



NISA

# Newsletter

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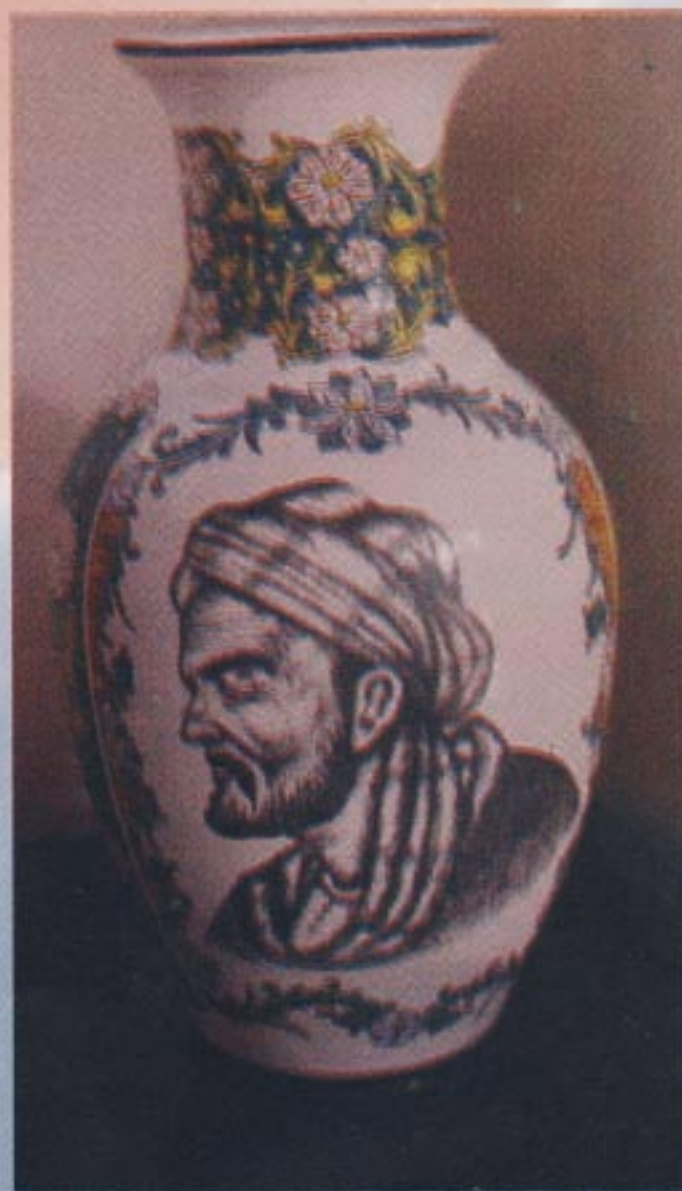
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Vase Extant in the Museum of Ibn Sina Academy

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**An Official Newsletter of the**  
**Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences**  
**ALIGARH, INDIA**



IAMMS ACTIVITIES

12<sup>th</sup> Lecture of Ibn Sina Academy Series

Prof. M. Yasin Ansari, Former Principal, Zakir Hussain College of Engineering & Technology, (Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) delivered the 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture at the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy on Sept.21. He spoke on "Islamic Architecture in India". The lecture was presided over by Padam Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar, an eminent Urdu Critic, Novelist and Dramatist. Before the lecture, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy) summarised the recent activities of the Academy that far and introduced Prof. Yasin Ansari stressing his remarkable contribution in the field of Architecture & Civil Engineering. He also thanked Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi who presented cordless microphone to the Academy.

Excerpts of the Lecture by Prof. M. Yasin Ansari on "Islamic Architecture, Aesthetics and Spiritualism"

The human nature while observing a piece of object reacts in two ways: First, it is impressed by the beauty of the object and enjoys it, and second it is awed by the object and is overwhelmed with surprise, fear and feeling of respect for the object. The basis of this reaction is *husn* (beauty), actually the beauty of the creation. Next comes the feeling of joy or fear, awe, surprise and utmost respect. These feelings are actually the three grades of beauty (*husn*) itself, namely, the basic (*husn*), the feeling of utmost beauty (*jamāl*), and the utmost feeling of awe, surprise or respect (*jalāl*). In Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages *Husn*, *jamāl* and *jalāl* are assumed as three grades of beauty (*husn*). To define them somewhat precisely, we may say,

Primary Husn + extraneous elements-1 =Jamāl,

Primary Husn + extraneous elements-2 =Jalāl.

For example, some additional elements of *husn* like spiritualism, well-dressed cultured personality will make the same person *hasin* (beautiful) and *jamil* (additionally). Similarly some elements of surprise, awe and extreme sense of respect will make an individual *jalil*

(additionally). Thus, in Islamic architecture a building is normally and basically *hasin*. With some additional elements like decoration, cylindricality, gardens, waterfalls and fountains, it becomes *jamil* additionally. Similarly with massive walls, crude dome it becomes *jalil* additionally. The concepts of *husn* (beauty), *jamil* and *jalil* are the terms used in the Holy Quran. So are the references to *jannat* to convey all that is *jamil*.

The speaker then explained briefly the meaning of these words by conceptual diagram and case-by-case study of Tajmahal, Humayun's Tomb, Jamia Mosque in Damascus and Cordova.

Islamic architecture and art is also an embodiment of spiritualism (*tasawwuf*) or Sufism, and in a way a shortened or partial symbol of Islam. For instance, Mughal gardens and Berber gardens are the devices of decorations as mentioned in the Holy Quran under the theme of paradise. The illumination and light in the mosques, tombs and even dwellings are the reflection of *nūr* (24:35). The dome is a symbol of the Greatness of God as mentioned in *Āyat-ul Kursi* (2:255). The architects, engineers and builders knew as much of Islam as they knew engineering. The workers were highly motivated and influenced by Sufism. The head of a *Khānqāh* used to be also the head of the professional organizations of craftsmen. The *Khānqāh*, in turn, infused honesty, integrity and good moral and professional character in them. The speaker presented for all the above-mentioned statements and ideas documentary evidence, facts, figures, and explained them with schematic diagrams.

Finally, the speaker acknowledged the motivation and help rendered by Professor Masud Hussain Khan, Ex-chairman, Department of Linguistic of Aligarh Muslim University and former Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi).

New Arrivals/Addition to the Zillur Rahman Library of IAMMS

Dr. S. M. Mar'ashī Najafi (Chairman, Library of Mar'ashī Najafi, Qum, Iran) has kindly donated



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the following books for the Library of Ibn Sina Academy.

1. Catalogue of the Manuscripts of the Library of Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī Vols. 1-30.
2. Sthāb Shari'ah, Vol. 1.
3. Quarterly Mīrāth – Shināb, Vols 1 – 4.

### Introductory Remarks by Prof. Athar Siddiqi on the occasion of the Inauguration of a New Hall at IAMMS

Prof. Athar Siddiqi inaugurated the program by addressing the distinguished guests and particularly the Iranian Delegates, and its leader Āqā Syed Mahmūd Mar'ashī (Director, Mar'ashī Najafī Library, Qum/Iran), and Mr. Naseem Ahmad (Vice-chancellor, AMU, Aligarh). He said, "we have gathered here to welcome the Iranian scholars and to witness the inauguration of a new Hall of Ibn Sina Academy. Before we start with the proceedings, I have the pleasure and consider it a privilege to say a few words about the Academy. The Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences came into existence as a reality through the single handed efforts and devotion to the cause of medieval medicine & sciences by Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, who was truly inspired and motivated to establish this Academy, financed entirely by his own resources. We must congratulate him and acknowledge his achievement. The Academy at present has over 10,000 books, 500 manuscripts, *Farāmins* and *Navādirāt* (rare material), 1 lakh stamps, 3,500 coins and currency notes of various countries, a couple of hundreds fountain pen and other rare paintings, etc. A Newsletter of the Academy (NISA) is being published regularly for the last 3 years. The Academy is a *waqf* (Trust) and an NGO. In my opinion, this Academy is a one-man's lifetime achievement and labour of love. Prof. Zillur Rahman deserves full support and encouragement from like-minded people, who should come forward and assist him in his future endeavour".

### Collaboration of Ibn Sina Academy with the Project of Traditional Knowledge

To update the list of medicinal plants for the project of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), by the Unani Section of the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine (Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare), Government of India set up committees to finalize the list of medicinal plant which would include particularly correct botanical nomenclature by using details studies of various flora. The Ministry set up also groups to update the list of medicinal plants with the help of literature available at the Library of Ibn Sina Academy (vide letter No. U 20012/8/02-APC, Dated August 29, 2003).

### Ibn Sina Academy in the list of MedHist of



## The Wellcome Trust

The following resources record Ibn Sina (Avicenna) database on MedHist. They can be accessed either via the name index (Person or searching A-Z by Author). MedHist events are available via the MedHist Web site at <http://medhist.ac.uk/events>. For instance we give a typical entry in the following:

**Title: Avicenna (Ibn Sina)**

### Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine [www.ibnsinaacademy.com]

This is the Web site of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine in India. It is a non-profit making organization with multiple aims and objectives to promote research studies of physicians in the medieval period; to encourage a broader interest in medicine, philosophy, science and technology; and to support a useful dialogue between different theories of knowledge. The Web site has a complete list of aims and objectives, as well as information about the Academy's Library, which contains one of the most precious and highly valuable collections of books, special periodical numbers, manuscripts, paintings, postal stamps, coins and specimens of oriental calligraphy. A link for information on the Academy's Museum is being developed. Issues of the Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy are available as PDF files, which can be opened by the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Application form for membership of the Academy is also available in PDF format.

**Keywords:** Philosophy; Museums; Libraries; India; History of Medicine, Medieval; Arab World



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**Individual Activities of Members of IAMMS**  
**Prof. S. M. Razauallah Ansari**, who is the Secretary of the Academy and also the President of International Commission for History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA), has edited its *Newsletter* No.2 (2003), 16 pages. The *Newsletter* can be acquired from the sub-editor Prof. Anne Tihon, <atihon@ori.ucl.ac.be>. It can also be consulted by visiting the Web page of the Commission, <<http://chama.fltr.ucl.ac.be>>. This new issue offers *Notices* on six books, two of which are *Festschriften* (Memorial Volumes) of renowned historians of astronomy, viz., Prof. David Pingree (Brown University) and Prof. Bernard Goldstein (Yale University). Besides these, 12 members of the Commission have forwarded lists of their recent publications. This precious information has also been published in the *Newsletter*. Two Announcements, first on the 22<sup>nd</sup> *International Congress of History of Science* (to be held in Beijing, 2005) and another on the 5<sup>th</sup> *International Conference of Oriental Astronomy* (to be held in Thailand, in Oct.2004) have been included in the issue and they have been especially discussed by Prof. Ansari in his *Foreword*. It may be mentioned that Prof. Ansari is one of the members of the International Organising Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> *International Conference of Oriental Astronomy*. Moreover, as the *current* President of CHAMA, he is planning to organise a Symposium on the Ancient and Medieval Astronomy, at the Congress in Beijing.

**Dr. A. Latif**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Ilmul Advia (Faculty of Unani Medicine, at A. K. Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) was invited by the organizing committee of International Academic Conference of Uyghur Medicine (for the year 2003) to deliver a talk on "Treatment on Vitiligo in Unani Medicine". The Conference was held during August 17-21, 2003 at Urumqi (China). During the Conference, he also chaired a scientific session.

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman**, Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh), was awarded a Scholarship by the prestigious African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AIBST) to attend the 3-day workshop on "Pharmacogenetics of Drug

Metabolism". The Workshop was held during Aug.25-27, August 2003 at Nairobi (Kenya). He visited Kenyatta National Medical Institute for Health Science of the University of Nairobi, Nairobi (Kenya). He also participated in another workshop on "Pharmacokinetics and Herbal Medicine", held under the aegis of African Society for Drug Metabolism & Development (ASDMD) during August 19-22, 2003.

### Notices on New Works / Books

1. François Charette, *Mathematical Instrumentation in Fourteenth-Century Egypt and Syria — The Illustrated Treatise of Najm al-Din al-Misri*, and Boston, E.G. Brill, Leiden, 2003 (Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Science. Texts and Studies, Volume LI). ISBN 90 64 13015 2 xxii + 422 + 136 pp. 16 b/w and 2 color plates. Bibliography and indices. For more information visit the publisher's website: [http://www.brill.nl/m\\_catalogue\\_sub6\\_id11367.htm](http://www.brill.nl/m_catalogue_sub6_id11367.htm)

2. G. Marchetti - O. Rignani - V. Sorge (Eds.), *Ratio et superstitio. Essays in Honor of Graziella Federici Vescovini*, Brepols, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, 2003

Twenty-four critical essays, including a substantial introduction, written by the most distinguished international scholars, make up this volume, in honour of Graziella Federici Vescovini. The essays offer by far the most thorough and thoughtful discussion of the relationship between *ratio* and *superstitio*, beginning with medieval reflections and ending with «modern» speculation. The unifying themes of these contributions are the spectrum between different forms of reason and superstition. The essays show the tortuous and complex path of philosophical thinking as aiming at truth and discoveries. This path has not privileged itineraries, but it proceeds by integrations that modify the perspectives continuously, at times demonstrating as illusory what had previously seemed certain, and at times recuperating in different contexts what had formerly been rejected. So what we, the children of modern scientism, might call the foolishness of an epoch (as, for example, medieval judiciary



astrology), could well be the scientific wisdom of that given historical period. The volume is a broad and suggestive analysis that altogether opens a wide view in the volume's themes, demonstrating how some authors and some texts have for the modern reader a sense that was not recognized in their time.

Anyone with a serious interest in Medieval, Renaissance and «Modern» philosophy will enjoy this invaluable collection.

Original essays by: F. Barocelli, J. Biard, F. Bottin, C. Burnett, G. Cacciatore, F. Cambi, G. D'Onofrio, J. Hackett, M. McVaugh, G. Marchetti, G. Mari, P. Morpurgo, J. North, A. Pieretti, D. Pingree, O. Pluta, R. Rashed, V. Sorge, F. Tessitore, C. Trottmann, C. Vinti, O. Weijers, P. Zambelli, M. Zanatta

Giancarlo Marchetti teaches philosophy at the University of Perugia. He is the editor of *Il neopragmatismo*, Firenze 1999, and the author of *Il pragmatismo postanalitico*, Perugia 2003.

Orsola Rignani teaches philosophy at the University of Florence. She is the co-editor of the critical edition of Blaise De Parme, *Questiones super Tractatus Logice magisteri Petri Hispani*, édité par J. Biard - G. Federici Vascovini, Paris 2001.

Valeria Sorge teaches medieval philosophy at the University of Naples. She is the editor of BIAGIO PELACANI DA PARMA, *Quaestiones de anima. Alle origini del libertinismo*, Napoli, 1995, and the author of *Profili dell'averroismo holognese. Metafisica e scienza in Taddeo da Parma*, Napoli 2001.

3. *Sharh al-Urjûza al-yâsiminya*, de Ibn al-Hâ'im  
Texte établi et commenté par Mahdi Abdeljaouad  
428 pages, Publication de l'Association  
Tunisienne des Sciences Mathématiques, Tunis,  
2003. Public price: 20 dollars (plus shipping  
costs)

This work is published by the Tunisian Association of Mathematical Sciences, edited by Mahdi Abdeljaouad, Professor at the University of Tunis. He is working essentially on the history

of Arab mathematics and on history of teaching mathematics in Islamic countries.

Ibn al-Hâ'im (1352-1412) is the author of many books in arithmetic and algebra: *al-Hâwi fi 'ilm al-hisâb* (1380), *al-Ma'ûna fil hisâb al-hawâ'i* (1389), *al-Wasila fi 'ilm al-hisâb* (1390), *al-Muqni' fil jabr wal muqâbala* (1410), etc.

*Sharh al-Urjûza al-yâsiminya*, written in 1387, is a commentary of *al-Urjûza fil Jabr wal Muqâbala*, of Ibn al-Yâsamin (d.1204). The author aims in this textbook to teach all known algebraic concepts, methods and rules based on the works of al-Karâjî (d.1020) and Ibn al-Bannâ (1256-1321):

Presentation of algebraic terminology and different methods of resolutions of first and second-degree equations.

Monomial and polynomial expressions; multiplication, division, addition, subtraction and square roots of algebraic expressions.

Multiplication, division, addition, subtraction and square roots of irrational numbers of the form  $\pm$

Methodologies for solving algebraic problems

Resolution of 45 problems.

This book contains three parts:

- In Arabic language: an introduction with annotations (52 pages) and the edition of *Sharh al-Urjûza al-yâsiminya*. (208 pages)
- In French language: a presentation, which includes a detailed analysis of the algebra, used by Ibn al-Hâ'im (124 pages).
- Two bilingual tables summarizing mathematical contents of the *Sharh* with modern algebraic formulas and with North African algebraic symbols (44 pages).

(Summary by M. Abdeljaouad)

4. Al-Bîrûnî's Chronology of Ancient Nations: *al-Âthâr al-bâqiyya min al-qurûm al-khâlîyya*.



edited by Parviz Azka'i (Tehran: Mirâth-i aktûb, 2001, ISBN 9646781543).

This is a new critical edition with Arabic text, Persian translation, a detailed commentary and indices. This laudable edition, based on all available MSS, is much superior to Sachau's edited text (and the additions by Garbers and Fück, see below). For details, visit the web page <http://iranfarhang.com/mirasemaktubEN.asp> (sixth row from top, on the left).

To note is that most publications do not reach such philological standards. For example in the Widener Library of Harvard University two other "editions" of important treatises by al-Bîrûnî are available, but both of which are worthless, namely:

5. *Kitâb al-tashîm li-awâ'il smâ'at al-tanjîm* (Dimashq, Ninawa, 2003)

It simply reproduces the text of the facsimile of MS British Library Or 8349 which accompanies Ramsay Wright's English translation with the title: *The Book of Instructions in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*, London, 1934.

6. *al-Âthâr al-bâqiya 'an al-qurûn al-khâliya*, wada'a hawâshiyahu Khalîl 'Umrân al-Mansûr (Beirut: Dâr al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyyah, 2000), ISBN 2745121901). It is actually plagiarized from Sachau's German edition (Leipzig, 1878) without including the additions by K. Garbers (1952) and J. Fück (1952). For further details consult Fuat Sezgin, *History of Arabic Islamic Writings*, E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1978, Vol. 6, p.270.

On the other hand, there is a recent 'editio princeps' of al-Bîrûnî's *Istî'âb al-wujûh al-mumkina fi san'at al-asturlâbi*, by Muhammad Akbar Jawâdî al-Husaynî (Mashhad: Majma' al-buhûth al-islâmiyya, 1380 Hijra Shamsî [2001/2] ISBN 9644443551), which, although by no means satisfying, is certainly useful.

Further, the new Beirut edition of al-Bîrûnî's *al-Qânîn al-Mas'ûdî* (Dâr al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya: 2002, in 3 vols., ISBN 2754133055) is quite useful, even though it is not a piece of critical scholarship. The text nevertheless appears to be better than the Hyderabad edition (this statement

is based on very partial and cursory inspection). The layout is also much more appealing.

[Slightly edited *Notice*, originally by Dr. François Charette (Canada)]

## REPORTS OF THE CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

### International Academic Conference On Uyghur Medicine – A Report by Dr. A. Latif (Joint Secretary, IAMMS)

The International Academic Conference of Uyghur Medicine for 2003 was held in Urumqi, which is situated in northern-western-China's province Xinjiang. The purpose of the Conference was to introduce Uyghur medicine to non-Chinese scholars, to exchange academic ideas, research achievements and medical health care experience with the experts and scholars of this traditional Uyghur medicine and other ethnic and traditional medicines.

A total of 289 participants comprising specially invited guests, representatives, experts and scholars from inland and abroad attended this Conference. We list in the following some of the 41 foreign experts and scholars: Prof. M. Moore (France); Prof. S. Nelskeey (Germany); G.B. Fedacev, Prof. V.I. Trafimov, E. Dubrovin, E. Haramov, and D.U. Gogol (Russia); Y.Z.Wang (USA); A. Hamid (Malaysia); Andrews Bayer (Austria); Prof. Shojiro Fujiyama, Junichiro Kinoshita, and Taro Yamagami (Japan); Min-Chang Huang (Taiwan); Dr. Abdul Latif (India); S. Graff, Demare and G. Suidre (Estonia); Fang Zhonghong, Zhang Yung, Gao Pengfei, Cao Kangyu, Wang Zou, and Liu Li (Shanghai); Aqueel A. Shahzad and M. Nisar (Pakistan); J.Kenneth Mukamal (Ukraine), A. Lucien (USA), S. Martine (Denmark) and T.Karine (Ukraine). A good number of presented papers were concerned with Uyghur medicine, namely, with basic theories, application, clinical experiences and research development. In several papers in-depth theoretical and innovative academic points of view were presented.

### Introduction to Uyghur Medicine

Xinjiang is an ancient and vast area in China. It has an abundant supply of medicinal plants. The



Uyghur people in their long history had studied well the medicinal sciences and had developed their own traditional system, in which they have trained themselves quite hard.

Prof. Gulbustan Sabit in his introductory lecture has traced the development and prospect of Uyghur Medicine and its materia medica that is, the rich practical experience of Uyghur people for different kinds of diseases in the last 2500 years. According to Prof. Sabit, it possesses a very unique theoretical system, effective clinical treatment and diagnostic methods. This system is not only one of the valuable treasures of Chinese traditional Medicine but also an important constituent of the Xinjiang traditional Uyghur culture. The Uyghur medical system had originated prior to 4th Century A.D. Bazi Bay in Tarim Basin had written a number of books, which contained description of 312 kind of herbs, and drugs of animals and mineral origin. The book "*Hotan Medicine*" (*Khotan Medicine*) was written during 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. According to its fundamentals, theory of humorism, organology, pharmacology and theory of diagnosis were discovered and invented, which in turn led to the major therapeutic principles of internal medicine and surgical treatment. She further asserted that Uyghur Medicine is highly effective in treating cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes, skin diseases, such as vitiligo, psoriasis, etc. As a result to this development, a bright future awaits for Uyghur medicine.

In fact, Uyghur medicine has a unique position in the traditional Chinese medicine. The scholars at the end of the deliberations concluded that steps should be taken to strengthen the study and research on Uyghur medical theories and skills, to expand the academic exchange and cooperation so that it can better serve for the health of all ethnic groups. The author of this Report acknowledges gratefully the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the invitation, which made it possible for him to attend this important Conference and to interact particularly with many members of LOC, e.g., Ismayil Teliwaldi (Director & Chairman), Ayop Tiyip (General Secretary), Turghun omar (College President), Prof. Halmurat Upur (Director,

Academic Committee), Deputy Director Abdurrahim Kadir and other teachers of Uyghur Medicine of Hotan College: Mr. Abdul Motalib Ibn Ali, Abdul Kareem and Ms. Mahpirat.

### **Workshop On Pharmacokinetics And Herbal Medicines – A Report by Prof. Andrew Walubo**

A workshop on pharmacokinetics and herbal medicines (PKS-HB) organized by the African Society for Drug Metabolism and Development (ASDMD) on the a theme 'From crude extracts to drugs' was held during August 20 – 22, 2003 at the Panafric hotel in Nairobi, Kenya

A characteristic feature of the workshop was that no formal speeches were delivered. Prof. G. Tucker inaugurated the workshop by delivering two lectures one after another, in which he dealt briefly with the principles of pharmacokinetics. He illustrated the derivation and significance of some important pharmacokinetic parameters such as half-life, clearance, volume of distribution, area under curve, bioavailability etc. These lectures were followed in the afternoon by the workshop on pharmacokinetics, in which participants used the formulas dealt in the morning to derive important kinetic parameters and make relevant clinical interpretations.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to Drug Development. Prof. Walubo opened the session with an excellent presentation on the process of drug development in which he cited especially examples of various studies conducted in different phases of drug development. He stressed that every stage of drug development, *for example the discovery of phase*, is important. Interestingly, the drug discovery phase appeared to be the most complex and fast growing one, while other phases (i.e., pre-clinical and clinical phases) remain the most scaring, probably due to regulation and financial implications. Thereafter, Dr. Norman Waters (of the Walter Reed Project, Kenya) illustrated the method of '*structural modelling*' for drug discovery using molecular structures. He reported his own investigation for new anti-malarial drugs. This was a very important lecture in which the speaker was generous enough to share with participants some of his recent and rather confidential data, in



addition to that already published. As if that was not enough, Dr. Yesenev (University of Nairobi) gave on an account of the isolation and characterization of compounds from herbal extracts, which he termed "the experience of the University of Nairobi Natural Product Research Laboratory". This was a comprehensive lecture in which he enumerated the different methods of botanical identification of plants, literature searches on plants, collection of plant material, drying, grinding, bioassays, isolation or separation methods and structural elucidation and derivatization. Dr. Yesenev was followed by Prof. Aggrey Oloo (WHO AFRO regional Office) who outlined the WHO guidelines for evaluation and testing of traditional medicines. The second day then ended by a tour of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), and Traditional Medicine Laboratories. The tour was guided by its director, Dr. Geoffrey Lukunga and by Dr. Norman Waters (Director, Walter Reed Research Laboratories for Malarial Research). The participants were able to see some of the machines or equipment (a few in operation there). The tour was a very memorable experience for participants, many of whom did not expect to see laboratory robots and well-equipped molecular and analytical laboratories in this part of the continent.

The third day of the workshop was devoted to 'Cytochrome P450 drug metabolising enzymes'. Dr. Collen Masimirembwa introduced the participants to Cytochrome P450 in which he narrated the relevant aspects of its discovery, nomenclature and characteristics such as broad substrate specificity, location, mechanism of metabolism, etc. The next lecture was by Prof. A. Walubo, who gave an appraisal of the clinical importance of Cytochrome P450. He illustrated the role of Cytochrome P450 in the metabolic activation and inactivation of drugs to active or toxic metabolites, saturable metabolism, physiological changes, drug interactions, disease, teratogenicity, hereditary variations and carcinogenesis. Then Prof. Tucker addressed participants and dealt the theme: The prediction of drug interactions. He explained that in a situation where there are too many discrete pieces of information pointing to a possibility of a drug interaction, computer simulation has been

used to obtain a better picture of the problem. Later he outlined the theory of the simulation program; SIMCYP that is used for prediction of potential Cytochrome P450 mediated drug interactions. The SIMCYP software incorporates biological variability into its *in vitro* extrapolations, i.e., it takes into account age, weight, sex, height, body surface area, liver weight, liver enzyme content etc. This was a powerful tool and almost every participant wanted to have one.

Dr. Masimirembwa wound up the day with a workshop on the *in vitro* methods for prediction of potential drug interactions *in vivo*. It was a workshop of virtual reality in which the intelligent extrapolations made one feel like he/she was working on patients. This was particularly important for screening new drug molecules.

Finally, Prof. Walubo, as the president of the ASDMD, moved a vote of thanks to everybody and declared the workshop as a success. He remarked that because ASDMD is still in infancy, his immediate aim was that African scientists acquaint and interact with each other, thereby motivating scientific research, and collaboration. He proposed that a professional society be formed to achieve that aim.

**The Second Workshop of the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology on Pharmacogenetics of Drug Metabolism – A Report by Dr. Collen Masimirembwa**

This Workshop was held at The PanAfric Hotel and Wellcome Trust Research Laboratories, Nairobi, Kenya during August 25 – 27, 2003.

Dr. Collen Masimirembwa (Astra-Zeneca and AIBST) chaired the first session of the morning lectures and delivered the introductory lecture on "Overview of the Drug Discovery Process: Role of Pharmacogenetics". Professor Leif Bertilsson (Karolinska Institute, Huddinge Hospital, Sweden) gave a lecture on the "History and Overview of the Pharmacogenetics of Drug Metabolism". This exciting and well-researched lecture took the participants through the history of the pharmacogenetics of drug metabolism from the early work of Prof W. Kalow on acetyl



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cholinesterase, Price Evans on N-acetyltransferase, to Michael Eichelbaum and others on cytochrome P450 2D6. The lecture showed how combinations of luck and experimental insight led to the discovery and understanding of the genetic polymorphism of drug metabolising enzymes. The lecture also highlighted the significant contributions of Professor Bertilsson and others in Sweden to the molecular and clinical understanding of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 polymorphisms.

Dr. Andrea Gaedigk (Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinic, USA) explained the definitions of terms used in pharmacogenetics research using experimental results (e.g. genotyping results of CYP2C9 and CYP2D6). Professor Olavi Pelkonen (University of Oulu, Finland) gave a lecture on Conjugating (Phase 2) Enzymes. The lecture was very pedagogic which covered the whole scope of drug biotransformation in the first part followed by overviews of the major conjugating enzymes: GSTs, UGTs, NAT-2, SUL with respect to their typical reactions, substrates, and genetic polymorphism status. Case compound studies showing the usually concerted oxidation, hydrolysis and conjugation reactions in xenobiotic metabolism were used to highlight the sense and sometimes complexity of biotransformation pathways.

Subsequently, Dr. Andrea Gaedigk gave a lecture on the discovery, diversity, substrate range, molecular biochemical characteristics, and genetic polymorphism status of Cytochrome P450s and flavin monooxygenases (FMOs). This lecture provided a major review of CYP450s, which will guide participants in entering this, sometimes, intimidating enzyme system due to its enormously available literature.

Hands-on-experience on CYP2C19 and CYP2D6 genotyping experiments using a combination of PCR and RFLP to detect the two major allelic variants for CYP2D6\*17 / \*29; CYP2D6\*4 / \*10 and CYP2C19\*2 was provided to participants by Dr. Andrea Gaedigk and assistants. The participants did their experiments starting from a long PCR amplification product on which additional PCR was performed followed by

RFLP digestions for the determinations of genotypes of interest.

On the second day, Prof. Leif Bertilsson chaired the session and gave the first two lectures on "*Practical Experience in Clinical Pharmacogenetics*" and "*Treatment and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Pharmacogenetics*", while Professor Olavi Pelkonen gave a lecture on "*Xenobiotic Metabolising Enzymes and Cancer Risk*". Dr. Collet Dandara (AIBST, Zimbabwe) spoke on "*Pharmacogenetic Status of Drug Metabolising Enzymes in African Populations*". Dr. Andrea Gaedigk then gave a comprehensive overview of HTS Genotyping Methods. The lecture was well referenced so that interested participants could go to the relevant publications and/or websites. Techniques covered in the lecture included: Gene Chip Arrays, MALDL – TOF, Pyrosequencing, Invader System and SNP-IT primer extension. The last lecture on day 2 was one of the liveliest lectures of the Workshop. Professor Gilbert Kokwaro (Wellcome Trust Research Laboratories, Kenya) gripped the participants' attention as he encouraged them to review what they had learnt that far in the Workshop based on the magic word 'V'. He impressively explained to the participants how 'V', i.e., the variability was the core concept of the Workshop, namely, variability in response to drug treatment, variability in drug metabolising enzymes, variability in target receptors, variability in environmental factors that modified the eventual phenotype. This exciting lecture used examples of variability in the treatment of malaria in Africa and helped participants see the application of pharmacogenetics in the African setting.

The students performed experimental work on phenotyping for CYP2D6 under the guidance of Dr. Collen Masimirembwa and his team. This involved the Determination of Concentrations of debrisoquine and the main metabolite 4-OH debrisoquine in urines of subjects who had been given debrisoquine, by an HPLC-Fluo method. Dr. Collen Masimirembwa introduced the participants to the basic principles of HPLC analysis using the machine to demonstrate the different components. The process of phenotyping, from probe administration to urine



collection and sample preparation was also covered.

Professor Gilbert Kokwaro chaired the session on the final day. It began by Dr. Collen Masimirembwa who updated AIBST activities so far. Some of the achievements of AIBST are:

\* AIBST founded in 2001

\* 1<sup>st</sup> ADME-Tox Course (1 week on ADME) in Cape Town in 2002

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> ADME-Tox Course (3-day Workshop on Pharmacogenetics of Drug Metabolism) in Nairobi in 2003

\*Setting-up of an ADME-Tox Lab. in Harare, August 2002 – August 2003.

Then, Professor Leif Bertilsson gave a lecture on "The Evaluation of Phenotyping Methods" and "Design of Clinical Pharmacogenetic Studies", while Dr. Collen Masimirembwa gave a lecture on how to treat population phenotyping and genotyping data. He stressed the need to either involve or at least consult a statistician during the design of population studies and to consult a population geneticist in results interpretation of genotyping data.

Professor Olavi Pelkonen and Dr. Collen Masimirembwa gave a lecture each on "The design of Clinical Studies to Evaluate the Importance of Pharmacogenetics" and on "the use of in vitro and computational methods in predicting the role of polymorphic drug metabolising enzymes in the biotransformation of a new chemical entities during the drug discovery process" respectively.

Finally, Professors Leif Bertilsson and Olavi Pelkonen then gave lectures on legal and regulatory issues related to pharmacogenetic studies.

The last session of the Workshop was devoted to the discussion of results of practical exercises. It started with Dr. Andrea leading the participants through the results of the PCR and RFLP runs they had performed.

Professor Gilbert Kokwaro, AiBST Advisor in the Eastern African region and host of the Workshop, thanked all tutors and participants for

Workshop that had stirred the scientific interest of so many people. Dr. B. Ogutu, the secretary of ASDMD and co-host of the AiBST Workshop thanked Prof. G Kokwaro for shouldering most of the work. He also expressed joy at how the AiBST project was growing in strength through its network of African collaborators, international contacts, and enthusiastic participants. On behalf of the participants, Dr. O. Bolaji of Nigeria commended Dr. Collen Masimirembwa for his efforts to promote research in Africa. He finished off by encouraging other participants to take home the spirit of collaboration on which AIBST was founded. Professor Leif Bertilsson spoke on behalf of the tutors who had come to Africa for the first time. He gave a brief history of his academic acquaintance with Dr. Collen Masimirembwa and how he was impressed by the AiBST project. He highlighted that the most important achievement of the workshop was the plentiful friendship he and his colleagues had forged and the many discussions for potential collaborations that had come up. Science, he stressed, is most successful, in friendly environments.

The Workshop comprised twenty nine participants, namely, Edwin Ochong, Syed Ziaur Rahman, Sheila Omenah, Sarah Kimani, Eunice Ndauti, Simon Ndirangu Muchochi, Faith Okalebo, Margaret Oluka, James Matunga, Esther Kanduma, Rohani Matnor, Omary Minzi, Celestino Obua, Ntale Muhammad, Mzwandile Mgwabi, Jackson Mukonzo, Lizel Roets, Ishraga Elagib, Mary Jande, Jane Sayi, Christa Coetsee, Kudirat Mustapha, Junaidah Amir, Olufemi Ajayi, Oluseye Bolaji, Modupe Ogunrombi, Te Lay Kek, Abayomi Sijuade. This Workshop was truly international in the sense that 13 different countries were represented in it, including tutors, viz., Malaysia (3), South Africa (2), Zimbabwe (2), Uganda (3), Kenya (10), Finland (1), Nigeria (6), India (1), Sudan (1), Sweden (1), Tanzania (3) and USA (1). Participants from Malaysia and India added a refreshing Asian connection to the Workshop, which anticipate resulting in future collaborations between African and Asian biomedical scientists.



**RECENT AND FORTHCOMING  
CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS**

**The annual Southern Association for the  
History of Medicine and Science**

The sixth annual Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science meeting will be held in Augusta, Georgia from February 27-28, 2004.

The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) announces a call for papers for its sixth annual meeting to be held from February 27-28, 2004 in Augusta, Georgia. The SAHMS meeting will be co-hosted by the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine, Augusta State University and the Center for the Study of Georgia History.

The SAHMS welcomes papers on the history of medicine and science, broadly defined to include historical, literary, anthropological, philosophical and sociological approaches to the history of health care and science. The SAHMS meeting does not focus solely on southern history of medicine and science topics but is international in scope. The society's name relates only to the location of its annual meeting. Papers from scholars from all areas of the country are welcome, as are international guests. Participants may propose individual papers or symposiums of several papers devoted to a particular topic or theme. PhD students are invited to submit works in progress and should indicate their PhD student status.

Send proposals to: Arlene W. Keeling, PhD, RN Chair, 2004 Program Committee, SAHMS McLeod Hall, The University of Virginia School of Nursing, Charlottesville, VA 22908 e-mail: [awk2z@virginia.edu](mailto:awk2z@virginia.edu)

**British Society for the History of Science  
Annual Conference 2004**

The British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference 2004 is scheduled to be held at Liverpool Hope University College, UK from 25-27 June 2004.

Papers are invited on all areas of the history of

science, technology and medicine. Suggestions for themed sessions are particularly welcome. BSHS subsidies are available for student members of the Society. The meeting will also include the EGM.

The history of Liverpool Hope University College stretches back over a century and a half, when the Church of England Diocese of Chester and the Roman Catholic Sisters of Notre Dame established separate teacher education Colleges for women. The Colleges joined in an ecumenical federation in 1980.

Liverpool's museums, from the Liverpool Museum & Planetarium to the Museum of Liverpool Life, provide an insight into the history of this multicultural city. The world-famous Albert Dock incorporates the Tate Gallery the Maritime Museum and the Beatles Story while visitors can also take a ferry 'cross the Mersey from the nearby Pier Head. Famous venues include the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, the Royal Court Theatre and the Walker Art Gallery. Abstracts of Papers (max 250 words) should be sent to Dr Geoff Bunn, BSHS Programme Secretary, Department of Psychology, Liverpool Hope University College, Hope Park, Liverpool, L16 9JD, UK, or [bunnng@hope.ac.uk](mailto:bunnng@hope.ac.uk).

Deadline for submission is 31 January 2004. Further details will be announced on the Society's website at: [www.bsbs.org.uk/conf/2004annual/](http://www.bsbs.org.uk/conf/2004annual/)

**22nd Annual Mephistos Conference**

An International Graduate Student Conference on the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology, and Medicine will be held from Friday January 30th - Sunday February 1st, 2004 at University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.

Mephistos is an international graduate student conference on the history, philosophy, and sociology of science, technology, and medicine that provides an opportunity for graduate students to present papers, participate in discussions, and meet other students in their field. Each year Mephistos is held at a different institution and we are pleased to announce that



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the 2004 conference will be hosted by the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.

The Mephistos 2004 Organizing Committee welcomes the submission of papers from graduate students on the history, philosophy, or sociology of science, technology, or medicine. Deadline for submissions: October 1st, 2003.

For further information concerning Mephistos 2004, please visit website at: <http://publish.uwo.ca/~mfrappie/Mephistos> or contact the organizers at the address below:

Mephistos 2004 Organizing Committee  
c/o Department of Philosophy University of  
Western Ontario London, Ontario, Canada N6A  
3K7. E-mail: [mfrappie@uwo.ca](mailto:mfrappie@uwo.ca); FAX: + 1 (519)  
661-3922

### **A Panel Discussion at the Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine**

The Society for Ancient Medicine and Pharmacy is proposing a panel to be held at the 2004 annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (April 28 - May 2, 2004) at Madison, Wisconsin. Unlike the panels at the American Philological Association's annual meeting, which for obvious reasons tend to be heavily Greco-Roman in nature, an explicitly comparative panel is to be developed, ideally with each paper illustrating a different ancient tradition. Scholars working outside the Greco-Roman tradition are therefore strongly encouraged to apply.

Submissions on any topic in ancient medicine, Eastern and Western, are therefore welcome, but of particular interest will be those dealing with the anatomy, physiology, and illnesses of the head. These may include ancient ideas concerning perception, cognition, sanity and insanity, dreams, hallucinations, and emotion in traditions where these are associated with the head or brain.

Abstracts must be received by September 1, 2003. Notification of acceptance will be sent out no later than December 15th. Abstracts should

be sent to Professor Julie Laskaris, Center for Hellenic Studies, 3100 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, DC, 20008 (or e-mail: [jlaskari@richmond.edu](mailto:jlaskari@richmond.edu)). For conference details, see: <http://www.histmed.org/meetings.htm>.

### **Karaji Conference**

A conference on the renowned mathematician al-Karaji is scheduled to be held from 2-3 October 2004 in Amman, Jordan.

Al-Karaji or al-Karkhī, abū Bakr ibn Muhammad ibn al-Husayn was a mathematician who came either from Karkh, a suburb of Baghdad, or from Karaj, an Iranian city. He flourished during the tenth century. We do not know much about his early life. According to the French historian of mathematics, F. Woepcke, he was the first Arab to offer the theory of algebraic calculus. In other words, as Rushdi Rashed (Paris) explains, he was the "author of the first account of the algebra of polynomials". Al-Karaji also presented a systematic study of algebraic exponents and binomial coefficients. He also contributed to the theory of numbers, system of linear equations, and indeterminate analysis. His most famous works are: *al- Kāfi fi'l-hisāb*, *al-Badi' fi'l-hisāb* and *Kitāb fi Hisāb al-Hind* (on Arithmetic), and on algebra *al-Fakhrī fi al-jabr wa'l muqābla*, which is dedicated to Fakhrulmulk (d.1016) who was the Vizier of Buyid ruler Bahā'uddaulah. In all we know about 11 writings of this renowned Arab mathematician [SMRA].

### **Annual Conference of the Canadian Society For History and Philosophy of Science**

The Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) is holding its annual conference as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, between May 29 and June 6, 2004. (The exact dates of the three-day meeting are still to be announced).

The program committee invites historians and philosophers of science, as well as scholars from any field whose work relates to history and philosophy of science, to submit abstracts for individual papers or proposals for sessions. Submissions may be in English or French. Individual paper submissions should consist of a



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title, a brief abstract of 150-250 words, and complete contact information for the author. Session proposals should consist of a session title, titles and brief abstracts for each paper, and complete contact information for the session organizer. Proposals must be received by 31 December 2003 and must be sent by e-mail (rtf attachment preferred): [csbps04@uottawa.ca](mailto:csbps04@uottawa.ca)

N.B. CSHPS offers a book prize (Richard Hadden Award) for the best student paper presented at the meeting. Information about Congress registration and accommodation can be found at the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences Federation web site: [www.fedcan.ca/english/congress/congress.html](http://www.fedcan.ca/english/congress/congress.html)

For more information on the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, as well as on the Hadden Award, consult:  
<http://www.psych.yorku.ca/orgs/cshps/>

Please note that the CSHPS meeting traditionally overlaps with the meeting dates of a number of other member societies of the CFHSS, including the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, the Canadian Philosophical Association, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics, and the Canadian Historical Association. The CSHPS program committee welcomes suggestions for joint sessions with these and other societies.

### **First Joint Atlantic Seminar in The History of Medicine**

This Seminar, which is a conference for, by and of graduate students, is scheduled for October 3 - 4, 2003. It is to be held at the Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, U.S. A. m.

For further information visit the site:  
<<http://www.jointatlantic.org>>

### **Workshop on Arabic Science**

A workshop on the "*Creation of Modern Western Science and Arabic Science*" is scheduled to be held from May 25 (Tuesday) - 29 (Saturday), 2004 at Queen's University (Canada). The National Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian Institution are sponsoring this Spring Workshop for Scholars (faculty, graduate

students and independent researchers) at Queen's University - Herstmonceux Castle - Sussex, England. This is the first in a series of four proposed interactive, seminar-based workshops on the foundations and formations of modern Western science. A carefully selected panel of international experts will lead these seminars, with supportive materials to be provided beforehand. The topics to be covered include: The formation and assimilation of Arabic culture, social status and education of scientists, scientific methods, visual culture of Arabic science, and scientific borders. One day will be spent in London at the British Museum and the British Library on privately arranged guides through resources relevant to the workshop.

The workshop will be limited to 30 participants (in addition to the organizers and seminar leaders). Certificates of attendance will be available. Interested scholars may contact, Annette Burfoot through her e-mail: [burfoota@post.queensu.ca](mailto:burfoota@post.queensu.ca)

### **The Annual Meeting of Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS) in 2004**

The Planning Committee of ALHHS intends to organise an hour-long session on how to handle medical artefacts in library/archival collections. The Committee is also looking for presenters, who could "Organise on a beginners-level, a session on identification, handling and displaying medical artefacts. This meeting of Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences will take place on April 29, 2004, in Madison, Wisconsin (USA). Contact person is Judy Robins, tel. +1- (847) 825-5586 ext. 168, e-mail: <[j.robins@ASAHQ.org](mailto:j.robins@ASAHQ.org)>.

## AWARDS

### **J. Worth Estes Award, 2004**

This award has been established in honor of J. Worth Estes in recognition of his many years of invaluable contributions to the American Association for the History of Medicine and to scholarship in the history of medicine. The award will be made annually for the best published paper in the history of pharmacology during the previous two years, whether appearing in a



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journal or a book collection of papers. The choice of topic reflects Worth Estes's long tenure as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Boston University and his own scholarship in the history of pharmacology.

For the purpose of this award, the history of pharmacology will be defined broadly to include ancient and traditional materia medica, folk medicines, herbal medicines, the pharmaceuticals and medications of the modern era, pharmaceuticals, and the like. It shall encompass the discovery of medicaments, basic investigations about them, their characteristics and properties, their preparation, and their therapeutic applications.

While the committee will be monitoring relevant journals and books where such papers might appear, they welcome nominations of papers that would be eligible for consideration. The nomination should consist of a letter citing the work nominated along with a copy of the paper. For the current award, candidate papers will be those published in 2002 and 2003.

Nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Committee, Karen Reeds, Ph.D., Princeton Research Forum, 19 Woodland Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540-1313. Email: karen.reeds@verizon.net. Nominations must be received by the Committee Chair by 14 January 2004.

The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the AAHM. As a result of a generous contribution in honor of Worth Estes from a member of the Association, the award will be accompanied by a \$500 check.

For winners of previous Worth Estes awards, see <http://www.histmed.org/Awards/estes.htm>

### WEBSITES

<http://www.biup.univ-paris5.fr/shp/index.htm>  
The French Society of history of pharmacy (SHP), created in 1913 in France, has just opened an Internet site to facilitate contacts between historians of pharmacy and acquaintance with each other's works. Editing the *Revue d'histoire de la pharmacie* since 1913, the Society has

accumulated a mass of knowledge concerning the history of pharmacy in France and in the world. The Internet site allows not only to have access to key information on the activities of the Society, but also to have on-line documents as key reference, such as the first *Bulletins d'histoire de la pharmacie* edited in 1913.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/historicalanatomies/home.html>

The History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) opened a new digital project on Historical Anatomies

Historical Anatomies on the Web offers selected images from NLM's anatomical atlas collection, not the entire books, with an emphasis on images and not texts. Atlases and images are selected primarily for their historical and artistic significance, with priority placed upon the earliest and/or the best edition of a work in the possession of NLM.

In order to produce the highest quality images, the pages of the atlases have been scanned directly at a high resolution. Large JPEG files are offered for downloading, which will allow users to employ them in any number of projects, including close examination and comparisons, publications, presentations, and artwork. The images are also presented in a format, which allows zooming and panning around in high magnification.

Each work is accompanied by a brief historical discussion about the work, its author, the artists, and illustration technique. A good bibliographical description is also included, so that users will know exactly which edition is being used and if there are any characteristics special to the copy in NLM.

Historical Anatomies on the Web includes 180 images from noted anatomical atlases by Andreas Vesalius, Johannes de Ketham, Magnus Hundt, Albrecht Dürer, and many others. Future plans include images from nearly twenty other anatomical works stretching into the early twentieth century.



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