Around the World: Medical Journeys throughout the Ages
20 August - 3 November 2018

Admission free - Open to all
Join us to explore an exclusive range of journals, logs and records that date back to the 1700s. Follow voyages of world renowned physicians, surgeons, and nurses and experience the discoveries that have shaped our understanding of medicine first hand.

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE
Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street

Opening Times
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm
Friday: 9am - 5.30pm
Saturday: 10am - 4.30pm

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Around the World
Medical Journeys throughout the Ages

Welcome to the Royal Society of Medicine Library’s look through time at the voyages that have shaped our medicine and medical professions throughout history.

For centuries, people have enjoyed travel - for scientific research, discovery, enjoyment, leisure, and work.

The RSM Library contains a wealth of journals, logs, records and discussions, from the 1700s all the way through to the modern day, that follow the voyages of physicians, surgeons, and nurses, as well as their spouses, children, servants, and colleagues.

Some of these journeys were made for scientific discovery – for example, the famous voyages of Darwin and Huxley - on ships like the Beagle, the Rattlesnake, and the Challenger.

Others, such as Sir Frederick Treves or Lady Montague’s voyages around the world, are simply their own personal diary of their voyage for pleasure, adventure and personal exploration.

Some journeys in the RSM Library’s collection touch on the medicine and medical practices of the countries they have visited: such as the correct nutritional requirements for travelling in the Arctic; or what life was like working aboard ship as a surgeon and doctor treating the ailments of sailors and watching history unfold; or even treating royalty and administering vaccines.

The collection at the RSM Library has all of these types of journey and more and we have gathered a collection of them on display to share with you all.
A discussion on medical voyages around the world would be remiss to not include Charles Darwin. Famed for his writings on the Theory of Evolution, these observations, discoveries and thoughts would not have been possible without his voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

When the Beagle, under the command of Captain Robert FitzRoy, set out on its voyage to survey the southern coasts of South America and circumnavigate the globe, it took with it the geologist and naturalist, Charles Darwin.

Displayed herein are several of the RSMs volumes by Charles Darwin, which directly relate to his voyages upon the Beagle and the great observations and naturalist views he shared with us.

**Shelf Mark:** Heritage Centre (DAR)
**Author:** Charles Darwin
**Title:** A Naturalist’s Voyage: Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology visited during the voyage of the Beagle round the world. 1882

**Shelf Mark:** Heritage Centre (DAR)
**Author:** Charles Darwin
**Title:** Geological Observations on the volcanic islands and parts of South America visited during the voyage of the HMS Beagle. 1876

**Shelf Mark:** Heritage Centre (DAR)
**Author:** Francis Darwin
**Title:** Life of Charles Darwin. 1902

**Shelf Mark:** WZ 100 (DAR)
**Author:** R.D. Keynes
**Title:** Charles Darwin’s Beagle Diary. 1988
Held in the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine is the diary of Surgeon’s mate Thomas Henry Huxley of the famous surveying voyage of the H.M.S. Rattlesnake to northern Australia and New Guinea from 1846-1850.

T.H. Huxley studied many aspects of northern Australia, New Guinea and the islands the Rattlesnake visited. Huxley’s diary contained scattered references to the work he carried out on board the Rattlesnake, from his studies of organisms captured in the ships’ tow-net, to his observations on dissections and microscopic analysis of specimens.

He also kept a collection of separate, detailed technical descriptions in two scientific notebooks alongside several separate drawing-books that contained the results of his work and studies during the voyage.

**Shelf Mark:** 92 (HUX)
**Author:** Julian Huxley
**Title:** T.H. Huxley’s Diary of the voyage of the H.M.S. Rattlesnake. 1935

**Shelf Mark:** 92 (HUX)
**Author:** Cyril Bibby
**Title:** T.H. Huxley: Scientist, Humanist and Educator. 195
An invaluable early record of Huxley’s studies of 'oceanic hydrozoa', which includes several species of 'jellyfish' such as the Portuguese man o' war, as well as insight into his experiences on the Rattlesnake voyage. Huxley himself was a great proponent of Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution (so much so that he was later known as Darwin’s Bulldog) and was greatly involved in comparative anatomy. He is known to have been the first person to have put forward the idea that birds evolved from small carnivorous dinosaurs.
Sir Frederick Treves, (15 February 1853 – 7 December 1923) was a famous and well known British surgeon. Considered an expert in anatomy, Treves was renowned for his surgical treatment of appendicitis - performing over two thousand by 1902, including an operation on King Edward VII in 1902, saving his life.

Sir Treves was also widely known befriending Joseph Merrick, the "Elephant Man", helping him to move from sideshow freak to living at the London Hospital.

As well as being a renowned surgeon Treves is well remembered for being an adept author. Fellow surgeon and medical publisher Malcolm Morris is attributed with encouraging Treves to write his works and see them published. He published many books over the years, including ‘The Elephant Man and Other Reminiscences’ (1923), but it is his travel diaries and accounts of voyages around the world that drew the largest audience.

‘The Cradle of the Deep’ (1908) is an account of Treves’ travels in the West Indies, interspersed with portions of their histories; including the death of Blackbeard the pirate; the eruption of Mount Pelée that destroyed the city of St. Pierre, Martinique; and an earthquake that struck Kingston, Jamaica, shortly before he arrived.

Also on display here is one of Treves other travel books, the ‘Other Side of the Lantern’ (1905), which is best summed up in the original JAMA article published in 1905 to celebrate the release of the book.

**Shelf Mark:** Heritage Centre (TRE)
**Author:** Sir Frederick Treves
**Title:** The Other Side of the Lantern

**Shelf Mark:** 910.4 (427) TRE
**Author:** Sir Frederick Treves
**Title:** The Cradle of the Deep
“Sir Frederick Treves went around the world with his eyes open. He saw more than most men, and has written about what he saw in such a way that the reader sees it, almost. India, Burma and Ceylon, China and Japan are the countries visited at least, practically the whole of the book is taken up with these countries.

The author came back through the United States, but all he has to say about this country is contained in a half dozen pages. There is a short description of the Yosemite Valley and of the Grand Canon of Arizona, and then there is a jump to Yarmouth, England. The book is written in a strictly popular style; there is scarcely a word to indicate that the writer is a surgeon, although he comments on the Japanese surgeon and on the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Of the former he says: “The Japanese surgeon is no longer a servile imitator. He is introducing into his methods the results of his own ingenuity. Many features which in Europe are of the latest suggestion have already been anticipated in Japan. There is every probability that the Japanese school of surgery will become a great school, for the native of Japan has qualities which are excellent in the making of a surgeon; he is not troubled by 'nerves,' he is infinitely patient, fastidiously clean, as well as most neat and dexterous with his hands.” The author’s style is crisp, occasionally poetical and always interesting.”
Shelf Mark: 53.c.1
Author: Captain Woodes Rogers
Title: A cruising voyage round the world: first to the South Seas, thence to the East Indies, and homewards by the Cape of Good Hope; begun in 1708, and finish’d in 1711.

Containing a journal of all the remarkable transactions; particularly, of the taking of Puna and Guiaquil, of the Acapulco ship, and other prizes; an account of Alexander Selkirk’s living alone four years and four months in an island; and a brief description of several countries in our course noted for trade, especially in the South-Sea.

With maps of all the coast, from the best Spanish manuscript draughts; and an introduction relating to the South sea trade. 1712

-A privateer for the British and, later, the first Royal Governor of the Bahamas, Captain Woodes Rogers was only 29 when his voyage began in 1708.

-A global round trip, this voyage is best known for being one of the first English voyages to have successfully completed the trip.

-It is also known as being the voyage that led to the rescue of Alexander Selkirk from the Juan Fernandez Islands – where he had been marooned for more than four years. Selkirk is believed to have inspired Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe.
Route taken by the Ships Duke and Duchess around the world from 1708 - 1711
This unique volume is a recounting of his work and travels across the islands of the South Pacific islands. He talks of the people he met, the medical works and procedures he undertook from island to island and the beautiful lands he explored.

His most famous reminiscence is the time he met Queen Salote Tubou of Tonga and administered anaesthesia during an emergency operation performed by his colleague Dr Minty.

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This marvellous book is Dr Crawfords’ personal recollections and experiences of his time travelling to and working on the island of Tristan da Cunha. It follows his time on the island from when they leave port and sail to their exploration and experiences upon that distant island.

He even talks about how he was given responsibility to sort and stamp the mail. Not the regular mail to the island, but the stamped envelopes to be returned to sender for collectors and philologists’ who wished to obtain a used stamp that had been to the island and back!
Shelf Mark: A.8.i.22
Author: Nikolai Ivanovich Pirogov
Title: Rapport médical d’un voyage au Caucase, contenant le statistique comparative des amputations, des recherches expérimentales sur les blessures d’armes a feu, ainsi que l’exposition détaillée des résultats de l’anesthesiation, obtenus sur le champ de bataille et dans différents hopitaux de Russie.

[Medical report of a trip to the Caucasus, containing the comparative statistics of amputations, experimental research on firearm injuries, and the detailed exposure of anesthesia results, obtained on the battlefield and in different Russian hospitals.] 1849

An eminent Russian physician, Dr Pirogov was best known for being the first doctor to use ether as an anaesthetic and the first to use an anaesthetic in field surgery.

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Shelf Mark: A.11.j.3
Author: Sir William Turner
Title: The comparative osteology of races of men, comprising parts 29 and 47 of the zoological series of reports of the scientific results of the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger. 1884-1886

From the reports of the Challenger Expedition, this volume details the scientific results of the zoological section of the expedition – specifically those on the differences in the structure of the human skeleton between different peoples across the world. An extensive scientific voyage, the Challenger Expedition is a landmark part of the history of oceanography.
Author: Alexander Armstrong  
Title: Observations on naval hygiene and scurvy, more particularly as the latter appeared during a Polar voyage. 1858

Comprised of information taken from his journal of the expedition to the Arctic on the H.M.S. Investigator, Dr Armstrong details his observations of scurvy in the crew as well as his opinions on common shipboard practices at the time that may have influenced prevention and treatment.

HMS Enterprise & HMS Investigator 1848

The Devils Thumb, Ships Boring and Warping in the Pack.

Dedicated by special permission to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty  
By their Lordships’ most obedient Servant W H Browne, Lieut R N. 1850
A pioneering voyage, de Lery was a part of a French Calvinist expedition to Brazil to set up a colony in 1556. After the colony dissolved, Dr de Lery stayed behind to live with the local Tupinambá Indian group in what later became Rio de Janeiro. This account of his experiences (originally published in 1578) was particularly interesting due to his account of the Tupinambá practice of cannibalism in celebrations.

"Salutations larmoyantes"
"Tearful salutations,"

in *Histoire d’un voyage faict en la terre du Brésil* (1578), Jean de Léry, 1580 edition.
In part reprinted from his more famous work, ‘Winter and Spring on the Shores of the Mediterranean’, this text specifically looks at the author’s experiences in the Mediterranean islands of Corsica and Sardinia and the health benefits of their climate.

A social commentary as much as a voyage diary, Dr Atkins describes many interesting details of the stops the voyage made – from the lack of general cannibalism (as had been believed to be prevalent in the West-Indies at the time) to the wide-spread belief in ‘fetishes’ in religious practices – as well as his observations and opinions of the slave trade.
Shelf Mark: 239.h.21
Author: Robert White
Title: Madeira, its climate and scenery: containing medical and general information for invalids and visitors; a tour of the island, etc.; and an appendix. 1851

A contemporary guide book, this title covers everything from madeira wine to general geographical information. This title is also sometimes used to illustrate the impact of a vine plague that appeared in 1851 – by the time the second edition was published in 1857, the author has changed the description of the wine industry in the area entirely into the past tense (apparently believing that it was unsalvageable by then).

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Shelf Mark: 244.f.26
Author: G. Hume Weatherhead
Title: A pedestrian tour through France and Italy. 1834

An interesting journey, Dr Weatherhead’s tour took him from Dieppe first to Paris, then through France down into Italy, and on Rome through Florence, and on to Naples before returning the same way home.
Believed to have been published for the Castle Mail Packets Company, this little book was written for visitors from the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, who were to be guests of the Managers of the Company.

Written primarily by Dr E. Symes Thompson and edited by John Noble, it explores South Africa as a health resort (particularly the Cape of Good Hope); giving insight into the journey by sea; as well as a description of one of the Castle Company’s liners, the R.M.S. Dunottar Castle.

South African Journey - Map showing the route by sea
Led by Captain Sir George Nares, this was the first British expedition in almost 25 years. Although they didn’t actually reach the Arctic, due to a significant portion of the crew coming down with scurvy, they did extensively explore the coasts of Greenland and the surrounding islands.

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Published after the author’s death by Carl Linneaus, this is a chronicle of the author’s journey to Palestine and the surrounding areas, all the way up to his death in 1752 near Smyrna (which is now Izmir in Turkey).
Most of Dr Scoresby’s later research and expeditions were focused on magnetic fields – particularly terrestrial ones around the planet. He conducted significant research into this and his Australian expedition is one of his most well-known after his earlier Arctic expeditions.

**Shelf Mark:** 281.e.3  
**Author:** William Scoresby  
**Title:** Journal of a voyage to Australia and round the world for magnetical research. 1859

**Shelf Mark:** Tract 11713  
**Author:** William Scoresby  
**Title:** Remarks on the probability of reaching the North Pole: being an examination of the recent expedition under Captain Parry. 1828

**Shelf Mark:** 252.a.15  
**Author:** William Scoresby  
**Title:** The Arctic regions and the northern whale-fishery 1820

**Shelf Mark:** Tract 11712  
**Author:** William Scoresby  
**Title:** The whale and the Arctic regions: a lecture. Delivered before the Church of England Young Men’s Society, in Freemasons' Hall, January 31, 1853.

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**Shelf Mark:** 274.e.22  
**Author:** Robert Edmund Scoresby-Jackson  
**Title:** The life of William Scoresby... 1861

Written by Dr Scoresby's nephew, this title chronicles Dr Scoresby's life and work.
Best known for his Arctic expeditions, this title (written by an unknown author) looks at the life of Dr William Scoresby, detailing his early life, whaling expeditions, and his later scientific expeditions. One of Dr Scoresby’s most significant discoveries was that, in polar oceans, water is warmer at considerable depths below the surface. He also contributed greatly to our knowledge and understanding of geomagnetic fields in his travels to the South (particularly Australia).
Officially known as the African Colonization Expedition, this expedition was beset by medical issues. About a third of the expedition members died in a short period and there were outbreaks of fever and other illnesses that ended up causing the undertaking to be cut short as they affected almost the entire European contingent of the crews of all three ships that took part. While several treaties regarding the slave trade were agreed, this expedition was sadly viewed as a failure. The author, Dr McWilliam, was only 33 at the time of the expedition and was newly qualified as MD, having studied in Edinburg. He was taken ill from fever during the journey but recovered and was able to make the return trip home.
Author: Isaac Israel Hayes
Title: Physical observations in the Arctic seas made on the west coast of North Greenland, the vicinity of Smith Strait and the west side of Kennedy Channel, during 1860 and 1861.

(In: Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, 15(5), 1-271) 1867
A rather disputed voyage, this expedition was privately funded by Dr Hayes. Hayes believed that he had reached the 'Farthest North' possible but had in fact only reached somewhere towards the middle of Ellesmere Island (off the north of Canada) based on the co-ordinates he gave - 81°35' North, 70°30' West. This mistake was believed to be due to problems with sextant calculations and that the open sea he believed he had observed was actually the Kennedy Channel after all.

Photograph of 19th Century Arctic Explorer and physician Isaac Israel Hayes.

Photo taken between 1860-1870

Source: Wikimedia Commons
This book is a diary and account of Commodore George Anson’s voyage with his squadron during the war with Spain. Setting off in 1740 the Commodore was charged to capture Spain’s Pacific possessions. The squadron was at sea until 1744 returning by way of China and thus completing a circumnavigation of the world. The voyage is remembered for the capture of an Acapulco galleon but also for the horrific loss of life. Only 188 men of the original 1,854 returned safely to the UK, many of them losing their lives to disease.
Voyage around the World.
George Anson 1748
This collection of three pamphlets gives an in-depth account of the life of William Jardine (1784-1843), the Scottish surgeon and opium trader who co-founded one of Hong Kong’s original trading houses: Jardine, Matheson and Co. - which is still in existence today, under the trading name ‘Jardine’.

These three pamphlets follow his life and medical career from birth to 1817, when he ceased to practice medicine to enter commerce full time. The pamphlets follow his work as a surgeon aboard the East India vessel Brunswick, the merchant vessel Glatton, and his final voyages aboard the Windham.

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This volume is a fascinating account of the results of the dredging cruises of H.M.S.s Porcupine and Lightning during the summers of 1869, 1869 and 1870 under the scientific direction of D.R. Carpenter, J. Gwyn Jeffreys and Dr Wyville Thomson.

The book recounts the voyages, scientific discoveries as well as displays various drawings of the sea life pulled up by the ships nets during their cruise.
This small booklet contains the recollections and thoughts of James Wallace, during a trip he made to India. It is a contemporary account of travel conditions aboard a ship of the period as a passenger.

Wallace focuses particularly on sea sickness and the various remedies, supposed cures and advice he had been given over the years for combatting it.

This narrative is a discussion on tropical diseases and how the troops being transported by the ship Warren Hastings were treated if they became ill during the voyage, with a special focus on tropical diseases and the eminent Dr James Johnson, a tropical disease expert who was on-board.
This two volume edition follows the fascination by the court of Elizabeth I in the discovery of the Northwest Passage to fabled Cathay. It follows the Frobisher Arctic expeditions and explores how these journeys helped set some useful lessons for the future conduct of English Maritime Exploration.
This book by John Williamson is a collection of his experiences and work in the West Indian Islands and his efforts to help improve the health of the residents.

The RSM Library holds a copy of ‘A B.M.A Odyssey’ by Sir Ewen Maclean. In this narrative, he shares with us his collected thoughts, facts, and discoveries during his 140 day tour of the world on behalf of the British Medical Association. In this work, he talks of the medical facilities, doctors, and environment of his trip.
Shelf Mark: 226.f.18
Author: John Forbes
Title: A physician’s holiday or a month in Switzerland in the summer of 1848. 1849

This book, divided into 31 chapters, follows the authors’ holiday in Switzerland. He starts out by talking about the variety of holidays and voyages his fellow physicians embark on during the summer. He then takes the reader through a journey exploring his own summer holiday to fortify his health and why he visits the locations he travels to.

Inset sketches published in John Forbes book drawn by W.L. Walton
This volume follows the trip the surgeon J. Johnston Abraham when he had to take a trip abroad for his health. He travels from Liverpool to Port Said, sails across the Indian Ocean, enjoys the exotic city of Pinang, travels on the way to Japan, journeys from Nagasaki to Moji, then across the sea of Kobe. He visits Kobe, Yokohama, and Tokyo, before saying farewell to Japan, he then travels to Java at Soerabaya, before Macassar in Celebes, then ends the trip to return to Java, Samarang, and Batavia.

This text is one of the more modern books in the RSM Library’s collection showing that medical journeys are not a thing of the past.

Arthur Eyre-Brook was one of Britain’s foremost surgical ambassadors, spending his career travelling around the world until he was 78 years of age, when he finally lay his scalpel aside. This text follows all the places he worked throughout his career.
This collection of bound letters by Lady Mary Wortley Montague discuss her travels in Europe, Asia and Africa.

She is famous for inoculating her children using a home remedy for smallpox she came across whilst living in the British Embassy in the Ottoman. She wrote home about this process of ‘variolation’. This involved taking the pus from a mild case of smallpox and introducing this to scratched skin to promote resistance to the disease.

Though this natural remedy was not very popular amongst the medical community or general populace, she did convince Caroline, Princess of Wales, to inoculate her two daughters. The letters also talks about her travels across the African continent and Asia, and offers an insight to the life and behavior of the gentry of the time.

Above: Ivory and box wood vaccinator, Europe, 1701-1800
Source: Wellcome Collection
Lady Mary Wortley Montague with her son, Edward Wortley Montagu, and attendants.

Attributed to
Jean Baptiste Vanmour
oil on canvas, circa 1717
NPG 3924

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Professor Nicholas Senn, head of the University of Chicago’s surgical department, shares with us in this volume, his journey around the world, and the medical challenges he faced during this working voyage.

It covers: leprosy in the Hawaiian Islands, diseases and hospitals in New Zealand and Australia, and then diseases in Ceylon and India.
This volume recounts Doctor Martin’s visits to South America in 1921 and 1923, and to Panama in 1925. He interviewed the Presidents of the Republics of Panama, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil in regard to establishing in Panama, and a memorial to General William C. Gorgas in the form of an Institute of Tropical and Preventative Medicine.

Yet again, we are invited in these two books to join the author, J. Linton Bogle on his trips abroad. Though a medical professional who worked in many countries, his texts tend to read more like his travelogue, including some very in-depth and beautiful descriptions of the places he has been and accounts of the people he met.
The following notes were made by a practising physician from London during a month’s visit to Russia in the summer of 1932. They make no claim to offer anything more than a transient view of the constantly changing conditions of Russian life.

“To those who knew Russia before the Great War, the present picture will be almost unrecognisable; what a future generation will think, cannot be foretold.

Seen as they are, through medical eyes, the salient points are bound to be different than had the observer been, say, an artist or a journalist; yet even to non-medical readers it is hoped they may perhaps be of interest.”

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When her husband, famed American surgeon and research scientist Dr George Crile, embarked on an expedition to Africa, his wife, Mrs Grace Crile, kept a personal record of their journey by air.

From London, they travelled to the Great Rift Valley where Dr Crile established his new laboratory. She writes of the days spent deep in the jungle, the animals they encountered and the people they spoke with. ‘Skyways’ tells the story of their flight and of the adventures their expedition enjoyed.
A famous Prussian naturalist, Alexander von Humboldt is the namesake of, among other things, the Humboldt Penguin and the Humboldt Current. His journey through America with French botanist Aimé Bonpland set off in 1799, first arriving in Venezuela before going to Cuba, through the Andes, and on to Mexico in 1803. They then made their way through North America in 1804 – even visiting then-President Thomas Jefferson at the White House.

This volume of their work details zoological and anatomical notes of many of the species they encountered in their travels – everything from crocodiles to electric eels (which they reportedly allowed to sting them to be able to write about the effects!), monkeys to insects.

They are credited with discovering hundreds of new species of plants, along with other discoveries in meteorology and geomagnetism.
'Simia ursina' (Ursine Howler monkey) from Voyage de Humboldt

Exhibition curated by:
Ashley Phillips, Library Assistant
Siobhan Levesley, Library Assistant