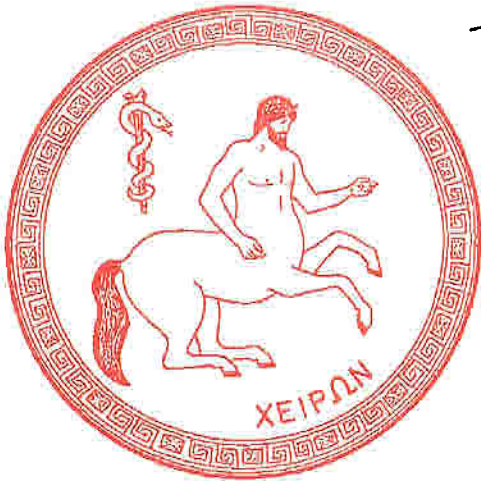


To Dr. John Cole

Walter Coates

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CHEIRON

Newsletter

of the

HISTORY OF MEDICINE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS OF CALGARY



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CHOMS Meeting - University Club



Ringrose



Zanussi

The Calgary History of Medicine Society met at the University Club on Thursday evening 22 January 1998.

After the meal, Dr. Tom Ringrose and Ms. Ania Zanussi, medical student, presented their talk on Goya and the Duchess of Alba. Tom Ringrose described the tempestuous period of the late 18th century and early 19th century.

FRANCISCO JOSE GOYA Y LUCIENTES (1746- 1828)

Of humble origins, Goya became one of the most famous of Spanish painters and is sometimes called the first modern artist from the way in which he broke with

tradition. He is of especial interest because of his portrayal of the people and their activities in the countryside of the Spain he knew, and also for the way he became a changed person - certainly a changed artist - when, at the age of forty-six, he was stricken by a mysterious illness that left him stone deaf. His early works, particularly the cartoons made for the Royal Tapestry Factory, are colourful and pleasing.



Maya Dressed & Maya Naked



GOYA

His portraits vary, some being superb, others somewhat wooden, but he was very astute in reading the underlying character of his subject, and it is alleged that his likes and dislikes affected the outcome. He was certainly outstanding with children, of whom he was clearly fond.

Space does not here permit a detailed account of his long life, passed in troubled times in a backward, rigidly conservative, and priest-ridden land. He worked his way to become a painter to the King, thus successively coming to know the monarchs Charles III, Charles IV, Joseph I (Napoleon's elder brother), and the despicable Ferdinand VII. He was also on intimate terms with many of the celebrities of his day. At times he was in trouble because of his liberal opinions and in serious danger from the tribunals and tortures of the Inquisition which disapproved of his activities - particularly his depiction of nudity, most notably the "The Maja Naked". This last and its twin "The Maja Dressed" have been the subject of endless surmise as to whether the Duchess of Alba, Goya's close friend and probable mistress, was the model.

Already disgusted at the superstition, bigotry and stupidity of his contemporaries and the arrogance, corruption, and licentiousness with which he was surrounded at Court, the deaf artist lived on through the Napoleonic occupation and was an eyewitness to its horrors and atrocities. His feelings on these matters are illustrated by many startling engravings and paintings indicative of his depressed state.



The Execution

Napoleon's downfall in 1814 allowed the absolutist Ferdinand VII to return to Madrid and further repression resulted. In time, all people having, or even being thought to have, liberal opinions were threatened with imprisonment or worse, and Goya first hid, then went into voluntary exile at Bordeaux, in France. Here he died and was buried; but his remains were returned to Madrid in 1899 and today are entombed in the Church of San Anton de la Florida under the impressive ceiling he himself painted.

Ania Zanussi then discussed Goya's illness.

GOYA'S ILLNESSES

In his earlier days, Goya was a complex man: countryman, artist, bullfighter, philanderer, unfaithful husband, associate of the great, social critic - he was all of these; and accounts of his escapades are many. Even the ones likely to be apocryphal testify to his reputation.

The turning point came in 1792 when, aged 46, he became acutely ill while accompanying the Duke and Duchess of Alba to one of their country seats in Andalusia. He is described as becoming deaf and blind, with a right-sided paralysis, together with loss of weight, pallor, fatigue, dizziness, sadness, forgetfulness, headaches, stupor, mania, melancholia, and hallucinatory delirium. He was prostrate for many weeks but seems to have made a complete recovery from physical symptoms, save for the deafness. There has been much controversy as to the nature of this illness, suggestions including syphilis and lead encephalopathy, neither of which fully meet the facts. The most likely answer proffered is the Vogt-Koyanagi syndrome, a rare condition, possibly of viral causation, marked by neuro-labyrinthitis and transient inflammation of the uveal tract. Deafness is a sequel and certainly enough to cause grief and mental depression.

Even with this explanation there is something lacking, and a careful review has found indications of minor episodes of depression in 1777, 1778, 1781, 1784 and 1788: his illness in 1792 was followed by a major attack and there is evidence that he had a further serious one, lasting four years, from 1819 to 1823. It has thus been proposed that he had a cyclothymic personality, aggravated by the vicissitudes of a tempestuous life and resulting in alternating phases of depression and exaltation - which are reflected in his artistic works. Some have thought him insane, but one hesitates to call him manic as well as depressive, for he seems to have kept both his lucidity and his friends. Whatever may have ailed him, he has left a fascinating legacy.



Saturn eating his Son

Members attending were: Peter & Diana Cruse, John & Pauline Dawson, Hugh & Dorothy Gallie, Malcolm McDonald, Tait McPhedran, George & Marilyn Miller, Hugh & Catherine Morrish, Bob & Joan Pow, Tom Ringrose, Julius & Ginette Szekrenyes, Keith & Jane Todd, Fred & Connie Hill, Tom Enta, John & Naomi Tyberg, Charles McCulloch, David & Bonnie MacDonald, William Walker, Michael Tarrant, Jack Wootliff. The five medical students present were introduced: Ania Zanussi, Eric Lehr, Vanessa Weir, Cynthia Landy and Chris Prusinkiewicz.

The next meeting of CHOMS will be held at the Westin Hotel, on Thursday, 19 February 1998. For more information about CHOMS contact any of the officers:

Peter Cruse	President	220-7195
Julius Szekrenyes	Vice-President	282-7982
Tom Ringrose	Secretary	245-5904
David Hogan	Treasurer	220-8474

**THE COURSE IN HISTORY OF MEDICINE
FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

The History of Medicine lunch time seminars are held from 12:00 - 13:30 on most Mondays in the Health Sciences Centre, Room 741, and all members of CHOMS, physicians and medical students are welcome to attend.

On 5 January 1998 Roger Maltby, MB presented the early history of Anaesthesia. Trina Liew then gave a rivetting talk on murders committed with anaesthetic agents.

On 8 January 1998 Peter Cruse, MB presented a workshop on the history of the Acute Abdomen and illustrating the various conditions with actors.

On 12 January 1998 David Hogan, MD, Cynthia Landy and Phil Inouye described the VD Epidemic amongs Canadian soldiers during WWI. Canada had the honour of ranking highest amongst all the Commonwealth Forces outclassing even the virile Australians with a 10% margin.

On 15 January 1998 Mr. James Wolfli spoke on the History of Triage for accidents. John Kortbeek, MD, Chief of Trauma Surgery, then demonstrated the management approach to the trauma victim again using simulated patients.

On 19 January 1998 Tom Ringrose, MB and Ms. Ania Zanussi described the times and the painter Goya. This presentation was repeated at CHOMS on 22 January - see page one of this issue.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AMONG OLDER
ADULTS - THE ROLE OF VACCINATIONS**

Three hundred years ago this year Edward Jenner published "An inquiry into the causes and effects of the Variolae Vaccinae, a disease discovered in some of the western counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of Cow Pox." Immunization is not just for kids. Those which attract the most attention for seniors are the pneumococcal, influenza, and Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td) vaccinations. Older individuals should receive an initial pneumococcal vaccination and should probably receive a second vaccine if the first dose was administered at least 5 years previously and the individual was under 65 years of age at the time of the primary vaccination. All seniors whose vaccination status is unknown should be given one dose of this vaccine. The influenza vaccination must be given annually as characteristics of the influenza virus change from year to year. Since it takes two to three weeks for the immunization to become fully effective, the best time to be immunize is before the "cold" and "flu" season begins in early November. The third immunization which is often recommended for seniors would be the Td booster vaccinations every 10 years. Serologic studies have demonstrated that approximately 40% of adults over 60 years of age lack protective levels of antitoxin antibodies: For clean, minor wounds, a Td booster should be given if it has been more than 10 years since the last dose. For all other wounds, a Td booster should be given if it has been more than 5 years since the last dose. The above would be conditional upon the person having already received a primary series of three vaccinations. In the words which King Edward VII applied to consumption, "If preventible, why is it not prevented?"

David Hogan, MD

Poems by Physician Poets

JOHN KEATS
1795-1821

La Belle Dame Sans Merci

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
Alone and palely loitering?
The sedge has wither'd from the lake,
And no birds sing.

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms!
So haggard and so woe-begone?
The squirrel's granary is full,
And the harvest's done.

I see a lilly on thy brow,
With anguish moist and fever dew,
And on thy cheeks a fading rose
Fast withereth too.

I met a lady in the meads,
Full beautiful - a faery's child,
Her hair was long, her foot was light,
And her eyes were wild.

I made a garland for her head,
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;
She look'd at me as she did love,
And made sweet moan.

I set her on my pacing steed,
And nothing else saw all day long,
For sidelong would she bend, and sing
A faery's song.

She found me roots of relish sweet,
And honey wild, and manna dew,
And sure in language strange she said -
"I love thee true."

She took me to her elfin grot,
And there she wept, and sigh'd full sore,
And there I shut her wild wild eyes
With kisses four.

And there she lulled me asleep,
And there I dream'd - Ah! woe betide!
The latest dream I ever dream'd
On the cold hill side.

I saw pale kings and princes too,
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all;
They cried - "La Belle Dame sans Merci
Hath thee in thrall!"

I saw their starved lips in the gloam,
With horrid warning gaped wide,
And I awoke and found me here,
On the cold hill's side.

And this is why I sojourn here,
Alone and palely loitering,
Though the sedge has wither'd from the lake,
And no birds sing.

FRANCOIS RABELAIS
1490-1553

To The Reader

Dear friends, and all of you who read this book,
Don't allow hackneyed sentiment to shake
Your honest feelings; clear your minds of cant!
Here's nothing evil or maleficent.
True, there is not much here that's perfect, either,
To feed your minds - except as food for laughter;
And yet, seeing the torments that consume
Our lives, I could not pick a better theme;
It's firmer ground than tears to ramble on,
For laughter is the signature of man.

Lines at opening of Gargantua

Cheiron Editor:

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