Dear Friends:

As part of NYAM’s 175th-anniversary celebrations, this month the Library looks back at its own history and the collections, people, and places that have shaped it over the decades. We will introduce our newly expanded Library timeline as well!

From the Blog:

**The Library’s History**

Over its 175-year history, the NYAM Library has grown to be one of the premier historical collections in the country. In this short history, we show the development of a magnificent collection and a record of service to the Academy, the city, the nation, and beyond. We also invite you to explore the new Library timeline.

**The Library’s Digital Collections and Exhibits**

The Library’s digital program began in 2000. Our first Virtual Visit (then under the series title “First Mondays”) from July 2020 looks in detail at our digital collections and exhibits. These have now grown to dozens of collections and thousands of images, including an award-winning collection/exhibition, *Facendo Il Libro: Making the Book*.

**Collections of the Library: Margaret Barclay Wilson**

Unique and rare materials define a library like NYAM’s. We are fortunate to hold the Edwin Smith Papyrus, the Edward Clark Streeter Collection, and donations from the New York Hospital and the New York Public Library. In 1929, Hunter College professor Margaret Barclay Wilson gave us her collection on food and cookery, including the oldest existing cookbook in the Western world, the “Apicius,” a manuscript that dates to about 830 CE.

**People of the Library: Janet Doe**

Janet Doe (1895–1985) served the Library for 30 years, rising to Librarian (as the director was then known) in 1949, the first woman to hold that position. Hear her own description of the Academy Library in a 1951 lecture digitized as part of a joint project with New York Public Radio Archives.

**Places of the Library:**

The Academy’s “new” (and current) 1926 building made the Library its centerpiece. This fanciful lobby ceiling decoration, featuring the medical emblem of a snake entwining a staff, is found in the NYAM archives. We present it in our 2022 coloring book as part of #ColorOurCollections, which gathers images from libraries, archives and museums around the world.

**Noted Elsewhere: Historical Medical Libraries Show Off!**

Take a look at some of the other historical medical libraries in the United States and Canada through these sites from the *Historical Medical Libraries* of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the *Duke Library of the History of Medicine*, McGill University: *The History of Medicine Library*, The Library of the History of Medicine, The History of Medicine Library at Harvard University, *The Library of the History of Medicine*, Mayo Clinic, the National Library of Medicine: *History of Medicine Division* and *Medical Historical Library* of Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University. These sites and many others allow users of a variety of positions to enjoy the historical materials that make writing good histories possible!

The Library is open to researchers and classes by appointment. All visitors must show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and will need to be masked and socially distanced. For details, see our guide to visiting the Library. For more ways to connect with our resources and services, check out our *Quick Connections* page.

The NYAM Library Team

NYAM’s work to ensure health for all is more critical than ever.

Your support helps 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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The New York Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue | New York, NY 10029
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