

Estes Award Committee (Jan McTavish, Chair)

Estes Prize Committee
Report to the Council, AAHM
10 March 2009

The Estes Committee is pleased to announce that the 2008-2009 winner of the Estes Prize is Elaine Leong, for “Making Medicines in the Early Modern Household” (*Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 82 [Spring 2008] 145-168). In this meticulously researched article (part of a study of some 9,000 recipes in twenty-eight different collections), Leong focuses on Elizabeth Freke, an English gentlewoman of the late 17th and early 18th centuries who in many ways represents the traditional role of women as household healers, but more importantly, whose recipes, case notes, reading notes, and inventories of the actual ingredients and concoctions in her cupboards, reveal that such women also participated in a wider medical context. Freke was no dilettante but was actively involved in a commercial nexus, a purchaser both of medical substances and of medical knowledge, who sought and used information from a variety of sources because she was concerned with practical outcomes: the treatment of the people in her care.

Leong’s article is a highly readable and enjoyable exploration of the richness and diversity of early modern drug lore, and a reminder that the history of medicine at some level is always about real people in a real world, “sufferers and consumers” whose experiences continue to intrigue and enlighten us.

Members of the Committee

Jan McTavish, Chair
Victoria Sweet
William Helfand

Dear Chris:

Yes, I'm happy to recommend that Council consider sending prints to these 2 awardees and also think about whether or not they want to continue this practice once we have run through the current set of prints.

Some background on this: I was instrumental in helping to find the Dioscorides back in 2002, and then, as mentioned earlier, we decided to let the prints be housed here at UCLA in 2005, when I was on the committee again. I am happy to begin scouting for another set of prints and to continue keeping these Estes award gifts at UCLA, but if the Council prefers to have NLM or someone else take over this responsibility, that's fine; no sense of proprietary rights here.

Thanks, Marcia

Marcia Meldrum, PhD

From: [AAHM AAHM](#)
To: mlynnmel@earthlink.net
Sent: 5/13/2008 11:19:47 AM
Subject: RE: FW: details re Estes award

Marcia,

Can I convey to Council a recommendation from you to consider this action? Council definitely works better with something concrete and I can bring the advice of membership to the Council.

You might also suggest that Council discuss the form of the award after 2011. Do you have any suggestions about possibilities once the prints run out? Otherwise the suggestion will leave that question looming.

Sincerely,
Chris

>>> "Marcia Meldrum" <mlynnmel@earthlink.net> 5/13/2008 11:36 AM >>>
Thanks, Chris, for letting us know. There was one other thing I wanted to mention to you. The practice of including a print with the award started in 2002, with the third Estes Award; the 2 previous winners, Victoria Sweet and Leo Slater, did not receive prints. Both of them have mentioned to me, just casually, that they were sorry the prints were introduced after their Awards. The Council might want to consider sending a print retroactively to each of these awardees. This would still leave prints in our portfolio for the next 3 years: 2009, 2010, and 2011. If you think this is worth considering, you might mention it to the Council.

Marcia Meldrum, PhD