



# The Oslerian

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### ILZA VEITH — CHARTER OSLERIAN

By Sandra Moss, M.D. M.A.

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Dear Oslerians,

In every AOS meeting program, living members are listed: honorary, elected, and — most importantly for today — surviving charter members. The AOS was founded in 1970 by twenty-five charter members, so these remaining few — Martin Cummings, Alfred Henderson, Fred Rogers (one of our early New Jersey historians of medicine), and Ilza Veith — deserve our attention. When I became the first woman president of the AOS, I was naturally curious as to how women progressed as Oslerians in the forty-two years of our history. The answer is that two women were in it from the beginning: In addition to Ilza Veith, the founding mothers included Cécile Desbarats (1907–1998), Osler librarian in those years. Cécile would have been proud of Pam Miller, president-elect and she might have added “*et enfin!*”

In search of Ilza Veith, through a long chain of e-mails (“I didn’t know her but you might ask. . . .”) I finally connected with our honorary member, Gert Brieger, who is Ilza’s friend of many years (and 2000 McGovern lecturer — if I write about Gert, there won’t be any room for Ilza; so suffice it to say that he is emeritus editor of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine (BHM)* and professor of the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins). Here is the first part of his note to me:

*I first met Ilza shortly after I began graduate school here in Baltimore in 1962. . .*

*She was an immensely engaging, vivacious, and friendly woman who took an interest in me because she knew members of my family in San Francisco. In San Francisco I came to know her probably as well as any one, except her husband and her close friend, Dr. Francis Schiller, a neurologist and historian of neurology, who, unfortunately is no longer living. Ilza was a very complicated woman and there are things that I could never find out, such as her exact age, how much if any medical schooling she had in Germany before coming to Baltimore in the 1930s, and just how she managed to have the career she had.*

I surveyed Oslerians who were members of the Society in the 1970s, but none could recall Ilza except for two past-presidents. Bruce Fye, who remembered seeing her once at a meeting, kindly sent me two of Ilza’s books from his own collection, one signed by the author (now one of my little treasures). The second is Richard Golden. Every time I embark on an Osler-related project, I discover that Richard Golden, our historian, has already done it or written about it. True to form, he sent me this note and copies of Ilza’s handwritten letters to him:

*Ilza Veith sent me several gracious letters (1982-1984) about my early book, Osler and Oriental Medicine and a paper that I had written (The History of Chinese Translations of William Osler's Textbook) mentioning her shared interest in the subject and that she had given a talk to the AOS, Sir William Osler - Acupuncturist at the Philadelphia meeting (1974). . . . I remember meeting Dr. Veith at a meeting and that she was in a wheelchair, perhaps it was in San Francisco in 1986.*



**President Sandra Moss,  
43d AOS President  
installed at the 2012  
meeting in Chapel Hill**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ILZA VEITH, CHARTER OSLERIAN (Continued from Page 1)

Unfortunately, I was unable to contact Ilza personally. But, armed with these personal notes, Ilza's books, the National Library of Medicine database, history journal search engines from Rutgers, and Ilza's papers and rich correspondence in the Hopkins archives, I set about discovering Ilza Veith, charter Oslerian.

### A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ilza (I take the liberty of first-name familiarity) was born, according to AOS records, in 1912, which would make this essay a celebration of Ilza's century. However, based on records in the archives of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), she was born in 1915 in Ludwigshafen, Germany. At some point, she began her studies of Chinese, and possibly Japanese. Between 1934 and 1936, she studied medicine in Geneva and Vienna. If she did complete her medical degree, as seems unlikely, before leaving Europe with her husband in 1937, she never practiced medicine or used MD after her name in the US. At Johns Hopkins, under the direction of Henry Sigerist, she became the first person to earn a PhD in the history of medicine, an entirely new field in American academia. (In 1975, she was awarded a Doctor of Medical Sciences degree from Juntendo University in Tokyo.) From 1949 through 1964, she was professor of the history of medicine at the University of Chicago. Her final institutional post was at UCSF where she taught both the history of medicine and the history of psychiatry from 1964 until her retirement in 1979. Among her distinguished lectureships were the Garrison lecture of the American Association for the History of Medicine (1974, "Blindness of the Mind: Historical Reflections on Functional Impairment of Vision") and the 1977 Hideyo Noguchi lectureship at Johns Hopkins ("The Mutual Indebtedness of Japanese and Western Medicine.") (1967). Ilza [Photo below from early 1960s] and her husband, businessman Hans Veith (d. 1991), endowed a professorship in the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins in 1998.



So that's the boilerplate — and now I want to introduce you to the woman behind the brief sketch. Her books, articles, and book reviews reveal the breadth of her knowledge and historical interests; reviews of her books and her reveal her complexities as a historian.

(Photo permission Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

When I started this project, I was hoping to find enough material to keep *Oslerian* editor, Joe VanderVeer, content for at least one issue. However, I have since decided that Ilza's story deserves at least two issues of the *Oslerian*. In this issue, I focus on Ilza's expertise as a historian of what was then called "Oriental medicine." Late in her career, she wrote a number of articles in clinical medical journals, most importantly on acupuncture — a mysterious and exciting buzz from behind the bamboo curtain and, for some American physicians, their first introduction to a rather startling "new" therapy.

### AMERICA'S FIRST DOCTORATE IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Ilza's mentor, Henry Sigerist, head of the Johns Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine (1932–1947), and founder of the *BHM*, became Ilza's lifelong friend — their correspondence, much of it preserved in the archives at Johns Hopkins, continued until his death. Sigerist, who was trained in Europe as a physician and historian, brought medical history into the academic sphere in America. Ilza first met Sigerist shortly after she arrived in the US; they discovered a mutual interest in medieval Chinese texts in a chance conversation at the History of Ideas Club at Johns Hopkins. He asked to see some of her work on a translation of an eleventh-century Chinese text and promptly suggested that she study with him and take as her thesis project a translation and analysis of the *Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine* (more about the Yellow Emperor in a moment). History of medicine was such a new academic field that Sigerist wasn't sure that there existed a university post for his first doctoral candidate and comforted himself (if not Ilza) by reflecting that she could always teach German. On June 10th, 1947, the *Baltimore Post* published a picture of a beaming and beautiful Mrs. Ilza Veith in full graduation regalia holding up her diploma — the first doctorate in the history of medicine in America.

In 1958, a year after Sigerist died in Switzerland, Ilza gave a talk and later published a memoir called "Henry E. Sigerist: Orientalist" (*Journal of the History of Medicine and the Allied Sciences* 13 (1958): 200). Sigerist's lifelong interest in Eastern medicine and Eastern languages and culture is overshadowed by his main body of work on Western medicine. In the last decade of his life, Sigerist resumed his study of Chinese language, setting himself to memorize three new characters each day. In 1949, he wrote to Ilza in English and Chinese to boast happily of the translation of one of his books into Chinese. In Veith's view, Sigerist had a unique ability to see analogies in all medical systems.

(President's Message Continued on Pg 3)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ILZA VEITH, CHARTER OSLERIAN (Continued from Page 2)

### THE YELLOW EMPEROR

Ilza's 1949 book, *The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine*, is a translation and analysis of the first part (Su Wên, "Familiar Conversations" between the emperor Huang Ti and his physician, Qi Bo) of the *Nei Ching, The Classic of Internal Medicine*. Ilza's translation of the *Huang Ti Nei Ching Su Wên* was the first to be made available to Western scholars, and included the book's first thirty-four chapters with a lengthy introductory commentary. *The Yellow Emperor's Classic*, written about 240 BCE (others estimate 1000 BCE), formed the basis of Chinese and Japanese mainstream internal medicine. As Ilza pointed out in the preface, translation was an enormous challenge, there being no "adequate dictionary treating of the Chinese technical, medical, and philosophical terms" in the original and one character can have many meanings. She anticipated her critics by stressing that this was not a philological exercise, but rather represented "the approach of a medical historian." It was her intention, she continued, to make this text available to western historians of medicine. She hoped that "this preliminary study will serve as a starting point for further work on the text, with more specific attention to its many linguistic problems." Sigerist, in his introduction, wrote that the book filled a "long felt gap" and that it "reads very fluently and has maintained the flavor of the original, so far as this can be done in such a version." Ilza selected her illustrations from works in the Oriental collection of Howard A. Kelly, Osler's gynecological surgical colleague at Hopkins.

Reviews were decidedly "mixed." Edward H. Hume, a medical missionary and serious student of Chinese medicine wrote of the first edition: "Even though later scholars may revise and retranslate, yet this first translation of an indispensable document is bound to prove a worthy starting point for all who enter the realm of Chinese medicine." (*Far Eastern Quarterly* 10 (1951): 322).

Other reviewers, particularly two from Harvard, were not so kind. "JRH," probably affiliated with the Harvard-Yenching Institute, lauded Ilza's "courage in tackling so formidable a book at all" (*Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 14 (1951): 306). But he found the translation unsatisfactory, remarking that the difficulty of translating ancient Chinese "should not be taken as free license to publish translations made in the course of learning the language."

Far less civil in tone was the *BHM* review by James R. Ware, Harvard's first sinologist and historian of Chinese culture (*BHM* 24 (1950): 487). His review made many of the same points as JRH's review. But it was a shockingly venomous *ad mulierum* (the feminine *ad hominem* or something close to it) attack, augmented

mented by six pages of Ware's own grandstanding one-upmanship retranslation. The review made *me* mad, and I have no serious interest in the Yellow Emperor or his *Classic*! Ilza crafted a measured and reasonably courteous response. (*BHM* 25 (1951), 86). Acknowledging some valid criticisms amidst the calumnies, she defended the translation, responded to the personal attacks, and suggested (none too subtly) that the reviewer had no medical-history chops whatever and that it would profit him to reread the preface. There! – now I feel better!!

The most capable and even-handed review was by Nathan Sivin (sinologist and historian of science then at MIT) who reviewed the second edition and was able to look back at the career of the first edition: (*Isis* 59 (1968), 229). In his judgment, Veith's book had gone beyond her own expectations, "for many historians of science learned from it for the first time that a great Chinese tradition of rational medicine existed." And, he added pointedly, "there is not much point in wishing that this book were something it was never intended to be. . . . The value of Dr. Veith's book as a pioneering contribution to our field rests quite secure." And she was right, he continues, "not to be discouraged by the risk of confusion among medical historians and sinologists who, ignoring the preface, took it as a version for general use."

Beginning in 1945, Ilza published a number of articles on a wide range of Eastern subjects including: "Health and Disease Among the Mangynas" (an isolated Philippine tribal group); "Englishman or Samura: The Story of Will Adams"; "A Japanese Picture of Leprosy"; "The Beginnings of Modern Japanese Obstetrics"; "Psychiatric Thought in Chinese Medicine"; "The Supernatural in Far Eastern Concepts of Mental Disease"; "A Buddhist Prayer Against Sickness"; "On the Mutual Indebtedness of Japanese and Western Medicine"; "The Medical World of Tutankhamen."

Over the years, her many reviews in the area of Eastern medicine included books on a vast range of subjects. Ilza always reviewed the book the author did write, not the book the author did not write, and took care to emphasize the value (if there was any) that she saw for the book's intended audience. Her book review "assignments" for scholarly history of medicine journals included works on the medical history of India, Ayurvedic medicine (this one was justifiably dismissed by her as polemical, obscure, and repetitious), medical missionaries to China, the origins of modern Japanese obstetrics, concepts of the soul and the supernatural in Far Eastern medicine, a number of books on Tibetan medicine, and the chemical arts of old China.

Ilza did not confine herself to the remote past. She capably reviewed such works as the 1960 *Plague Fighter, the Autobiography of a Modern Chinese Physician* (set in Manchuria, 1910-1911).

(See President's Message continued on Pg 10)

## MINUTES of the Board of Governors Meeting, 22 April 2012, Chapel Hill, NC

**President Bliss** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were R. Dennis Bastron, Paul Berman, Christopher Boes, Charles Bryan, Anand Date, Laurel Drevlow, Richard Golden, Mike Jones, Joseph Lella, Pamela Miller, J. Mario Molina, Sandra Moss, Clyde Partin, Barry Silverman, Herbert Swick, and Renee Ziemer. Absent were Paul Mueller, John Noble, Cynthia Pitcock, Joseph VanderVeer, and Allen Weisse.

**A moment of silence** was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: Martin M. Cummings, C. Peter W. Warren, J. Willis Hurst, and Philip W. Leon.

There were **no additional items** added to the agenda.

**The minutes of the 2011 meeting** of the AOS Board of Governors were approved.

**The secretary's report** was given by Denny Bastron in the absence of Paul Mueller. Paul had expressed deep regrets for not being at this meeting. He has fulfilled his three-year term as secretary and has opted not to serve an extra two years due to additional work commitments.

Editor Joe VanderVeer reported that the **Oslerian** continues to be published quarterly and he is soliciting news-worthy information about AOS members to feature in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Denny Bastron reported that the total income for 2011 was \$107,999 and expenses \$126,571. Denny shared that a grant was received to cover the majority of the *Persisting Olser IV*. The increase in expenses was in part due to the deposits made for the 2013 and 2014 meetings, setting up a secure webpage to receive dues and merchandise payments using a credit card online, and having the administrator's salary setup as a direct deposit and abiding by Minnesota's employee tax laws. There was much discussion regarding the McGovern, Bean, and Publications funds as to whether they are restricted funds or just tracked separately. AOS's accountant raised the concern that if they are indeed restricted funds and if we show a deficit for a particular year in one of the funds, that the society may be at risk of losing our not-for-profit status. The Board moved to have Denny research the McGovern fund and see if it is a restricted fund and develop a policy for each of the funds keeping in compliance as needed and report back to the Board next year.

**Financial Committee Report:** Denny Bastron provided the report on behalf of Marvin Stone. The Y99 account was just under \$10,000 at the end of 2011 but the first quarter of 2012 saw a significant increase to around \$30,000. At this time the society's investments are stable.

The **Nominating Committee** recommended changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2012-2013 (Please see Minutes of the Business Meeting on page 8).

**Membership Committee:** Pamela Miller summarized eight candidates for membership, who will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting (please see those minutes on page 10). It was recommended to streamline the process of application for membership and create an online process on the website eliminating the signatures on the application form but using the letters of recommendation as endorsement.

**Annual Meeting Committee Reports:** **1) Program Committee:** Sandra Moss reported that 54 abstracts were received. Two individuals submitted more than one abstract and were asked to select one. There were also several late submissions. The Board advised that it will be up to the discretion of chair of the Program Committee how to handle multiple abstract submissions and late submissions. **2) Local Arrangements Committee (LAC):** Mike Jones reported that 118 had registered for the meeting and everything is in place for a great meeting.

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## MINUTES of the Board of Governors Meeting (Continued)

The Board discussed **CME** and the importance of providing CME for the meeting but noted that providing CME locally is extremely costly. The society will continue to work with Children's Heart Center who has provided CME credit for the last two years at no charge to the society. The Board thanked Bill Evans for his institution's support of CME.

**Fund raising** for annual meetings was discussed. It was decided that this would be an additional burden on the Local Arrangements Committee so it will not be required but if natural opportunities arise they can certainly be pursued.

**William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee Report:** Laurel Drevlow shared that 13 submissions were received and three awards (\$1500 and registration and travel expenses to attend the annual meeting registration) were approved. The committee will also look at making the application process easier, make instructions more clear for those applying and make it an online process. Letters will be sent out by May 15<sup>th</sup> to those receiving the award and also to those who were declined with some suggestions on how to improve their paper. It was clarified that the Bean abstracts, in the future, should be reviewed by the Program Committee who will determine if the abstract will be presented at the annual meeting. The abstracts need to be received by the deadline for all abstracts so they may all be reviewed at the same time.

Charles Bryan reported that the **McGovern Lecturer** for the 2013 AOS meeting will be Bert Hansen. It was clarified that the president at the time of the meeting should have some input concerning who would be a good McGovern Lecturer. This will be noted as a change in the bylaws for next year.

It was noted that Jeremiah Barondess has been awarded the **2012 Life Time Achievement Award** but he is unable to attend the meeting. The committee will decide later who will get the 2013 award.

**Historian-Archivist's Report:** Richard Golden reported on some of the activities of the Osler Library during the past year. Pam Miller retired last year after twelve stellar years and Chris Lyons became the interim head of the Library. Last fall the Library endured quite a difficult time as the result of a three month strike by University support staff which ended in December. In spite of this, the largest digitization program ever undertaken by the Library was completed and the Osler Library Prints Collection, a gathering of 2,500 items from the 17th to the 20th century, is now available.

Among the **Library's many acquisitions** Dr. Golden highlighted Catoptrum Microcosmicum by Johann Remmelin, a 1619 anatomical atlas. Of interest is that Osler collected the text for this work but missed the atlas and the set is now complete. Bruce Fye donated a large lithographic portrait of Vesalius produced around 1850. Clyde Partin contributed his excellent panoramic view of the meeting in Philadelphia for our archives.

**The Osler Library published *Sir William Osler: The Man and His Books***, a collection of essays edited by William Feindel, Elizabeth Maloney and Pamela Miller.

**The Library's archival holdings** are now listed in the National Library of Medicine's pilot project, History of Medicine Finding Aids, providing an excellent research tool.

**Publications Committee Report:** Clyde Partin thanked Charles Bryan and Jeremiah Barondess for their work on *Persisting Osler IV*. A published book review would be nice to give the book exposure. Charles Bryan reported that a subcommittee is looking at a *Persisting Osler V*. One manuscript was received in April 2012 titled "The Lessons of Greek Medicine: William Osler's Cardinal Ethic" by Richard L. Golden. This will be reviewed by committee members, which Clyde Partin will distribute. Chris Lyons, representing the Osler Library, has approved the manuscript. Mike Jones received permission to add copyrighted information to the website.

(Please continue on page 6)

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES (Continued from Pg 5)

**AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee Report:** There was no meeting this year.

**President's report:** Michael Bliss expressed the view that it was a quiet year thanks to the efforts of all the officers and committee chairs and expressed that the society is on a good course.

**New Business:** The past presidents' dinner went well with 22 individuals in attendance. It was suggested that the dinner start earlier since there is a lot of discussion and some in attendance need to leave to go to the Board meeting. Concurrent sessions were discussed with a suggestion of starting the meeting at noon on Sunday or extend the meeting to all day on Wednesday. It was felt this would alleviate the need for concurrent sessions for a while but when more abstracts are received in the future, this would not be a long-term solution. There does not appear to be an optimal solution but the Board will continue to consider options.

**The bylaws** were approved by the members of the Board and will be presented to the membership at the business meeting.

The Board received a **newly created document** with job descriptions for the officers, members of the Board and committee chairs. This will serve as a guide and changes can be made by contacting Renee Ziemer.

The Board discussed the information that was forwarded to the membership regarding the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Osler Symposium in San Diego in October 2012**. Sandra Moss provided an update regarding the group, and the Board determined that this would not be a group that the society would want to be connected with. Sandra will write the group a letter indicating this and that information regarding their meeting will not be shared with AOS membership.

Mario Molina brought up the topic of **intellectual property** and whether AOS had trademarked its ties, posters, etc. The society has not pursued trademark on the merchandise and the Board recommended Mario Molina and Chris Boes look into this on behalf of the society.

**Future meeting dates:** April 7-10, 2013: Tucson, Arizona (approved by AOS officers April 2010). May 11-14, 2014: Oxford, England (approved October 2011). 2015 site is yet to be determined.

Committee appointments for 2012-2013 are listed in the table on page 7 .

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Renee Ziemer (for Paul S. Mueller, AOS Secretary)

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## PLAN AN ARID APRIL IN TUCSON: Come to The AOS 43rd ANNUAL MEEING!



"April is the cruelest month," said T. S. Elliott, which may be true for Boston, Minneapolis or even Philadelphia. But it's not true in Tucson, AZ, where the day temperatures reach 81°F during the day and are about 52°F at night. We meet at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, nestled in the Santa Catalina Mountains in North-West Tucson, Arizona. It features golf, tennis, spa, and spectacular views. Experiencing its natural beauty and culture, (Native American, Hispanic, old west), you may want to extend your stay to enjoy golf, tennis, the spa, and the always spectacular views!



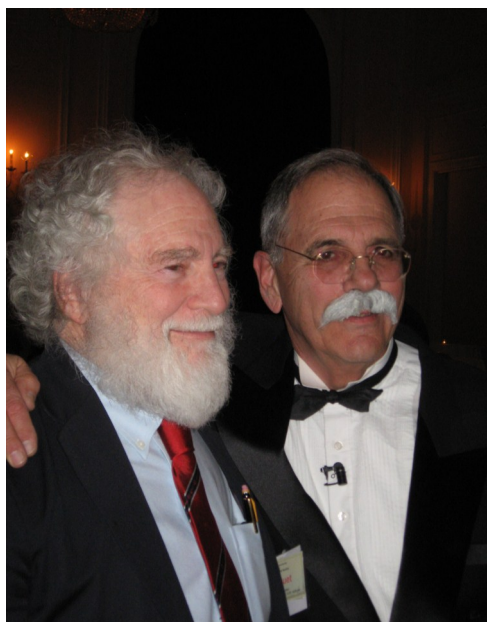
## AOS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012—2013

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	L. Drevlow	S. Podolsky, M. Fuller, C. Boes, J. Erlen	S. Podolsky	L. Drevlow	C. Pitcock
McGovern Award*	C. Bryan	J. Lella, J. Noble	M. Bliss	J. Noble	M. Bliss
Lifetime Achievement Award	C. Partin	R. Kahn, M. Bliss, B. Fye	C. Partin	None	None
Nominating*	C. Bryan	J. Lella, J. Noble	M. Bliss	J. Lella	M. Bliss
Finance	M. Stone	D. Canale, B. Cooper, D. Morgan	M. Stone	None	M. Molina
Membership†	P. Miller	BOG	H. Swick	BOG members rotating off BOG	B. Boutwell, R. Kahn, S. Podolsky
Publications	C. Partin	F. Neelon, J. Lella, M. Jones, W. Roberts, R. Golden, J. VanderVeer, P. Miller	M. Jones	C. Partin, J. Lella	None
Annual Meeting – Program Committee#	S. Moss	P. Miller, M. Jones, P. Mueller, D. Bastron, P. Reynolds	P. Miller	S. Moss, P. Mueller	J. Duffin, C. Fulkerson, M. Jones, M. Molina, M. Moran, P. Reynolds, H. Swick
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	M. Jones	C. Fulkerson, F. Neelon	D. Bastron	M. Jones, C. Fulkerson, F. Neelon	M. Moran, J. VanderVeer, C. Boes

\*Chaired by the most recent living Past President and comprised of the 3 most recent living Past Presidents

† Chaired by the Second Vice-President

#Chaired by the First Vice-President



## ***THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER (and the questionable quote):***

“Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel”

- 1) Who said it, to whom, & when?
  - 2) Who is the mysterious stranger grappling himself to Richard Kahn?
- [E-mail the editor with answers! Reward for the first correct answers.]

## MINUTES of the AOS Annual Business Meeting, 25 April 2012, Chapel Hill, NC

**President Bliss** called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

A **moment of silence** was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: David G. James, Robert Kimbrough, Harris Riley, Jr., Martin M. Cummings, C. Peter W. Warren, J. Willis Hurst, and Philip W. Leon.

There were no additional items added to the agenda.

The **minutes** of the 2011 meeting of the AOS Board of Governors were approved as printed in the August 2011 *Oslerian*.

**The secretary's report** was given by Denny Bastron in the absence of Paul Mueller. Paul had expressed deep regrets for not being at this meeting. He has fulfilled his three-year term as secretary and has opted not to serve an extra two years due to additional work commitments.

Joe VanderVeer reported that the *Oslerian* continues to be published quarterly and he is soliciting news worthy information to feature in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Denny Bastron reported that the society has 181 members. The total income for 2011 was \$107,999 and expenses \$126,571. The increase in expenses was in part due to the deposits made for the 2013 and 2014 meetings, setting up a secure webpage to receive dues and merchandise payments using a credit card online, and having the administrator's salary setup as a direct deposit.

Marvin Stone provided a **financial update**. The 2011 investment accounts lost 1.5% with a year-end balance of \$500,000. However, on March 31, 2012, the account was up 3% for the first quarter of this year.

Charles Bryan on behalf of the **Nominating Committee** recommended the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2012-2013: rotating off members-at-large Paul Berman, Laurel Drevlow, Barry Silverman, secretary Paul Mueller, and past-president Joe Lella; members staying on: Michael Bliss (Past President, 11-12), Sandra Moss (President), Pamela Miller (First Vice President), Dennis Bastron (Treasurer), Charles Bryan (Past President, 10-11), John Noble (Past-President, 09-10), Anand Date (13), Mike Jones (13), Allen Weisse (13) J. Mario Molina (14), Cynthia Pitcock (14), Joe VanderVeer (*ex officio*), Richard Golden (*ex officio*), New Second Vice President Herbert Swick (17), secretary Christopher Boes (15), members-at-large John Erlen (15), Scott Podolsky (15), and Charles Roberts (15). President Bliss asked for further nominations from the membership. No additional nominations were made and the slate of candidates was unanimously approved.

Pamela Miller, chair of the **Membership Committee**, reported that eight candidates who submitted applications for membership were approved by the Board and will be voted on at this meeting and if approved inducted to membership later in the meeting.

Sandra Moss, chair of the **Program Committee**, reported that over 50 abstracts were received and one morning session of concurrent sessions was necessary. The Carolina Inn has been a great venue. Concurrent sessions will again be reviewed by the Board with information from the evaluation forms.

Laurel Drevlow, on behalf of the **William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee**, shared that 13 submissions were received and three awards were made. The committee will be moving to an online application form.

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## AOS Annual Business Meeting MINUTES (Continued)

Michael Bliss reported that the **McGovern Lecturer for 2013** AOS meeting will be Bert Hansen from New York.

**The Life Time Achievement Award** recipient for 2012 is Jeremiah Barondess who was not able to attend the meeting but will be sent his award. The committee will determine the 2013 recipient prior to the next meeting.

**Historian-Archivist's Report:** Richard Golden reported on some of the activities of the Osler Library during the past year. Pam Miller retired last year after twelve stellar years and Chris Lyons became the interim head of the Library. Last fall the Library endured quite a difficult time as the result of a three month strike by University support staff which ended in December. In spite of this, the largest digitization program ever undertaken by the Library was completed and the Osler Library Prints Collection, a gathering of 2,500 items from the 17th to the 20th century, is now available.

Among the Library's many **acquisitions** Dr. Golden highlighted Catoptrum Microcosmicum by Johann Remmelin, a 1619 anatomical atlas. Of interest is that Osler collected the text for this work but missed the atlas and the set is now complete. Bruce Fye donated a large lithographic portrait of Vesalius produced around 1850. Clyde Partin contributed his excellent panoramic view of the meeting in Philadelphia for our archives.

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Michael Bliss gave the **president's report** and shared the view that the society runs smoothly with the work of all the officers. The Board will continue to evaluate concurrent sessions but shared there is no easy solution.

There was a call for additional new business items for the agenda; none was offered.

The membership approved the candidates for membership (see below).

The membership approved the Board and Committee appointments.

The **revisions to the bylaws** were discussed at length. Several members expressed concern for the five year attendance before an individual could become a member stating that some societies just ask you to submit dues and you automatically become a member. A suggestion was made that three years of attendance be considered. The revisions to the bylaws were not approved but will be reviewed by the Board again.

In 2013, the annual meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona and in 2014 it will be in Oxford, England. The location for 2015 has not been determined. The Board is waiting to hear where AAHM is meeting to possibly have the AOS meeting in conjunction with it. Bruce Fye stated that AAHM will not be

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**AOS Annual Business Meeting MINUTES (Concluded)**

making a decision on where the 2015 meeting will be held at their meeting later this week. The membership decided to move forward with planning of the AOS 2015 meeting. Baltimore and Montreal were suggested and will be explored further.

Michael Bliss expressed thanks to **David Naylor** for an excellent McGovern lecture, to Paul Mueller for his term as secretary and Paul Berman, Laurel Drevlow, Joe Lella and Barry Silverman for their term on the Board. In addition, he thanked the outgoing committee members for their service. An expression of thanks was made to Beth Doyle and her colleagues for hosting the Duke visit. Frank Neelon will be stepping down from organizing the Sunday afternoon recitations session and that a replacement will need to be discussed. Frank was thanked for his commitment to this excellent session.

**New members** to the society were presented their certificates. New members are as follows: Faustino Bernadett, Richard Fraser, Irving Kushner, Christopher Lyons, Thomas Sodeman, Barbara Thompson, Milton Roxanas, and Sara Walker. (See June 2012 *Oslerian* for their Bios + Photos.)

Sandra Moss presented Michael Bliss with a presidential plaque and thanked him for his significant book contributions, enlightening presidential address, and presidential service to the society.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Renee Ziemer (for Paul S. Mueller, AOS Secretary)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ILZA VEITH, CHARTER OSLERIAN (Continued from Page 3)**

In the wake of World War II, she felt she had a duty as a historian to bring her particular area of expertise to the subject of war and genocide. As information emerged at the end of World War II, she wrote a lengthy and largely political essay entitled "Humane Warfare and Inhuman War: Japan and Its Treatment of War Prisoners" (*BHM* 19 (1946): 355). Being a historian, she began with the Russo-Japanese War in 1904, in which prisoners were treated according to the laws of the Geneva and Hague Conventions by order of the Japanese government. She then presented a mature analysis of the changing image of the West and East in Japanese thought (and politics) over the next four decades that ultimately led to imperial Japan's increasingly vicious aggression in its own sphere with respect to conquered Chinese and other Asian peoples beginning in the 1930s, and toward the West during World War II in its treatment of Allied prisoners of war.

In "Plague and Politics," (*BHM* 28: 1954), Ilza discussed human responsibility for transmission of "weaponized plague" from ancient and medieval times up to the early 1950s. In World War II, contemporary Chinese reports on bacterial warfare accused the Japanese of dropping plague-carrying fleas over a region of Hunan in 1941, a project of the infamous Unit 731 of the Japanese military. Later, the story changed from history to fictitious anti-American propaganda in her analysis, as mysterious sightings of American airplanes were connected to isolated and unproven cases of plague in Korea and China in 1952.

She concluded that the "idea [of spreading plague was] abandoned by the Western world more than three hundred years ago." Well, she was right about plague — but Ilza could not have known that the US had active programs for weaponizing germs (particularly anthrax) until the program was shut down in 1970.

For more on this remarkable historian and Oslerian, stay tuned, even if you are a little weary of Chinese emperors and quibbling philologists and sinologists! My next essay will begin with a discussion of Veith's "tenure" as an active Oslerian and her 1974 paper entitled "Sir William Osler — Acupuncturist" (really!). Veith was one of the first historians of medicine to bring acupuncture to the attention of American practitioners in the 1960s and 1970s through her articles in medical journals such as *JAMA*.

And I will talk about her second broad area of expertise: the history of psychiatry, and particularly of hysteria. Writing a book about hysteria as it evolved over centuries and cultures is like walking through a minefield — where you don't step is as important as where you do step. Ilza plunged right in — she got a little battered but also earned a lot of well-justified praise for her work. And finally — the devastating stroke that might have ended her career in her late forties, and the stunning, perhaps classic, illness memoir that she wrote two decades later.

(Ilza Veith's story will be continued in the next *Oslerian*!)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AOS 2014 UK MEETING IN OXFORD May 11-14!



(Photo courtesy of Oxford University)

The persons in the picture are (L to R): Professors Terence Ryan, Mark Gardiner and Allan Chapman, Miss Su Fullwood and Mr. Matthew Read, and Dr. John Ward with the restored clock below the bust of Sir Thomas Bodley. (Miss Fullwood and Mr. Read are conservators from West Dean College, Chichester where the clock was repaired.)

### News from Oxford Bodleian Library Osler's Clock Returned to Glory

In 1912 Osler decided to donate a clock to Duke Humphreys Library within the Bodleian to replace one given by a Dr. Rawlinson which had deteriorated after 160 years. He chose the clock and purchased it from R S Rowell, Jewellers of 115 High Street, Oxford following the recommendation of Falconer Madan, Bodley's Librarian for "a clock with a good 18<sup>th</sup> century style of case, and striking hours and half hours on a gong with a non-irritant sound.....". The clock sat below the bust of Sir Thomas Bodley and under it was the following inscription:

V.c. Gulielmo Osler Baronetto  
Medicinae apud Oxonienses Professori regio  
Hoc Horologium  
Grato animo acceptum refert  
Bibliotheca Bodleiana  
a.d. V111. Id. Oct. A.S. MCMX11

By 2011 the clock remained in place but its illustrious origins were barely recognised and the original inscription had been replaced by the more mundane label: "Please do not remove these catalogues from here"!

Professors Mark Gardiner and Terence Ryan interested the Bodleian in restoring the clock and reinstating the inscription and with the help of a contribution from the Osler Club of London the necessary work was carried out at West Dean College.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in front of a limited audience of 50 people in the magnificent 1489 Duke Humphrey's Library, Dr. Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian unveiled the refurbished clock and paid tribute to William Osler. The unveiling was preceded by a brilliant lecture entitled "Oxford Medicine and the Mind" from the distinguished historian of science Dr. Allan Chapman and followed by a dinner with members of the Oxford Medical Alumni in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Divinity School.

All AOS members attending the Oxford meeting in 2014 will be able to see the clock in the library and sample the atmosphere that Osler so much valued.

### And, anticipating Oxford in 2014, you might want to try a bit of Osler's Punch (Courtesy John Ward):

[To your editor, this sounds like a nice mid-winter drink; but please do tap out a designated driver...]

#### Osler's Punch

(Rx for the Oxford Society by  
D.A. Abernethy in 1921)

#### INGREDIENTS

Tangerine Oranges 6  
Rum 1 Botile (= Bottle = Btl)  
Tarragona Wine 1 Btl  
Brandy Whisky or Gin:1 Btl  
Boiling Water (an equal quantity)  
Cloves, ginger or spices to taste  
Heavy Cream 1 pint

**INSTRUCTIONS:** 1) Stick the tangerines (or other oranges) all over with the cloves and stew gently in a suitable pot in the Tarragona wine for 20 minutes, together with the ginger and/or spices. 2) Add the rum and other spirits. 3) Add the boiling water equivalent of three bottles. 4) Keep the punch on a hot plate or gentle gas ring and serve with a ladle, as hot as reasonable. 5) Just before serving add the cream and stir well.

**N.B.** A) If Tarragona be unobtainable, any sweet heavy red wine will do. B) The beverage is very smooth and therefore a little insidious; it will give the quietus to him who boasts that he's been drinking all evening and that he is sober as a judge.

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## Æquanimitas

*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.*

## CALL for ABSTRACTS for 2013 Annual Meeting in Tucson, AZ April 7-10, 2013

**Abstracts** should be sent by e-mail to: aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to boes.christopher@mayo.edu and must be **received** by November 15, 2012. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. Only one abstract per person is permitted. The abstract should be no longer than one page. It should begin with the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address. This should be followed by a two to three sentence biographical sketch indicating how the author would like to be introduced. (This will probably be your entire introduction. Don't be modest!). The text should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and possible interest to the membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be avoided or kept to a minimum.

**Three** learning objectives should be given after the abstract. Each learning objective should begin with an active verb indicating what attendees should be able to *do* after the presentation (for example, "list," "explain," "discuss," "examine," "evaluate," "define," "contrast," or "outline"; avoid noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate"). The learning objectives are required for Continuing Medical Education credit.

**A cover letter** should state: Whether any of the authors have a potential conflict-of-interest such as direct financial involvement in the topic being discussed, and whether there will be any mention of off-label use of drugs or other products during the presentation.

**Standard audiovisual equipment** will consist of a laptop computer and LCD projector. Presenters should carefully weigh, and justify, requests for *additional* AV equipment since this will add substantially to the cost of the meeting. *(Specifically request additional equipment.)*

**Each presenter** will have a 20-minute time slot, which will be strictly enforced. *Presenters should rehearse and time their papers to 15 minutes*, in order to permit brief discussions and to be fair to the other speakers. Although 20 minutes might seem quite short for a paper in the humanities, our experience with this format has been overwhelmingly favorable. (Timekeepers are dedicated and strict!)

**Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until November 15, 2012. Send with objectives and cover letter to: aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to: boes.christopher@mayo.edu. Please make submissions in Microsoft WORD format.**

**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

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