

# Friends of the College Archives Newsletter



Issue 3, Summer 2010

## Calling Scotland!

As the College Annual Meeting was again in lovely Edinburgh this year, the Archive Department set out to look for Scottish Presidents of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and its antecedents. The following seem clear enough.

- David Skae, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh (1863)
- W.A.F. Browne, Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland; formerly Crichton Royal, Dumfries (1866)
- T. Laycock, Edinburgh University (1869)
- James Coxe, Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland (1872)
- J. Crichton-Browne, Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy; formerly West Riding (1878)
- Thomas Clouston, Royal Asylum, Edinburgh (1888)
- David Yellowlees, Royal Asylum, Glasgow (1890)
- A.R. Urquhart, James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth (1898)
- John McPherson, Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland (1910)
- G.M. Robertson, Royal Mental Hospital, Edinburgh (1922)
- Hamilton Marr, Commissioner, General Board of Control for Scotland (1927)
- Douglas McRae, Glengall Hospital, Ayr (1937)
- David Henderson, Royal Mental Hospital, Edinburgh (1946)

- P.K. McCowan, Crichton Royal, Dumfries (1951)
- Angus MacNiven, Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital, Gartnavel (1959)
- T. Ferguson Rodger, University of Glasgow (1965)

But what about these, or indeed any others?

- C.A. Lockhart Robertson, Sussex County Asylum, Haywards Heath (1867)
- J. Murray Lindsay, Derby County Asylum (1893)
- David Nicolson, State Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Broadmoor (1895)
- Thomas W. McDowall, Northumberland Asylum, Morpeth (1897)
- P. W. MacDonald, Dorchester County Asylum (1907)
- William F. Menzies, Cheddleton Mental Hospital, Leek (1920)
- Hubert Bond, Commissioner, Board of Control, formerly Long Grove Asylum (1921)
- John Rutherford Gilmour, Scalebor Park, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Yorkshire (1938)

Please let us know if you have any information or opinions about the above, as obviously people's definition of what counts as 'Scottish' may vary.

## WANTED: Missing table mats

We have in the Archives a small volume entitled *Gaskell Club: Table Mats of the Famous Insane*.

It is largely handwritten by Dr Isabel Wilson (President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association 1962–3) and comprises accounts of the different table mats she designed and donated in 1950 for the use of the Gaskell Club at their annual dinners. The mats were housed in a 'beautiful box' and put somewhere for safekeeping – but where?

According to our Chief Executive, Vanessa Cameron, her predecessor hid them under the floorboards when the College was being refurbished in order to prevent psychiatrists from using pictures of mental distress in this way. Or, perhaps, the designs were not only in poor taste, but poor.

The table mats include depictions of the following famous insane.

- Bes (an Egyptian god)
- David Dodd
- Don Quixote
- Dymphna's Father (a King in Ireland)
- The Fool of the Sacherspiegel
- George III of England
- The Mad Hatter
- Mary Lamb (with Charles)
- King Lear
- Lucretius
- Ludwig II of Bavaria
- A maenad
- Frederick Mesmer
- Nebuchadnezzar II
- Ophelia
- Pine's Patient
- Saul (with David)
- Velásquez' Dwarf
- Vincent van Gogh
- Wild Boy of Aveyron

I was puzzled by the insertion of Mesmer, but Dr Wilson explains that not only is he important to the history of our work, but he is reported to have said when questioned about the properties of river water:

'Dear doctor, the cause why all the water which is exposed to the rays of the sun is superior to all other water is because it is magnetised and I myself magnetised the sun some twenty years ago.'

Themes for the wine glass mats (entitled 'Causes and Cures') included the following.

- W<sub>1</sub> Alcohol and Tobacco
- W<sub>2</sub> Antidotum Tarantulae
- W<sub>3</sub> Cinema
- W<sub>4</sub> Drugs
- W<sub>5</sub> Exorcism
- W<sub>6</sub> Liberty
- W<sub>7</sub> Gardening
- W<sub>8</sub> The Mandrake (Fig. 1)
- W<sub>9</sub> The Moon
- W<sub>10</sub> Mosquito and Malaria
- W<sub>11</sub> Music
- W<sub>12</sub> Occupation
- W<sub>13</sub> Philosophy
- W<sub>14</sub> The Psychiatrist
- W<sub>15</sub> Psychotherapy
- W<sub>16</sub> Restraint
- W<sub>17</sub> Sleep
- W<sub>18</sub> The Sun
- W<sub>19</sub> Swing Chair Treatment
- W<sub>20</sub> Toxaemia

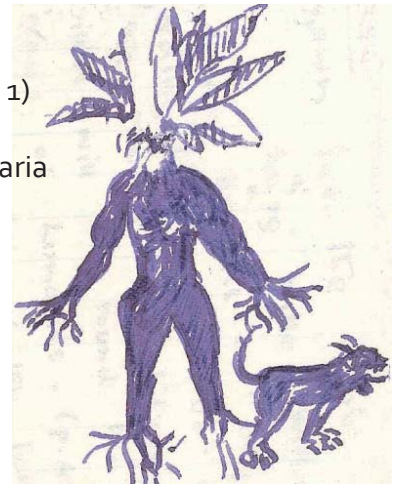


Fig. 1 The Mandrake.

Distinguishing cause from cure needs reflection in some cases. The 'toxaemia' referred to is a list of various physical causes, and Dr Wilson chose to convey this idea by an adaptation of a surrealist picture from 'Exquisite Corpse' (Fig. 2).

Fiona Subotsky



Fig. 2 'Exquisite Corpse'.

## High Royds Hospital, Menston, Ilkley†

High Royds Hospital was the third of four large mental hospitals built by the West Riding of Yorkshire County Council to accommodate pauper lunatics. The hospital was designed by the county engineer, J. Vickers Edwards; work began in 1884 and the hospital was opened in 1888. Pavilions were arranged in an echelon formation with the administrative block at the centre and enclosed corridors linking the wards with other services.

The ventilation towers formed a striking feature of the building. There were wards designated for the care of patients with epilepsy and other special groups. Subsequently, there were many additions to the hospital which included an infirmary, long-stay wards detached from the main building, and a 'neurosis unit' built in the 'modern' style in 1938. Curiously, the chapel originally planned was never built and the hospital only attained a permanent building when a temporary structure was burned down in the 1970s to be replaced by an attractive modern building which served many purposes apart from that originally intended.

The hospital was set in an elevated rural site 10 miles from Leeds and a similar distance from Bradford, surrounded by its own extensive gardens and farm, with high moors on all sides. Whittaker Brothers of Horsforth were the contractors and much of the stone used came from quarries in the same locality. The design was in a subdued 'arts and crafts' style, built in sandstone and millstone

grit, with a splendid roof of Westmorland slate, elaborate lead work and finials. Internally, the woodwork was of oak and pitch-pine, the walls were of glazed tiles to dado height and the floors were of marble mosaic laid by Italian workmen. The hospital had its own water supply, railway line and burial ground. The hospital faced south overlooking its own grounds and gave an impression of considerable

grandeur reminiscent of a fortified French town. In many ways the hospital represented the ultimate development of the mental hospital incorporating features in its design from many earlier sources. As has so often been the case, the monumental style, splendid situation and architectural character served to conceal the hospital's purpose in accommodating large numbers of patients cheaply. In 1958 the hospital achieved a population of 2500 patients; thereafter numbers declined until its

closure in March 2003.

The hospital is a Grade II listed building situated in

the green belt. Proposals have been approved for redevelopment of the site for housing, small industrial units, offices, a school, and a general medical practice with restoration of woodland formerly on the site.

These photographs were taken by Norman Hodgson, a keen amateur photographer, who was the technician in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Leeds.

*Professor Richard H. S. Mindham*



### **Trivia: Belgrave Square and Oscar Wilde**

The town house of Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895): Lady Bracknell remarks that No. 149 is on 'the unfashionable side' but 'that could easily be altered'.

Residence of Lord Arthur Savile, who is told he will commit murder by a 'cheiromantist' in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (1891). His first two attempts to achieve this before his wedding fail, but he eventually successfully tosses the cheiromantist into the river.

†Originally known as The West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Menston, and later as Menston Hospital.

---

## 'Mind matters': an exhibition on the history of neuroscience and psychiatry

Dr Fiona Subotsky (Honorary Archivist) and Francis Maunze (Archivist) attended an event called 'Mind matters' which was held in the Weston Room of the Maughn Library, King's College London on 9 March 2010. The event was organised by the Archive Services of King's College, London to celebrate the launch of the Special Collections exhibition and the completion of their Troubled Minds project.

The event consisted of a series of short talks. In their presentations, speakers explored ways in which historical library and archive collections can or had supported their research works. Professor Anthony David (Professor of Cognitive Neuropsychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry) chaired the talks. Professor Edgar Jones spoke about the work of Dr Aubrey Lewis, while Dr Andrea Tanner's presentation explored the attitudes to harmless pauper lunatics within the City of London

Poor Law Union in the mid-19th century. Colin Gale, Archivist at Bethlem Royal Hospital, spoke on the future of psychiatric archives and Dr Edward Reynolds on Kinnier Wilson. His presentation included showing an early film on neurological disorders.

The exhibition highlighted aspects of the history of neuroscience and psychiatry from 1800 to 1945, with special reference to the important contributions made by members of King's College London (including the Institute of Psychiatry) to both disciplines. It traced the personal and intellectual development of psychiatrists and psychiatry. The exhibition also featured the role played by the neuroscientist Robert Bentley Todd, first Dean of King's College London's medical school in explaining the nervous system and neurological diseases.

### **Blake Marsh Lectures**

The Archivist has recently updated the Blake Marsh Lectures. The new list contains links of those lectures which appear in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and *The Psychiatrist*. The list can be found under 'Lectures' on the Learning Disability Faculty web page ([www.rcpsych.ac.uk/specialties/faculties/learningdisability/professional.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/specialties/faculties/learningdisability/professional.aspx)).

---

## **Adopt-a-Book**

The College Archives would like to thank the following for donating towards the scheme.

Dr Philip Sugarman  
Dr John S Christie  
Dr Indrani Anthony- Pillai  
Drs Val and Karen Yeung  
Dr Dora and Jack Black  
Dr A.A. Hubeling  
Dr Roger Cole  
Dr A.J.J. Perez-Gil  
Dr Teresa Black  
Professor George Ikkos  
Dr Thomas Bewley  
Dr Fiona Subotsky  
Newton Macfadyen

Professor Sheila Hollins  
Dr Trevor Turner  
Dr T. M. Jelley

### *Northern Ireland Division*

Dr Graeme McDonald  
Dr Cathal Cassidy  
Dr Caroline Marriott  
Dr Arthur O'Hara  
Lord Alderdice

### *London Division*

Dr Michael Meier

### *Southern Trent Psychiatry Medical Staff Committee*

Dr Cathal Cassidy

For information about the scheme, a full list of books to be adopted and a donation form, please go to: [www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/thecollegearchives/adoptabook.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/thecollegearchives/adoptabook.aspx)