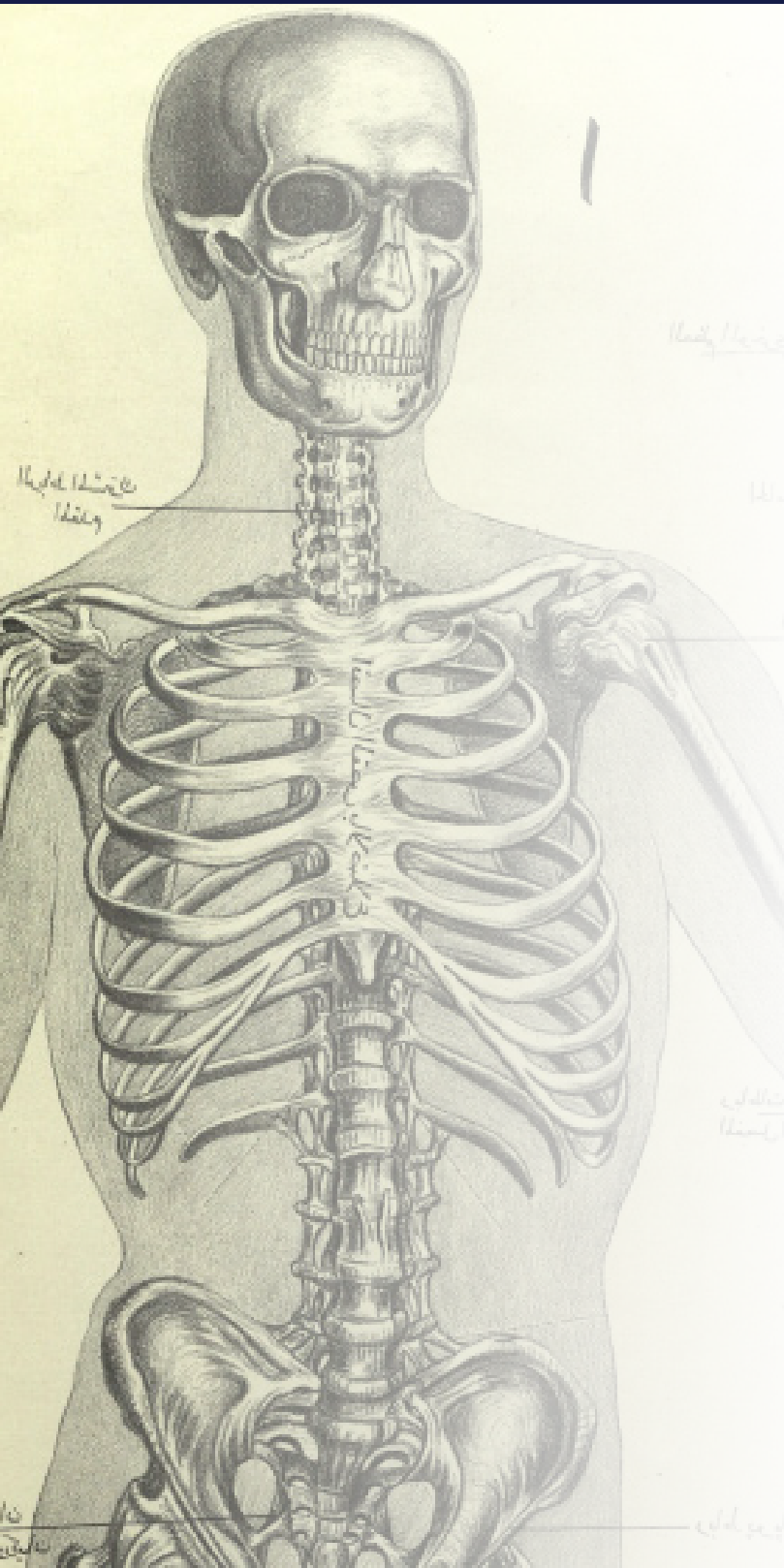


Collections within the Royal College of Physicians archive

Founded in 1518 by King Henry VIII, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) digital archive contains two million pages documenting seven centuries of medical history. The collections within the archive reflect the history and development of modern Western medicine, while documenting the interactions of the medical community with monarchs, politicians, and the general public. There is also a wealth of documents related to the establishment of medical practice standards and medical education, as well as the formation of specialized fields of practice as we know them today.

The digitized collections within this archive contain materials and datasets which are especially valuable to researchers studying the history of medicine, public health and policy, mental health and PTSD, gender studies, world health and government, religion, pandemics, and the history of vaccination.



Learn more about the collections:

JAMES MACKENZIE

James Mackenzie (1853–1925) was a pioneer in cardiology, particularly in irregular heartbeats. The papers within this collection reflect his thinking and understanding of the heart and cardiology-related health, including his research on the effects of trauma within his patients during WWI. Through Automatic Text Recognition (ATR), Mackenzie's personal papers and collections of handwritten notes are available in a digital format, making them easier than ever for researchers to read.

JOHN DEE

John Dee (1527–1609) was a world-famous polymath, astronomer, alchemist and early modern English figure who advised Elizabeth I in the 1500s on astrology, astronomy, alchemy, and even may have helped her develop a network of spies. Containing very rare books with unique annotations that are not available anywhere else, this collection marks an important cornerstone of Early Modern intellectual writing and the development of science.

TRITTON ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS

Arabic science and research on early medicine was key to the development of modern medicine today. From the records of British Arabist, Arthur Stanley Tritton (1881–1973), this rare collection demonstrates how western physicians as members of the RCP may have understood, adopted, or learned of medicine and theories from the Middle East and how it was practiced and disseminated across the region.

RCP LIBRARY

This large collection contains case studies, theories, notebooks and other documents belonging to doctors of the Royal College of Physicians on the entirety of the history of western medicine, all in one place. These unique and rare documents contain a wealth of information relating to the history of pandemics and disease such as cholera, smallpox, plague, and influenza, offering researchers an insight into historical public health.

REGULATION OF CLINICAL PRACTICE AND STANDARDS

The documents in this collection relate to RCP activities concerning the regulation of clinical practice and standards, including the important history around the formation of Britain's National Health Service, known as the NHS. This collection contains invaluable resources on the relationship between state and medicine from a non-governmental perspective.

WILLIAM HENRY WILCOX

William Henry Wilcox (1870-1941) was a physician at St. Mary's Hospital, London, where he lectured on chemical pathology, forensic medicine and related subjects; he also consulted on many famous criminal trials. This collection gives researchers the opportunity to explore the relationship between justice, crime, and medicine in the early 20th century through extraordinary documents on murder trials, illegal abortions, and other areas of overlap between medicine and crime.

MARTHA BEATRICE WEBB

Martha Beatrice Webb (1858 -1943) was a preeminent early social reformer who played a crucial role in founding the Fabian Society, a socialist organization with the aim to promote greater equality of power, wealth and opportunity. Her notes, diaries and letters reflect on the experiences of a medical education and practice from a woman's perspective in the early 20th century.

EDWARD JENNER

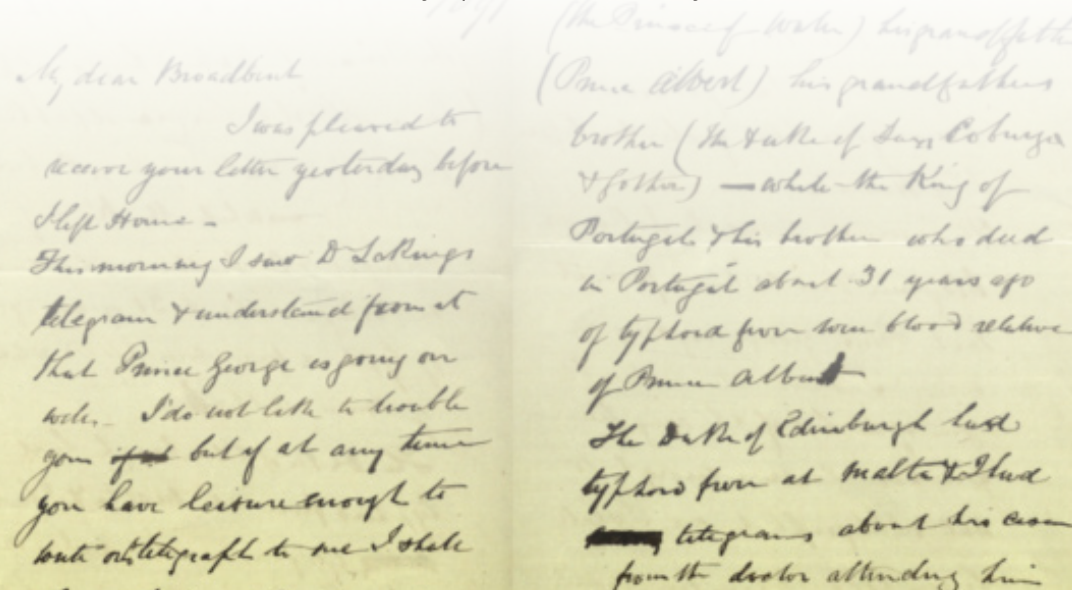
Smallpox was one of the world's most devastating diseases known to humanity, killing 300 million people around the world in the 20th century alone. Edward Jenner (1749-1823) is widely regarded as the pioneer of smallpox vaccination and the father of immunology, and his collection of diaries gives an intimate look at the groundwork of current vaccinations as well as his ongoing advocacy to persuade a skeptical public to be vaccinated.

GENERAL PRACTICE RECORDS

This collection of GP's Day Books gives a detailed insight into the day-to-day life of General Practitioners at the time allowing researchers to discover rare case studies and thoughts of physicians in England pre-NHS. This collection is part of the groundwork of current day medicine, giving insight into how medicine and treatments were influenced and developed over time.

KING GEORGE III OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

In his later life, King George III (1738-1820) suffered from a severe mental illness and lived in seclusion at Windsor Castle from 1811 until his death. The archives hold over 60 bulletins sent at 10am every morning to keep the Home Secretary, Lord Sydney, updated on the king's condition. This collection has a strong cultural significance and gives a detailed look at how mental illness and "madness" were treated even at the very top level of British society.



RELATED SUBJECTS

- Anatomy
- Biology
- Biomedical Science Development
- Clinical Medicine
- Drug and Vaccine Development
- History of Medicine and Mental Health
- History of Vaccination
- History of Pharmacology
- Medical Humanities
- Medical Science and Research
- Medical Treatments
- Military Medicine Nomenclature of Diseases
- Non-Western Medicine
- Pharmacology
- Pandemics in History
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Discovery and Diagnosis
- Public Health
- Vaccination Programs
- Policy
- World Health

TYPES OF MATERIALS

- Books
- Committee Records
- Correspondence
- Datasets
- Domestic Recipe & Medical Manuals
- Early Medical Textbooks & Education
- Grants
- Charters & Statutes
- Illustrations
- Sketches & Drawings
- Journals
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Medical Textbooks
- Medieval & Early Modern Texts
- Pamphlets
- Personal Papers
- Poetry
- Proceedings
- Reports
- Surveys & Questionnaires
- Treatment Records