

12th COWLISHAW SYMPOSIUM

13 OCTOBER 2018



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
250-290 Spring Street, East Melbourne Vic. 3002



| | |
|---|-----------|
| Acknowledgements | 3 |
| Programme & abstracts | 4 |
| Session 1 The 14th Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecture: 1783 - Anatomy of a Duel Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus | |
| Dieffenbach – The ‘Father of Plastic Surgery’ Mr Robert Pearce | |
| Session 2 The Fabric of Vesalius – 16th Century networking and a paradigm shift in surgical anatomy Mr David Grayson | |
| A female surgeon of the early 17th Century: Marie Colinet (1560-1640) of Beme Professor David Watters | |
| Session 3 Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie- physiologist, surgeon, philosopher and administrator: His role in transforming surgery from a handicraft to a science’. Mr Peter Burke | |
| Le mort et la mort: The origins and cultural context of the Danse Macabre, with specific reference to Hans Holbein’s sixteenth century woodcuts. Ms Elizabeth Milford | |
| Session 4 The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire Mr Graham Stewart | |
| Bibliographical Observations Mr Geoffrey Down | |
| Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecturers | 11 |

©2018 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Contact: Geoffrey Down, Curator on +61 3 9276 7447 or geoff.down@surgeons.org

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:

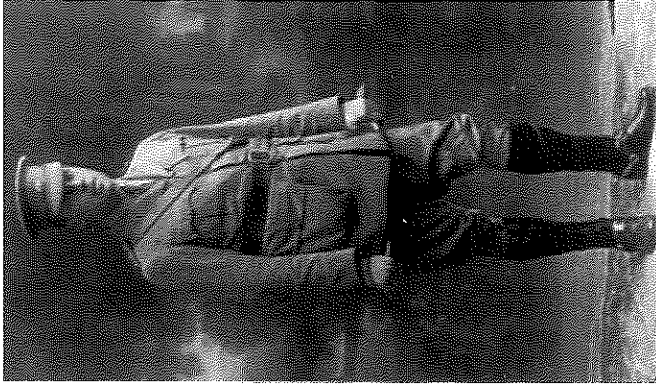
Susan Neuhaus, Kenneth Russell Memorial Lecturer
Rob Pearce
David Grayson
David Watters
Peter Burke
Elizabeth Milford
Graham Stewart
Geoffrey Down

Staff of the College, in particular:

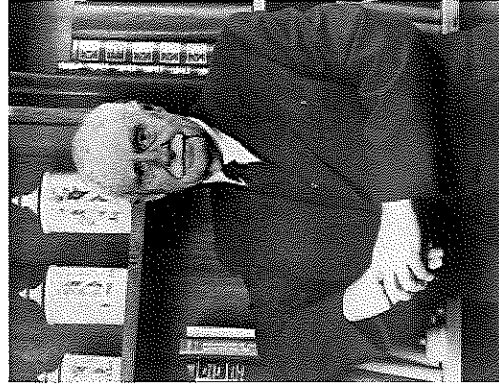
Geoffrey Down
Elizabeth Milford
Andrew Parker
Megan Sproule

Convenor

Richard Lander



Leslie Cowlishaw (1877-1943)



Kenneth F. Russell (1911-1987)

Saturday 13 October 2018

09:30 Registration

10:00 Opening by Ms Cathy Ferguson, RACS Vice President

Session 1 Ms Cathy Ferguson

10:05 **1783 - Anatomy of a Duel**
The 14th Kenneth Fitzpatrick Russell Memorial Lecture
 Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus

Hunter, John (1728-1793): A treatise on the Blood, Inflammation, and Gun-Shot Wounds; 2nd Edition. London: E Cox, 1812.

John Hunter was one of the most distinguished scientists and surgeons of his day. He was an advocate of careful observation and scientific method in medicine and an expert anatomist.

Hunter was commissioned an Army surgeon in 1760 and gained considerable insights into the management of war wounds, particularly during his service as staff surgeon on the French island of Belle Isle. Hunter's views of management of ballistic injuries were considered controversial at the time and have been roundly criticised over subsequent centuries. However, his original descriptions of the clinic-pathologic consequences of gunshot injury and the principles of management demonstrate a nuanced appreciation of the role of contamination, devitalisation and secondary infective processes.

Hunter's belief that routine exploration of all gunshot injuries should not be undertaken has been considered particularly controversial. However, in an era of modern damage control surgery, explosive blast and high velocity weaponry, many of Hunter's fundamental precepts hold true and there has been a return to selective conservative (non-operative) management of many small fragment wounds.

This paper will explore a fatal case of musket ball injury following a duel in 1783 and compare Hunter's interpretation with modern evidence based military practice.

Susan Neuhaus is a general surgeon and holds dual positions as Associate Professor of Surgery and Associate Professor, Conflict Medicine at the University of Adelaide. Susan is a member of the RACS Court of Examiners. She also has undertaken over 20 years military service with the Australian Army. Susan has an active interest in medical history, was a Reader at the Wellcome Institute in London in 2004 and has published extensively, including *Not for Glory: A century of service by medical women to the Australian Army and its Allies* (2014, Boolarong Press).

10:50 **Diefenbach – The 'Father of Plastic Surgery'**
 Mr Robert Pearce

DIEFFENBACH, Johann Friedrich 1792-1847
 Die operative Chirurgie. LEIPZIG: F. A. Brockhaus, 1845-48. 2 vols. 8vo (GC)

When German surgeon Edward Zeis published in 1835 his 'Manual of Plastic Surgery' – which was heralded as a comprehensive review of all plastic procedures performed up to that time – he was severely admonished for neglecting to include some of the leading surgeons in Britain and France. It was not simply because he was over impressed with the achievements of his German colleagues (although there is a certain emphasis in Diefenbach in his work) but rather as obvious shortcoming in his research if foreign language journals and texts. Johann Friedrich Diefenbach was both academic and a military surgeon and he was the Master Surgeon of his day in Europe. He published numerous papers in a wide variety of surgical procedures and we are privileged to have amongst our historic book collection the two volumes "Die Operative Chirurgie (Leipzig 1843-1845) – 840 pages and 150 chapters, all in German.

The two books form a general text, well referenced and well informed with supportive diagrams. I have selected a number of chapters for translation and comment on subjects now considered to be the essential role of a modern plastic surgeon – in deference to Diefenbach, the 'Father of Plastic Surgery' during a period referred to by Zies as the 'Golden era of Plastic Surgery'.

Robert Pearce is a Queensland Medical Graduate who received further postgraduate training in Edinburgh and Oxford. He established private practice as a Plastic Surgeon in Perth in 1975 and is now retired. His research interests are Melanoma and Dupuytren's disease, which was the subject of his PhD. He has published over 200 – papers, has a history degree (BA) and adjunct professional appointments in surgery medical education and research. His international reputation in Dupuytren's disease was honoured with honorary membership of the French Academy of Surgeons

11:25 **Coffee / Tea Break**

Session 2 Chairman: Mr Richard Lander

11:45 **The Fabric of Vesalius – 16th Century networking and a paradigm shift**
 in surgical anatomy
 Mr David Grayson

VESALIUS, Andreas 1514-1564
 De humani corporis fabrica libri septem. BASILEAE: Per Joannem Oporinum, 1555. folio (GF49)

This is the second edition of the greatest classic in anatomy. Jean Baptiste Senac (1693-1770) says of Vesalius "Il decouvrit un nouveau monde avant l'age de 28 ans." Osier says of his book "The Fabrica remains a monument of human effort, one of the greatest in the history of our profession."

VESALIUS, Andreas 1514-1564

De humani corporis fabrica libri septem. VENETIIS: Apud Franciscum Franciscum Sersenseum & Joannem Criegher Ger-manum, 1568. folio (CF51)

This is the third edition of Vesalius's great work in which he introduced truth and fact into anatomy and exploded many myths. Flemish born, of German descent, Vesalius trained in Paris and taught in Padua. He later became court physician to Emperor Charles V.

Both editions of this game changing work of a 28 year old surgical anatomist on a mission reveal the naked ambition of a brilliant mind. Modern analysis however suggests that Vesalius was an expert networker and collaborator who tapped into a diverse array of expertise to complement his own eye for detail and pivot the understanding of anatomy towards the evolving concept of the scientific method and in doing so elevate the speciality of surgery to an academic discipline.

David Grayson is the Clinical Director of ORLHNS and Clinical Lead for Patient Safety & Patient Experience at Waitemata DHB in Auckland, NZ. He has a long standing interest in quality improvement in healthcare and governance for quality and a more recent fascination with the use of social media for the promotion of the surgical profession in res publica.

12:20 **A female surgeon of the early 17th Century: Marie Colinet (1560-1640) of Berne**

Professor David Waiters

FABRY, Wilhelm. Observationum et Curatorum Chirurgicarum Centuria. FRANCOFURTI AD MOENIUM Johannes Beyer, 1646 Folio (CF14)

Male medical and surgical historians have generally overlooked the contributions of female practitioners (medicines and chirurgiennes) of history. The Cowlshaw collection includes a text (C299) on select secrets in physic and chirurgery by Elizabeth Grey, Countess of Kent (1581-1651) and one book (C283) by Anne Hope (1890-1887) that is a memoir of her husband, Dr James Hope (1801 -1840). Despite quite a number of significant texts produced by females between the 16th to 18th centuries there appear no others that were collected by Cowlshaw. However, the collection does contain one text by Wilhelm Fabry, who trained his wife, Marie Colinet, to be a surgeon and later stated that her skill surpassed his own. This paper describes a brief life and practice of one of the foremost female surgeons of the early 17th century, a time when women were barred from University education, and often unable to obtain an official licence to practice.

Marie Colinet, born in Geneva, married the German surgeon, Wilhelm von Hilden Fabry (1560-1634) (Cowlshaw F14) in 1587. She practised in an age where female practitioners, often ridiculed, marginalised, and experienced many barriers pursuing their careers. Most could only receive their training under an apprenticeship, often provided by medical husbands as was the case with the Fabrys. She was a skilled and innovative practitioner who introduced the use of heat to dilate and stimulate the uterus during labour and also performed Caesarean Sections successfully. She was also the first the use a magnet to extract metal foreign bodies from the eye. Wilhelm Fabry who became a prolific author, was regarded as a Father of German surgery, a surgeon whose practice was based on the science of the iatromechanics school, with great emphasis on anatomy. From 1602 to

1610 they practiced in Payerne Switzerland, and then from 1615-1634 in Berne, Fabry was appointed City Surgeon by the city council. His Observationum et Curatorum Chirurgicarum Centuria, one of 20 works, published posthumously in 1641, is a series of cases that describe the presentation, diagnosis and management of 17th century medicine in Europe. Together the Fabry's had 8 children, only one of whom Johannes, a surgeon, outlived her.

David Waiters is a Past President of RACS (May 2015-May 2016) who since 2000 has been Professor of Surgery for Barwon Health in Geelong, initially with Melbourne (2000-2010), and then Deakin University (2011-). He is a general surgeon with interests in general, colorectal and endocrine surgery. He is actively engaged in advocating for global surgery, having spent almost 20 years in developing countries including Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Zambia and South Africa. He is an Edinburgh University graduate, and in addition to the FRACS, a fellow of the Edinburgh, Hong Kong, and East Central and Southern Africa Colleges of Surgeons. His research interests include history of surgery, surgical audit and performance, colorectal outcomes, perioperative mortality and global health. He has over 150 peer reviewed publications and 6 books including Stitches in Time - Two centuries of Surgery in Papua New Guinea (Xilbriss, 2012) and the recently published Anzac Surgeons of Gallipoli (RACS 2015). Awarded a Life Membership to the Medical Society of Papua New Guinea (2017), Deakin University appointed him the title of Alfred Deakin Professor (August 2016) Appointed Honorary Member of Asian Surgical Association (2015) an in recognition of his contribution to surgery and surgical training in PNG he was awarded the OBE (2012), and Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship (2000). In September 2017, he gave the Guthrie Lecture to the British Society of the History of Medicine, on "Daring to Dream of Equal Opportunity in Medicine" which covered the struggle for women to train as doctors and specialists.

13:00

Luncheon

Session 3 Chairman: Mr Graeme Stewart

14:00 **'Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie- physiologist, surgeon, philosopher and administrator: His role in transforming surgery from a handicraft to a science.'**
Mr Peter Burke

Brodie, Benjamin Collins. 1783-1862

The works of Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie with an autobiography.

Collected and arranged by Charles Hawkins.

LONDON: Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts and Green, 1865. 3 vols. 8vo (GC)

Charles Hawkins FRCS (1812-1892) who collected the works of Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie in these three volumes published in 1865, was uniquely placed to perform this task, as he had been associated with Brodie for 33 years as a student, assistant and, finally, in attendance at Brodie's death.

The collection includes Brodie's autobiography and a short biographical notice by Hawkins who wrote, 'the task of arranging such a monument to the best of friends and most indulgent of instructors has been to me a labour of love.'

Brodie's interests spanned anatomy, physiology, surgery and psychology: he had demonstrated the control of gastric secretion by the vagus nerve (X) at the Royal Society,

and was awarded its Copley medal in 1811, the youngest-ever recipient. Overwork led to a breakdown in 1815, and from that time he devoted himself to surgery, these volumes revealing the vast scope of his surgical expertise. He had also long advocated reform in the English College of Surgeons and was a prime mover when the Fellowship was introduced in 1843.

This paper proposes to demonstrate Brodie's great abilities as a communicator, facilitator and teacher: to quote from Hawkins' introduction to these collected works; "He was remarkable, also, in keeping the various speakers within bounds, for whilst he was a staunch friend to discussion to its legitimate extent, he could not tolerate discursive flights:

'To show the stretch of human brain,
Mere curious pleasure or ingenious pain.'

Peter graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1969, and after gaining his FRACS, elected to work in the N.H.S.: whilst in England he obtained the FRCS (Eng.) and pursuing an interest in medical history, the DHMSA.

On his return to Melbourne and St Vincent's Hospital, in 1979, he accepted the position of Director of Casualty, subsequently playing an active role in the development of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

He began his active service for the RACS with the Archives Committee in 1979, where he was Secretary for almost two decades. He is currently the ANZ Journal of Surgery, Speciality Editor in Surgical History, writing also for 'Surgical News':

He is a Council Member of the ANZSHM, Vice-President of the MHSV, and was an invited speaker at the Biennial Meeting of the BSHM, in Edinburgh, in September 2017.

14:35 **Le mort or la mort: The origins and cultural context of the Danse Macabre, with specific reference to Hans Holbein's sixteenth century woodcuts.**

Elizabeth Milford

HOLBEIN, Hans, 1497-1543

1. The dances of death through the various stages of human life... done from original designs... by John Holbein... etched by David Deuchar F.A.S, London: S Gosnell, 1803 (c281)
2. The dance of death from the original designs by Hans Holbein. Illustrated with thirty three plates engraved by W. Hollar, London: for J Coxhead, 1816, 8vo (c282)

DANSE MACABRE

1. La grande danse macabre des hommes et des femmes, Paris: Bailieu, n.d but probably around 1850. Reprinted from an edition at Troyes, 1539. (c167)

Death themes had a long history in the art, literature and drama of the Middle Ages. They included images of death on funerary monuments, scenes depicting the triumph of death and *Ars moriendi* (manuals on how to die well). The Danse Macabre or Dance of Death theme emerged in the 14th century, probably as a Latin poem. It was translated by

Dominican monks into languages such as French, and German then disseminated as a teaching aid. The first known image of the Danse Macabre was the mural and accompanying poem in the cemetery of Les Saintes Innocents, Paris (1424-25). It was here that the monk John Lydgate first saw the image, translated the poem into English and had a mural painted in the Pardon Churchyard of Old St Paul's Cathedral, London (c1430).

The Danse Macabre theme spread throughout Europe in the 15th century and reflecting the social and political context, subtly changed over time. Hans Holbein's woodcuts, published in 1538 nearly a century after the mural at Les Innocents, are a humanist incantation of the Danse Macabre. Significantly, the Dance of Death theme has endured to the present day and it was embraced by composers like Franz Liszt (*Totentanz*, 1865) and Camille Saint-Saëns (*Danse Macabre*, 1874); and filmmakers such as Ingmar Bergman (*The Seventh Seal*, 1957).

Elizabeth Milford has been the RACS Archivist for the last 9 years. She has degrees and diplomas from the University of Sydney and has worked in a variety of positions in archives and museums. Her historical interests are broad, ranging from the late medieval period to the twentieth century.

15:10 **Coffee / Tea Break**

Session 4 Chairman: Mr Peter Burke

15:30 **The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**
Mr Graham Stewart

ORIBASIVS SARDIANUS (326 – 403 AD), Physician to Julian the Apostate (361 – 363 AD) and The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. *Collectorum medicinalium libri XVII VENETIIS*, Paulus Manutius before 1555 8vo (C365)

ORIBASIVS SARDIANUS (326 – 403 AD. *Libri novem: quibus tota medicina in compendium redacte continetur: Ioanne Baptiste Rasaria. Novararensi medico Inteprete VENETIIS*, ALDUS 1554 8vo (C364)

Sardianus Oribasius was the personal physician and close political confidant of the Julian (the Apostate), Roman Emperor from 361 to 363. Julian was a notable philosopher and author, who in his short reign briefly reversed the controlling role of Christianity in imperial life, recently established by Constantine the Great. In a guarded manner, Julian was a hero of the second volume of Edward Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Julian provides the primary incentive for the grand encyclopaedic efforts of Oribasius to characterise the extent of roman medical knowledge. Some of the remnant fragments of this endeavour are available in the listed volumes from the Cowlishaw collection.

Emperor Julian also proved a most successful General, until his death from wounds in Mesopotamia, which was graphically described by Gibbon. Oribasius attended to the medical care of his emperor at this fatally wounding with a thoraco-abdominal penetrating wound.

Byzantine Medicine and Surgery (324 – 1453 AD) is the important link between Greek, Alexandrian and Roman Medicine and the early manifestations of Western European Medicine. The encyclopaedist efforts of Oribasius, in the described books, attempted to summarise this corpus of knowledge. It represents in many ways, a direct link with Galen's

original principles. Galen and Oribasius were both natives of Pergamon and adherents to the traditional roman religious practices and ballets. Oribasius's practice represented the end of pagan galenic methods, prior to its assimilation into the new Christian ethos of the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

The writings and life of Osbasius can be used to discuss the transformation of classic ancient to Christian medicine, the effects of political influence on this process and the then current methods of penetrating wounds management

Graham a rural general surgeon practicing in Armidale, Northern NSW and Associate Professor of Surgery at the School of Rural Medicine, of the Joint Medical Program of the Universities of Newcastle and New England. Currently Graham is the Chair of the RACS Section of Surgical History.

16:05

Bibliographical Observations

Mr Geoffrey Down

Following the success of this presentation at the 2014 Symposium, College Curator Geoffrey Down presents some more quite interesting bibliographical snippets about the books on which today's papers are based.

Geoffrey Down has been RACS Curator since 2001. Before coming to the College he worked for many years at the University of Melbourne, first as Curator of Prints, and then as Acting Curator of the Grainger Museum. He was Harold Wright Scholar at the British Museum 1977-78. His interests outside the world of museums include stained glass and classical music

16:40

Closing Remarks

KENNETH FITZPATRICK RUSSELL MEMORIAL LECTURERS

| | |
|------|--|
| 1991 | Prof. Harold Attwood <i>Kenneth Russell - Medical Historian, Matthew Baillie's Atlas of Engravings and Samuel Johnson's Lung</i> |
| 1994 | Dr R. Andrew Cuthbertson <i>Haemophilia: Historical and Molecular Perspectives</i> |
| 1996 | Prof. John H. Pearn <i>Nom et Lumière</i> |
| 1998 | Prof. A. Wyn Beasley <i>A Web of Words: Kipling and his Friends</i> |
| 2000 | Prof. Donald A. Simpson <i>The English Roots of Medical Education in Australasia</i> |
| 2002 | Prof. Alan J. Thurston <i>DuPuytren's Disease or Cooper's Contracture?</i> |
| 2004 | Hon. Prof. S.A. (Sam) Mellick <i>Of Books and Libraries</i> |
| 2006 | Mr A. Wyn Beasley <i>An Approach to the Natural</i> |
| 2008 | Mr Marius Fahrer <i>The Life and Times of Ambroise Paré</i> |
| 2010 | Mr Philip Sharp <i>Herman Boerhaave - The Dutch Hippocrates</i> |
| 2012 | Mr Gordon Low <i>Paintings from the Cushing / Whitney Library of Yale University</i> |
| 2014 | Mr A. Wyn Beasley <i>A Dram wi' the Monros</i> |
| 2016 | Mr Peter Burke <i>Matthew Baillie's Morbid Anatomy, its Sequel and the Melbourne 'Connexion'</i> |
| 2018 | Assoc. Prof. Susan Neuhaus <i>1783 - Anatomy of a Duel</i> |