

Chapter 2: Ticket Anatomy and Physiology

The University of Pennsylvania Archives holds a national and international collection of 1,150 medical lecture and matriculation tickets spanning the years 1765 to 1929. Of these, Penn issued 801 or about 70 percent. The remaining 349 or 30 percent represent more than 80 other institutions (medical schools, private lecturers, anatomy schools, hospitals, etc.). The collection contains tickets from 16 states, and from Canada, schools in Montreal and Halifax. Geographically, the collection's medical schools extend from Canada on the north to Atlanta and New Orleans on the south, from the Mid-Atlantic and New England coastal cities on the east to Iowa on the west. The stories associated with these tickets extend farther west to California (28) and across the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines (100). A few oddities in the collection, such as a ticket to Peale's Museum of Natural History (42), relate to extramural medical education.

Medical lecture tickets were as individual as the individuals who issued them. They came in various sizes, designs, and colors. In the University of Pennsylvania Archives collection they range in size from 2" x 3¼" to 3½" x 5¼". Most are oriented horizontally, although some professors opted for vertical orientation. The earliest cards might have been handwritten on paper (11, 66) or handwritten or printed on the back of ordinary playing cards (9, 10, 43). Printing soon became the norm. Tickets printed from engraved plates, as well as distinct embellishments, helped minimize the number of forgeries (Figure 1, 80).¹

Printing provided a myriad of choices for graphic design, not only font size and style, but also decorative elements. Select late-18th/early-19th-century tickets show the influence of neo-classical design in ribbon and fretwork borders (8, 67). Iconography, including a rare portrait (81), distinguishes some tickets. Anatomy professors offered the most illustrative tickets: imagery of skulls, as well as supine and dancing cadavers (51, 68). Institution-issued matriculation cards and hospital tickets might have featured architectural il-



Figure 1. Printing plate used to make lecture tickets for admittance to Physick and Horner's course on practical anatomy, 1831. A ticket printed from this plate appears in the catalogue (80).

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.	
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.	
Session of 1838-39, beginning on Monday November 5th.	
LECTURES ON	TICKET ISSUED AT
<i>Practice of Medicine</i> , - - - - -	by N. CHAPMAN, { Chesnut St., above Twelfth, South side
<i>Anatomy</i> , - - - - -	by W. E. HORNER, { No. 263 Chestnut Street. Fee—\$20 00.
<i>Materia Medica and Pharmacy</i> , -	by GEORGE B. WOOD, { No. 419 Arch Street. Fee—\$12 50.
<i>Chemistry</i> , - - - - -	by ROBERT HARE, { University Laboratory. Fee—\$20 00.
<i>Surgery</i> , - - - - -	by WILLIAM GIBSON, { N. W. Corner of Schuylkill Seventh and
<i>Obstetrics</i> , - - - - -	by HUGH L. HODGE, { Chesnut Streets. Fee—\$20 00.
<i>Institutes of Medicine</i> , - - - - -	by SAMUEL JACKSON, { N. W. Corner of Ninth and Walnut Sts.
	Fee—\$15 00.
	{ No. 108 South Eighth St. Fee—\$12 50.
<i>Clinical Instruction in Medicine and Surgery</i> ,—at the Philadelphia Hospital, (<i>Blockley</i>), and at the Pennsylvania Hospital,—Tickets to be had at those places. Fee—\$10 00.	
Before obtaining any Ticket, the Student will Matriculate with the Dean of the Medical Faculty. Fee—\$5 00, to be paid once only.	
Dissections, (optional,) \$10 00. From November to February, inclusively. Tickets to be obtained from the Professor of Anatomy.	

Figure 2. Fee schedule, University of Pennsylvania, 1838–39. Note the various locations students went to for ticket purchases from each professor.

illustrations (7, 77, 79, 94, 97). Many faculty signed their names on the front or back of the card; some relied on the printed name. Students signed their names on the front.

Although the faculty in some medical schools dispensed tickets with a standardized design, individuality appears to be the norm. This fit with the proprietary nature of medical education. In a complete set of bound Penn tickets from 1816, six distinct graphic designs communicate the name of the school, the course of lectures, the professor, and the student (73). Green, pink, violet, orange, yellow, red, blue: by 1845 colored paper stock added to the variety of lecture tickets.

Medical students first paid a matriculation fee to the school, typically \$5, as was the case at the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College in the 1830s. Theoretically they took the matriculation card with them to purchase lecture tickets for each course directly from the professors—one at a time. That might have meant knocking on doors at six or seven locations and paying fees ranging from \$10 to \$20 per course. (See *Figures 2 and 3* for fee schedules for Penn and Harvard in the late 1830s and 1840s.) “Tuition was usually the most expensive in city schools and cheapest in the backwoods institutions where the professors had little overhead and were content with more modest fees.”² Courses that involved more

Harvard University.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE, NORTH GROVE ST., BOSTON.

LECTURES BEGIN FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER, ANNUALLY.

Anatomy and Operative Surgery,	J. C. WARREN, M.D.	Fee \$15 00
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence,	W. CHANNING, M.D.	10 00
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine,	J. BIGELOW, M.D.	10 00
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery,	G. HAYWARD, M.D.	10 00
Chemistry,	J. W. WEBSTER, M.D.	15 00
Theory and Practice of Physic,	J. WARE, M.D.	15 00
Fee for Graduation, \$20 00.		
Matriculating Fee, \$3 00.		
Use of Library, and attendance on Hospital practice, <i>free.</i>		

WALTER CHANNING, *Dean.*

Boston, Nov. 4th, 1846.

Figure 3. Fee schedule, Harvard University, 1846. At \$3, Harvard’s matriculation fee was less than the more typical \$5 of that era.

materials and equipment, such as chemistry, surgery, and anatomy, tended to charge higher fees to cover the professors' expenses. The students also paid fees to the demonstrator of anatomy, defraying costs for dissection material. Where the tickets formed the basis of admission to a course, they "were examined by an 'usher' stationed at the entrance of the lecture room at the early part of a session."³ On top of lecture fees students paid \$5–10 hospital or clinic fees at schools having hospital affiliations.

Matriculated medical students were not alone in purchasing lecture tickets. Practicing physicians might have paid to take a particular course to update their knowledge; apprentices also might have taken a course to supplement their on-the-job training. But neither physicians nor medical students needed to complete the degree program, as a diploma was not prerequisite to licensing, that is, in those few places where licenses to practice were required.

Most medical schools did not abandon the system of purchasing individual lecture tickets directly from the professors until the late 19th century. The transition from lecture tickets to flat salaries placed a cap on the profits going to the medical faculty. Not surprisingly, a faction resisted this change, including Penn's dean who resigned in anticipation of the reforms the medical school enacted in 1877. The last Penn lecture tickets in the University Archives' collection accordingly date from the 1877–78 session. (Matriculation tickets based upon paying a single tuition bill appear as late as 1929 in the collection.)

As to tickets in the collection representative of other medical schools, later examples illustrate the continuation of the system at Baltimore University School of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons (Medical Department of Columbia College), College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa, Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College, Medical School of Maine (Bowdoin College), McGill College, New Hampshire Medical Institution (Dartmouth College), and the University of Vermont. However, matriculation or "general admission tickets" heavily weight the collection as of the closing decades of the 19th century.

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1. Leslie B. Arey, *Northwestern University Medical School 1859–1979: A Pioneer in Educational Reform* (Chicago: Northwestern University Medical School, 1979), 21.
 2. William Frederick Norwood, *Medical Education in the United States before the Civil War* (Phila: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1944), 392.
 3. Arey, 21.