

Medical Marvels

Exhibition - 14 December 2018 to 15 March 2019.

In 1929, the historical collection of the University of Otago's Health Sciences (formerly Medical) Library was established with the donation of the famed Monro Collection. The some 450 volumes in that collection were owned by Alexander Monro, father (*primus*), son (*secundus*), and grandson (*tertius*), who were successively Professors of Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh, 1720-1846. Wonderful though the Monro Collection is, it comprises but a fraction of the total Health Sciences Library's Historical Collections, some 100,000 plus volumes. These include 18th, 19th, and 20th century books and manuscripts, as well as the unique Preventive Medicine Dissertations.

This exhibition, *Medical Marvels*, highlights treasures from this Historical Collection, from pharmacy and phrenology, to dentistry and disease. Of particular note is the anatomical flap book by Johann Remmelin, printed in Holland in 1667; a second edition of Andreas Vesalius's *The Fabric of the Body*, printed in 1555; and Bernhard Albinus's *Tables of the Skeleton and Muscles of the Human Body*, printed in 1746. Other noteworthy items include works by medicos Edward Jenner, John Hunter, Francis Glisson, Thomas Willis, and William Smellie. For those interested in the history of medicine, the exhibition is a feast.

This exhibition reflects scholarly engagement. Many of the books have been chosen by University of Otago academic staff, students and librarians, who have used the books for their own research. We are particularly indebted to Professor Terence Doyle, Department of Medicine, and Professor Barbara Brookes, History Department. The first is an avid user of the historical collection; the second highlighted the importance of the Preventive Medicine dissertations.

The exhibition begins at Special Collections, de Beer Gallery, 1st floor, Central University Library, on 14 December 2018. It runs to 15 March 2019.

Venue: De Beer Gallery, Special Collections, 1st floor, Central University Library

Hours: 830am to 500pm, Monday to Friday

For further details, please contact Dr Donald Kerr (Donald.kerr@otago.ac.nz), or Romilly Smith (Romilly.Smith@otago.ac.nz); phone 03-479-8330