Newsletter

August 2006

Upcoming HPS Meetings

100th Anniversary of IAP
September 2006 **Montreal, Quebec**

History of Pathology USCAP Companion Meeting
March 2007 **San Diego, CA**

HPS Officers

President: Ann Marie Nelson
President Elect: Jan van den Tweel
Past President: Santo Nicosia
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The 100th Anniversary Congress of the IAP will be held from September 16 to 21, 2006, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. A number of special events have been planned to emphasize the historical aspect of this Congress, including:

History of Pathology symposia on well known Montreal pathology teachers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and on medical museums in the 20th century

Additional symposia with a historical theme, such as History of bone tumors, History of pulmonary pathology technique, et al.

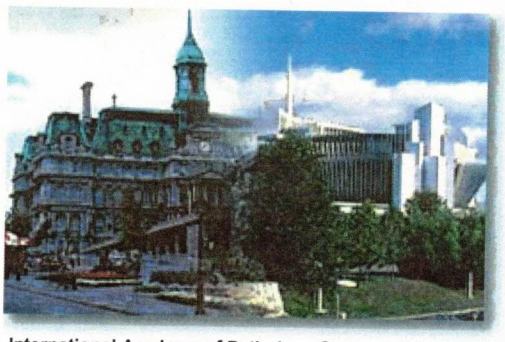
An exhibit on the history of the McGill Medical Museum

A medical history tour of Montreal, including visits to the Musée des Hospitalières de l'Hôtel-Dieu and the Osler Library

Exhibits related to Maude Abbott's *"Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease"*

A pictorial gallery of past IAP presidents

Richard Fraser



International Academy of Pathology Centennial Congress
Montreal, Québec, Canada
September 16-21, 2006
Hosted by The United States and Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology

HPS Symposia at IAP

Sunday, September 17, 2006
14:00 – 17:30

Topic: History of Pathology
Type of Offering: Symposium 12
Title: Medical Museums and Pathology in the Twentieth Century

Symposium Description:
The presentation is a 100th anniversary discussion arranged around the role of medical museums in the self-understanding of pathology as a discipline and specialty. Attendees may expect to learn about medical museums, historical connections with the development of anatomic pathology as both an intellectual pursuit and an institutionalized aspect of medical practice and teaching. They may also expect to learn about the variable impact, past, present, or future on both the general and medical public's appreciation of anatomical pathology as a humane pursuit. The topic has been chosen first, to recognize the origin of the International Academy of Pathology in the International Association of Medical Museums and, second, to acknowledge the vital use to which the Montreal founder, Dr. Maude Abbott, of the Academy put the collection of anatomic specimens, which she assembled. Third, the topic has been chosen to bring interested participants' attention to the various uses that medical museums have and are being put, to enrich medical and general understanding of anatomic pathology as a scientific tradition. The symposium fills needs not only of orienting Congress attendees to the International Academy's initial institutional background as the International Association of Medical Museums but also of illustrating for attendees national variation in the international prospect of collecting, cataloguing, preserving, and presenting anatomic pathology specimens. Finally, the symposium addresses the problem presented by difficulties of effectively shaping collections, maintaining their intellectual coherence and physical integrity over time, and of presenting them in changing social situations and intellectual climates.

Moderator(s): Frederick Meier, USA, Ann Marie Nelson, USA

Symposium Objectives:

- To illustrate the role of medical museums in the development and teaching of pathology.
- To reflect on the historical connections between medical museums as institutions with national traditions of pathology scholarship.
- To consider the utility of museum collections for advancing both the general and medical public's appreciation of the value of conserving, cataloguing, and presenting outstanding examples of anatomic pathological variation.

The National Museum of Health & Medicine, Washington, DC

Speaker: Adrianne Noe, USA

The Medical Museum at the University of New South Wales

Speaker: Denis Wakefield, Australia

A Cooke's tour of some of the historical medical museums in Europe

Speaker: Robin Cooke, Australia

Australian pathologists and the Nobel Prize

Speaker: Robin Cooke, Australia

Wednesday, September 20, 2006
08:00 – 12:00

Topic: History of Pathology
Type of offering: Symposium 45
Title: Teachers of Pathology in Montreal 1874-1954: Osler, Abbott, Adami, McCrea and Masson

Symposium Description:
This symposium will provide information on some important historical people in Pathology in Canada, particularly in Montreal.

Moderator(s): Robin Cooke, Australia, Ann Marie Nelson, USA

Symposium Objectives:

- To inform delegates on some important historical people in Pathology in Canada, particularly in Montreal.

(08:00 – 08:45) William Osler and the teaching of microscopy at McGill

Speaker: Richard Fraser, Canada

(08:45 – 09:30) Here and over there: Two Montreal pathologists in World War Canada: Introducing John McCrea and J.G. Adami

Speaker: Frederick Meier, USA

(09:30 – 10:30) Break

(10:30 – 11:15) The Master of pigments and granules, melanocytes and neurons: Pierre Masson at Université de Montréal 1926-1954

Speaker: Gilles Tremblay, Canada

(11:15 – 12:00) A Revolutionary in the Museum: Maude Abbott at McGill 1898-1936

Speaker: Sylvia L. Asa, Canada

John McCrae and George Adami: Montreal Pathologists at The Turn of the XX Century

Fred Meier, MD, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI

The lives of Maude Abbott's colleague, Jack McCrae, and her department chairman, John George Adami, provide insight into the cultural and intellectual circumstances in which the International Association of Medical Museums convened its inaugural meeting in Montreal one hundred years ago.

McCrae (1872-1918) pursued successful careers in both medicine and the army. He became Professor Adami's first resident at McGill, then pathologist at Montreal General Hospital, and finally attending physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. His life from 1902-1914 typified Medical Montreal in the Edwardian Era. In the First World War, McCrae served first as an artillery, rather than medical officer. At the Second Battle of Ypres, the death of a junior officer prompted him to write 'In Flanders Fields', the poem, which introduced the poppy to its iconic role as the flower of World War I remembrance. John McCrae himself was subsequently seconded to the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC), in which he served as senior physician on the medical wards of the No 3 (McGill) General Hospital. Saddened and embittered by the course of the War, McCrae died, of pneumococcal meningitis, in January 1918.

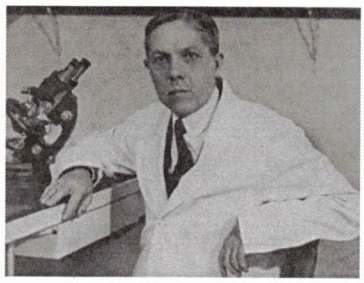
John McCrae's 'Chief' at McGill, was J. George Adami (1862-1926). Adami, born at Ashton-on-Mersey, in Lancaster. Inspired by the physiologist Michael Foster, Adami became University demonstrator in pathology and enjoyed sojourns at the University of Breslau and l'Institute Pasteur. In 1892, at the age of 31, he accepted the call to become the Professor in the new Department of Pathology being established at McGill. Adami's protégés included not only Abbott and McCrae but also A.G. Nicholls, E. Archibald, O. Klotz, C.W. Duval, S. B. Wolbach, and L. Rhea. Adami's understanding of general pathology as the biology of disease, infectious disease as a probe into the immune response, inflammation as a response to injury, and embryology as the key to understanding

neoplasia were reflected in the influential text which he wrote with Nicholls, and which McCrae edited for medical students. In 1920, Adami became Vice Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, a position that he filled with dynamic good sense until he succumbed to lymphoma in 1926.

The Career and Influence of Pierre Masson (1880-1959)

Sean Moore, MB, BCh,[1] Thomas A. Seemayer, MD,[2] and Gilles Tremblay, MD[1]

Pierre Masson was one of the towering figures of pathology in the 20th century, in particular in the field of histopathology of human tumors (Fig. 1). He was born in Dijon, in the heart of Burgundy, into a family in which the practice of law was predominant, but he chose to study medicine. Following completion of his first year in the Faculty of Medicine in his home town, he decided to continue his studies in Paris. While preparing for his internship he suffered a serious attack of typhoid fever that interrupted his studies and forced him to return to Dijon to convalesce



Masson was chief of a laboratory service of the Lariboisière Hospital during and after completion of his medical studies. Later, he became laboratory chief for the famous surgeon Gosset at the Salpêtrière Hospital and also assistant to Borrel at the Pasteur Institute. These 2 positions provided Masson with rich material in anatomical pathology and a superb research environment. He was fascinated by technical developments and developed new staining techniques (e.g. Masson trichrome).

His studies on carcinoid tumors provide an example innovative research. His findings were revealed in a communication to the Academy of Science entitled "The Endocrine Gland of the Human Intestine" and in a publication entitled "The Endocrine Tumors of the Intestine." The confidence and insight of Masson were well illustrated by the titles given to these 2 publications. It would take almost 40 years to have definitive confirmation of these postulates with the characterization of the carcinoid syndrome. In addition to these and many other publications, Masson wrote a book entitled *Human Tumors, Histology, Diagnosis, and Technique*, which immediately became the bible for histopathologists.

After WW1 he moved to Strasbourg where he continue in research and teaching. In 1922 Abraham Flexner, author of the famous report on the faculties of medicine in the United States and Canada, invited 6 Strasbourg faculty members, including Masson, to visit several American universities. Masson accepted but asked to include a side trip to the Province of Quebec, and thus he was to visit Montréal for the first time. In the fall of 1926 Masson answered the call of "my Canadian cousins," as he would term it in his first lecture in Montréal. The links with Strasbourg were not cut off, since he at first accepted a mission of 3 years. As he noted much later, he added a zero to the three to make 30. As well as being the Chairman at the Faculty, he was also Director of the Anatomical Pathology laboratories in 3 teaching hospitals: Notre Dame, l'Hôtel-Dieu, and l'Hôpital Sainte-Justine.

Dignified, distinguished, and with great presence, Masson could, at first sight, seem somewhat distant and intimidating. But when one approached him, he was found to be affable and considerate, as noted by the students in the laboratory sessions. Residents recalled the interest and care with which he followed their progress, even that of the beginners, showing and discussing with them interesting cases and taking the time to examine the results of their attempts at techniques.

The second edition of his book, completely rewritten and expanded, appeared in 1956 under the modified title of *Human Tumors: Histology, Diagnosis, and Technique.* This was the crowning

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moment of his career. Masson had always enjoyed excellent health. However, in 1958, an unfortunate fall caused the collapse of some vertebrae, and after long months of suffering, in the course of which he was hospitalized twice, he died in hospital on May 11, 1969, at the age of 79. Masson chose to be buried in the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery on Mount Royal from where one can look out over the University of Montréal. The amphitheatre in which he gave his lectures now bears his name.

Masson's legacy is vast and enduring. First there is the exemplary worth of an admirable career and life. Endowed with remarkable talents and qualities, he used them to excel in research and teaching as well as the practice of Anatomical Pathology. He created a school and left numerous students and students of his students especially in Quebec and in France, but also in several other countries. His classical works continued to inspire and stimulate other research endeavors. His outlook and his concept of Anatomical Pathology remain current. Now that immunohistochemistry is taking an increasing role in the study and diagnosis of tumors, his insistence on the requirement for rigorously applied technique remains especially relevant.

Bibliography

Seemayer TA. The life and legacy of Professor Pierre Masson. Am J Surg Pathol 7:179-183, 1983

Tremblay G, Seemayer T. Pierre Masson (1880-1959): un grand maître de l'histopathologie des tumeurs. Bull Cancer 87:625-629, 2000

William Osler and The Teaching of Microscopy at McGill University 1874 to 1884

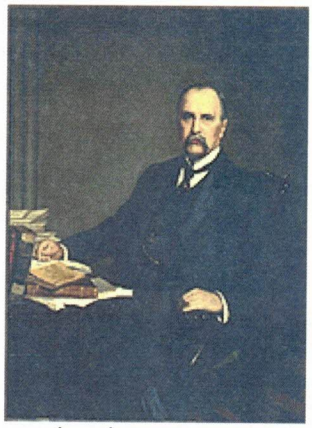
Rick Fraser, McGill University, Montreal

The following announcement appeared in the McGill University course calendar of 1878/79:

Practical Histology—normal and pathological

A course of 25 lessons—Microscopes, re-agents and material provided. It comprises thorough instruction the use of the Microscope and the preparation of the tissues, each student preparing for himself during the course a cabinet of 100 or more specimens.

This was the first formal recognition of the course which William Osler had begun two years earlier and, along with other courses given by Osler and his young colleagues at McGill, marked a significant advance in medical student teaching at the University.



Osler's initial interest in microscopy was closely linked to the 19th century pass-time of the study of natural history. Osler's fascination with natural history persisted into his early adulthood and was reflected in his earliest publications. The first, "Christmas and the Microscope", was published in the 1869 edition of Hardwicke's Science-Gossip Magazine; the second, titled "Canadian Diatomaceae", was published in the Canadian Naturalist Journal in 1870/71 and was also used as the basis for a presentation to the Montreal Natural History Society. Osler's interest in microscopy continued during his medical training, during which he broadened his study to include normal human histology and pathology. At the end of his medical studies at McGill University in 1872, he was presented with a special prize for his thesis on

"morbid structure", which included 33 microscopic preparations from various cases that he had seen at the Montreal General Hospital.

After graduating from McGill, Osler traveled to Great Britain where he enrolled in Burdon Sanderson's laboratory course on practical physiology, which included sessions on "Practical Histology" and "Histologic Pathology". It is likely that this study impressed Osler, since his own series of courses at McGill which he developed several year later followed very much the same pattern.

Following his return to Montreal in 1874, Osler maintained his interest in both medical and "natural" aspects of microscopic study. On the clinical side, he accepted a position as physician of the smallpox ward at the Montreal General Hospital, which had been opened to handle a local outbreak of the disease. He used the $600.00 stipend that he received from the hospital for his smallpox work to buy twelve Hartnack microscopes for use in medical student teaching. Although these may have been used informally as early as 1875, an official course was not offered by the Faculty until the 1876 summer session. It consisted of 25 "lessons" and was given in the Medical Building cloakroom. It was a clear success. In the 1878/79 university calendar, the course was described as being "a full course of didactic lectures upon the structure and function of the various organs of the body in health." A second course titled "practical histology" was also offered, again consisting of 25 lessons which included instruction in the use of microscope and preparation of tissues as well as study of both normal and pathologic material.

Most of the material used by the students in these courses was prepared by the students themselves. They were instructed to put hardened tissue fragments in small paper boxes, into which they poured an embedding mixture such as olive oil/wax or paraffin/lard. They would then cut the tissue block by hand with a straight razor. The resulting sections were stained, put on glass slides and mounted with one a variety of mounting mediums; the latter are discussed in detail in Osler's book, the one he preferred being Canada Balsam.

In summary, Osler's exposure to natural history as an adolescent and his studies of pathologic anatomy as a medical student and young postgraduate laid the groundwork for his introduction of microscopy to the medical curriculum at McGill in the 1870's. When he emigrated from Montreal to Philadelphia in 1884, he left behind a solid foundation for teaching of both normal and pathologic histology.

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2. Bliss, Michael. William Osler. A life in medicine. University of Toronto Press. Toronto. 1999. page 41.
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4. Osler, William. Students' Notes. I. Normal histology for laboratory and class use. Dawson Brothers. Montreal. 1882.

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A Revolutionary in the Museum: Maude Abbott at McGill 1898-1936

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The story of Maude Abbott is one of persistence, patience and dedication to the field of Pathology. Her legacy impacts four major areas, and it is difficult to know which of these is the most important. Maude Abbott was responsible for the entry of women into the field of medicine in Canada, she catalogued and classified congenital cardiac defects, she assembled a medical museum that became the basis for the teaching program of McGill university and set the standard for pathology departments throughout the world, and she played a major role as a founding member of the International Association of Medical Museums, the precursor of the International Academy of Pathology.

Dr. Maude Abbott
founder and member
of the association

The story of Maude Abbott

Maude Elizabeth Seymour Babin was born on March 18, 1869 in St. Andrews East (now called Saint-André-Est), Quebec, Maude's early life was difficult; she, her elder sister and mother were abandoned by her father, and she was orphaned at seven months when her mother died of tuberculosis. Fortunately, Maude and her sister Alice were legally adopted by their maternal grandmother, Mrs. William Abbott, who changed their surname to her own. The Abbotts were a respected and influential family. Her grandmother, then 62 years old, was a wonderful and gracious woman who raised her daughter's two children alone and provided them with tremendous support. It is said that when Maude daringly asked her grandmother if she could become a doctor, her remarkable grandmother replied, "Dear child, you may do anything you like."

Maude had come to love McGill: ***"I literally fell in love with McGill",*** she wrote. She was determined to study medicine there; however, the school would not accept women into its medical program. Maude sought help from her influential relative, John Abbott, a McGill graduate who had been Dean of its law faculty from 1855 until 1880 and who was to become Prime Minister of Canada in 1891-1892. He urged her to gain public support for the admission of women to Canadian medical schools. In 1889 Maude publicly petitioned to have medical courses for women at McGill and helped raise money to pay for them. Her petition sparked a public debate that caught the attention of the media, with Montreal's Gazette newspaper coming on-side and supporting the movement to allow women to study medicine. Despite this media support and the fact that Maude came from a family that helped establish the University, the Medical School held its ground.

Undaunted, in 1890 Maude entered the Faculty of Medicine at Bishop's College in Montreal and was the only woman in her class. She graduated with honors in June 1894, winning the Senior Anatomy Prize and the Chancellor's Prize.

Early in her career, Dr. Abbott developed an abiding appreciation of the important roles a medical museum could play in the teaching program of a medical faculty. In the summer of 1898 she was appointed Assistant Curator of the Medical Museum of McGill University. The specimens there had never been organized and she learned how best to classify them by visiting some American medical museums. She began cataloguing specimens and became interested in pathology.

Reducing her practice, Dr. Abbott devoted most of her time to the Museum and was named Curator in 1901. She focused her studies on heart disease. Abbott was stimulated by the ideas of Sir William Osler, a fellow Canadian physician and medical educator known for his outstanding work in a variety of clinical fields and a professor at McGill, the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, and Oxford. Maude had met Dr. Osler in Baltimore, and when he visited the McGill Museum in 1904, he was so impressed that he wrote McGill's Dean of Medicine, saying that Dr. Abbott's work ***"was the best McGill had done to date, (that) she had a genius for organizing [McGill's Medical Museum] and there was no collection in North America or Britain that came close to it."***

Abbott's contacts in the US led to the development of the **International Association of Medical Museums**, known today as the **International Academy of Pathology**. From 1907 until 1938 she served as the international Secretary and Editor of the **Journal of the International Association of Medical Museums**.

During her career, Dr. Abbott published over 140 papers and books and delivered countless lectures. She volunteered as Editor of the **Canadian Medical Association journal** from 1914-1918 when the editors served in World War I. She also authored studies on the history of medicine in Quebec and the McGill Medical Faculty. After Sir William Osler died in 1919, she dedicated a special edition of the **Bulletin of Pathology** to him. That 600-page volume with 120 contributors took six years to complete. She also wrote a history of nursing that was later used in nursing schools across the country.

Suffering a cerebral hemorrhage in the summer of 1940, she died on September 2 at the age of 71.

The Legacy of Maude Abbott

Known as the "beneficent tornado", Dr. Abbott's energy was legendary. She was a member (or a guest member when only men were admitted) of at least 18 organizations. In addition to more than 140 medical publications, she published 11 major historical works of a non-medical nature.

After her death, the great Mexican painter Diego Rivera paid tribute to Maude Abbott in 1943. He included her among the fifty most important heart specialists in world history whom he portrayed in a mural for the National Institute of Cardiology of Mexico City. She was the only Canadian and the only woman depicted in the mural.

"Maudie of McGill" is still very much a part of that university. Her papers reside in the Osler Library and her portrait is located in the Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry Building. On March 10, 2000 a bronze heritage plaque commemorating Dr. Abbott's national historic significance was unveiled for the entrance of the McIntyre Medical Building.

The International Academy of Pathology continues to recognize Maude Abbot for her leadership and contributions. Its letterhead reads "Founded by Maude Abbott in 1906" and the Academy established the Maude Abbott Lecture in 1958.

Dr. Maude Abbott was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1994. This world-renowned medical pioneer put Montreal and Canada on the map for pathology and cardiology. Through her published writings and devoted teaching, as well as her patient and persistent personal style, Maude Abbott made invaluable contributions to medicine and to the advancement of women. Her life distinguishes her as one of Pathology's greatest heroines and role models.

A selection of Maude Abbott's writings:

The Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease

Pigmentation-cirrhosis in a case of Haemochromatosis

An Historical Sketch of the Medical Faculty of McGill University

On the Classification of Museum Specimens- American Medicine

The Museum in Medical Teaching

Congenital Cardiac Disease in Osler's Modern Medicine

The Determination of Basal Metabolism by Indirect Calorimetry

Florence Nightingale as seen in her portraits

McGill's Heroic Past

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History of Pathology USCAP Companion Meeting San Diego, March 25, 2007

The Role of the Pathologist in Tumor Diagnosis and Treatment

The Surgical Pathology Seminar: An American Institution

Prof. Juan Rosai
Centro Consulenze Anatomia Patologica Oncologica
Centro Diagnostico Italiano (CDI)

Impacting our profession: The history of the California Tumor Tissue Registry (CTTR)

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Loma Linda University School of Medicine