

News, Notes, and Queries

The Wellcome Institute Library

1996–1997 will see some major changes among the senior staff of the Library with the successive retirements of Robin Price, in July; Brenda Sutton, in November; and Eric Freeman, in March 1997, who have between them almost a hundred years of service.

Robin Price joined the Library in 1967 as an assistant librarian on a short-term contract, having previously worked at the House of Lords Library and the Institute of Anthropology. His interest in native medicine made him an obvious choice for promotion to be in charge of the American Collection, with its important holdings in both the colonial and native medicine of North and Central America. His publication of the catalogue of the collection in 1983 displays to the full his bibliographical expertise, but only hints at the unusual tale of international litigation that accompanied it.

In 1973, he became the Deputy Librarian, taking over, as time went on, increasingly greater responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Library. Its perpetually clean, bright, and tidy appearance is owed to his stewardship. He it was who took charge of the organization of the Library's moves from 183 Euston Road to Bentley House and back again; that both moves were completed on time and with minimal interference says much for his careful planning. His acquaintance with all that might go wrong gained him membership of the National Libraries' Disaster Committee.

He has also acted for many years as an unofficial liaison between the Library and a whole range of other groups in the history of medicine. He has served as Secretary to the Society for the Social History of Medicine as well as to the History Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and has taken over the running of the successful courses for the Diploma of the Society of Apothecaries, now extended to the USA and Australia. His familiarity with the leading figures in London

clinical medicine, gained through the Garrick as well as the Osler Club, is legendary, and his activities as Hon. Secretary of the Friends of the Wellcome Institute, a body in part suggested by him, has ensured its successful beginning. Internationally, he has established valuable contacts with his American colleagues, speaking regularly to fellow librarians at the AAHM annual meetings, as well as with those historians who attend the meetings of the Société Internationale, on whose committee he has also served.

Retirement, whether to Kensington or Aldeburgh, will not immediately deprive the Library of Robin's carefully co-ordinated presence, for he will continue to act as the Hon. Secretary of the Friends, as well as to work for the Apothecaries and for the Royal Society of Medicine.

Brenda Sutton is the senior member of the Wellcome Staff, having come via Reading University and the London Library School in 1959. Except for 1970–1972, when she was seconded to the Library at the University of British Columbia, she has remained ever since. Her first responsibilities included the letter collection, especially those relating to Florence Nightingale, but for many years, under a variety of titles, she has been in charge of the Reading Room and the ambiguously named Historical Collection. This consists of modern secondary works on the history of medicine, and is what most readers wish first to consult—and expect to find in the Library, if nowhere else. Searching for, and obtaining, such material is far from easy, as it involves a multitude of languages and obscure places of origin, and Brenda has also most recently had oversight of the Library's main acquisitions.

Her greatest achievements, however, lie more in what others do, for she has been responsible for selecting and training the library assistants who man the front desk and to whom enquirers turn first. Fresh from Library School, they are quickly introduced by

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her to active librarianship and to the history of medicine. That in questionnaires completed by students and other readers the staff in Reader Services are consistently given the highest praise of all sections of the Library—and far more than the Academic Unit—testifies to the high standards that Brenda has implanted in

them, and to the amount of knowledge that she has taught them. We wish both her and Robin a long and happy retirement.

Of the retirement of Eric Freeman as Wellcome Librarian more will be said in a later issue....

New Librarian

The Wellcome Trust has announced the appointment of David R S Pearson MA, ALA, as Librarian of the Wellcome Institute in succession to Eric Freeman on his retirement in March 1997. Mr Pearson is at present Head of Collection Development in the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He is also the Honorary Secretary of the Bibliographical Society.

David Pearson received a BA in Natural Sciences and an MA in English from Cambridge University, and then obtained a

Diploma in Library and Information Studies from Loughborough University. He worked in the libraries of both Durham Cathedral and Durham University before joining the British Library where he spent six years working on the *Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue*. In 1992 he moved to the Victoria and Albert as Head of Acquisitions of the National Art Library, and was promoted to his present position earlier this year. He will join the Trust as Librarian-Elect in November 1996.

Jerry Stannard Memorial Award

The 1997 competition for the annual award in honour of the late Professor Jerry Stannard is open to graduate students and to recent recipients of a doctoral degree (PhD or an equivalent), conferred not more than three years before the competition deadline. Published or unpublished scholarly studies in the fields of the history of *materia medica*, medicinal botany, pharmacy, and folklore of drug therapy before 1700 will be considered. In 1997 the award will be \$500. Manuscripts must be in English, French, or German. Only one paper by any author may be submitted in any given year. Each entry should be typewritten, double-spaced, and no longer than 50 pages, including notes, bibliography, and appendices. Entrants should keep copies of

their manuscripts, since those submitted will not be returned. Each submission must be accompanied by the following: (a) a one-page abstract of the paper *in English*; (b) a current *curriculum vitae* of the author; and (c) a letter of recommendation from an established scholar in the field. Entrants who are US residents are also requested to give their home address and social security number. Entries must be received no later than **15 February 1997**. The award will be announced on or about 15 May 1997. All manuscripts and correspondence should be addressed to: The Stannard Award Committee, Department of History, Wescoe Hall 3001, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2130, USA.

Proposed Antique Medical Instrument Society

A society is being set up in order to promote the study of the development of all types of medical instruments from prehistory to the

twentieth century. Anyone interested in joining should contact Dr M Kyriazis, 14 The Avenue, Cliftonville, Northampton NN1 5BT, UK.

British Medical Anthropology Review

The British Medical Anthropology Review is a bi-annual journal that covers a range of diverse disciplines and activities associated with medical anthropology in Britain and elsewhere. It publishes original papers, extensive book reviews and regular updates on courses in medical anthropology in Britain, and much more information. Subscription rates per

volume (two issues) are as follows: Europe: individuals £10; institutions £15; outside Europe: individuals £12; institutions £17. For a subscription form and other details, write to the Editor, BMAR, Department of Psychiatry, University College London, 48 Riding House Street, London W1N 8AA, UK.

21st Antique Scientific and Medical Instrument Fair London, 27 October 1996

Nearly 60 exhibitors from a number of European countries and the United States will be offering for sale a large selection of antique scientific and medical instruments, related

objects and books at the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1, from 10.00 to 16.30, admission £3.00.