



# *The Oslerian*

## *A Message from the President* **Three Gentlemen from Baltimore**

By  
*Herbert M. Swick, M.D.*

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The AOS meeting this year is being held in Baltimore, which, like Oxford, is a location that was of seminal importance to William Osler. Baltimore was named after Lord Baltimore George Calvert (1579 - 1632), whose title was granted by Charles I. Baltimore quickly became an important city. Our hotel this year is located at the Port of Baltimore, which was established in 1706. Through the 18th and 19th centuries, Baltimore became an important center for manufacturing, shipbuilding, and trade.

1813, making it the oldest such structure in the country.

By the late 19th century, Baltimore was a "sprawling, row-house-and-cobblestone-street southern city of about 425,000, almost uninhabitable in the heat and humidity of summer, with a heavily Germanic working class and a largely black servant class." (Bliss, 176)

### **Johns Hopkins: The Man and His Bequest**



**President  
Herbert Swick  
44th AOS President**

Baltimore is a city of many attractions: a long rich history, the nation's first Washington monument (mentioned in Melville's *Moby Dick*), and steamed crabs dumped in large piles onto butcher paper and enjoyed with a beer, and many others. It is also home to the oldest public medical school in the nation, the University of Maryland, which opened in 1807. Its earliest permanent teaching space, Davidge Hall, has been used for medical education continuously since it opened in

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *Continued from page 1*

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Johns Hopkins (1795 - 1873) was a successful Baltimore merchant and banker. "Johns" was his great grandmother's maiden name. Born to a well-to-do Quaker family who owned a 4000 acre tobacco farm in Anne Arundel County, Johns was sent at age 17 to live with an uncle, a wholesale grocer in nearby Baltimore. Johns fell in love with his uncle's daughter, but they were denied permission to marry, so Hopkins moved out of his house and established his own grocery business. He remained a life-long bachelor. After switching to banking, he prospered to become Baltimore's leading financier. As a Quaker, he saw his fortune as a trust to be used for benefit of fellow citizens. Johns Hopkins decided to divide his fortune into two equal parts, to found both a university and a hospital, and in 1867 he bequeathed for this purpose the handsome sum of \$7 million, at that time the largest philanthropic bequest in the history of the country. In addition, he purchased 13 acres of land as the site for the hospital, accompanying the gift with very specific and very enlightened instructions to the new hospital trustees (Harvey 8-9). He stipulated that the hospital plan should "ultimately be able to receive 400 patients: and that it "shall, in construction and arrangement, compare favorably with any other institution of like character in this country or Europe." Today, Johns Hopkins Hospital has 1059 beds plus more than 1600 beds in affiliated institutions.

The hospital was to have a particular mission: "The indigent sick of this city and its environs, without regard to sex, age or color, who may require surgical or medical treatment, and who can be received into the Hospital without peril to the other inmates, and the poor in this city and State, of all races, who are stricken down by any casualty, shall be received into the Hospital without charge, for such periods of time and under such regulations as you may prescribe....You will also provide for the reception

of a limited number of patients who are able to make compensation for the room and attention they may require. The money received from such persons will enable you to appropriate a larger sum for the relief of the sufferings of that class that I direct you to admit free of charge..."

Finally, Johns Hopkins directed the trustees that "In all your arrangements in relation to this hospital, you will bear constantly in mind that it is my wish and purpose that the institution should ultimately form a part of the medical school of that university for which I have made ample provision in my will," adding "it will be your especial duty to secure for the service of the Hospital, surgeons and physicians of the highest character and greatest skill." The Johns Hopkins Hospital, which opened on May 15, 1889, thus became the first hospital in modern times designed to accommodate teaching and research as well as patient care.

### **William Osler: A Physician of the Highest Character and Greatest Skill**



Into this dynamic environment, in the spring of 1889, came William Osler. Osler's many seminal contributions to American medicine and medical education while he was in Baltimore are well known. But his contributions were not limited to the field of medicine.

In October 1918, the Oslers established the Tudor and Stuart Club at Johns Hopkins University "as a memorial to our son...and in grateful recognition of the happy years we spent in Baltimore" and dedicated to the study of early English literature.

For more on Tudor and Stuart Club,  
see <http://ead.library.jhu.edu/ms351.xml>

*Continued on page 3*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued from page 2*

The Oslers' gift included an endowment as well as Edward Revere Osler's personal book collection, about 800 volumes. The Tudor and Stuart Club met once a month in a beautiful room in Gilman Hall, where a portrait of Revere Osler hung above the mantle. After the lecture, one member recalled years later, students and faculty would "attack the lecturer, like banderilleros at a bullfight, with increasingly pointed criticisms," after which everyone would go for sandwiches and beer. "It was literature as a contact sport."

Egerton Yorick Davis moved to Baltimore with Osler, though his publications appeared a little less frequently than when he lived in Canada. Neither Osler nor Davis engaged much in Baltimore politics, although E.Y.D. did write *The Marsh Market*, a parody on John Keats' *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, after a number of Hopkins faculty were injured while trying to keep people from voting multiple times in an 1895 election.

**H.L. Mencken:**  
**"The Sage of Baltimore"**



A man much more actively engaged in politics was Henry Louis Mencken (1880 - 1956). A journalist, author and often satiric critic of American life and culture, he was widely recognized as "The Sage of Baltimore."

Mencken was a young reporter for the Baltimore newspapers while Osler was still at Hopkins. In a later memoir, Mencken wrote: "Osler I saw often in my reportorial days. He was a charming fellow, but was always more the popular physician than the scientist."

Mencken published a brief article about William Osler in the October 1909 issue of *American Magazine*, with the following observations about his years at Johns Hopkins:

A handicap of crushing weight rests upon the ambitious young gentlemen who swarm in clinic-studded Baltimore. It is their evil fate to be measured with a colossus. Say of one of them that he used to sit under Osler at the Johns Hopkins, and you are giving him high praise. Say of him, going further, that he promises, some day, to be worthy of his master, and you are at the limit of lawful eulogy.

Dr. Osler was solving problems that the textbooks put down as insoluble; he was ridding the art of medicine of cobwebs and barnacles.... He observed things that no one else noticed, and he drew conclusions that violated the league rules.

People came from all over the country to consult him... and no Baltimorean of position felt it decent to surrender his appendix without first seeking the advice of the great diagnostician.

His final reference to Osler appears in a diary entry on November 13, 1944, when Mencken made this entry:

I went to the Johns Hopkins (Homewood) on November 10 to address the Stuart and Tudor Club, founded by Dr. William Osler.... It consists, in theory, of persons interested in English literature in the Golden Age, but it also includes a miscel-lany of Anglomaniacs. I had been invited to harangue it often in the past, but always put it off.

### → LOOKING AHEAD TO BALTIMORE ←

Below are some sights to see, things to do during the American Osler Society Meeting April 26-29, 2015 at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel [www.sheratoninnerharbor.com](http://www.sheratoninnerharbor.com). Spouses not attending the plenary sessions might like to visit these sites, or couples come a day early or stay over a day later.

**Up to Date Information** is at: <http://baltimore.org/events> It lists plays, museums, and other cultural events that are occurring during your visit to Baltimore. Just type in the dates.

Please note: Sites below marked **†** are available by **Water Taxi** (+restaurants on the Inner Harbor) [www.BaltimoreWaterTaxi.com](http://www.BaltimoreWaterTaxi.com) 410-563-3900/1-800-658-8947 An all-day pass is ~\$12.

**B&O Railroad Museum** 901 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21223 (410) 752-2490 [www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org) A splendid museum for railroad buffs!

**The Baltimore Basilica** 409 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201(410) 727-3565 [www.americasfirstcathedral.org](http://www.americasfirstcathedral.org) Designed by Benjamin Latrobe and completed in 1821, it was the first great cathedral built in the new nation.

**Camden Yards Baseball** (Night Games on 4/24&25 Orioles vs Boston Red Sox) Mail Laurie Freeman [laurie.freeman@sheraton.com](mailto:laurie.freeman@sheraton.com) for tickets. Fans may also wish to visit Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum 216 Emory Street, (410) 727-1539 [www.baberruthmuseum.org](http://www.baberruthmuseum.org)

**Davidge Hall** at the U. of MD is the oldest medical school building in continuous use since built in 1813. To plan a visit, check out [www.medicalalumni.org/davidge-hall](http://www.medicalalumni.org/davidge-hall) It's a short walk from the Sheraton, at 522 West Lombard St.

**† Fell's Point** Founded in 1730 by shipbuilder William Fell, this historic maritime community still maintains its old world charm with its Belgian block streets and 18th and 19th century homes, taverns and shops. This area features the National Heritage Area Walking Tour, (410) 878-6411

**† Fort McHenry National Monument** 2400 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21230 (410) 962-4290 [www.nps.gov/fomc](http://www.nps.gov/fomc) Fort McHenry is home to the Star Spangled Banner and celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2014.

**Harborplace** is a fun, spacious hotspot for shopping and casual dining. It is easy walking from the Sheraton and features clothing, specialty items, and Baltimore memorabilia.

**† National Aquarium** 501 East Pratt Street, across the Inner Harbor. 410-576-3800 <http://www.aqua.org>

**Other Museums** are **Reginald F. Lewis Museum** on Maryland African American History and Culture, and the **Flag House and 1812 Museum** (Star Spangled Banner) are on Pratt Street in Little Italy. [www.rflewismuseum.org](http://www.rflewismuseum.org) [www.flaghouse.org](http://www.flaghouse.org) 410-837-1793

**Peabody Institute** of Johns Hopkins University 1 East Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 [www.peabody.jhu.edu](http://www.peabody.jhu.edu) 410-234-4500 The school of Music for JHU often has student recitals in the evenings.

**Walters Art Museum** 600 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 547-9000 [www.thewalters.org](http://www.thewalters.org)

## American Osler Society

Forty-fifth Annual Meeting

Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel

Baltimore, MD April 26-29, 2015

### Meeting at a Glance

#### Sunday, April 26

2:00-6:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00-5:00 p.m.	Readings / Recitation
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Art Exhibit Setup
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Past President's Dinner
7:00-9:00 p.m.	B. of Gov's Meeting

#### Monday, April 27

7:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.	Registration
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am-4:00 p.m.	Art Exhibit
8:00 a.m.-Noon	General Session
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
1:00-5:00 p.m.	General Session
6:30 p.m.	Welch Library Reception, Tours, and Dinner at JHU

#### Tuesday, April 28

7:00 a.m.-noon	Registration
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Art Exhibit
8:00 a.m.-noon	General Session
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
1:00-5:00 p.m.	General Session
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Social Hour
7:00-9:00 p.m.	Banquet at Sheraton

#### Wednesday, April 10

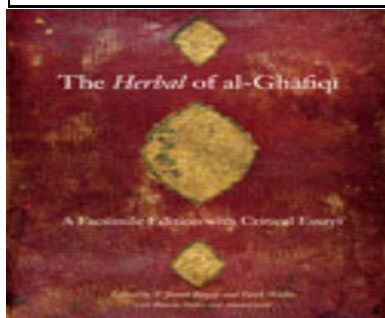
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Ann. Business Meeting
8:30-12 noon	General Session
12:00 noon	Adjourn

#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The AOS 2016 Meeting is scheduled for April 30 — May 3

Minneapolis, Minnesota !

**Oslerians Please Note!** A heads-up for the Baltimore meeting (for which more information will be forthcoming): the **cut-off date** for the Hotel Block rate (\$209) **will be April 3.**



## BOOK REVIEW by Pamela Miller

*The Herbals of Ghafiqi*

by

Abu Ja'far al-Ghafiqi

Montreal: McGill University, 2014

*The Osler Library in conjunction with the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University has just published The Herbal of al-Ghafiqi, a facsimile with essays by invited authors, of one of Sir William Osler's most fascinating and beautiful manuscripts. Those of you who attended our annual meeting in Oxford will remember Anand Date's presentation entitled "Bandits, Books and Bibliophiles" which told the unusual story of how Osler and later McGill acquired the work that dates from 1256. The essays not only reveal additional information about al-Ghafiqi and the context in which he worked, but pose questions for avenues of further research. It is hoped that some of these questions will be answered in a subsequent volume. This heavily illustrated publication can be purchased from the Osler Library, the McGill-Queen's University Press and from the usual on-line suspects.*

"Herbals" - collections describing plants used for medicinal purposes - were among the ancient and medieval world's most valued scientific texts, synthesizing a vast treasury of medical learning to facilitate scientific edification for scholar, bibliophiles, or practical consultation by physicians. Abu Ja'far al-Ghafiqi (d. ca. 1165 CE) lived in the Arab-Islamic zone of the southern

Iberian peninsula called al-Andalus, a land of many cultures, religions and languages. His Herbal reflects the diverse milieu in which he lived, drawing from ancient Greek sources like Dioscorides and Galen as well as over thirty other works from India as well as the Hellenistic and Islamic worlds.

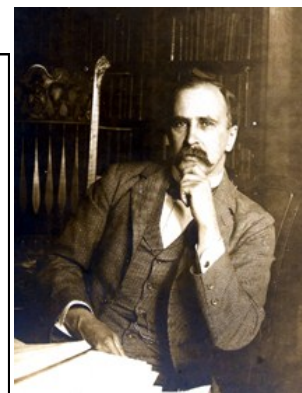
The manuscript reproduced in this edition was purchased in 1912 by Sir William Osler and is now housed in the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University. It has entries for herbal, mineral, and animal-derived drugs, illustrated by almost 400 coloured, hand-drawn images of plants and animals. A glossary of over 2,000 secondary entries provides synonyms in Greek, Sanskrit, Syriac, Persian, Berber, Old Spanish, Latin, Coptic, and Armenian, reflecting the international character of medicine and pharmacy at the time.

Essays by eminent scholars discuss the physical features and history of the manuscript, the philological complexity of the text, al-Ghafiqi's sources, the Andalusian and larger global contexts of the Herbal, and the illustrations accompanying the text. A remarkable document, The Herbal of al-Ghafiqi will be a cherished addition to the library of anyone interested in the history of pharmacological science or in the history of the Islamic world.

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**SUPPORT THE OSLER LIBRARY!**

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine is launching a drive to ensure that it continues to flourish the way Sir William Osler dreamed it would. The Library values your support. Be sure to read the brochure about the Osler Library Endowment fund that accompanies the mailing of this issue of the Oslerian.

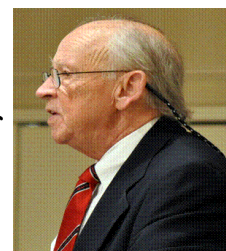


## OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS

**Jim Bailey:** Congratulations to fellow Oslerian, Jim Bailey, who had his first novel, *The End of Healing*, published on September 11, 2014. The novel chronicles a young physician's journey through the underworld of contemporary American healthcare. Jim is a professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis where he, "cares for the sick and teaches doctors in training."



**Allen B. Weisse:** The Society congratulates Allen, the 2015 recipient of the John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award, given by the Houston Academy of Medicine "to recognize a physician who demonstrates the highest ideals of medical practice, research and teaching exemplified by Sir William Osler." Well done!



**W. Bryant Boutwell:** After attending the AOS meeting in May 2014, Bryant returned to Oxford in November to give a seminar at 13 Norham Gardens about the Osler - Davison - McGovern Connection with the faculty of Green - Templeton College (shown here to the right). Bryant is author of a superb biography of philanthropist Jack McGovern (*John P. McGovern, M.D. A Lifetime of Stories*), and he also publishes a history column for the Texas Medical Center, '**Bout Time**', that contains a number of interesting sketches of TMC surgeons, including Red Duke and Denton Cooley, among others. The blog can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.uth.edu/blog/bout-time/>.



Boutwell (pictured left) leads a faculty seminar in Sir William Osler's former Oxford home, Open Arms, 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford, England.

**Chris Lyons:** Head of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, Chris is one of the co-authors of the article "Emerging Roles for Historical Medical Libraries" published in *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts and Cultural Heritage*. Chris spoke to a New York Academy of Medicine audience about Sir William Osler as a Book Collector, and he is pleased to report that last month the new renovations at the Osler Library are complete and the rare books have been carefully re-shelved in an improved space. To watch a good U-tube video about The Osler Library and its role, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm817yZeros>



**Don't be bashful, please forward news of accomplishments and newsworthy items to our new editor as of June, 2015: Michael H. Malloy ([mmalloy@utmb.edu](mailto:mmalloy@utmb.edu)).**

← President's Message continued from page 3 →

Some time ago I decided to take a look.... This Stuart and Tudor Club is supposed to include the intellectual elite of the Johns Hopkins academic department, and poor Osler hoped that his legacy would make it a center of the enlightenment. I can see nothing in it save a gang of third-rate pedagogues.... I was told at the meeting that I have been elected an honorary member of the club, but have heard nothing of this since. I sincerely hope that the news was false.

[Note: Preceding Mencken quotations are from Roberts.]

The valuable legacies of these three gentlemen of Baltimore live on. In Johns Hopkins and William Osler, we see the value of education and compassionate service to others. In H.L. Mencken and William Osler, we see the value of sharp observation and a bit of levity. We should easily sense all these when we gather in late April.

#### Sources:

Bliss K: *William Osler: A Life in Medicine*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Harvey AM, Brieger GH, Abrams SL, McKusick VA: *A Model of Its Kind: A Centennial History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.

Roberts CS: H.L. Mencken and the four doctors: Olser, Halstead, Welch and Kelly. *Proc Baylor Univ Med Ctr* 23 (4): 377-388, 2010.

## Poetry and Prose Corner

Beginning with the June edition of the *Oslerian* we will solicit poetry and prose to promote the Medical Humanities. A great start will be the "Readings" at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore on Sunday, April 26th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. when Dr. Rhonda Soricelli, a medical humanities author and faculty member at Drexel, will present "The Poetry of Medicine", presenting poems of physicians. Participants in the "Readings" are encouraged to bring their own works as well.

### Human Suffering: Now and Then

My left knee hurts,  
My heart does ache,  
My prostate's big,  
My daughter's a flake

I pray to God,  
I sit with Zen,  
But know relief only,  
Arrives at life's end.

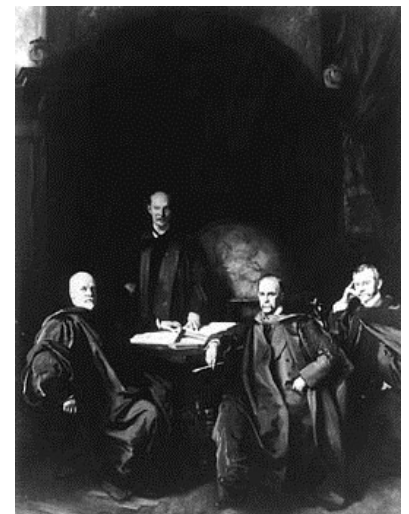
So pain and suffering,  
I'll bear till then,  
For I'd rather the now,  
Than the now be then.

*Anonymous Fool*

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### Osler and Baltimore

In Baltimore, a new medical school was planned to accompany Johns Hopkins Hospital that had launched in 1889. Four years later the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine would open doors and become the gold standard for medical schools in this country. Osler was recruited to join William Welch, William Halsted, and Howard Kelly to form the dream team of chairmen to redefine medical education in this country. They would create a new standard for all medical schools with rigorous admissions requirements open to men and women alike backed by a top-notch, four-year curriculum integrating research with clinical studies at every opportunity. Abraham Flexner would use that new Hopkins standard to evaluate all other medical schools and his famous 1910 Flexner Report would change the face of American medical education in many important and lasting ways. *By Bryant Boutwell*



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**Aequanimitas**

**The AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY** exists to bring together members of the medical and allied professions, who by common inspiration are dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness, and the ethical example of Sir William Osler, who lived from 1849 to 1919. Its OSLERIAN is published quarterly.

We're on the Web!  
√ us out at:  
[www.americanosler.org](http://www.americanosler.org)

A CALL FOR ART WORKS BY OSLERIANS & FRIENDS

*William Osler once said that “no man is really happy or safe without a hobby.” He also counseled doctors to “have a hobby and ride it hard.” Many Oslerians do indeed have artistic hobbies, and in Baltimore will have a chance to show their stuff. Again this year at the Annual Meeting, Herbert Swick has organized an Art Exhibit where we can share our creations. Please use the form below to contact him to arrange to show your work when we meet in Baltimore, MD, April 26-29, 2015.*

**2015 AOS Art Exhibit Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work: (please check)

☐ painting/drawing (medium: \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ photography

☐ sculpture (material: \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ other art form (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dimensions in cm)

Brief description of work (optional):

\_\_\_\_\_

Special exhibition needs, if any \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for applications is March 1, 2015.**

**Please submit applications to:**

Herbert Swick, 4 Brookside Way, Missoula, MT 59802 or by e-mail to hmlswick@msn.com. Please direct any questions to him at that address, or call him at 406-542-6560.\*\* It may be possible to accommodate special needs, depending upon the nature of the re-

**AOS Members** — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another for **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS** column, including awards and publications for yourself or other Oslerians. - JBV