



# Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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March 2001

## ANNUAL MEETING

If you have not already done so, make plans now to attend the 74th Annual Meeting of the AAHM in Charleston, SC, 19-22 April. The deadlines for hotel (17 March) and preregistration (2 April) are fast approaching. The program has something for everyone including preliminary specialty organization meetings on the 18th, the reception on the 19th, a plenary session on "The Racial Politics of Care", and concurrent sessions on medicine in virtually every time and place. All the details are available at the AAHM web site "[www.histmed.org](http://www.histmed.org)" or the local arrangements web site "[waring.library.musc.edu/aahm.html](http://waring.library.musc.edu/aahm.html)".

In the study of medical history we remember the Carolinas for their fevers, sometimes forgetting there is more to the epigraph: "Carolina is in the spring a paradise...in the autumn a hospital..." – our meeting is in the spring. On the point where "the Ashley and the Cooper rivers meet to form the Atlantic Ocean" stands a city where past and present come together. From the palmetto log walls of Sullivan's island, first fortified in the Revolution, to the rubble of Fort Sumter, much of America's history lives in these streets; so it is not surprising that this city pioneered historic zoning legislation in the 1920s. Stop by the Preservation Society during a break in the program. If you have time, you might visit Drayton Hall, just 9 miles out of town on the Ashley River. It is the only ante-bellum Ashley River plantation house to survive the Civil War. It is said, Dr. Charles Drayton, the house holder during the fall of the city in 1865, spread the story to Union troops that it was serving as a contagious disease (smallpox and/or yellow fever, the story seems to vary) hospital. They avoided it 'like the plague.' The Charleston Museum, where we will have a reception Saturday night, is the oldest in the nation (1773) and offers an exceptional introduction to the region. Our hosts, the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina, are among the oldest institutions in the nation. Their buildings and heritage merit your time and attention. Walking out from the hotel, the houses, both 'single' and 'double,' stand as monuments to a bygone age, their unique piazzas catching the cooling air, just as they did 200 years ago. For the romantics among our membership, just down King Street from the hotel is the delightful example of 19th century Italianate architecture known as the Patrick O'Donnell House. A master builder, O'Donnell was preparing the home for his fiancé, however he was so meticulous that the project dragged on and on and she married another. (It can happen to authors

as well as builders, take warning.) The gardens are almost always beautiful in April as winter winds give way to spring sea breezes. As you walk from the Market to the Old Exchange and along the Battery, the townhouses of that agrarian age may bring to mind the comments of Alexander Gardiner on behavior in Charleston: “eating, drinking, lolling, smoking, and sleeping, which five modes of action constitute the essence of their life and existence” – it should be a great meeting. DCS

The AAHM NewsLetter is published three times a year by the American Association for the History of Medicine, Inc., and distributed free of charge to the membership.

#### AAHM Officers

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The Association’s website is “[www.histmed.org](http://www.histmed.org)”.

Address all correspondence regarding the NewsLetter to:

Dale C. Smith, PhD, Editor

Department of Medical History

The Uniformed Services University

4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

E-mail: "DCSMITH@USUHS.MIL", Phone: 301-295-3168

FAX: 301-295-3351

News items of 250 words or less are invited and may be submitted by e-mail (preferred), Fax, or regular mail.  
Deadlines: February 10, June 10,

September 10.

#### FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

The Rockefeller Archive Center Grants for Travel and Research makes a limited number of grants to promote and support research in its collections. In particular the center calls attention to special programs in the History of the Cold War Era, for research on the background of the Cold War, the development of Cold War policy and strategy, and the cultural and intellectual context of the Cold War; Residencies in Basic Medical Research, to include most aspects of the history of the Rockefeller University (founded as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in 1901), much of the history of the international medical, public health, and scientific research programs of the Rockefeller Foundation, and major elements of the histories of the Commonwealth Fund, Culpeper Foundation, Markey Trust, and Markle Foundation and the Paul Ehrlich collections. For more information visit their website: "<http://www.rockefeller.edu/archive.ctr/ac.giap.html>".

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces the May 1, 2001 postmark deadline for applications for fellowships for university teachers and for college teachers and independent scholars. For more information visit the Endowment's web site "<http://www.neh.gov/grants/onebook>

[/fellowships.html](#)", email to "fellowships @ neh.gov", or call 202-606-8467.

The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists announces the 2002 ACOG/ Ortho-McNeil Fellowship competition. These awards carry stipends of \$5000 each to be used to defray expenses while spending a month in the ACOG historical collection (and other medical/historical collections in the Washington, DC area) continu-

ing research into some area of American obstetric-gynecology history. Applications for the year 2002 award will be accepted until October 1, 2001. For further information and application forms contact: Susan Rishworth, Historian Librarian/Archivist, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 409 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20024, 202-863-2578, fax:202-484-1595, email: "srishwor@acog.org".

The American Philosophical Society announces The Frederick H. Burkhardt Resident Fellowship and Symposium in Evolutionary Studies and Thought available within the period September 1, 2001 to September 1, 2003. The American Philosophical Society invites applications for a fellowship in honor of its distinguished member, Frederick H. Burkhardt, a founding editor of *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*. For more information contact: Burkhardt Fellowship Committee, American Philosophical Society, 105 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3386; telephone:(215) 440-3400. Fax; (215) 440-8579.

The Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the availability of short-term grants of up to \$1,000. Grants will be awarded to scholars engaged in projects requiring personal use of the historical collections of the Library and/or Mütter Museum during the Spring/Summer/Fall of 2001. For more information contact: Sofie Sereda, Administrative Assistant, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Telephone;(215)563-3737, ext. 232; email contact: "sereda@collphyphil.org".

## NEWS

The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists announces that the recipients of the year 2001 ACOG/Ortho-McNeil Fellowships in the History of American Obstetrics & Gynecology are David Pent, MD, FACOG, whose research project is, "The Thalidomide Tragedy: The End of the Myth of the Placental Barrier and the Beginning of Women's Reproductive Rights" and Leslie J. Reagan, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of History and College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, researching the topic, "Ambiguous Motherhood: The Impact and Investigation of Miscarriage in Twentieth-Century America".

The University of Michigan University Library is pleased to announce the addition of over 7,000 volumes to its Making of America collection; MoA is a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. This expansion brings the total volumes available online to 8,500 or approximately 2.89 million pages of text and 1.15 billion words. The addition of these materials to Making of America was made possible in part through the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and an equipment grant from Sun Microsystems. The Making of America is available freely over the Internet and may be found at: "<http://moa.umdl.umich.edu/>". For additional information about the MoA collection, contact "[moa-feedback@umich.edu](mailto:moa-feedback@umich.edu)".

Complete information about the Medical History Society of New Jersey, a constituent society of the AAHM, is

available at our website “[www. mhsnj.org](http://www.mhsnj.org)”.

Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande for December 2000 is devoted to medical history with the papers selected by Professor Vincent Barras of the Institut d’histoire de la medecine in Lausanne. Professor Barras provides an introductory editorial on the interaction of medicine, history and society and the papers illustrate the modern history of social issues in medicine. (This new tradition of dedicating the last issue of the year of a significant medical journal to medical history is one worthy of emulation. DCS)

“Mind your Head? 100 years of Psychology in Britain” opened recently at the Science Museum in London to mark the centenary of The British Psychological Society. Established in 1901 by 10 people, the BPS now has more than 34,000 members. Mind your Head? tells the story of British psychology by depicting the tools psychologists have used to solve the puzzle of the mind. This exhibit was curated by Dr. Geoff Bunn, Associate Curator of Psychology. Exhibit dates: January 19, 2001 - December 31, 2001. Psychology in Britain: Historical Essays and Personal Reflections (ed. GC Bunn, A.D. Lovie and GD Richards) was published in conjunction with the exhibition by the British Psychological Society in association with the Science Museum. For more information contact: The British Psychology Society: “[www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)”, The Science Museum: “[www.nmsi.ac.uk](http://www.nmsi.ac.uk)”.

Note from Dr. Benjamin Harris, Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin: One of the many highlights of this exhibit is the curator’s presentation of Hans Eysenck’s entire psychophysical laboratory, circa 1988. Thanks to large (approx. \$750,000) grants from tobacco companies, Eysenck established a state of the art laboratory. His hypothesis was that cancer victims and smokers shared a personality profile. Thus, cancer and cigarette smoking were correlated rather than causally connected. Geoff Bunn found Eysenck’s laboratory manager (Eysenck reportedly never set foot in the lab), who loaned/donated all the equipment to the Science Museum and flew down to help set it up in a historically accurate display. Hans Eysenck was the most famous psychologist in Britain and continues to be the most cited in his field.

The Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences editorial offices have moved from the Department of History at Ohio State University to the Department of Psychology, York University, 4700 Keele Street Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M3J 1P3, where Raymond E. Fancher, has assumed the editorship. Professor Fancher welcomes paper submissions. Books for review should also be sent to him.

The Carlson Grand Rounds of the New York Presbyterian Hospital took place on Wednesday, December 6, 2000. The Carlson Grand Rounds commemorate the contributions of Eric Carlson to the history of medicine at Cornell Medical Center. This year’s speaker, David Healy, MD, presented, “The Creation of Depression” in the Uris Auditorium, “Psychotropic Drugs & the Social Contract” for the Richardson History of Psychiatry Research Seminar on Tuesday, December 5th, Healy presented “The Silence of the Cemetery: A History of Antipsychotics” at the Westchester Division of the NYPH.

The International Network for the History of Hospitals is holding its second international conference, "Hospitals and Health: The Balance Sheet," in Verona, Italy, 19-21 April. There is no registration fee. For further information visit: <http://www.inhh.homestead.com/verona.html>". Inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Marina Garbellotti, C/o Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico, Via S. Croce 38100, Trento, Italy; email : "garbello@itc.it". Or Keir Waddington, Secretary, International Network for the History of Hospitals, The School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University PO BOX 909, Cardiff CF1 3XU; telephone: 029 20876103; Fax: 029 20874929.

## LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The Academic Medical Library of Paris (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Médecine, Paris) announces the full text and free access e-publication of the following editions of Hippocrates' works on its website :

\* princeps edition by F.M. Calvus (Romae, 1525)

\* edition by Alde Manuce (Veneziae, 1526)

\* edition by Froben (Basileae, 1546)

\* edition by A. Wechel (Francofurti, 1595)

\* edition by E. Littré (Paris, 1839-1861, 10 volumes). There is also an introduction in English by Marie-Laure Monfort (University of Paris IV-Sorbonne). Address: "<http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr>" .

The United States government now has all US patents (1790 - last week) on line as TIFF images at "<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>".

The patents before 1976 are only retrievable by number, but Bob Rosenberg hopes that may change someday. For further information contact Robert Rosenberg, Thomas A. Edison Papers, Rutgers University, 16 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1108; email: "rrosenb@rci.rutgers.edu" .

## MEETINGS

The Eighth National Convention of the Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc. will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 16th, 17th & 18th, 2001 at the Radisson Read House Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. For more information and registration form, please contact Peter J. D'Onofrio, PhD, President; Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc., 539 Bristol Drive, S.W., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, or visit their website at "[www.civilwarsurgeons.org](http://www.civilwarsurgeons.org)".

Edwardian Science? A British Society for the History of Science conference will be held at the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, on 21 May 2001. The questions to be addressed will be "Was there a distinctive 'Edwardian' cultural period? What are the implications for history of science?" For more information contact: BSHS Executive Secretary, 31 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, OXON SN7 8LH.

The Association for the History of Chiropractic will hold its annual Conference on Chiropractic History at Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, March 31-April 1. Details can be obtained from AHC executive director, Alana Callender (319) 884-5404; or e-mail: Callender\_A@palmer.edu.

The History of Science Society will hold its 2001 meeting in downtown Denver, Colorado, 8-11 November. The HSS convention will be held in conjunction with the meeting of the International History and Philosophy of Science Teaching Group. For more information, please visit the HSS Web site: "<http://depts.washington/hssexec/>", or contact Jay Malone, History of Science Society, Box 351330, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, (206)543-9366, fax (206)685-9544. Electronic submissions are highly encouraged. Deadline April 2, 2001.

## PRIZES

The Society for the Social History of Medicine invites submissions for its two 2001 Prize Essay Competitions. These prizes will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essays in the social history of medicine submitted to each competition as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. For more information contact: "<http://www.sshm.org>."

The Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era announces its biennial competition for the best published article dealing with any aspect of United States history between 1865 and 1917. The article must have appeared in a journal dated 1999 or 2000. Any graduate student or individual with a doctorate awarded after 1990 who has not yet published a book is eligible to compete for a \$500 award. An article may be nominated for consideration by the author or by others (e.g., a journal editor). Deadline: Postmarked by December 1, 2001. Submissions--which must include three copies of the article plus a copy of the table of contents of the issue in which it appeared--or questions should be directed to: Robert G. Barrows, SHGAPE Prize Committee, Department of History, Indiana University at Indianapolis, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140.

The Forum for History of Human Science invites submissions for its Article Award, which is awarded every other year for the best recent article on some aspect of the history of the human sciences. The prize, which is a non-monetary honor, alternates annually with the Forum's prize for best doctoral dissertation. The winner of the 2001 Article Award will be announced at the annual meeting of the Forum for History of Human Science, held in conjunction with the History of Science Society meeting, which will be held in Denver, Colorado, November 8-11, 2001. Winners are publicized in the FHHS Newsletter and in newsletters and journals of several other organizations. Entries are encouraged from authors in any discipline, as long as the work is related to the history of the human sciences, broadly construed. To be eligible, the article must have been published within the

three years (e.g., 1998-2000, inclusive). Send three copies of the article to the Chair of the FHHS Article Award Committee before July 1, 2001: Dr. Henrika Kuklick, Dept. of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, Logan Hall, Suite 303, 249 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304. For more information visit the website: "<http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/jones/fhhs/fhhs.htm>".

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

Professor Sander Gilman of the University of Chicago will edit a special issue of the journal *Patterns of Prejudice* to be published in January 2002 devoted to an exploration of some of the questions arising from the ever-increasing understanding that modern science is acquiring about DNA and human genetics. Papers addressing these and related questions should be submitted in two (2) copies with a disk, or as an e-mail attachment, in May 2001. They should be a maximum of twenty, double-spaced pages with documentation. Please see the journal for style sheet. Submissions should be sent to: Sander L. Gilman, Henry R. Luce Distinguished Service Professor of the Liberal Arts in Human Biology, University of Chicago, 1050 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637-1512; tel: (773) 702-3268, fax: (773) 702-5902, "[slgilman@midway.uchicago.edu](mailto:slgilman@midway.uchicago.edu)."

The Chemical Heritage Foundation announces Preliminary Call for Papers on "Industrial-Academic Relationships in the Chemical and Molecular Sciences". The fourth international conference of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC) of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science will take place 3-5 October 2002. The Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia (USA) will host this meeting. For further information contact Leo Slater, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 .

"Producing and Consuming Natures" American Society for Environmental History Denver, Colorado March 20-23, 2002. The conference seeks to explore the various ways humans have historically drawn nature into their lives -- through working and imagining, devouring and debating, transforming and transporting it. We encourage papers on the human history of nature as symbol as well as substance, in popular culture and consumption as well as production and extraction. By framing nature as plural, we also invite topics that engage a diversity of views about what nature is or should be, within or across cultures. For further information contact: Christopher Sellers, Department of History, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794; (631) 632-7514.

Australasian Association for History, Philosophy & Social Studies is now soliciting papers for its 2001 conference, which will be held at the University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia from 25 to 28 June 2001. For further information see the website: "<http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/amu/ucr/aahpsss2001/>" Paper proposals (title and abstracts) are due 31 March 2001. For more information contact: "[neilt@hps.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:neilt@hps.unimelb.edu.au)", Dr. Neil Homason , History & Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010 AUSTRALIA; 613-8344-5877.



## LECTURES & SYMPOSIA

The University of Virginia School of Nursing Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry's eighth annual Agnes Dillon Randolph Award and Lecture will take place on Thursday, March 22, 2001, 4:30-6:00pm in McLeod Hall Auditorium and honors Elizabeth M. Norman, PhD, RN, FAAN, author of the award winning book, *We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese*. For more information call (804)924-0083.

## OUR MEMBERS

Ellen More (UTMB, Galveston) has been awarded a joint Bunting-Schlesinger Library Fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University for the 2000-2001 academic year for a research project titled "Mary Steichen Calderone and the Cultural Politics of Sexuality in Post-war America." Her book, *Restoring the Balance: Women Physicians and the Profession of Medicine, 1850-1995* (Harvard, 1999) will be available in paper in March of 2001.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Faculty of Arts and Science of Concordia University invites applications for one limited-term appointment in the History and Philosophy of Science. The successful candidate will teach in several of the Faculty's academic units, likely including the Department of History, the Department of Philosophy, Science College and the Liberal Arts College's multi-disciplinary Great Books core curriculum. Applicants must hold a PhD in the area, some publications and concentration on the modern period. Applicants must have appropriate scientific formation and a willingness to participate in general education initiatives emanating from Faculty priorities. The position is a full-time, limited-term appointment, beginning August 15, 2001 and ending May 31, 2002. Hiring is subject to budgetary approval. This position is normally at the rank of Assistant Professor or Lecturer. Candidates will be expected to teach three courses per semester. Applications should consist of a letter of intent, a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, a statement of teaching and research interests and three letters of reference. Please forward all applications to the contact listed below. Review of applications will begin on March 15, 2001 and continue until the position is filled. In accordance with immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Concordia University is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities and disabled persons. Please direct all general inquiries about the Faculty to Dr. Martin Singer, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. telephone; (514) 848-2081; e-mail: "msinger@vax2.concordia.ca".

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has a vacancy for a Historian-Series GS-170 Grade 11 to-GS-13, Permanent Full Time, Salary: \$ 44,352.00 - \$ 57,656.00. This position is located in the staff of the Public Health

Service (PHS) Historian in the Audiovisual Program Development Branch of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD. Closing date is 03/26/2001. For more information contact Linda Tang, NIH, NLM Human Resources Office, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 38, Room 2N05, Bethesda, MD 20894, 301-496-4943, Fax: 301-480-4971, email: "applications@nlm.nih.gov".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The AAHM Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, continues to generate strong feelings among a significant portion of the membership and so the editor has belatedly decided to devote further space to the issue. I must apologize to two members, one for the boycott and one against it, who sent electronic letters on the issue last fall at a time I thought that we had devoted sufficient space to the issue. The names and messages have been lost to the æther. The two letters and statement which follows do however cover the sentiments included in the two lost letters. Since this is the NewsLetter of the Association I shall take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have some responsibility to our colleagues who have done the hard work of volunteer local arrangements. Local arrangements is an almost thankless task under the best of circumstances and is undertaken out of a sense of corporate obligation and as a favor to peers – that they may have a meeting. Difficult issues in modern life are most often difficult because they are not choices between good and evil but between positions which have equal measures of good and evil. Some feel great social responsibility to the civil rights movement and no one would deny the importance of continued progress in this area of social justice; others focus on the purpose of advancing scholarship and commitments to colleagues and students and no academic is going to take the position that scholarship is not important and peers and students have no claim on our time. Everyone will be, to some degree, torn between these competing claims on our behavior. Members are referred to the official statement of the AAHM Council published in the fall issue of the NewsLetter for the expanded statement of the organization's responsibility to the members in Charleston of whom we requested the favor of hosting our meeting.

Letter to the Editor

AAHM Newsletter

In the July 2000 issue of the Newsletter, Martin S. Pernick announced that the Sigerist Circle, of which he is president, had voted not to attend the 2001 AAHM meeting at Charleston, South Carolina, in order to support a travel boycott of South Carolina. The travel boycott has been declared by certain civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, to protest the official display of a Confederate flag at the South Carolina Statehouse.

The organizers of the boycott profess to be advocates of civil rights. They should know, therefore, that a most important civil right is the right of free speech. A flag is a form of speech. It may express opinion, but more often feeling. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the burning of the American flag — an act deeply offensive to many Americans — is nevertheless a form of speech protected by the Constitution. If the burning of

the country's flag is constitutionally protected speech, the display of a flag is equally so. What message does the South Carolina legislature intend to convey by flying the Confederate flag? Dr. Pernick claims that the flag is a symbol of racism. If that is true, then surely Dr. Pernick will want the Stars and Stripes removed from display; it flew over slavery from 1776 until the end of the Civil War, and then over a nation that condoned segregation. For the South, a Confederate flag represents the memory of the War Between the States, of an army and navy that fought with courage and skill, of the bitterness of defeat, of the terrible loss of many young lives, of the Reconstruction and years of economic blight. While the Confederate flag evokes memories of the past, it also is a reminder of how much change there has been — civil rights laws are observed and enforced in South Carolina. When Dr. Pernick suggests that a Confederate flag has been used “to promote violent hatred of immigrants, Catholics, Jews, and African Americans...,” he exaggerates to the point of hysteria. The Ku Klux Klan carried the Confederate flag in their processions, but they also carried the Stars and Stripes. The Klan has long since ceased to be an influence in the South, or elsewhere. Today the Confederate flag is no more intimidating than the Jolly Roger.

Whatever message the Confederate flag may be intended to convey on its pole near a Confederate monument at the South Carolina Statehouse, the NAACP and the Sigerist Circle do not attempt to answer that message. They seek to suppress it through the economic pressure of a travel boycott. They would impose silence by coercion, not attempt to convince by persuasion. They seek to restrict the freedom of speech that they oppose. In attempting thus to silence their opponents, they violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the United States Constitution.

Dr. Pernick goes on to say that medical historians should not meet “in a place that excludes or demeans their members.” He is conjuring up out of the past a difficulty that does not exist in the present. The AAHM has met twice before at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1959 and in 1974. It has also met in several other Southern cities. All of these meetings were marked by the warm and generous hospitality of our hosts. No one was excluded from attending, and certainly no one was demeaned. The 1970 meeting at Birmingham, Alabama, where integration marches and disturbances had occurred only a few years before, was perfectly serene. There is no reason to believe that in the year 2001 anyone will be excluded from attending the AAHM meeting at Charleston, nor suffer insult while they are there.

Dr. Pernick says that a refusal to attend the AAHM meeting in Charleston is not a boycott of the AAHM. Of course it is! It is a refusal to accept decisions made by elected officers of the AAHM, and arrangements entered into, long before the travel boycott was proclaimed. As our late president Stanley Jackson explained with patient dignity, the AAHM had asked its Charleston members to invite the Association to meet there. The AAHM entered into contractual agreements with hotels to reserve meeting rooms and accommodations. Members of the AAHM who have been responsible for local arrangements for an AAHM meeting know how much work and anxiety it involves. For the AAHM to allow its Charleston members to undertake the work of planning a meeting, only to throw their efforts away would be grossly unjust in itself. To do so in an attempt to suppress freedom of speech on a controversial question would be doubly wrong.

Yours sincerely,

Leonard G. Wilson

Dear Dr. Smith:

Although I certainly applaud the stand of Dr. Martin Pernick, President of the Sigerist Circle, to boycott the national meeting being held next spring in South Carolina, I do so with muted enthusiasm. Being the battle-scarred veteran of two boycotts in the early 1980s and as a member of the local arrangements committee that Dr. Tom Leonard chaired when New Orleans hosted the AAHM, my heart goes out for my colleagues in South Carolina who have worked to put this meeting together. In 1981, I was president of the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association when the national organization withdrew its annual meeting from New Orleans because Louisiana had not passed the ERA. Under threat of lawsuit, the action of the Board of Trustees was reversed, and the meeting was held in New Orleans, although poorly attended. It was only a few years later while I was still an officer of that organization that a second boycott was called on the annual meeting in New Orleans because the Louisiana legislature had passed a law prohibiting abortion. Again, the attendance was down. Ill feelings towards the national organization within the state's society remained, and they remain to this day. I assure Dr. Pernick that I carry no brief for the Rebel battle flag. I was quite close to my grandparents whose fathers and uncles gave long and devoted service, often under very difficult conditions, in the Union Army during the Civil War. My wife's grandmother, whose maiden name was Cora Stanton (we called her Mimi, and her painting hangs in our front parlor), was the granddaughter of Edwin McMasters Stanton, Secretary of War to Abraham Lincoln. Nonetheless, it would seem to me that if the NAACP were boycotting South Carolina because they were flying the Rebel flag from the state capitol and if the legislature in the state of South Carolina, in all of its solemn wisdom, lowered the battle flag, then it would appear to me only fair that the boycott should end. To make further post hoc stipulations and call for a continuing of the boycott is not appropriate. The NAACP boycott is a failure. The flag was removed from the capitol in Columbia because South Carolina was becoming an object of derision (and hilarious editorial cartoons) in the rest of the country. I have spoken with students and their parents from South Carolina, and the current NAACP boycott is a non-event. From an economic view, the boycott has had a continuing negligible, inconsequential effect on the South Carolinian economy. Dr. Pernick does make one observation the provenance of which I do not understand. He states, "The Confederate battle flag is among the most widely recognized symbols of racism in modern American, repeatedly used to promote violent hatred of immigrants, Catholics, Jews, and African Americans..." There is no question that over the course of the last forty years, the Rebel battle flag has been commandeered by the Ku Klux Klan and other hate-mongering fringe groups. But, being a Catholic myself, and being from the state that has the exceptionally dubious honor of having produced David Duke (although I would hasten to add that he was born and raised in Oklahoma), I can only assume that Dr. Pernick is confusing the Klan's activity in the last forty years with that activity during its very virulent resurgence after World War I. What Dr. Pernick does not seem to realize (and I recommend that he read *The Fiery Cross* by Wyn Craig Wade, published in 1987 by Simon and Shuster) is that although the Klan was certainly active in the South, it was much more powerful in the Midwest and its activities extended quite literally from Oregon to Maine. There were lynchings in Denver and Omaha, as well as other Northern cities. The Klan quite literally took over the state of Indiana, electing Klansmen as the governor, both senators, and almost all of the legislators. The largest Klan rally in history was in July, 1923, when 200,000 Klansmen and their families assembled in Kokomo, Indiana. These people truly did terrorize the immigrants who were pouring in from Europe, as well as Jews, Catholics, and African Americans. My point is that to be fair about this, we must recognize that the Klan's resurgence was not a Southern phenomenon. In examining one photograph after another of massed Klan rallies from Washington, DC, through Kokomo, Indiana, to Denver, Colorado, I do not recall ever seeing the presence of a Rebel battle flag. What you will see is Old Glory in serried rank. As a matter of fact, the Rebel battle flag did not even appear at Klan rallies in the South until the 1950s and 60s. Enough. I have had my say. I applaud Dr. Pernick's position and the position taken by those arranging for the Garrison lectureship, I cheer their taking the moral high ground, but there are problems.

Sincerely,

Wallace K. Tomlinson, MD,

Associate Dean and Registrar,

Department of Student Affairs,

Professor,

Department of Psychiatry & Neurology,

Tulane University Medical Center

Edward Morman has submitted the following:

“Those considering participation in the April meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Charleston, should be aware that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has called for a tourism and conference boycott of South Carolina.

The boycott is active and has been quite effective. In a recent statement, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said: ‘The NAACP rejects the Confederacy-of-the-mind-mentality of South Carolina’s legislators who think that taking the [Confederate] flag from atop the Capitol but placing it on an illuminated, 30-foot flagpole directly in front of the Capitol is acceptable. The new placement is totally unacceptable, equally as offensive and grossly divisive.

The NAACP points out that the state’s tourist industry lost over \$100 million dollars last year as a result of the boycott, and that organizations canceling plans to meet in South Carolina include the National Association of Federal and Postal Employees, the New York Knicks, the American Bar Association, the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ, the National Urban League, the

Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Rather than join these organizations in observing

the boycott, the AAHM Council asked the 2001 Program Committee to schedule as many papers as

possible on race and regional issues. We acknowledge the good intentions of the Council and Program Committee, but feel obliged to point out that meeting in South Carolina still constitutes breaking the boycott. For this reason, the undersigned AAHM members and historians of medicine announce their intention not to attend the AAHM annual meeting in Charleston.

For further information please consult the following web-sites:

NAACP: “[www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)”

AAHM: “[www.histmed.org](http://www.histmed.org)”

Signers as well as further information can be found at: “[www.sigeristcircle.org](http://www.sigeristcircle.org)”.

(Editor’s note: The NAACP estimate, according to their web site, is based on that organization’s assumptions about who would have spent what if they had gone to South Carolina. The State of South Carolina’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism reports airport deplanements were up 8.8%, rooms rented up 6% (revenues up 8.3%, and tax receipts on accommodations up 5.2% during 2000.)

Whether you choose to attend the annual meeting or not, try to remember that we have more in common than separates us. The great strength of the AAHM over the almost quarter century of my acquaintance with it has been its inclusiveness. We all must remain committed to scholarship and collegiality; those I do not see in

Charleston, I'll look forward to seeing in Kansas City. DCS

















