



### **News Update..... Latest Group Activities**

THE Group have been extremely fortunate to receive a generous donation from Ms Edna Robertson, Group member, who is responsible for the disbursement of funds from the estate of the late Dorothy Geddes. The purpose of the Fund (The Dorothy Geddes Donation Fund) generally will be to support research scholarship and educational work of the History of Dentistry Research Group at the University of Glasgow Dental School.

Appropriate uses would be:

supporting the cost of lectures, meetings or seminars on the History of Dentistry; meeting the cost of publications arising from the work of the Group and supporting the incidental costs of research or scholarship pursued by members of the Group.

Professor J Kerr was appointed Treasurer of the Fund and would also take on this position for Group finances. The draft setting out the purposes and conditions attached to the donation were drawn up by Professor D McGowan.

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BY the time that this issue is distributed, the 400 Centenary exhibition of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow - The Fine Art of Medicine and Dentistry - A Walk through Time will be up and running. Housed in the Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow, the exhibition was officially opened by Lord MacFarlane on Tuesday 5th October before an invited audience. The dental display signals the culmination of nearly three years work by members of the Group led by Professor Moos. The well-known history of the founding of the College in 1599 by Peter Lowe is featured in the dental display which illustrates the changing pattern of dentistry over the past four centuries, highlighting some of the more significant events - in science and in dentistry - which made progress possible. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, books and such artefacts as early dentures carved from ivory and one of the earliest foot-operated drills. To the best of our knowledge this is the first such dental exhibition to be held in The Hunterian Museum. A special section devoted to postage stamps of dental interest was arranged by W Neithercut. Both exhibitions run from Monday 4th October until Saturday 11th December 1999, admission free.

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From the Minutes .....

AT a recent meeting of the Group, the subject of access to research material at the City Archives housed in the Mitchell library was raised. Currently this material could only be accessed on Fridays and as a result of reading a note in one of the Group minutes, Karl Magee, a Group member (who is deputising for Alistair Tough, GGHB Archivist) intimated that access could be arranged on days other than Fridays by prior appointment with GGHB Archives. Consideration was being given to the possibility of opening two days per week.

A recent article in the Newsletter - "A Dental Journey to the Western Isles" has prompted the secretary of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine to enquire if it would be possible for the authors) to use the film as a basis for a talk to the Society.

The Group members involved are considering the offer.

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Dr H Noble explained the purposes of the Menzies Campbell funds for which he was responsible and suggested that these funds might come under the control of the Group Treasurer. Professor Kerr and Dr Noble to meet to discuss this matter.

The Chairman drew the attention of the members to the fact that 3 March 2003 would mark the Centenary of the Glasgow Odontological Society. He suggested that writing the history of the Society would be a suitable project for the Group. The subject would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

In connection with further activities, it was suggested that a meeting in the Colledgeon a history of dentistry topic might prove an attractive event if several speakers could be on the platform. This idea will be explored for the year 2000.

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The secretary suggested that it would be of value to the Group if we could have our own site on the World Wide Web (WWW). An index to published articles and other information could be made available and would certainly introduce the activities of the Group to a global audience. Mrs Carol Parry, volunteered to set up suitable web pages in co-operation with Dr Ross

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A further nugget of buried historical treasure has been unearthed by Bob McKechnie in the letter from Dr Ferguson McKenzie. Comparable to the material on Alex McGregor in the last issue (No.4 April 1999) it was a contribution to T Brown Henderson's History of the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School 1879-1979. A biographical sketch is included in this issue.

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The secretary would be pleased to hear from retired general dental practitioners, dental hospital personnel and other members of staff who would like to contribute to Reminiscences. The Group would also welcome any old photographs, practice accounts, records or other documents associated with the history of dentistry in general and the West of Scotland and Glasgow in particular. Old dental books, but not dental text books unless earlier than 1921 would also be welcomed. Contact Dr Noble or Dr Ross at Research Fellows Room, University of Glasgow Dental Hospital and School, 378 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3JZ.

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### **Correction**

In the last issue of the Newsletter (No 4, April 1999) the footnote to the article on the Recollections of the Norwegian Invasion stated that the material was originally written for T Brown Henderson's History of the Dental Hospital and School 1879-1979. Bill Smith has pointed out that the article was specially written for the Newsletter. Apologies! (Ed.)

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