

“PLAGUES AND PESTILENCE” ARRIVES IN BALTIMORE

LINTHICUM, MD, July 1, 2008 - What did Franklin D. Roosevelt, George Orwell and Wilbur Wright have in common? They each suffered from a different disease that reached epidemic proportions.

On Thursday, July 17, 2008, the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History will open a new exhibit titled, “Plagues and Pestilence,” that traces the path of history’s most destructive outbreaks of disease—highlighting the causes, the cures and the mysteries that remain. Please join us for a preview of this exhibit at a cocktail reception on July 17 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the AUA Headquarters, 1000 Corporate Blvd., Linthicum, MD. From the Black Death in Europe to smallpox in the New World to the spread of AIDS in modern times, this exhibit will take you on the voyage of the contagions that went on to kill indiscriminately across the globe.

Did you know that...

- Skeletal remains from 4000 B.C. indicate that prehistoric humans suffered from tuberculosis (TB)?
- The city of Athens has the earliest recorded typhoid epidemic?
- Only female mosquitoes can transmit malaria?
- In 1979, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the eradication of smallpox?
- Bubonic plague is still endemic in the United States?

During the opening reception, AUA Didusch Center Curator Rainer M. Engel, MD, a retired urologist, will present the exhibit to visitors and speak about deadly contagions throughout history. The exhibit is also available for guided tours to the general public, individually or in groups. Guided tour requests should be made at least a week in advance by e-mailing archives@auanet.org. Tours can be scheduled Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. through December. Special requests will be considered for other times. For more information, please visit www.UrologicHistory.Museum.

About the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History: *The William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History of the American Urological Association (AUA) is presently located at the AUA headquarters in Linthicum, MD. The Didusch Center is named in honor of William P. Didusch, a world-renowned medical artist at the Johns Hopkins Brady Urological Institute and the first curator of the AUA's museum. The Didusch Center encompasses a rich and varied collection of drawings, photographs and instruments of historical importance to urology, many displayed in our urological exhibits. The Center also houses a library devoted to urological and early medical texts and the AUA archives.*

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