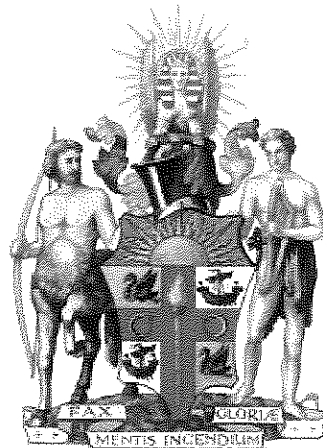


ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF
SURGEONS



THE NINTH
COWLISHAW SYMPOSIUM

PROGRAMME

27 October 2012

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Leslie Cowlshaw (1877-1943)



Kenneth F. Russell (1911-1987)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the many people who have contributed to the planning and presentation of this Symposium. The speakers have spent many hours researching their topics and preparing their papers.

Speakers:

Gordon Low, Kenneth Russell Memorial Lecturer

Wyn Beasley

Ross Blair

Mike Hollands PRACS

Elizabeth Milford

Susan Neuhaus

David Watters

Staff of the College, in particular:

Geoff Down

Megan Sproule

Alan Thurston

Convenor

INTRODUCTION

This is the year of the 9th biennial Cowlshaw Symposium, a meeting that has become one of the principle events on the history of medicine calendar. The College is fortunate to own the impressive collection of historical medical texts that was amassed by Leslie Cowlshaw during the period from the beginning of the 20th century until his death in 1943. By 1906 he had already undertaken two world tours and after his graduation he undertook yet another tour during which he acquired a large number of significant works. By 1914 he had obtained many of the early printed works in the Collection through his contacts with dealers in London and Europe. The Collection includes a number of volumes published in the 15th century including an Avicenna *Canon* of 1497 from Padua and the 1483 Nuremberg *De proprietatibus rerum* of Bartholomæus Anglicus. In his will, Cowlshaw gave the Royal Australasian College of Physicians the first right of refusal on the Collection, which, for unknown reasons, was declined. Within a month of his death and after some hurried negotiations between John Laidley (the Honorary Secretary of the NSW State Committee of the College) and Ken Russell both acting for the College, and the trustees of Cowlshaw's estate, the College had secured the complete collection at a price of £2750. In total there were some 2500 items, making it notable by world standards and considered to be the best private collection in Australia at that time.

In 1996, Wyn Beasley, then Reader to the Gordon Craig Library, initiated the Symposium in order to make the College's Cowlshaw Collection better known, both to Fellows of the College and to the wider community of medical professionals and bibliophiles. With the endorsement of the President and Council, he invited a group of speakers, all renowned for their interest in historical books and the history of medicine to participate. Embedded in this Symposium was the eponymous lecture named in the memory of the man who helped to secure the collection for the College and who then set about cataloguing it: Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell. Thus, the format for the Symposium was set and its popularity has been proved in growing numbers and ongoing support from Fellows and friends of the College. The speakers are invited to select one or more items from the Collection on which to base a paper.

Over the years this Symposium has provided many outstanding papers on medical history and *materia medica*. The inclusion of the Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecture in the Symposium is entirely appropriate, putting it in the context of medical history, a subject dear to his heart, and at a meeting centred on the Collection that he took such great care of.

The programme for this 9th Symposium looks as if it will be as varied and interesting as those that have gone before. The topics this time include such diverse subjects as paintings, witchcraft and J.S. Bach. The research and preparation for each of these papers takes considerable time, effort and thought, and this commitment of the speakers must be acknowledged.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 27 October 2012

0930 **Registration**

1000 Opening by Professor Michael Grigg, Vice-President

SESSION 1 Chairman: Professor Michael Grigg
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1005 **The 11th Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecture**
Mr Gordon Low (Melbourne)
**PAINTINGS FROM THE CUSHING / WHITNEY LIBRARY
OF YALE UNIVERSITY**
Remmelin, Johann: *A Survey of the Microcosme* (London: Joseph
Moxon, 1675)
CF 43

1050 Ms Elizabeth Milford (Melbourne)
DIALOGUE BETWEEN BODY AND SOUL
Boyle, Robert: *A free Enquiry into the vulgarly receiv'd Notion of
Nature; made in an Essay address'd to a Friend* (London: H. Clark
for John Taylor, 1685)
C 76

1125 **Coffee / Tea Break**

SESSION 2 Chairman: Professor Alan Thurston
--

1145 Professor Michael Hollands PRACS (Sydney)
NICHOLAS CULPEPER: NATURAL BORN REBEL?
Culpeper, Nicholas: *The complete Herbal, to which is now added
upwards of one hundred additional Herbs* (London: Thomas Kelly
& Co., n.d.).
Kipling Collection

1220 Professor David Watters (Geelong)
**WHAT MADE GUI DE CHAULIAC SO FAMOUS, WITH SUCH
AN INFLUENCE OVER SURGICAL THINKING THROUGH THE
MIDDLE AGES?**
*La Grande Chirurgie de M. Guy de Chauliac, médecin très-fameux
de l'Université de Montpellier, composée l'an de grace 1363.
Restituée par M. Laurens Ioubert* (Tournon: Claude Michel, 1598)
GC

1300 **Luncheon**

SESSION 3 Chairman: Mr Philip Sharp

- 1400 Mr Wyn Beasley (Wellington)
BACH AND HIS
Haller, Albert von: *Elementa physiologiæ corporis humani*
(Lausanne: Marci Michael Bousquet, 1757-63)
GC
- 1435 Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus (Adelaide)
THE PHILOSOPHY OF WITCHCRAFT
Mitchell, John & Dickie, John: *The Philosophy of Witchcraft*
(Paisley: Murray & Stewart, 1839)
C 350
- 1510 Coffee / Tea Break**

SESSION 4 Chairman: Mr Wyn Beasley

- 1530 Mr Ross Blair (Hamilton NZ)
ANTONIO SCARPA AND ANEURYSMS
Treatise on the Anatomy, Pathology and Treatment of ANEURISM,
with Engravings. Translated from the Italian with Notes by Wishart,
John Henry. (Edinburgh: for Mundell, Doig & Stevenson, 1808)
GC
- 1605 Professor Alan Thurston (Wellington)
IN THE BEGINNING: THE HUNTERIAN ORATIONS
Arnott, James Moncrieff: *The Hunterian Oration, delivered at the*
Royal College of Surgeons in London on the fourteenth of February,
1843 (London: John Scott, 1843)
C 1033
- 1640 Closing Remarks
- 1700 - 1830 Cocktail Reception**

ABSTRACTS and BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The 11th Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecture

PAINTINGS FROM THE CUSHING / WHITNEY LIBRARY OF YALE UNIVERSITY

Remmelin, Johann: *A Survey of the Microcosme*. (London: Joseph Moxon, 1675)
(CF 43)

In the early years of the introduction of Christianity into China, one American medical missionary distinguished himself by his kindness and generosity towards the Chinese people and by his surgical prowess. Peter Parker (1804-1888) was a graduate from the Yale University Medical School and also an ordained minister. He came to the south China city of Canton (now called Guangzhou) in 1834, built a hospital, treated the patients without charge and also groomed medical apprentices to help him in his work. He so impressed a Chinese artist, Lam Qua (1801-1860), that Lam offered to paint in oil, without charge, some of the unusual patients of Parker. Parker stayed in China until 1857. Altogether, there are about 106 paintings. More than 80 of them are in the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Historical Library of the Yale University Medical School, New Haven, and 24 of them are in Guy's Hospital, London. A description of some of the paintings, together with accounts of Parker and Lam are discussed.

Gordon Low received his education in Hong Kong. He is a general surgeon and his practice is in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. His interest is in the medico-military events of the past three centuries in China and surrounding areas. He is a member of the Section of Surgical History of the College and had presented papers at meetings of this Section. He had contributed to the Cowlshaw Symposium of 1998, and gave the Herbert Moran Lecture at the Annual Scientific Congress in 2004. His other interest is *Project China*, an outreach program of the College, founded by his wife and himself, for the promotion of exchange of surgeons between China and Australia/New Zealand.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN BODY AND SOUL

Boyle, Robert: *A free Enquiry into the vulgarly receiv'd Notion of Nature; made in an Essay address'd to a Friend*. (London: H. Clark for John Taylor, 1685)
(C 76)

The struggle between an inner and outer life or the body and soul struggling for ascendancy, remains a keystone of religious thought. By the seventeenth century, metaphysical poets such as Andrew Marvell had transformed this theme into a

playful series of 'conceits'. Viewed as the mirror of societal change, literature and the arts indicated the shift from an intensely spiritual perception of the world to a more rational and scientific understanding of the universe.

Elizabeth Milford is the RACS College Archivist and a member of the Professional Historians Association. She has previously worked at cultural institutions such as the National Trust, Melbourne University (Print Room), the Melbourne Museum and the Art Gallery of NSW. Having completed a historiographical analysis of JL Motley's 'The Rise of the Dutch Republic' for her MA thesis (University of Sydney), Elizabeth has a keen interest in sixteenth and seventeenth century history.

NICHOLAS CULPEPER: NATURAL BORN REBEL?

Culpeper, Nicholas: *The complete Herbal, to which is now added upwards of one hundred additional Herbs* (London: Thomas Kelly & Co., n.d.).
(Kipling Collection)

"I set myself to study the reason of them". In his original epistle to the reader in his "The Complete Herbal" Culpeper sets out his aim to understand the reasons for the efficacy of medicinal herbs. Whilst the text itself tends to be descriptive it nonetheless introduces the reader to Culpeper's understanding of disease in terms not only of classical Græco-Arabic humoral medicine but also the influence of astrology. Yet was Culpeper merely the author of what has become an enduring text of herbal medicine?

Culpeper was born in 1616. His origins were clerical and he was raised by his maternal grandparents. Initially a wayward adolescent, following the death of his fiancée he became introverted and maudlin. A supporter of Parliament in the Civil War he was somewhat of a paradox being puritan yet rebellious, and is remembered as "the people's physician" because of his criticism of the monopolies on healthcare provision held by the College of Physicians. In trouble with the law, engaged with underground Christian sects and yet author of an enduring text reflecting the orthodox teaching of his day Culpeper remains somewhat of an enigma. He died young, aged 38 from TB or perhaps from lingering sepsis from a Civil War wound.

Culpeper the man remains an enigma. In exploring his life I have tried to understand the influences which led to these apparently incongruous aspects of his life.

Michael Hollands is a surgeon at Westmead Hospital in Sydney, Australia with a clinical interest in gastro-oesophageal and hepatopancreatobiliary surgery. He undertook his surgical training at The Royal Postgraduate Medical School and Guys Hospital in London and at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston. He was awarded his FRACS in 1984. Whilst working in London he obtained his FRCS (Engl) and a Diploma of the History of Medicine (Society of Apothecaries). His particular interest in the history of medicine and surgery is Renaissance and Tudor England. Michael has delivered 3 invited named lectures with a medical history theme: the

WHAT MADE GUI DE CHAULIAC SO FAMOUS, WITH SUCH AN INFLUENCE OVER SURGICAL THINKING THROUGH THE MIDDLE AGES?

La Grande Chirurgie de M. Guy de Chauliac, médecin très-fameux de l'Université de Montpellier, composée l'an de grace 1363. Restituée par M. Laurens Ioubert (Tournon: Claude Michel, 1598)

GC

Gui de Chauliac (c.1300-1368) became the pre-eminent European surgeon of the Middle Ages. He trained in Toulouse and the University of Montpellier from where he achieved the highest possible degree of Master of Medicine. He had fellowships in Bologna (anatomical dissection) and Paris (surgery) though he was qualified as a physician and was not a barber-surgeon. He took Holy Orders and was appointed as physician to three Avignon-based Popes, Clement VI (1342-1352), Innocent VI (1352-1362) and Urban V (Pope 1362-1370). He lived through an epidemic of the Black Death (1348-1350), he himself surviving the condition with an axillary abscess. His book *Chirurgia Magna* or *La grande chirurgie* was written in mediæval Latin in 1363 well before the introduction of printing (Gutenberg 1440). The book was circulated in manuscript form before its first printing in 1478, and translated into French (M. Laurens Ioubert, Tournon, GC), Provençal, Dutch, Catalan, English and Hebrew. There were 70 editions in the various languages over the ensuing centuries, culminating with one edited by Jules-Edouard Nicaise and published in Paris, 1890 (C 1256, but see also other French editions C 138 and C 139). It was the most influential surgical text for the next 200 years, spanning the period from the late fourteenth century until Paré (1510-1590), particularly in France. He divided surgery into swellings, wounds, ulcers, fractures and dislocations, and special diseases. His work was exceptionally well researched and referenced, incorporating antiquarian and contemporary thinking from French, Arabian, Italian (Bologna), Egyptian and Greek scholars about anatomy, disease and treatment. His influence and reputation were helped by the fact he held high office within the church, culminating in his being chief Physician to Pope Urban V. However, it was also deserved, given he was an academic giant of his day, his writing based on evidence and experience rather than conjecture. His advice on the management of wounds recognized the power of nature in healing, the benefit of removing foreign bodies before approximating wound edges for which the methods included the use of sutures, but also the need for hæmostasis including the value of ligating bleeding arteries. In addition to a rigorous and perhaps somewhat over-inclusive and loquacious style, he possessed the linguistic ability to write one-liners that epitomized his message. One example of this is *A surgeon who does not know his anatomy is like a blind man carving a log*. He worked hard to achieve his qualifications, he was well travelled and well educated. He gained much experience and was humane in his practice. He recognized his limitations in that he recommended not cutting for kidney stones at all and leaving bladder stones for the *coureurs* or strolling lithotomists. Though as he became famous with connections to the highest authority of his day, his *Chirurgia Magna* long survived him, because what he wrote made sense to his readers, the surgical aspirants and leaders of the following two centuries. Perhaps that was because he was, as surgeons today are, first a physician before learning the art and science of surgery.

David Watters is Professor of Surgery in Geelong at Deakin University. He is a general surgeon with interests in general, colorectal and emergency surgery. He graduated from Edinburgh University (1977), training in surgery (FRCSEd 1981, ChM 1983) before moving to South Africa (1982-85) and Zambia (1985-90). After a sabbatical at Chinese University Hong Kong (1991) he took up the chair of surgery in Papua New Guinea (1992-2000). There he was responsible for the development of subspecialty surgical training and ensuring that the training of general surgeons could be localised. The surgical challenges of his tropical years involved almost every condition and certainly the common problems of every surgical specialty. In 2000 he took up the chair of surgery in Geelong within the University of Melbourne (2000-2010) and when medical training in Geelong moved from Melbourne to Deakin he switched to that University. He was elected a RACS Councillor in 2007, became the chair of the International Committee (2007-12), the inaugural Chair of External Affairs (2008-2012), and is currently the chair of the Professional Development and Standards Board. His interests in Surgical History have arisen out of his research for *Stitches in Time, two centuries of surgical progress in Papua New Guinea*, which is 802 pages and was published by Xlibris in April 2012. He has made regular contributions to the surgical history section at the ASC and is the current chair of the section and convenor for the 2014 meeting in Singapore.

ANTONIO SCARPA AND ANEURYSMS

Treatise on the Anatomy, Pathology and Treatment of ANEURISM, with Engravings. Translated from the Italian with notes by Wishart, John Henry. (Edinburgh: for Mundell, Doig & Stevenson 1808)

GC

Antonio Scarpa (1747-1832), born in Venice, was the most brilliant pupil of Morgagni, the great anatomist and clinical pathologist at Padua. Scarpa received his medical degree at the age of eighteen years and, at twenty, was appointed professor of anatomy at Modena. His greatest achievement is considered to be his large atlas of 'Neurologic Plates', but he is perhaps best known to us from his description of Scarpa's Fascia and Scarpa's Triangle. His book on aneurysms was clearly widely read and is quoted extensively in Samuel Cooper's *Dictionary of Practical Surgery* (1825), also in the Cowlshaw Collection. The description of True and False Aneurysms and their aetiology is debated.

Ross Blair ED MB ChB FRACS FACS

Thoracic and Vascular surgeon.

Councillor RACS, and Member Court of Examiners 1987-2007. Served as Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Court.

Previously ADMS, and Director of Army Medical Services, Hon .

Surgeon to HM Queen Elizabeth II, and currently Colonel Commandant RNZAMC.

Foundation Exec member Section of Military Surgery [served as chairman] and Medico-legal Section.

Served as Governor and President Australian and New Zealand Chapter American College of Surgeons.

BACH AND HIS

Haller, Albert von: *Elementa physiologiae corporis humani*. (Lausanne: Marci Michael Bousquet, 1757-1763, 5 vols)

GC

This paper examines the career of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) and the role played by Wilhelm His I (who was, with Albert von Haller, a noted pioneer of physiology) in the exhumation of Bach's remains in 1894. His's examination of these remains allowed the sculptor Carl Seffner to produce the celebrated statue of Bach that stands outside the church of St Thomas in Leipzig, where the composer was employed from 1723 until his death. Modern forensic techniques have recently enabled Bach's image to be reconstructed in even more spectacular detail.

Wyn Beasley has been much involved with the affairs of the RACS since becoming a Fellow in 1957: he was first secretary, and later an elected member of the then NZ Committee, and was elected to Council in 1975. He was a vice-president 1983-85. He has been chairman of the sections of surgical history and of military surgery, and in 1995 he was appointed Reader to the Gordon Craig Library and charged with making the College's collection of historic books better known: this Cowlshaw Symposium is the latest in the series of meetings he inaugurated in response to this challenge. His commentary on the *Portraits at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons* was published in 1993, and his history of the first 75 years of the College, *The Mantle of Surgery*, in 2002.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF WITCHCRAFT

Mitchell, John & Dickie, John: *The Philosophy of Witchcraft* (Paisley: Murray & Stewart, 1839)

C 350

"The importance given to Demonology, or Witchcraft, is one of the most extraordinary features in the history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and exhibits one of the most extravagant and unphilosophical beliefs that ever disgraced the credulity of man". So begins John Mitchell and John Dickie's masterful 1839 text exposing not just the evils of supposed witches and sorcerers, but the institutions and learned men that allowed, encouraged and supported the torture and execution of innocents.

Witchcraft was not made a capital offence in Britain until 1563. From 1484 until around 1750 some 200,000 witches were tortured, burnt or hanged in Western Europe.

Many unfortunates (principally women) were condemned on paltry evidence and hanged after undergoing appalling torture. Their experiences echo the clutches of fear and prejudice that still abound in our society. Most were victims of nothing more than conjured envy, superstition or frank malice; some demonstrated simple hysteria whilst others were iconoclastic psychotics.

The period described is a fascinating point in the emergence of science to counter superstition. It contains many lessons for the role of science, objective evidence and fair judicial processes. However, it also illustrates the ease by which a society, united by fear, can create its own ghosts and subjugate these processes for political or social purpose.

Susan Neuhaus is a general surgeon with special interests in sarcoma and melanoma. She is a clinical associate professor with the University of Adelaide Department of Surgery, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Susan has also completed an Army career spanning over 20 years, in both the Regular Army and Army Reserve. Her operational experience includes deployments to Cambodia, Bougainville and Afghanistan. She was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Honours list and was a finalist for the 2012 Australian of the Year (SA).

Her current historical research is *A History of Australian Army's Female Medical Professionals – From the Western Front to Contemporary Operations* for which she has received grants from the Australian Army History Unit and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

IN THE BEGINNING: THE HUNTERIAN ORATIONS

Arnott, James Moncreiff: *The Hunterian Oration, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in London on the fourteenth of February, 1843* (London: John Scott, 1843)
C 1033

The career of John Hunter differed from others such as Harvey, Fabricius and Cuvier in that his father died early leaving him in the care of what has been called a carelessly indulgent mother, so that he passed his boyhood in sauntering, in country sports and in cabinet making with his brother-in-law. It was not until the age of 20, on hearing of his brother William's success as an anatomist, that he moved to London and entered his brother's dissecting room and worked as few have worked before or since. His training was enhanced by notable surgeons of the time, William Cheselden and Percival Pott.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and was appointed surgeon to St. George's Hospital in 1767. By the 1770s he could be regarded as being at his peak and in 1776 he was named surgeon-extraordinary to King George III (1738-1820). Increasingly troubled by angina pectoris, Hunter collapsed and died of an attack in 1793 during a meeting of the board of St. George's Hospital. In his memory, the Hunterian Oration was founded in 1813 by the executors of his will, his nephew Dr Matthew Baillie and his brother-in-law Sir Everard Home. This biennial oration is traditionally delivered by a Fellow or Member of the College on Hunter's birthday, 14 February.

Alan Thurston graduated MB ChB in 1972 with distinction in Anatomy and the David White Prize in Clinical Surgery. Trained in orthopaedic surgery and was admitted as FRACS in 1980 and FNZOA in 1982.

Awarded a Research Fellowship in Oxford and graduated MSc (bioengineering). Appointed as Senior Lecturer at the Wellington School of Medicine in 1982. Awarded the Broadfoot Memorial Essay Prize, 1985, the A.B.C. Travelling Fellowship in 1986 and the Douglas Iverach Postgraduate Fellowship in Medicine in 1991. Awarded the Kenneth Russell Memorial Medal by the RACS, 2002. Honorary Surgeon to three Governors-General of New Zealand over 15 years. Promoted to Associate Professor 1996.

Clinical practice is limited to hand, wrist and elbow surgery. Other areas of interest include amputations and limb fitting. Research interests include biomaterials, the biomechanical aspects of amputee stumps, and surgical history.

KENNETH FITZPATRICK RUSSELL MEMORIAL LECTURERS

- 1991 Prof. Harold Attwood
*Kenneth Russell - Medical Historian, Matthew Baillie's
Atlas of Engravings and Samuel Johnson's Lung*
- 1994 Dr R. Andrew Cuthbertson
Hæmophilia: Historical and Molecular Perspectives
- 1996 Prof. John H. Pearn
Nom et Lumière
- 1998 Prof. A. Wyn Beasley
A Web of Words: Kipling and his Friends
- 2000 Prof. Donald A. Simpson
The English Roots of Medical Education in Australasia
- 2002 Prof. Alan J. Thurston
Dupuytren's Disease or Cooper's Contracture?
- 2004 Hon. Prof. S.A. (Sam) Mellick
Of Books and Libraries
- 2006 Mr A. Wyn Beasley
An Approach to the Natural
- 2008 Mr Marius Fahrer
The Life and Times of Ambroise Paré
- 2010 Mr Philip Sharp
Herman Boerhaave - The Dutch Hippocrates
- 2012 Mr Gordon Low
*Paintings from the Cushing / Whitney Library of Yale
University*