



Medical History

Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Society's thirteenth conference ended recently in Darwin. By most accounts it was very successful despite the reduced attendance. A wide range of interesting papers brought out the fundamental strength of the Society; a fertile mix of health professionals interested in history and professional historians interested in health and medicine. We are now putting together the proceedings of the conference with a view to making them available to registrants and in downloadable form on the Society's website. I have had some preliminary discussions with our local university printery and it appears the proceedings can be put together as an eBook without too much difficulty or expense.

The Darwin conference also saw the end of the two-year term of our immediate past-president, Louella McCarthy. Her respected term was notable for being thoughtful and caring as the Society wrestled, at times with difficulty, with its promotion of state branches. The state branches offer the potential of more flexibility and increased membership under the broad umbrella of the Society.

But perhaps with this wrestling we need to continue. In the world of commerce and management, no doubt enabled by evolving communication technology, there is a tendency to grow larger and centralise. This is all proceeding apace for banks, governments, insurance companies and the like. Yet in the world of scholarship and research there is a tendency to splinter. We no longer have



physicians and surgeons but an expanding range of sub-specialities each with their own organisation, perhaps journal, and perhaps history interest group. Among historians there is the same trend; transport, mining, gender, period, place etc, again developing their own organisations and perhaps journal. I recall not so long ago complaining to a botanical friend that a recent splitting of a north Australian eucalypt into three new species was done on what I thought flimsy grounds. Whilst not disagreeing he was supportive of the move as it encouraged more detailed and precise research.

From the point of view of our deliberately rather generalist Society this splitting trend is likely to persist. How then do we come to terms with these developments? Can we adjust our organisation to enable new societies and interest groups to join? What do we have to offer to make it worthwhile for the new groups?

Apart from fine company, the main attractants for our Society are the Newsletter, the Journal and the Biennial Conference. Our electronic newsletter could certainly be spread more widely if there were associated organisations to service. Our peer reviewed journal is an attractant and perhaps associated organisations could be encouraged to submit papers from their meetings. The *Journal of Northern Territory History*, the flagship of the NT Historical Society, for example, has recently changed to the *Journal of Northern Territory History and Archaeology* to attract a local interest group. Our biennial conferences are well established now but perhaps rising to the provision of peer reviewed options for conference presenters may be a useful direction. The Society has occasionally been associated with regional conferences. Should we be more active here, perhaps in conjunction with our 'off year' Council meetings.

So, a few issues to think about as the interest group world about us splits and changes.

Brian Reid
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ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

I am a Senior Lecturer in History in the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at The University of Queensland, where I am also the Director of Engagement and Internationalisation for the School. I migrated to Australia from Scotland, but I can now say that I have lived much more of my life in Australia than in the country of my birth. My academic background is interdisciplinary as I hold a Bachelor of Music, a PhD in seventeenth-century English history, and a Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher Education). This academic flexibility has seen me employed in history departments and music schools at three Australian universities. My research focuses on analysing the mental, physical and auditory landscapes of past cultures, and spans the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. The history of madness is a key research theme of mine forming a prominent strand in my publications, and collaborative Australian Research Council grant successes.

My keen interest in the history of medicine, and more specifically, my research into the history of psychiatry was sparked in a rather indirect way. As a musician, I used to perform regularly with a Baroque ensemble called 'La Folia' (madness). The group took its name from the La Folia ground bass, which is a chord progression that was used as the basis for musical variations. It was while we were working with a guest soprano, that I first heard Henry Purcell's song 'From Silent Shades' (published in 1683) better known as 'Bess of Bedlam'. Within this single song, Purcell used rapidly changing and contrasting tempos, musical



genres, and dynamics, coupled with an extreme vocal range in order to depict the sounds of female love-sick melancholy. I was hooked!

My research into both the sights and sounds of seventeenth-century madness stemmed from Purcell's work.

From this initial research, I then

moved into Australian history and researched the soundscapes of nineteenth-century asylums. It was the closure of large psychiatric facilities in Australia from the late 1990s onwards, and my visits to a number of those sites with cultural heritage officers and architects, that alerted me to the existence of the asylum recreation hall. Now silent, these recreation halls, variously built in asylums from the 1870s onwards, had housed regular and lively dances for patients and staff alike. My published research into madness and music formed part of the history of music as medicine, a precursor to music as therapy, more broadly.

Researching aspects of the history of medicine has been an extremely rewarding experience, and has taken me into areas I could not have predicted. An entirely unexpected outcome of this was that my research into the history of post-mortems in asylums and prisons in a very small way informed the findings of the Victorian Forensic Medicine Institute's Coronial Inquiry into the remains of the notorious bushranger Ned Kelly in 2011. Equally, as a result of my collaborative work on the history of asylums, I was interviewed by 'Radio National – Rear View' about the history of disability in Australia and 'Disability Services and Support', in response to the Federal Government Productivity Commission Inquiry, and the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2012.

I have been a member of the ANZSHM for 17 years, and I am left wondering where those years have gone? I was first elected to the Council in 2011, and I was re-elected earlier this year at the AGM. As a Co-Book Review Editor, and working with my colleague Dr Philippa Martyr, we coordinate the 'book reviews', and 'books received' sections of the Society's Journal *Health & History*. One of the many perks of this job is to receive parcels of books from global publishers on a regular basis! I would like to thank all of you who have already contributed reviews to *Health & History*, when we have approached you. We are always keen to hear from people who would like to review books for us. If you are interested, do send through your CV outlining your expertise, and you will be added to our lists of potential reviewers.

Dolly MacKinnon
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MEMBERS' NEWS

Welcome!

Michael Bennett (TAS)
Stewart Boyce (NSW)
Annabel Stafford (NSW)
Gordon Whyte (VIC)
Kym Volp (QLD)

Vale

Mrs Julie Hooke, long-time Manager of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Library, died in Adelaide on 14 March 2012. Julie's MA in Library Studies (1991) was entitled 'The Adelaide Hospital from foundation to federation: a case study in the factors shaping medical publication in a transplanted society 1836 to 1900: a bibliography in context'.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 November. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at d.dow@auckland.ac.nz or, if you prefer snail mail, 62 Koraha St, Auckland 1050, NZ.

In recent times there have been a number of innovations in the newsletter. During his term as editor the late Peter Tyler introduced the 'All About Ourselves' column, which enables members to explain their interest in medical history and the Society. Since taking over I have established the 'Blast from the Past', which looks at the events highlighted in the newsletter 25 years ago, reminding us of where we have come from and the issues which have exercised our minds over the lifespan of the ANZMHS. A second new feature is Stephen Due's AMPI column, which acts as a window into the information held in the Australian Medical Pioneers Index, which is based on the research carried out over a lengthy period by the late David Richards of Nottingham, a regular visitor to our biennial conferences.

In addition to these there has been an expansion of the journal watch and book reviews, which have appeared, sometimes sporadically, since the newsletter was launched in 1982. Another former editor, Ian Chapple, was assiduous in this regard during his 11 years in charge and I have striven to emulate his high standards. Contributions by our members, and other Australasian scholars, feature regularly in the major medical history journals; it is relatively easy to monitor these publications each quarter but it would be very helpful if members could draw the editor's attention to those ar-

ticles which appear in less obvious outlets.

Another area I would like to expand is 'Research Queries'. Again, these appear only occasionally, in response to specific requests from members. My mother, with typically Scottish 'pawkiness' used to say that 'Them that don't ask, don't want, and them that do ask, don't get.' In the case of research queries, I would hope that asking might well lead to an answer, however partial, and this would help confirm us as a research community.

Suggestions for other innovations are always welcome.

ANZSHM COUNCIL 2013-5

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AMPI NEWS

Oh What a Tangled Web!

Medical identity theft and impersonation undoubtedly occurred in colonial times, but proven individual cases are rare. Untangling the threads of deception can be quite a challenge. In the three examples presented here, the impersonators altered only their first (given) names.

'Alfred Walter Freeman' practised unregistered in New South Wales during the 1860s. He was twice married there, presenting himself as the youngest son of Richard Freeman of London, physician and MP. Richard Freeman was actually a pharmacist, and therefore MPS (Member of the Pharmaceutical Society). After his second marriage Dr Freeman went to Fiji, where he became the postmaster at Levuka.

On returning to Australia in the 1870s, he assumed the identity of 'Richard Thomas Freeman'. He then applied successfully for registration in both Queensland and NSW, using the diploma of a legally qualified London doctor who had never left England.

It seems that the real Richard Thomas Freeman (MRCS 1864, LRCP 1865) had two brothers, Alfred (MRCS 1862) and Walter. Could the man in Australia have been Walter, the unqualified brother? If so, his second choice of an *alter ego* was particularly unfortunate, for the London doctor was accused of murder in 1892, disappearing before he could be brought to trial.

More pedestrian is the case of William Henry Bullmore, the son of a Cornwall general practitioner. In 1855, when he was about twenty-one, he was in South Australia, advertising as an eye doctor. All went well until June 1856, when he was being sought in connection with a robbery at Kooringa.

He surfaced some years later in New South Wales as 'William King Bullmore', practising there unregistered until his death at Morpeth in 1873. The confusing trail of family notices that he left in the newspapers shows it was difficult to maintain the deception, particularly when he acquired a wife and children. The real William King Bullmore (a cousin) was a medical practitioner in Falmouth.

The last and most puzzling of the three cases is that of Eugene Augustus Mahony, LRCS Ireland 1849, who registered in South Australia in 1850. Over the next thirty years he moved frequently,

practising unregistered in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. He advertised often, but no sign of the LRCS or any other qualification appears in his advertisements, although he did claim to have had four years' training. He returned to South Australia (where he was still registered) in the early 1880s.

Then the plot 'thickens'. In 1886 an Edward Eugene Augustus Mahony, MRCSE 1863, LSA 1863, was registered in New South Wales. Who was he? An Edward Mahony had registered in England with the same qualifications – in theory he might have emigrated. On the other hand this may well be Eugene Augustus Mahony, formerly of South Australia, making another appearance in New South Wales. Yet much remains unexplained. For more information, please see the four relevant AMPI records. The AMPI editor would welcome your thoughts on this puzzling case of colonial medical impersonation!

Stephen Due
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Apparently the nineteenth century Australasian colonies could provide a safe haven for medical identity theft. To the four names provided by Stephen from the AMPI database can be added that of 'Dr John McCrystall' who registered in Invercargill, New Zealand, in October 1859. In the early 1860s he moved to Switzers, a South Island gold rush community which had become a ghost town by 1901 and disappeared from the map. The doctor turned out to be equally nebulous.

'McCrystall' had limited success prior to his death in 1873, thanks to an addiction to consuming morphine 'in quantities that would be considered fabulous if stated here', according to the Southland News obituary. Despite this failing, the paper stated he was a skilful surgeon who, 'when free from the enthralling influence of his favourite medicines, was a welcome guest in many social circles'.

The doctor's real name was revealed only after his death, in an affidavit signed by his widow. It transpired that he was Humphrey Peters, the son of Henry Peters of Effingham House near Hove in Sussex, who is variously described as a merchant, inn-keeper or licensed victualler. When the couple married in October 1860 he did so under his alias and only admitted to his true identity some time later. The reason for his assumed name remains a mystery.

DARWIN BRIGHT

13th Biennial Conference

July 2013

Three days of stimulating activity in Darwin City, streets lined with frangipani trees, beautiful weather and fun catching up with friends, new and old. Darwin itself offers interesting museums and great markets and some of us took the opportunity to explore further afield – Litchfield Park waterfalls, fantastic Kakadu crocs, birds, flowers, Darwin to Broome by boat or the other way round and a trip on the Ghan. We were well fed, too well perhaps, but the super treat was the conference dinner - as the bus arrived at the venue the bright red solar 'balloon' was setting – marvelous - tables and chairs on the grass and a feast to be had. It was a pleasure to have 'Emeritus Guest of Honour' Dr Valerie Asche join us.

Indigenous Health and History was the major theme and the beautiful conference bags were witness to the Indigenous theme. One of the guest speakers, Professor Ann McGrath, from the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, reminded us of the way history has usually expunged the Aboriginal presence and their values. She discussed ways to achieve more healthful national histories including the innovative exploration of ancient history of this country. We need to learn more of this approach.

Although a small conference there were plenty of interesting papers presented. Over the first two days there were two streams to choose from – always difficult to make a choice. Sanitary services, Scandinavian women healers, the beneficial asylum, political difficulties with leprosariums, biographies, women doctors and nurses in World War One were some of the subjects. Hopefully the papers will be published to give a broader audience.

In such a clean sparkling city as Darwin it is now hard to come to grips with its major historical events. However the firsthand accounts of the harrowing and terrifying early experiences of Cyclone Tracy in 1974 by Sue Sayers and George Blaker were amazingly fresh and given with such emotion. Walking around the city there is still some evidence of that destructive time and the Museum has an experiential display of the devastation and noise. And also much to be learnt about the bombing of Darwin in 1942; I am sure many of us were very ignorant about the extent of that horror.

The Witness Seminar showcased the work of the celebrated Menzies School of Health Research. Its founding Director, Professor John Matthews, pre-

sented its history and its research links nationally. Ongoing special programs were outlined: the important topic of renal disease in Indigenous Australians by the current Director, Professor Alan Cass; and the aboriginal cohort study began by Dr Sue Sayers in 1987 and pursued with determination by her and her co-researchers. Dr Sayers was presented with the Menzies Medallion to great acclaim at the conclusion of the seminar. The final paper on melioidosis, a deadly saprophytic disease for humans in the Northern Territory, was a tour de force. Professor Bart Currie charmed us all with his enthusiastic scientific and historical research on the subject.

Thank you Brian and Lyn Reid and the organising committee for a wonderful conference and the Menzies School of Health for a fascinating Witness Seminar.

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Linda Bryder (centre, back row, with her 8 students, Canberra, 2007.



STUDENT BURSARS

Those who attended the Canberra conference in 2007 may recall that our former president, Linda Bryder, was accompanied by eight of her current PhD students, each of whom gave a paper. All received ANZSHM postgraduate student bursaries to help with the cost of attending the conference.

I am delighted to report that in July 2013 the last of Linda's 'octuplets' successfully completed her degree, with her viva being conducted by Professor Alison Bashford of Sydney University. The seven graduates (and one graduand) are: Kate Prebble (psychiatric nursing, 2007), Alison Day (child immunisation, 2008), Deborah Dunsford (social history of tuberculosis, 2008), Jill Wrapson (fluoridation, 2009), Claire Gooder – (sex education, 2010), Deborah Jowitt (hepatitis B, 2010), Joanne Richdale (abortion, 2010), Katrina Ford (microbial mentalities, 2013).

NORTHERN TERRITORY

An interesting experiment is about to commence in Darwin. A year or so ago the Commonwealth Archives announced its Darwin office would close and the collections held there would be transferred to Sydney and Canberra. This produced a heated response from local historians, educators and even some aware politicians. Between 1911 and 1978 the Commonwealth Government administered the Northern Territory. So in many respects these collections were comparable with those usually held in state archives. The idea of moving these records was, many felt, outrageous.



Commonwealth Archives, Darwin

In the end the Commonwealth Government backed down and entered into discussions with the Northern Territory Government. These dragged on for some months. The Commonwealth was adamant that Commonwealth functions' collections, Defence for example, would be transferred, however it was willing to examine joint management options for the remaining records. The Northern Territory Archives were in need of a new home and they are now being transferred to an expanded Commonwealth Archives building where they and the remaining Commonwealth collections will be jointly managed. Putting aside the usual sad and irresponsible shrinking professional staff issues, this does seem a sensible outcome .

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MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Medical History Society of Victoria, one of two branch societies of the ANZSHM, was established in 1953 as the Section of History, British Medical Association (Victoria), and later played a major part in the founding of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine.

In 1962 it was renamed the Section of Medical History, Australian Medical Association (Victoria). In

the early years, it was the drive of Ken Russell, Bryan Gandevia, David O'Sullivan and others which ensured that the organisation prospered.

Frank Forster was president in 1980, when he attended the First Australian Medical History Conference in Sydney. The brainchild of John Pearn (Brisbane) and Sister Catherine O'Carrigan (Sydney), this was the stimulus for the formation of a national society. The preparation included the launch of a newsletter, *Medical History of Australia*, in 1982. Forster, and his successors, Geoff Kenny and Harold Attwood, ensured that meetings of the Victorian Section were opened up to a wider audience, rather than being restricted to doctors. The same principle was later applied to the ASHM.

In 1982 the Section of Medical History became the Medical History Society, Victorian Branch, AMA. In 1984 Melbourne hosted the second Australian Medical History Conference, convened by Harold Attwood and Rod Home. Attwood, as president of the Victorian Society, convened a steering committee to form a constitution for a national society. The ASHM was established in 1986 at the Third Australian Medical History Conference, held in Adelaide, and was renamed the ANZSHM in 2005.

The Victorian society continued to prosper through the 1980s and 1990s, in parallel with the ASHM, and gradually grew apart from the AMA. In 1995, when the latter organisation underwent a restructuring process, the society took the opportunity to separate entirely, and became the Medical History Society of Victoria. This allowed full membership to those who were not medical practitioners, thus fulfilling the wider appeal of the society.

The MHSV now holds meetings four times a year. Meetings encompass a variety of topics related to the history of medicine and healthcare, normally followed by a dinner, and attendees have regularly numbered up to 50 in recent times.

The Society also meets in regional Victoria every two years. This tradition began in 1980 in Castlemaine; the most recent meetings were in Ararat (2010) and Moe (2012). The regional meetings comprise a formal lecture program and social events and/or visits to sites of historical interest.

With a current membership of c.140, the Medical History Society of Victoria is strong and vibrant.

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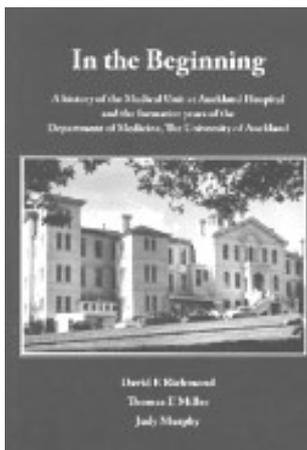
I am greatly indebted to Claire Muir, and her 2007 book The Medical History Society of Victoria 1953-2006 (Haddington Press), for much of the information in this paper.

NSW NEWS

The major event for the branch over the past few months was our biennial Ben Haneman Memorial Lecture at the State Library of New South Wales. A summary of the paper by Professor Stanley Finger, plus a report of our forthcoming visit to The Society for Preservation of the Artefacts of Surgery & Medicine, will appear in the next Newsletter.

Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Peter Hobbins peter_hobbins@bigpond.com or 02 9569 5561.

BOOK REVIEWS

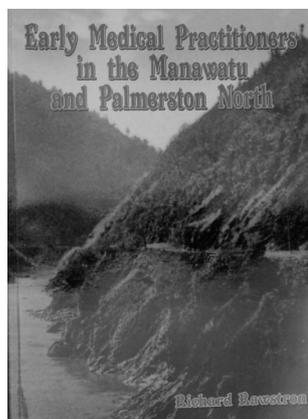


Two self-published medical history books have come out of New Zealand in recent months.

The first of these is David E Richmond, Thomas E Miller & Judy Murphy, *In the Beginning: A history of the Medical Unit at Auckland Hospital and the formative years of the Department of Medi-*

cine, The University of Auckland, Auckland 2013, 429pp, \$35.00, ISBN 978-0-473-23187-3. Copies available from Dr Tom Miller, 52 Lloyd Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025, email: tmiller@auckland.ac.nz. Part 1 provides an outline of developments from 1959-99 while Part 2 contains narratives of medical and nursing staff. Other sections summarise research interests and activities, and there are appendices listing academic and clinical staff, PhD candidates, and research staff.

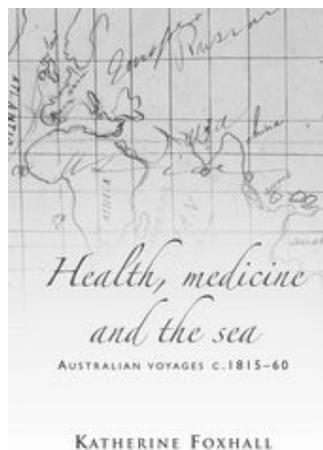
The second encapsulates a labour of love over many years by Richard Rawstron, a retired anaesthetist. *Early Medical Practitioners in the Manawatu and Palmerston North, Auckland 2012, 186pp, \$37 + postage, ISBN 978-0-473-23340-2* is available from Dr Dick Rawstron, 19 Bideford Place, Dallington, Christchurch 8061. It contains biographical sketches of almost 30 nineteenth century practitioners, some more detailed than others. The entries incorporate a miscellany of primary material, including some



UK census records and extracts from contemporary newspapers.

JOURNAL WATCH

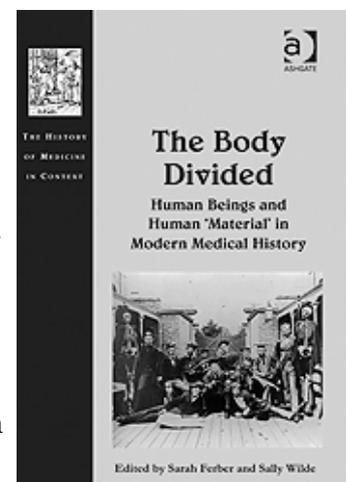
At the 2005 Auckland biennial conference our Canadian keynote speaker, David Wright, gave a paper entitled 'Medical diasporas: the international migration of physicians, c.1955-75'. The latest issue of the *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* contains a follow-up article by David and co-author John Clarke: 'Too many doctors? Foreign medical graduates and the debate over health care accessibility in Canada, c.1976-1991'. The article notes parallels with both Australia and New Zealand.



Social History of Medicine (August 2013) incorporates reviews of two Australian-themed books. Katherine Foxhall's, *Health, Medicine and the Sea: Australian Voyages, c. 1815-1860* (Manchester University Press, 2012) is described as a perceptive analysis, and 'an insightful and richly detailed study of health and medicine on emigrant and convict

ships'. Foxhall is currently a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellow at King's College, London.

The Body Divided: Human Beings and Human 'Material' in Modern Medical History (Ashgate, 2011), edited by Sarah Ferber and Sally Wilde, is the fruits of an interdisciplinary seminar at the University of Queensland based around the work of Helen MacDonald. Topics include the appropriation of bodies for dissection in nineteenth-century Australia, the procurement of Aboriginal bodily remains in South Australia, c.1880-1912, dissecting madness in colonial Victoria, post-mortem dissections in lunatic asylums, and a dispute about the brain of an executed murderer.

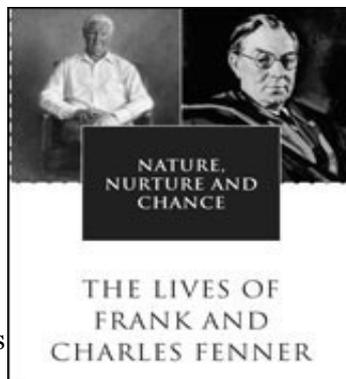


BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia* 25 years ago

The August 1988 editorial in *Medical History Australia* was headed the 'The conquest of smallpox', the eradication of which had been officially certified on 9 December 1979 and endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 1980. It highlighted the role of Australia's Frank Fenner and the 1500-page *Smallpox and its Eradication* (1988), for which he was the principal author, along with colleagues from the USA, Japan, Czechoslovakia and Russia.

The editorial noted that Fenner had now begun work on a history of microbiology in Australia. This was duly published in 1990 and was followed in 2001 by *The John Curtin School of Medical Research: The First Fifty Years, 1948-1998* (2001), jointly authored with David Curtis.

In 2006 Fenner penned *Nature, Nurture and Chance: The Lives of Frank and Charles Fenner*, published online by ANU E Press (<http://epress.anu.edu.au/nature/html/frames.php>). This contained a fascinating chapter outlining the genesis of *Smallpox and its Eradication*. Fenner described the archival framework put in place to facilitate the project, and his successful bid for a typist's salary, 'before the days of personal computers'. He also recruited an 'excellent draughtsman' from the Australia National University to prepare maps and diagrams. The logistical difficulty of this enterprise, based as it was in Australia, was revealed in Fenner's comment that



'Fortunately, with the advent of facsimile machines in the mid-1980s, international communication became much quicker and it was possible to exchange drafts with hand-written comments overnight.'

The following year, 2007, Fenner was the central figure at the ANZSHM biennial conference Witness Seminar in Canberra, on the global eradication of smallpox and poliomyelitis.

FOR YOUR DIARY

A conference entitled *Quarantine: History, Heritage, Place* will be held in Sydney from 14-16 August 2014, at the former Quarantine Station, North Head. It is hoped this will prompt productive conversations between archaeologists, historians, cultural and human geographers, and heritage scholars. Keynote speakers are Nadav Davidovitch (Israel), Gareth Hoskins (Wales), Harold Mytum (England), Nayan Shah (USA), Alexandra Minna Stern (USA).

The deadline for submission of a 300-word abstract to peter.hobbins@sydney.edu.au is 16 September 2013.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, *Disease, Health and the State*, will take place from 10-14 July 2014, in Oxford, UK. The committee encourages proposals for papers, sessions, and round-tables that examine, challenge, and refine the history of disease, health and the state.

Paper submissions should include a 250-word abstract and short CV. Panel submissions should include three papers (each with a 250-word abstract and short CV), a chair, and a 100-word panel abstract. Round-table submissions should include the names of four participants (each with a short CV), a chair, and a 500-word abstract. Submissions should be sent to: sshm2014@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk by 1 January 2014.

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For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: www.anzshm.org.au

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