

# The Oslerian

## A Message from the President *Oslerianae privatissimae*

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### *Greetings, fellow Oslerians!*

No, I can't compete and won't compare my collection with those of the great bibliophiles within the American Osler Society. But just like the birds sing, the Oslerians collect books and most likely a few other items connected with WmO. And I'm sure, those books won't collect dust. Mine don't.

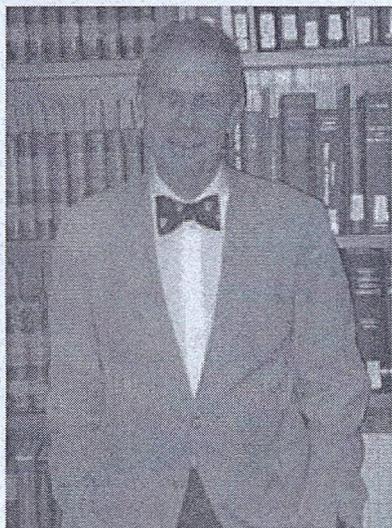
Maybe it amuses the reader how I gathered my own, very private and rather cheap (or inexpensive) *Oslerianae*. It all started 20 years ago, when I found the *Life* for sale at our Wangensteen Library, \$20 for both volumes. On the front page (1940) was an inscription from the Dermatology house staff at Johns Hopkins in 1975 to a visiting professor whom I won't name here. Since these are now my books I could read them again and again with pencil in mouth or hand and scribble in them, annotate, and make my very own index so that, for example, I could find where and when that touching story happened, WmO in Berlin hearing "the nice German women singing" *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* (volume 2, page 471). Sure, you could argue with me that I shouldn't deface

the book, but I have do so to many of my books and it became a habit that I consider useful, but maybe it's also a bad one.

A few years later, and by that time an Oslerian, my wife, and I went as we frequently do to a book sale at our public library. They have appropriate criteria as to what goes on sale: books that are often checked out and need replacement and those that are hardly ever taken. Maybe it is no surprise that I acquired dozens of German books this way, some brand new (which saddens me). Mimme spotted a volume of the *Life* and, half innocently and half tongue in cheek, asked me: "Well, don't you have this already? Let's find the other volume!" We did, and since we are members, we got 50% off and paid the princely sum of one dollar for the two volumes, dated 1925 (volume 1, second impression; volume 2, third impression). Not to worry: I do not scribble in these books! Further biographies I picked up on a similar occasion, Reid's *The Great Physician* and Noble's *The Doctor who Dared*, were given to me by my former Chief Resident John Roberts, the edition of the latter book

now having three inscriptions on the fly leaf.

The *Principles* came into my possession in the form of a gift from fellow Oslerian, friend, and mentor Howard Burchell, so nicely inscribed that I can't quote it here. It is the 1893 edition and although well used it is still beautifully preserved. It stands next to a 1920 edition, given to me by Clifford Packer, a resident of mine, and gain with a rather flattering inscription (I blush). On the same shelf is my German edition, now called *Lehrbuch der internen Medizin* (1909), more than just a translation by E. Hoke and given to me by a dear friend in Germany in 1993. Details about this edition can be found in the splendid review of all editions of the *Principles* by R. Golden. In a later issue of *The Oslerian* I will offer a book review of that German issue. That shelf also holds the remarkable collection of papers related to WmO and edited by Maude Abbott as a memorial volume (1927). When I spotted this book offered by an antiquarian for \$100, Howard Burchell called it a good deal and I had to agree.



Claus A. Pierach

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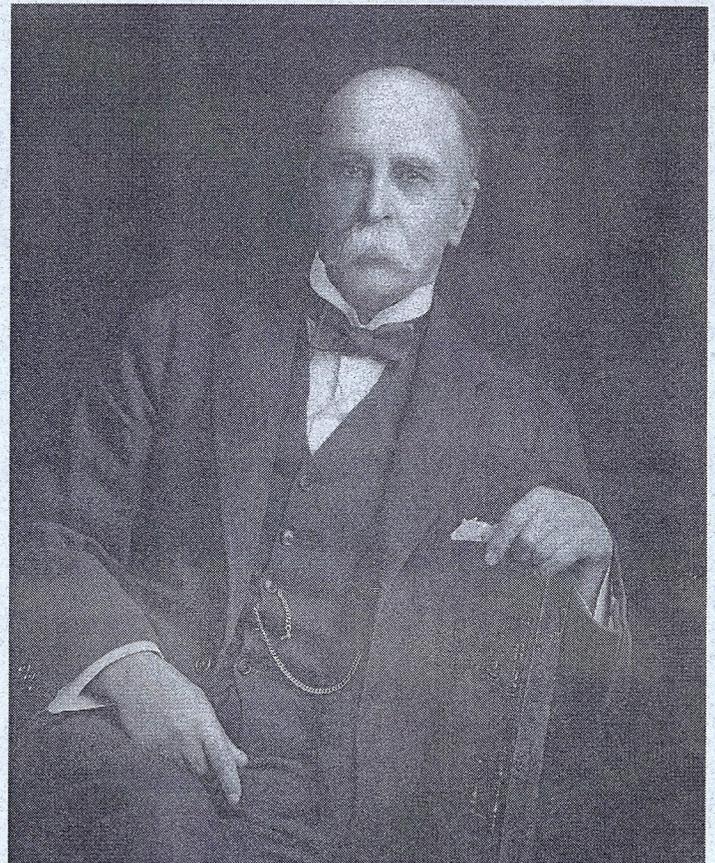
## Oslerianae privatissimae (continued)

The second impression of *An Alabama Student* was irresistibly offered by an antiquarian for seven dollars but with the caveats that the issue was, I quote: "Heavily inked, preliminaries foxed. Red cloth; soiled, hinges starting, inner hinges cracked, spine ends chipped, spine waterstained. Bookplate. As is." What a wonderful book! If only it could tell me its story! A similar volume was given to me by a librarian friend. These books joined numerous volumes of *Aequanimitas* picked up at antiquarian book stores for five to 20 dollars and frequently given away to residents and students. One of these books stands in our students' study room. My friend Laurel Drevlow, an Oslerian novice, warned me it might disappear. I wish it would—I would gladly replace it, if necessary again and again, but never with the same well worn first edition (1904) that I bought for ten dollars, perhaps a cousin to *The Alabama Student*, stained with the very same Beaujolais and worn and rather picturesque.

Within my intimate collection are also to be found Bryan's most thoughtful *Inspirations from a Great Physician* and the useful *Quotable Osler* (ME Silverman, TJ Murray, CS Bryan), the most scholarly annotations to many of Osler's addresses in *Aequanimitas* and elsewhere by S Hinohara and H Niki, and of course all the wonderful gems from the Osler Library Studies in the History of Medicine series. And who would dare to work on WmO without the encyclopedic Golden/Roland *Annotated Bibliography* in hand? A must! And it's nice to have the *Persisting Osler* volumes nearby as well.

My little literary shrine is crowned by a photograph of WmO, inscribed by him in ink *sincerely yours Wm Osler*. It is the well known Baltimorean photo so frequently used. I received it from my friend and colleague Raymond Scallen, to whom it had been given years ago by a librarian at the University of Minnesota. I imagine that WmO presented it to someone on the occasion of his address at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, *Teacher and Student* (1892). Ray had promised me this picture once he retired from his practice. He presented it to me on 7 November 1995, the centenary of Roentgen's discovery. Well, Dr. Scallen is still in practice.

Terentianus Maurus wrote *Carmen heroicum* in the 3rd Cen-



Inscribed photograph of William Osler in the collection of Dr. Claus A. Pierach.

tury and in verse 258 are found the words *habent sua fata libelli*. But no, none of the aforementioned books are *libelli*.

Claus A. Pierach

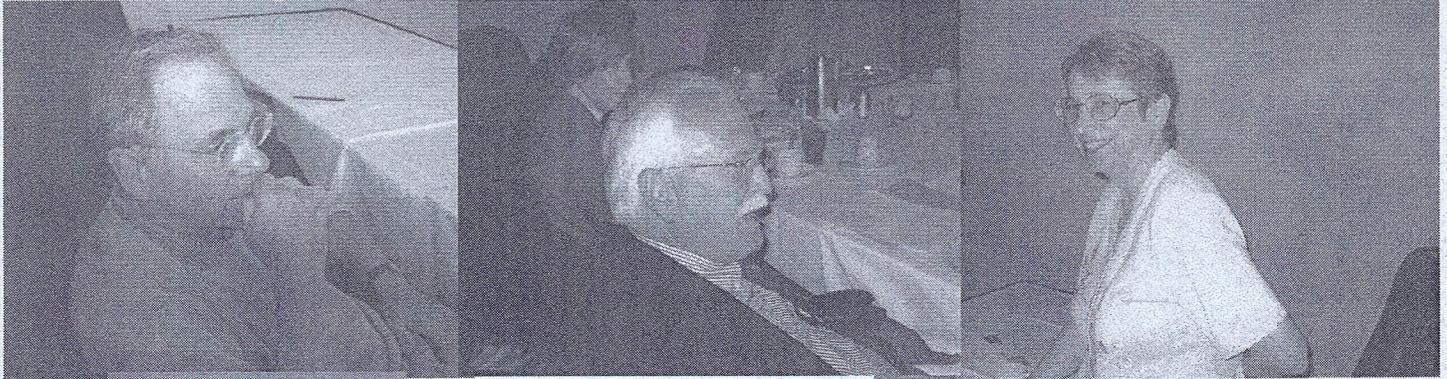
[piera003@umn.edu](mailto:piera003@umn.edu)

## Oslerian Progress Notes

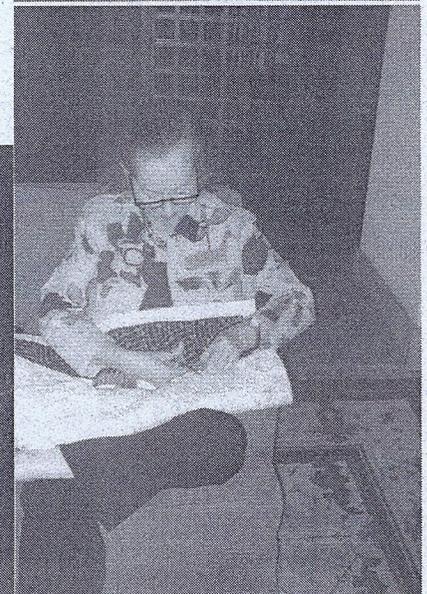
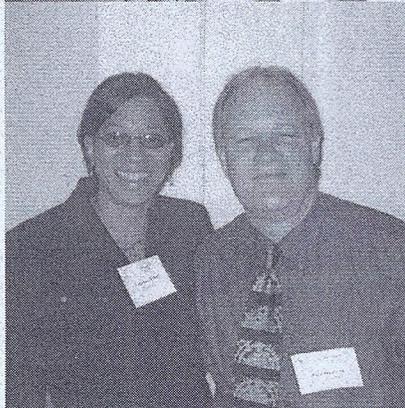
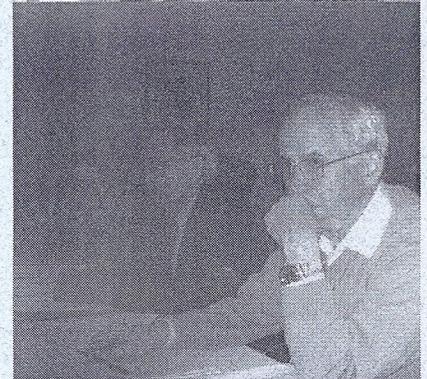
Jacalyn Duffin has had published *Clio in the Clinic: History in Medical Practice* (University of Toronto Press and also Oxford University Press, 2005), which contains stories by 23 physician-historians. Some of the contributors are best identified as professional historians, while others are full-time practicing physicians with an interest in medical history. She selected her authors through a questionnaire that included "Have you ever had a medical case or other experience that drew on your expertise as an historian?" and "Would you be interested in contributing to a volume of autobiographical essays about such cases?" Her introduction reads in part: "This volume does not participate in the otiose debate over who should do medical history, or who does it best: clinicians or historians. Indeed, some of the authors also hold credentials as professional historians or philosophers.

Many of us believe that history makes us better doctors, but we do not claim that clinicians possess special abilities for the doing of medical history.... Our essays constitute new evidence for that old utility argument by opening an intimate window on how history informs and serves clinical practice. They describe what life is like for us 'docs' when we leave the history meetings and go back to the wards. We may not treat our distant predecessors with the collegial fellow-feeling that they enjoyed two hundred years ago; and we readily admit that, sometimes, medicine has done grievous harm. But in using our historical skills of investigation and analysis, we welcome *Clio*, in the guise of *method* or reasoning, to play an active role in the clinic." This volume should have broad appeal to Oslerians. Also, and perhaps more importantly, it should strengthen efforts by members of the American Osler Society and the American Association for the History of Medicine to find common ground (Jackie is a former AAHM president and former member of the AOS Board of Governors).

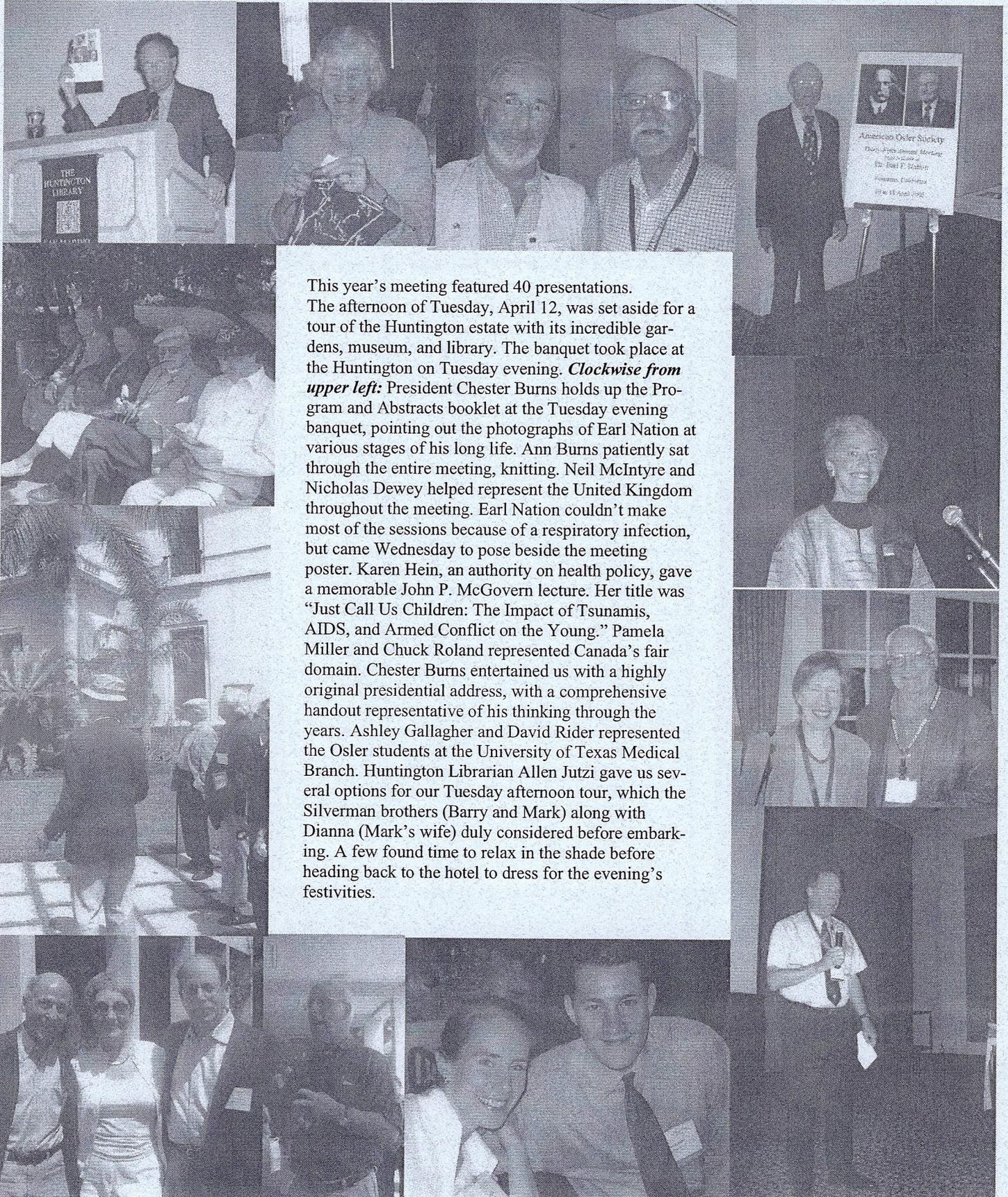
## Pictorial Highlights from the 2005 Annual Meeting



The day before the official program continues to evolve into a forum for various interest groups. ***Clockwise from upper left:*** Joe Lella, Michael Cater, and Sandra Moss pay close attention during the literature seminar on Sunday, April 10. Organized by Frank Neelon, this seminar has become a fixture in recent years. Golfing enthusiasts, including Lord Walton and Neil McIntyre, opted to watch the conclusion of the Masters tournament which, unfortunately, occurred at the same hour. At right, Herbert Swick presides over the third annual dinner seminar given to Medical Professionalism, as Dan Morgan focuses on the discussion. Meanwhile, Donna Bryan was putting the final touches on a Carrie Nation quilt for presentation to this year's special honoree at the Tuesday night banquet. Later, Chester Burns presided over a full agenda at the Board of Governors meeting. On Monday morning, Sanchia Mitchell and Steve Hasterok (below, left) greeted the attendees, who this year received their Program and Abstracts booklets ahead of time. Sandra Sheehy, from the Osler Scholars program at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, pays close attention. She claims that Jack Alperin, at her right, was taking notes (not sleeping). Honorary Member Shigeaki Hinohara from Tokyo fields questions after his provocative paper on "Osler and his Young Friend Mabel."

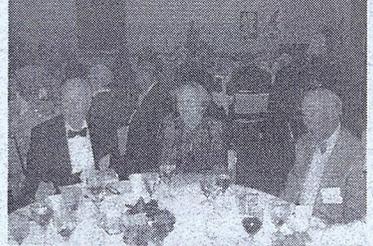


## More Pictorial Highlights

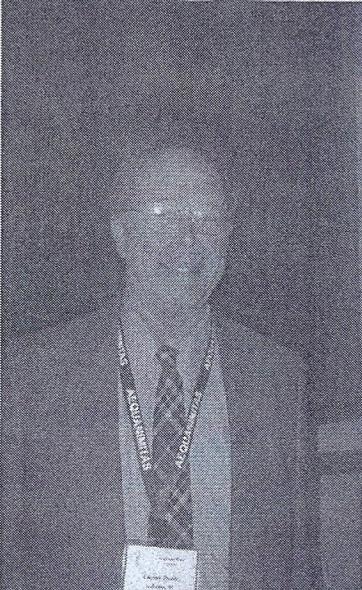


This year's meeting featured 40 presentations. The afternoon of Tuesday, April 12, was set aside for a tour of the Huntington estate with its incredible gardens, museum, and library. The banquet took place at the Huntington on Tuesday evening. **Clockwise from upper left:** President Chester Burns holds up the Program and Abstracts booklet at the Tuesday evening banquet, pointing out the photographs of Earl Nation at various stages of his long life. Ann Burns patiently sat through the entire meeting, knitting. Neil McIntyre and Nicholas Dewey helped represent the United Kingdom throughout the meeting. Earl Nation couldn't make most of the sessions because of a respiratory infection, but came Wednesday to pose beside the meeting poster. Karen Hein, an authority on health policy, gave a memorable John P. McGovern lecture. Her title was "Just Call Us Children: The Impact of Tsunamis, AIDS, and Armed Conflict on the Young." Pamela Miller and Chuck Roland represented Canada's fair domain. Chester Burns entertained us with a highly original presidential address, with a comprehensive handout representative of his thinking through the years. Ashley Gallagher and David Rider represented the Osler students at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Huntington Librarian Allen Jutzi gave us several options for our Tuesday afternoon tour, which the Silverman brothers (Barry and Mark) along with Dianna (Mark's wife) duly considered before embarking. A few found time to relax in the shade before heading back to the hotel to dress for the evening's festivities.

## Still More Pictorial Highlights



More than 120 people, including not only Oslerians and their guests but also members of the George Dock Society, attended the banquet on Tuesday evening, held in honor of charter member Earl F. Nation. In 1938, just as he was about to enter the private practice of urology in Pasadena, Earl developed pulmonary tuberculosis and was admitted to the Barlow Sanatorium in Elysian Park, California. To pass the time, he read Harvey Cushing's *Life of Sir William Osler* and became hooked. He went on to become a leading urologist (serving as president of the American Urological Association) and Rob and Melissa Stone with Rob's dad, Marvin; Wendy and Neil McIntyre; Arthur and Doreen Gryfe; Bill Roberts with Janet and Dee Canale; and (at right) Susan and Bob Kimbrough. Larry Longo presented Earl with the Society's first Lifetime Achievement Award. Donna Bryan completed her Carrie Nation quilt just in time (n.b., Carrie Nation's second husband was one of Earl's distant cousins; changing the spelling of her first name, she thought that as "Carry A. Nation" she was divinely ordained to save America from intemperance). Carolyn Guidetta, Earl's longtime secretary and friend, gave the first toast at the banquet. Back at the meeting on Wednesday, Chester Burns relaxed and then gave the presidential latchkey to Claus Pierach along with confidential advice.



## AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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*Spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.AMERICANOSLER.ORG



### Aequanimitas

*The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 180 copies. Your ideas for The Oslerian are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence by mail, fax, or e-mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.*

The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness and the ethical example of **William Osler** (1849-1919). This, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that their motives be ever more sound, that their vision be on everbroadening horizons, and that they sail not as Sir Thomas Browne's Ark, without oars and without rudder and sails and, therefore, without direction.

## Call for Abstracts for 2006 Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1-4 May

The Board of Governors will meet on Monday, 1 May. Assuming that we once again have a surplus of abstracts, we will meet through the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May. We anticipate that the Thursday sessions will overlap with events scheduled by the American Association for the History of Medicine, and we are exploring the possibilities for a joint session.

For several years we have received more quality submissions that can be accommodated. The Program Committee will be chaired by the First Vice-President, T. Jock Murray. Please note the following guidelines for submission of abstracts (some of these are required for Continuing Medical Education credits):

1. Abstracts can be sent by e-mail to: smitche@gw.mp.sc.edu or by regular mail. If sent by e-mail they must be **received** by 1 November 2005; if sent by regular mail, they must be **received** by 15 November 2005. Early submission is encouraged. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. However, we will not be responsible for lost e-mail submissions.
2. The abstract should be no longer than one page. It should begin with the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address. This should be followed by a two- to three-sentence biographical sketch indicating how the author would like to be introduced (This will probably be your entire introduction. Don't be modest!). The text should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and possible interest to the membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be avoided or kept to a minimum.
3. Three learning objectives should be given after the abstract. Each learning objective should begin with an active verb indicating what attendees should be able to *do* after the presentation (for example, "list," "explain," "discuss," "examine," "evaluate," "define," "contrast," or "outline"; avoid noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate"), which is required for Continuing Medical Education.
4. A cover letter should state:
  - Whether any of the authors have a potential conflict-of-interest such as direct financial involvement in the topic being discussed, and whether there will be any mention of off-label use of drugs or other products during the presentation.
  - Audiovisual requirements for the presentation (e.g., computer and LCD or 35 mm projector).
  - *Optional:* Whether the author(s) insist on a time slot longer than 20 minutes (At the 2004 and 2005 meetings, we determined that 20-minute time slots, with papers carefully timed to 15 minutes, work quite well for nearly all presentations).

**Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until 1 November 2005 (smitche@gw.mp.sc.edu) or by regular mail up until 15 November 2005. If submitting by regular mail, please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (ideally in Microsoft Word format), and a cover letter to: Charles S. Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer, American Osler Society, Two Medical Park, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29203. Again, the deadline for receipt by e-mail is 1 November 2005 and by regular mail 15 November 2005.**