

Working with the Thackray Museum to enhance the impact of medical/healthcare history research

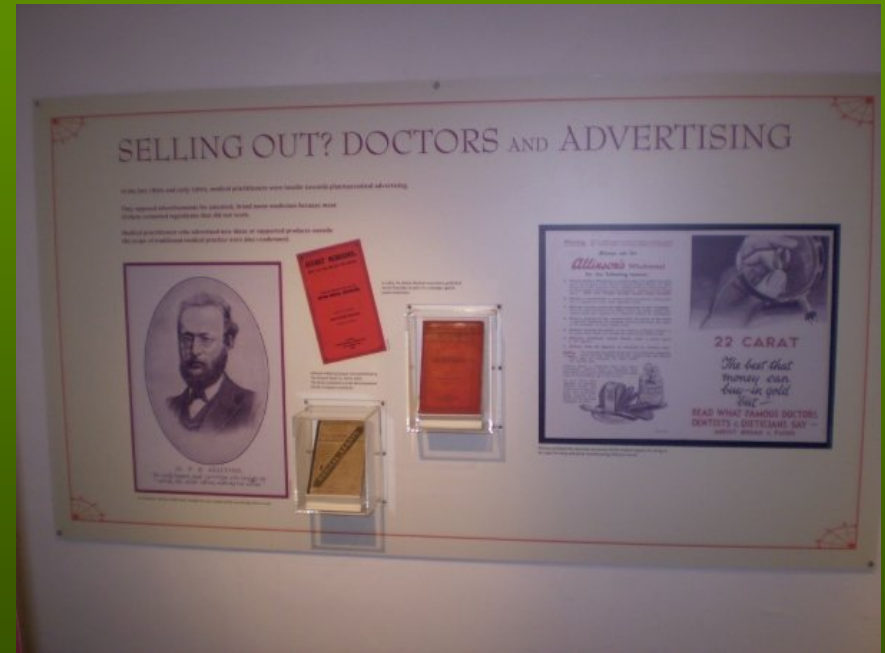
Almut Grüner, Thackray Museum

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and Centre for History & Philosophy of Science
(Department of Philosophy)

Collaboration: Thackray Museum - Centre for HPS

- Knowledge Exchange – not so much ‘transfer’
- Significant impact of Thackray Museum on HPS
Unique medical collections and curatorial expertise
- i) enhanced teaching of medical history
- ii) enhanced PhD student culture & opportunities
Three AHRC collaborative PhD awards with Thackray
- E.g. Project on medical trade catalogues, Claire Jones
- Impact: catalogues mapped, acquisitions practice revised

Impact 2: student designed temporary exhibit



‘The Business of Medicine’... & the Malthusian

Selecting collaborative projects for ‘impact’

- Bilateral HPS-Museum planning for future research
- Identify *mutual* interests e.g. Hearing Aid collections
- Research directed towards a new enhanced exhibit
- Key audiences: hearing impaired groups (direct input)
- General public – greater awareness & understanding
- Major disability issues to be examined & communicated

Link to AHRC leave - Domesticating Electricity

The female body as site for display of novel technology

Electric light: visibility as technocratic proof of glamour and safety

VS

Deafness: invisibility as social mitigation of disability?



HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL HEARING DEVICES

THE INVISPHONE

Registered
(Non-Electrical)



sizes. The SHELL INVISPHONE is particularly adapted for musical reception.

The INVISPHONE may be had with a single piece for the better ear or double for two ears. The earpieces fit so snugly against the head that they cannot be seen under the hair. The whole instrument weighs but 2½ ounces. You forget you have it on.

Special Covered, Double	\$3.50
Special Covered, Single	2.00

TYPES SINGLE OR DOUBLE

Small double	\$40.00
Medium double	50.00
Large double	50.00
Small single	20.00
Medium single	25.00
Large single	25.00



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New Hearing Aid Exhibit

- Impact **quantifiable** as outputs— number of visitors, website hits, sales of linked merchandise.
- Measurement of impact **quality** - generic challenge of gauging effect on visitor understanding and attitudes
- Focus on **feedback**, esp. from key groups in deaf community
- Evidence: questionnaires, discussion boards, blogs... or **changes** in policy or strategy?



- Conclusions: Museums as key ‘impact’ partners
- Inspiring new scholarly research with potential high impact & evidencing its quantitative & qualitative effects
- Museums are NOT passive vehicles for scholarly impact
- Need multiple partnerships for broader impact portfolio
- Dedicated staff needed to optimize collaborative research.
- Can Research Councils fund dedicated **impact enablers**?