Dear Friends:

In May, the United States celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. In recognition of this observance, the Library offers a small selection of historical highlights related to medicine, wellness and cooking that span China, India, Iran and several U.S. states.

Noted Elsewhere: The Chinese Hospital in San Francisco

The offbeat cultural site Atlas Obscura investigates the legacy of anti-Asian prejudice that led to the founding of the Chinese Hospital in San Francisco. "When Chinese Americans were blamed for 19th-century epidemics, they built their own hospital." Set up as the Tung Wah Dispensary in 1900, the year of bubonic plague in San Francisco, the hospital chain now reaches throughout the Bay Area. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Library. As we wait, stay safe, stay engaged and stay connected.

From the Collections: Medical History of Persia

Cyril Scott Edmond, MD (1903–1975), physician to the British legation in Tehran from 1925 to 1933, became honorary physician to the shah of Iran. His Medical History of Persia and the eastern sulphurides from the earliest times until the year A.D. 1000 (1936) explored historical understanding and theory on six major Islamic figures. Pictured in the book's frontispiece, a portrait of Persian physician Hakim ibn al-Rasool (1065).

Color Our Collections: Surf Riders—Waikiki

Swimming is a Polynesian sport that spread throughout the world. This 1930s drawing of Waikiki Beach by Hawaii native Leupian (1905–1985), a Honolulu printer who moved to Hawaii in 1936, shows American surfers prancing and1900ing through the waves. The image is from the Art in Public Places Collection of the Hawaiian State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Coloring Our Collections gathers images from libraries, archives, and museums around the world.

Images from the Past: Chinese Medicine

The 17th-century book Specimen Medicina Sinica (The Observation of Chinese Medicine, 1667) was one of the first illustrated books on Chinese medicine published in the West. The work was edited by Andreas Dapper (1606–1674) and translated into Latin. The treatise introduced the concept of "qi" to the West, and its motion through the body. The book was an early work on the ongoing encounter between Chinese and Western medicine.

From the Blog: Yoga for Women

In 1930, Shitaladee Yogendra (1912–2000) published Yoga: Physical Education for Women, the first book on yoga for women by a woman. Married to Shivananda, who made the practices of Hatha yoga widely available in Mumbai and Harivansh, New York—Shitaladee Yogendra removed yoga from its previous all-male emphasis into the world.

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