Dear Friends,

For many years, we have been welcoming visitors to NYAM’s home at 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue in October to learn about the history of the building as part of Open House New York. Since the building remains closed to visitors this fall, we’re pleased to share a special video tour highlighting its history, architecture and design, with a focus on the Library. Architecture is also the theme of this month’s content from our historical collections and beyond.

Virtual Tour: NYAM’s Architectural Heritage

Join Historical Collections Brian Levine for a virtual tour of NYAM’s building, a masterful design interpretation of a medieval-Renaissance palazzo, designed by the noted New York and Boston firm Tuckerman & Sawyer and built in 1927–1932. The building’s exterior and interior (both) feature numerous visual references to the history of medicine.

From the Collections: Sir Christopher Wren

The great 17th-century English architect Sir Christopher Wren (1632–1723) was passionate, in addition to his architectural work, he was part of the group of natural philosophers who pioneered the science of photography and a professor of astronomy at London’s Gresham College. As part of rebuilding London after the great fire of 1666, he designed over 50 parish churches, employed by bishops for a new St. Paul’s Cathedral. Wren was connected to medical history. He provided the dispensing for pioneering anesthetist Thomas Willis’s Anesthesis (1665), such as this image of the brain.

Color Our Collections: Storybook Gardens

Storybook Gardens is an attraction in Springfield Park, London, created in 1988, that beautifully interprets children’s story books, fairy tales and nursery rhymes. This theme of story sets comes from the GMT, Print Collection in the Archives and Special Collections of Western Libraries, the library system of the University of Western Ontario. #ColorOurCollections gathers images from libraries, archives and museums around the world.

Images from the Past: U.S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island

Our Robert Wood Hospital Postcard Collection is a treasure trove of late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture and design, as well as screenshots of the emigrants taking complete of Ellis Island designed by the New York firm of Beaux and Triton, most of whom was a hospital. Operating between 1892 and 1954, the hospital – equipped to do everything from surgery to the sick to the sick, all in the same main hall, ready to take care of those who had arrived sick, permitting their return or return.

Noted Elsewhere: Presidential Health

A piece in The Atlantic, "Presidential Physicians Don’t Always Tell the Public the Full Story," by Matthew Algeo, looks at the history of physicians dealing with Sick presidential patients and prominently features former NYAM President Joseph Bryant, surgeon to U.S. President Grover Cleveland. On our blog, we also consider The Secret Surgeries of Grover Cleveland; his mouth casts are in our collection.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Library. As we wait, stay safe, stay engaged and stay connected.

The NYAM Library Team

Your support helps us preserve the Library’s treasures, share them with researchers and the public, and safeguard the history of medicine to inform the future of health.

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