The Colorado State University Libraries collects books on equine medicine published before 1908. The following are a few of the highlights in our rare book collection.

**Farrier and Veterinary Medicine**

*An Act to Regulate the Practice of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in the State of Colorado and Provide Penalties for the Violation Thereof.* Colorado. Laws, etc. [S.l. : s.n., 1909]


Little is known of Flavius Vegetius Renatus, a fourth century Roman writer and military strategist. His only surviving works are “De re Militari” on military strategy and “Digestorum artis Mulomedicinae” on veterinary medicine, of which this work is an early German translation. WorldCat shows only 4 other library owners for this edition.

*A Compendium of Practical and Experimental Farriery, Originally Suggested by Reason and Confirmed by Practice; Equally Adapted for the Convenience of the Gentleman, the Farmer, the Groom and the Smith; interspersed with such remarks, and elucidated with such cases, as evidently tend to insure the prevention, as well as to ascertain the cure of disease.* / William Taplin. Brentford, [Eng.] : Printed by P. Norbury, for G.G. and J. Robinson and G. Kearsley, 1796.

Taplin was a part of a group of British surgeons who switched to become veterinarians. Although Taplin was disliked by his peers (he is described by Smith as being … egotistical, bombastic, … unscrupulous … And by others in equally negative descriptions) his books were popular in Great Britain and America.

*A Compendium of the Veterinary Art; Containing an Accurate Description of all the Diseases to which the Horse is Liable, their Symptoms and Treatment; the Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse’s Foot. Observations on the Principles and Practice of Shoewing, on Feeding and Exercise, the Stable, &c.* / James White. London : Badcock, 1802.

In England White was known as “bleed ‘em White.” Smith in “The Early History of Veterinary Literature” writes “We have nothing to learn from White on the treatment of disease.”

We also own a copy of White’s, “A Treatise on Veterinary Medicine,” a 3 volume set published 1806-1825. This work is a later edition of White’s “Compendium.”


Bourgelat, was founder of the first veterinary colleges in Europe, the first at Lyon in 1762, followed by one in Alfort in 1765. He was a French veterinary surgeon and authority on horse management.


Smithcors notes this work as an early text for American Students.

**Farmer’s Farrier : illustrating the peculiar nature and characteristic of the horse, and the diseases to which he is liable, with the symptoms and remedies familiarly explained; accompanied with the pedigree of the blooded horses in the west. With several elegant engravings** / H.L. Barnum. Cincinnati : A.B. Roff, 1831.

This is a first edition of the earliest western farrier.


Another of the group of British surgeons turned veterinarian. Smithcors in “Evolution of the Veterinary Art” says of Gibson “Of the surgeon group, there can be little doubt that Gibson was the ablest veterinary practitioner, the clearest writer and the one most deserving of recognition.”

This is a first edition of the 1st veterinary pharmacopeia in English.

**Gentlemen’s Veterinary Monitor and Stable Guide** / Yorick Wilson. Philadelphia : Published by Johnson and Warner, no. 147, Market-Street, 1810.

Smith writes “a worthless and ignorant product.”

**Hints on Horse-Shoeing** / John Kiernan. [S.l. : s.n.], c1894.


**Historia de los animales mas recibidos en el uso de medicina** / Francisco Velez de Arciniega. Madrid : Imprenta Real, 1613.

An early Spanish book on veterinary medicine.


Smith writes of Youatt “He was remarkable for his great benevolence, his humanity, his talent and skill.”

**The Horse and His Diseases** / Robert Jennings. Philadelphia : Keystone Pub, 1890.

**The Horse’s Foot ; and how to keep it sound** / William Miles. London : Longman, Brown, Green and Longman, 1847. 5th edition

First published in 1846 Miles’ book was the standard reference work on the horse’s foot for over a hundred years.
Illustrated Horse Doctor: Being an accurate and detailed account of the various diseases to which the equine race are subjected; together with the latest mode of treatment, and all the requisite prescriptions written in plain English / Edward Mayhew. New York: D. Appleton, 1870.

Smithcors in “Five Centuries of Veterinary Medicine” notes this piece as “An excellent work by an experienced veterinarian.”


In 1845 Dadd emigrated from England to Boston. He opened the Boston Veterinary Institute in 1855, but only six students graduated before it closed in 1858.

The National Agricultural Library veterinary history web page notes “George Dadd was an early advocate of rational animal health practices in America. He is considered the author of the first two classics in American veterinary literature – The Modern Horse Doctor (Boston 1854) and the American Cattle Doctor (1851).”

New England Farrier; or, a Compendium of Farriry, in Four Parts / Paul Jewett. Exeter [N.H.]: Published by Josiah Richardson, 1826.

Works on veterinary medicine through the late 18th century were works by English writers and reprinted as American editions. This work by Jewett, first printed in 1795 is thought to be the first American work.

Donated to CSU Libraries’ Equine Rare Books Collection by local veterinarian, Dr. Robert Pierson.

New Manual of Homoeopathic Veterinary Medicine: or the Homeopathic Treatment of the Horse, the Ox, the Sheep, the Dog, and Other Domestic Animals / F. A. Gunther. Boston: Otis Clapp, School Street, 1847.


Smith in “The Early History of Veterinary Literature” writes of the first volume “Throughout this volume no reference is made to the works on which he drew for information; he creates the impression that the field was untilled until he took it in hand”... and comments on Coleman’s overall work “... is a collection of crude absurd doctrines heavily clothed in the philosophical verbiage of the period.”

The Practical Farrier, for Farmers: comprising a general description of the noble and useful animal, the horse; with modes of management in all cases, and treatment in disease / R. F. Mason. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo, 1850.

Smithcors in “Veterinarian in America” writes that one of the better publications on farriery was Mason’s work “The Gentleman’s Pocket Farrier.” Our copy is a later edition published under a different title. The first edition was published in 1811, and subsequently reprinted over twenty times in nine different editions over a period of 75 years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author / Editor</th>
<th>Edition / Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horsemanship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Travers l’Europe : Croquis de Cavalerie / Louis Vallet.</td>
<td>Paris : Librarie de Firmin-Didot et cie, 1893. This set on the history of the equestrian from antiquity through the 19th century is lavishly illustrated with line drawings and color plates.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A well-known and influential horseman from Naples Italy, Grisone used cruel methods in training horses. His work was published and distributed throughout Europe in many languages.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Art of Horsemanship / Richard Berenger.</td>
<td>London : T. Davies, 1771. v.1-2 Berenger was the stable master of George III to whom this work is dedicated. Smith writes “This is a fine and scholarly work in which he gives the history of horses in all times and all nations.” Volume 2 has an armorial bookplate and the signature “Rich Puleston, Emral.” The Puleston family were in residence at Emral Hall, one of the great houses of Wales, from the late 13th century to the early 20th century. The motto on the plate “Clariores e Tenebris” translated “Men are brighter from previous obscurity” or “Brighter after the Darkness.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This first edition bound in half goatskin with marbled paper covered boards was bound by the English master binder, Joseph Zaehnsdorf.


This limited edition, 156 copies, is signed by the author and printed on special art paper.


EQUINE HISTORY RESOURCES


**History of Veterinary Medicine** / Manulani Schuman. Fort Collins : Colorado Agricultural College, Veterinary School, 1953.


**International Museum of the Horse** - [http://www.imh.org/imh/imhmain.html](http://www.imh.org/imh/imhmain.html)


**National Sporting Library** - [http://www.nsl.org/collections.html](http://www.nsl.org/collections.html)

