

**5TH
COWLISHAW SYMPOSIUM
30TH OCTOBER, 2004**

PROGRAMME

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the many people who have contributed to the planning and presentation of this Symposium.

Speakers:

S. A. Mellick, the Kenneth Russell Memorial Lecturer

A. W. Beasley

D. Simpson

R. Magee

J. Royle

M. Fahrer

P. Sharp

The Vice President of the College, P. Woodruff

Members of the staff of the College, in particular

Binh Nguyen

Daliah Moss

A.J. Thurston

Convener

INTRODUCTION

This year sees the 5th biennial Cowlshaw Symposium; a meeting that has become one of the principal events on the history of medicine calendar. The College is fortunate to own the collection of historical medical texts that was amassed by Leslie Cowlshaw during the period from the early 1900s, probably 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 printed works in the Collection through his connections 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 Bartholomeus Angelicus.

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 existence at the time.

In 1996, Wyn Beasley, then Reader to the Gordon Craig Library, initiated the Symposium to make the College's Cowlshaw Collection better known, both to Fellows of the College and to the wider bibliophilic community. 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 support over the first decade.

The speakers are invited to select one or more items from the Collection on which to base a paper. Over the years this has provided many outstanding papers on medical history and materia medica. The inclusion of the Kenneth Russell Memorial Lecture in the Symposium is entirely appropriate putting it in the context of medical history, a subject dear to his heart, and a meeting centred on the Collection that he took to heart.

The programme for this 5th Symposium looks as though it will satisfy a wide range of tastes ranging from mapping and weather forecasting to herbaria and pharmacy. The research and preparation for each of the papers takes some considerable time and thought and this commitment of the speakers must be acknowledged. The hard work of the staff of the College in organising this Symposium is also acknowledged.

PROGRAMME

Saturday 30 October 2004

0930 Registration

1000 Opening by the Vice President, Professor Peter Woodruff

SESSION 1

Chairman: Professor Peter Woodruff

1005 **The 7th Kenneth F. Russell Memorial Lecture
OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES**
Mr Sam Mellick (Brisbane)

*(A Theoretical and Practical Treatise upon the Ligature of Arteries.
Pierre Joseph Manec. Translated by JW Garlic & WC Copperthwaite, 1832)*

1045 **DEEP DEPRESSION – MAPPING, WEATHER FORECASTING & THE BEAGLE**
Mr Wyn Beasley (Wellington, NZ)

(An Essay on the Principle of Population, Thomas Malthus, 1817)

1120 **Coffee/Tea Break**

SESSION 2

Chairman: Professor Alan Thurston

1150 **PHRENOLOGY AND THE NEUROSCIENCES –
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FJ GALL & JG SPURZHEIM**
Professor Donald Simpson (Adelaide)

*(The Anatomy of the Brain with a General View of the Nervous System.
Johann Gaspar Spurzheim, 1826)*

1225 **PHYSICK – IN THE STYLE OF JOHN WESLEY**
Professor Reginald Magee (Brisbane)

*(Primitive Physick: or an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases.
John Wesley 1747)*

1300 **Lunch**

SESSION 3

Chairman: Mr Sam Mellick

1400 **COLLEGE PORTRAITS & THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE**
Professor John Royle (Melbourne)

1435 **FROM PHLOGISTON TO OXIGEN**
Mr Marius Fahrer (Melbourne)

(Chymie Expérimentale et Raisonnée. M Baumé, 1774; Dictionnaire de la Chimie. le Ctn Cadet, 1803)

1515 **Coffee/tea Break**

SESSION 4

Chairman: Mr Wyn Beasley

1545 **MEDICAL REMEDIES: FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW**
Mr Philip Sharp (Sydney)

(MATTHIOLI, Pietro Andrea 1500-1577 Commentarii secundo aucti in libros sex Pedacii Dioscoridis anazarbei de medica materia. VENETIIS: In officina Valgrisiana, 1560, Folio)

1620 **EPONYMS OR 'AO' - THE CLASSIFICATION OF WRIST FRACTURES**
Professor Alan Thurston (Wellington, NZ)

(A Treatise on Fractures in the Vicinity of Joints and on Certain Forms of Accident and Congenital Dislocations. Robert William Smith, 1854)

1700 **CLOSING REMARKS**

1715-1830 **COCKTAIL FUNCTION**

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The 7th Kenneth F. Russell Memorial Lecture

OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES

(A Theoretical and Practical Treatise upon the Ligature of Arteries. Pierre Joseph Manec. Translated by JW Garlic & WC Copperthwaite, 1832)

Ken Russell was renowned as a surgeon, anatomist, teacher and medical historian, and he played a major role in securing Leslie Cowlshaw's library for our College, and its subsequent management. Two books in the outstanding Cowlshaw Collection are unusually interesting: the first because it preserves the names, and in one instance, the bookplate of every owner from 1656 to the present; and the second because it came from the library of William Bland, Australia's first vascular surgeon, who reported the ligation of the innominate artery for aneurysm in Sydney in 1832, this being only the seventh such operation recorded. A man of many parts, he was an outstanding colonial citizen, and reading of his remarkable career and learning that he too was a booklover led to this reflection on libraries and books, subjects dear to Ken Russell's heart.

Sam Mellick was born in North Queensland and qualified MB BS with First Class Honours at the University of Queensland in 1948. He gained his English Fellowship in 1953, returning to the new Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, whose department of vascular surgery he founded in 1961 and headed until 1985. He became FRACS in 1960, and has since been chairman of the Board of Examiners, Censor-in-Chief and senior vice president. His FACS dates from 1967, and he served two terms as a Governor of the American College. He became Hon FRCSI in 1989 and was the first Australian to be president of the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. He was made CBE in 1987.

DEEP DEPRESSION – MAPPING, WEATHER FORECASTING & THE BEAGLE.

(An Essay on the Principle of Population. Thomas Malthus, 1817)

This paper traces the voyage of HMS Beagle under the command of Robert Fitzroy, in which Charles Darwin travelled as naturalist. It examines Fitzroy's subsequent career and the coincidence that he, and two other hydrographers connected with the vessel, fell prey to depression.

*Wyn Beasley is a former orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in the care of amputees, and a past vice president of the RACS. His history of the College, *The Mantle of Surgery*, was published in 2002 to coincide with the College's 75th jubilee celebrations. He is a former Colonel Commandant of the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps and a past chairman of the College Section of Surgical History; and over the year past he has delivered the Hamilton Russell, Herbert Moran, Kenneth Russell and Rupert Downes lectures. He was an Hunterian professor in 2002. As Reader to the Gordon Craig Library he was the originator and convener of these Cowlshaw symposia.*

PHRENOLOGY AND THE NEUROSCIENCES – THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FJ GALL & JG SPURZHEIM

*(The Anatomy of the Brain with a General View of the Nervous System.
Johann Gaspar Spurzheim, 1826)*

The pseudoscience of phrenology arose from the observations and intuitions of Franz Joseph Gall (1758 - 1828) and his disciple Johann Gaspar Spurzheim (1776 - 1828). Gall believed that neurological functions are localised in discrete parts of the brain, which he called organs. He located the organs subserving intellectual functions chiefly in the cerebral cortex.

To support this doctrine, Gall and Spurzheim carried out extensive neuro-anatomical studies, and made some important discoveries. The Gordon Craig Library contains a book by Spurzheim on the anatomy of the brain, published in London in 1826, that summarises these discoveries.

Gall also believed that the functional strength of the cerebral and cerebellar organs was expressed by their bulk: a well-developed organ caused a bulge in the overlying cranial bone. Hence, feeling the bumps of the skull was a means of assessing the individual's personality. This very fallacious component of Gall's doctrine had great influence in the nineteenth century, affecting psychiatry, criminology and educational theory. Further research demolished Gall's doctrine, and phrenology sank into disrepute. Nevertheless, phrenological thinking played a part in the growth of clinical neurology in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Donald Simpson graduated in medicine in 1949. He specialised in neurosurgery, and underwent postgraduate training in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, under J B Pennybacker, and later under T A R Dinning in the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He is now Emeritus Neurosurgeon in that hospital and in the Women's and Children's Hospital, and titular Clinical Professor in the University of Adelaide.

He has written articles on the history of neurosurgery and on other historical topics. He is the curator of the museum of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia. For many years, he lectured on neuroanatomy to trainee psychiatrists; he believes that this experience gave him insights into the history of phrenology.

PHYSICK – IN THE STYLE OF JOHN WESLEY

(Primitive Physick: or an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases. John Wesley 1747)

In 1747 John Wesley published a little book entitled 'Primitive Physick – an Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases'. It contained simple herbal-type medicines for a collection of common maladies which people could use instead of wasting their money on physicians whom he considered had placed themselves on a level above ordinary men. The book proved to be very popular and went through a number of editions. It really became an early version of the many 'Home Doctor' publications which followed.

Reginald Magee, retired Senior Vascular Surgeon Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Queensland, Department of Surgery. Present interests are history of medicine and surgery and music.

COLLEGE PORTRAITS & THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE

The College has one of the finest collections of portraits in our country. These date from the mid 18th century (Cheselden) to 2004 (Kingsley Faulkner). The families or colleagues of early surgeons commissioned portraits of them and donated the portraits to the College. Since the early 1980s College presidents have enjoyed the tribute of a portrait in oils commissioned by the College itself.

The Archibald Prize was established following a bequest in Archibald's will, to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, for an annual prize in portraiture. The inaugural award was in 1921 to a portrait by McInnes who painted six (possibly only five) of the portraits in our collection.

The college founders, Syme, Hamilton Russell, Devine and Barnett, were all painted by Archibald Prize winners. The portrait of our second president, Newland, won the prize for Ivor Hale. Portraits of three other surgeons, Forbes McKenzie, Julian Smith, and Edward McMahan also won prizes.

The portrait of McMahan was painted by Dobell. He won the prize on two other occasions. His portrait of fellow artist Joshua Smith was the subject of extensive legal action in 1943. Joshua Bell himself won the prize the following year. He painted our tenth president, George Bell.

Altogether, of the 57 portraits in the College collection, 18 were painted by Archibald Prize winners.

One of the surgeon's greatest assets is his hands. It is no wonder that McInness, who was renowned for his painting of hands was commissioned to paint several of the early portraits. Robert Hannaford, who won the 'People's Choice' at the Archibald Prize on three occasions, felt that it was very important to depict the face of the surgeon and the hands. Thus, it is no wonder that he is the most represented artist in the collection.

I have found the connection between the College portrait collection and the Archibald Prize fascinating and I hope I can convey this fascination.

John Royle was a vascular surgeon in Melbourne until he retired in 2003. He held many positions in vascular societies and in the College as well as serving on local hospital committees and state and federal government committees. He was a visiting professor overseas on several occasions. He wrote over one hundred scientific papers.

He produced two scientific surgical films both of which won prizes locally and in the United Kingdom. Inspired by John Cleese, he developed the idea of a video drama to portray some of the problems associated with HIV, with particular reference to 'safe' surgery in the operating theatre. This idea was approved by College Council and then financed by the Commonwealth Government. He produced 'Old Dogs and New Tricks' which proved to be an outstanding success, providing the catalyst for significant changes in operating theatre attitudes and techniques.

John has had an interest in art all his life. While in the United Kingdom in the 1960s he and his wife developed a keen interest in antique silver, English oak furniture and porcelain. As a frequent visitor to the College for his many commitments, he became very interested in the College treasures: the portraits, the antique silver and other memorabilia that have been given to the College.

John believed that these College treasures should be displayed for Fellows' enjoyment. He regularly arranged for items of silver to be displayed in the College, gave several talks at College dinners about the treasures and has conducted many tours around the College.

It comes as no surprise that he is to give a paper on College Portraits and the Archibald Prize.

FROM PHLOGISTON TO OXIGEN

(*Chymie Expérimentale et Raisonnée. M Baumé, 1774; Dictionaire de la Chimie. le Ctn Cadet, 1803*)

Two books recently added to our collection:

CHYMIE EXPÉRIMENTALE ET RAISONÉE Par M BAUMÉ

A Paris, chez PF DIDOT le Jeune

Libraire de la Faculté de Médecine

Quai des Grands Augustins

MDCCLXXIV

Avec approbation et privilège du Roi

And

DICTIONAIRE DE LA CHIMIE, Paris 1803

Par le Ctn CADET an 11 de la République

illustrate the radical evolution of science at the end of the XVIIIth century. Between 1774 and 1803 the whole concept of chemistry has changed. The revolution brought about by LAVOISIER had ended the centuries long belief in the four basic elements: water, air, earth and fire and also changed the spelling of the word 'chemie' in French.

Marius Fahrer was born and educated in Bucharest, Romania and came to Australia in 1963. He loves books, old and new, and is convinced that anatomy is necessary to medical practitioners.

MEDICAL REMEDIES: FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

(*Matthioli, Pietro Andrea 1500-1577 Commentarii secundo aucti in libros sex Pedacii Dioscoridis anazarbei de medica materia. Venetiis: In officina Valgrisiana, 1560, Folio*)

Until the rise of the pharmaceutical industry in the late 19th century, most medical remedies came from plants. The roots of this approach arose in antiquity. During the Renaissance, many scientific texts arrived from Byzantium in their original languages. Their study led to a scientific crisis: comparing Latin and Greek works, scholars discovered similarities. They concluded very soon that Latin works were, in fact, translations of Greek ones.

In the field of botany, this meant that Dioscorides' *De Materia Medica* (originally written in Greek) had to be preferred to Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*, which was a major reference work during the Middle Ages. This thesis was proposed and defended by a physician of Ferrara, Nicolao Leonicensis (1428–1524), whose booklet titled *De Plinii et Aliorum in Medicina Erroribus* (On the errors of Pliny and other authors in medicine) (Ferrara, 1492) provoked a virulent polemic.²⁷

Many of the botanists of the 16th and later centuries still based their works predominantly on the books of the ancient Greeks. The humanists had an obsession with all things Greek. Ironically hardly any medical man could read Greek, what they actually studied were new Latin translations. Due to these translations and the printing press (1446) the books of the ancient Greeks were disseminated more widely than before.

The Renaissance was the rebirth of the ideas of antiquity, a breaking of the spell that had bound Europe in darkness for centuries. The Renaissance first developed in Italy around the mid 15th century. Once again people started to question nature rather than relying on knowledge based on ancient authority or superstition. Botany, more than any science, captures the poetry, diversity and beauty of this Earth.

Amongst the 16th century European authors, Pierro Andrea Mattioli (born Sienna 1501-died Trent 1577) [a.k.a. Petrus Andreus Matthiolus] studied Dioscorides seriously. In *Commentarii In Sex Libros Pedacii Dioscorides*, published in 1544, Mattioli sets out to identify Dioscorides plants. Mattioli's book was published in at least five languages. Each new edition was more lavishly illustrated. His work contains numbers of errors. We do not know if Mattioli contributed new findings or if he used a herbarium for his descriptions.

Coincidentally, the Aztec Badianus Codex, *Libellus de medicinalibus indorum herbis*, written in 1552, mirrors the changes in botany that had occurred in Renaissance Europe. It is the first herbal and the first medical text known to be written in the New World.

Philip Sharp is a general surgeon in Sydney. He graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1972, and obtained his Fellowship in 1980. He has recently been awarded a Fellowship of the Australian College of Biomedical Scientists.

He is secretary of the RACS Section of Surgical History, and has enjoyed presenting several surgical history papers at Annual Scientific Congresses. His paper on surgical footballers was especially well received.

He is on the committee of the NSW Society of the History of Medicine. But his real interests, he insists, are rugby, rowing, jazz and red wine!

EPONYMS OR 'AO' - THE CLASSIFICATION OF WRIST FRACTURES

(A Treatise on Fractures in the Vicinity of Joints and on Certain Forms of Accident and Congenital Dislocations. Robert William Smith, 1854)

Abraham Colles had the good fortune to describe the most common fracture about the wrist but, because its description was published in a provincial journal, it received little attention and was almost never referred to in his lifetime. The same can be said of Claude Pouteau who described the same fracture in another lesser-known medical journal. Robert Smith described the fracture that bears his name in 1847 although it had already been described by Jean-Gaspar-Blaise Goyrand some years before. Galeazzi's fracture had been described nearly 90 years earlier by Sir Astley Cooper and is also known as Dupuytren's and Piedmont fracture. To add to the conflicting nomenclature it is sometimes not clear whether a Smith's II fracture is a Barton's fracture or a reversed Barton's fracture. In the presence of all of this confusion it is not surprising that a Swiss group, Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen has classified wrist fractures into groups of As, Bs and Cs.

Alan Thurston was born in 1947 and educated in Feilding, New Zealand. Was awarded the Manawatu Co-operative Society Scholarship and entered the University of Otago, 1966. Graduated MB, ChB in 1972 with distinction in anatomy and the David White Prize in Clinical Surgery. Undertook compulsory military training as a medical student and was commissioned as a medical officer in 1971. Trained in orthopaedic surgery with an interest in hand surgery in Wellington and was admitted FRACS in 1980 and FNZOA in 1982.

Graduated MSc (Oxon, bioengineering) in 1982 and then returned to New Zealand to take up a post as Senior Lecturer in Orthopædic Surgery at the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Consultant Orthopædic and Hand Surgeon at Wellington Hospital. 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. Promoted to Associate Professor (Hand Surgery) 1996

Was the Commanding Officer of the 2nd NZ Field Hospital from 1986-90 and was awarded the Efficiency Decoration (honour awarded by the Governor General under authority delegated by Her Majesty, The Queen in recognition of service to the Territorial Force of the New Zealand Army) in 1987. Is presently the Assistant Director of Medical Services, Army General Staff, New Zealand Army in the rank of colonel and Honorary Surgeon to Her Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand.

KENNETH RUSSELL MEMORIAL LECTURERS

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1991	Prof Harold Attwood
1994	Dr R Andrew Cuthbertson
1996	Prof John H Pearn
1998	Prof A Wyn Beasley
2000	Prof Donald A Simpson
2002	Prof Alan J Thurston
2004	Mr Sam Mellick