

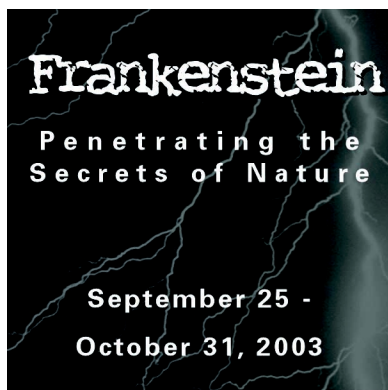
HOUSE CALL



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Frankenstein Comes to Life: MHC Exhibition Time Draws Near

Everyone knows the story of Frankenstein. Or do they? One of the most enduring myths of the Western world—Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*—is the focus of an exciting traveling exhibition, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, that will be on display in the Medical Heritage Center Sept. 26 through Oct. 31. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is free and open to the public.

Along with the national exhibit, the Medical Heritage Center exhibit will include medical equipment from the era, a collection of Frankenstein-themed cartoons on loan from OSU's Cartoon Research Library and a rare first edition of the book, on loan from the University of Chicago.

The Medical Heritage Center at the Prior Health Sciences Library is one of only 80 sites in the country selected to host the exhibit. "We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said library director Susan Kroll. "The themes of *Frankenstein* have continued to ripple out over the centuries. The themes of alienation, social, and ethical boundaries, personal responsibility, women's roles, and yearning to conquer death all resonate as if the novel had been written this morning."

The tragic story of Victor Frankenstein and the living monster he creates in his laboratory has gripped our imaginations since it was first published in 1818. Mary Shelley was only 18 years old when she began writing *Frankenstein*. The daughter of social reformists, she believed that knowledge was a defense against the abuse of power by governments and individuals. She thought that humans could make responsible choices when armed with knowledge. Shelley drew upon her wide reading in the natural sciences, literature, history, and politics in shaping the story of a researcher whose personal ambition to reveal "the secrets of nature," and whose lack of responsibility for his actions, leads to his own death and the destruction of his immediate community.

Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature was organized by the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition is made possible through major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Library of Medicine. Locally, the program is made possible in part by the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support comes from Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Columbus Metropolitan Library, the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

See page two for community event dates and further exhibit information. Visit the Prior Health Sciences Library Web site, <http://library.med.ohio-state.edu> for continuing exhibit updates.



Among the exhibit's several highlights will be a first edition of the novel. The Univ. of Pennsylvania's 1831 edition is pictured above.

Medical Technologies Influenced Shelley

By George Paulson, M.D.

Mary Shelley, writing before she was 20 years old, described an awful scientist who gave life and faced the dreadful consequences. "The Modern Prometheus," her alternative name for the scientist Dr. Frankenstein, was the name of the Titan who stole from the gods to give the gift of fire to men and suffered for his generous indiscretion. Mary Shelley, wife of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, was knowledgeable about several trends in the "modern" science of her day. "Resurrectionists" were lifting bodies for medical students to dissect, culminating in the execution of William Burke in 1829 for supplying 15 altogether too fresh bodies for the purposes of the anatomist Dr. John Knox. [Continued on Page 4]

Community Events Explore *Frankenstein's* Themes

All listed events are free and opened to the public. Call 614-292-9273 or visit <http://library.med.ohio-state.edu/> for more information.

Tuesday, Sept. 30: Columbus Reads *Frankenstein*: A Community Book Discussion

7:00 pm., Barnes & Noble, Lennox Town Center, 1739 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus

Join us for an informal discussion of the literary, scientific, ethical, and social implications suggested by Mary Shelley's enduring novel *Frankenstein*, or, The Modern Prometheus. Sponsored by the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Barnes & Noble, and the Prior Health Sciences Library.

Wednesday, October 8: How Much Is Too Much? Science, Ethics, and *Frankenstein*

4:30 pm, Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute, The Ohio State University, 473 West 12th Ave., Columbus

This event will feature a panel discussion of the moral dilemmas we face as science fiction becomes scientific fact. Sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council and the Prior Health Sciences Library.

Monday, October 13: Shelley's Anonymous Monster: The Power of Names in an Ordered Universe.

7:00 pm, Barnes & Noble, Lennox Town Center, 1739 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus

This unique panel discussion will discuss what it means to name objects and concepts or, as in the case of *Frankenstein's* monster, to not name them. Sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, Barnes & Noble, and the Prior Health Sciences Library.

Wednesday, October 29: The Changing Face of *Frankenstein* in Film

7:00 pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave. Columbus

Enjoy horror films? This illustrated talk on the evolution of Hollywood's perception of the *Frankenstein* monster is fun for the entire family. Sponsored by the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Prior Health Sciences Library.

Thursday, October 30: *The Golem*, silent movie and discussion

4:00 pm, Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 N. High St.

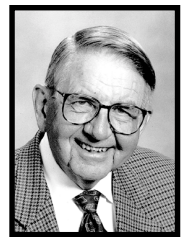
A silent film that portrays the legend of a 16th-century Polish rabbi who creates and brings to life a clay man to protect the Jewish ghetto. Sponsored by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.

A Glimpse of Medical School During WWII

"Perspective and Reflection"- Conclusion of a Four-Part Series

By Paul Metzger, M.D., OSU Class of 1948

Tremendous change and progress have occurred in medicine over the 50-some years since the previously described reminisces. Drugs, surgical techniques, anesthesia and diagnostic techniques have all improved dramatically, and, of course, the disease spectrum has likewise changed. Tuberculosis, once a common scourge, is relatively uncommon today and responds to proper antibiotic therapy, usually on an out-patient basis. As indicated earlier in this series, polio has virtually disappeared due to the immunization of the populace. Lung cancer, which was on the rise 50 years ago, has become a common malady today. Its connection to smoking was suspected by a few but was essentially unrecognized until some 20 years later.



Paul Metzger, M.D.

In concluding this series, it is hoped that these reminisces of events and happenings of the past will help today's reader to reflect for a moment on the long and, at times, arduous path on which we find ourselves today, and to comprehend and understand how the next 50 years will likely change as much as the past 50, if not even more. However, it is apparent that one constant during all this change is how our physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel continue to care for the patient. 50 years ago our teachers repeatedly emphasized, as they do today, the responsibility and respect that we must have and exhibit for our patients. Those teachers of yesteryear were masters at caring for their patients.

Recent Donations

The Medical Heritage Center thanks those listed for their recent support:

Donald F. Bowers, D.D.S.: personal archives • Sheldon Cohen, M.D.: bust of Moses Maimonides • Dale Dickings, M.D.: "From the Surgeon's Library" • Fredrick A. Flory, M.D.: books – Barbara L. Johnson.: Nursing pin, Class of 1963 • April Magnussen, M.D.: books • Barbara Weaver, R.N.: seven letters written by Mildred Newton to Evelyn R. Barritt • Merry and James Hamilton, M.D.: Marriage Manual (Holzaepfel, M.D.)

Monetary Donations:

Mary Bishop (for Friends of Nursing History) • Merry and James Hamilton, M.D. (in memory of Eldred Heisel and in honor of Fred Davidorf, M.D. for his recognition by the Ophthalmology Research Symposium) • Nancy and Edwin Hamilton, M.D. (in memory of Philip H. Taylor) • Karen F. Lane (for Friends of Nursing History) • Lucinda T. Magruder (for Friends of Nursing History) • Nursing Alumni Association (for Friends of Nursing History) • Ruth Paulson, D.D.S. and George Paulson, M.D. (in memory of Barbara Ballenger) • Jean Trabue Tefft (for Friends of Nursing History)

Update: Nursing History Project Thrives at the Medical Heritage Center

By Carol Robinson, R. N., M.S., Project Director

The nursing history collection at the Medical Heritage Center grows with each passing month. A new brochure describes the project and offers nurses, as well as others, the opportunity to join the Friends of Nursing History. Becoming a Friend may be done in several ways. Some nurses chose to donate books, professional papers, journals, letters, uniforms, or other memorabilia. Others may wish to share their nursing experiences by providing a video-taped oral history. Monetary contributions to support the project are very much appreciated as well.



From the Collections of the Medical Heritage Center

In the first three years of the project we have received donations of yearbooks, textbooks, journals, uniforms, and documents pertaining to nursing projects or awards. Recently donated were several handwritten letters of Mildred Newton (former Director of the School of Nursing), in which she discusses her life-long interest in Florence Nightingale.

The oral history collection now contains video taped interviews with the following Central Ohio nurses: Geraldine Price, retired chief of the Division of Nursing Ohio Department of Health. Thelma Holmes, a Grant Hospital nurse who developed the first hospital patient and family relations department in central Ohio; Elsie Williams-Wilson, Associate Professor Emeritus, OSU College of Nursing; Mary Mavis Perry, a St. Anthony operating room nurse for many years, who developed the first hospital infection control program; Grayce Sills, Professor Emeritus, OSU College of Nursing and former acting dean of the college; Rosa Lee Weinert, retired director of the Ohio State Board of Nursing; and Lillian Flickenger Bernhagen, a nurse and health educator in the Worthington Schools who developed a health education curriculum used in public schools throughout the country. Each of these nurses has recounted her professional experiences, and through their stories we get a picture of nursing's contribution to central Ohio (and beyond). We hope to collect many more oral histories in order to preserve the rich legacy of our profession for nursing students and historians.

We are pleased to be part of the Medical Heritage Center initiative to preserve the history of health care in central Ohio and know we have only begun to tap the resources and memories of nurses who have served Ohio citizens. If you would like to contribute to the nursing collection or would like a brochure, please call Judith Wiener, Archivist, (614) 292-9273, or e-mail wiener.3@osu.edu.

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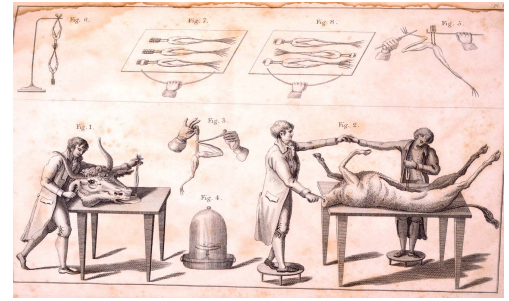
For subscription information contact:
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fax: 614-292-9919, <http://library.med.ohio-state.edu/heritage>

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Medical Technologies [continued from page one]

Mary Shelley was aware of the influence of Luigi Galvani, a kindly doctor and careful scientist who studied skeletal development and comparative anatomy along with his talented wife, Lucia Galeazzi Galvani.

Galvani's famous treatise of 1791, *Commentary on the Effects of Electricity on Muscular Motion*, suggested there was an "animal electric fluid." This electricity could be demonstrated by activating a frog's nerve to produce a seemingly natural muscular contraction. Galvani was also energized by Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment, even if it had killed a few others who tried to "capture" electricity from the sky. One of Galvani's students proved electricity could produce a grimace on the face of a human head at the base of the guillotine (an instrument named for a sympathetic doctor, if you remember).



From Giovanni Aldini, *An Account of the Late Improvements in Galvanism*

Artist unknown, 1803 National Library of Medicine

Physicians soon assumed that electricity "was good for what ails you." "Galvanic stimulation" and "galvanotherapy" became the rage. There was a "medical galvanist to Her Majesty the Queen." John Wesley, founder of Methodism, said, "there is no remedy in nature for nervous disorders of every kind comparable to the proper and constant use of the electrical machine." Even today we still use a galvanometer to measure electrical current. However, who can measure the impact of scientists on young Mary Shelley's imagination or the impact of her imagination on our own almost 200 years after she wrote her famous novel?



THE MEDICAL HERITAGE CENTER

at The Ohio State University

5th Floor

Prior Health Sciences Library

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Columbus, Ohio 43210

<http://library.med.ohio-state.edu/heritage/>

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