library and the old Biological Sciences Library became one building in July. During the semester break, the Biological Sciences Library closed for four weeks to allow builders to punch large holes in the external walls of all three floors of the Library, where the new building is connected. Library staff found themselves imitating the artist Christo when they spent several days wrapping shelves, computers, and other equipment in plastic to protect against cement dust.

Temporary walls were installed adjacent to the 'holes' so that the Biological Sciences Library could operate during Semester Two while work continued on the new part of the building. In an effort to minimise disruption to students, the temporary walls were double-skinned and insulated

Students and academics were very happy to take advantage of the offer of four week loans for Reserve items (normally 2 hour loans) during the closure. Library staff continued to offer online services while physically located in the Medical and Dental Library, the EDFAA Library, and the Maths and Physical Sciences Library. The closure also gave Library staff an opportunity to forge ahead with the very detailed measuring work needed to plan the merger of print collections from five different locations.

Please contact Carmel O'Sullivan, Manager, Science Libraries, on 6488 2836, or cosullivan@library.uwa.edu.au for more information about the Science Library.



Michaela Ruffner wrapping the shelves with protective plastic