



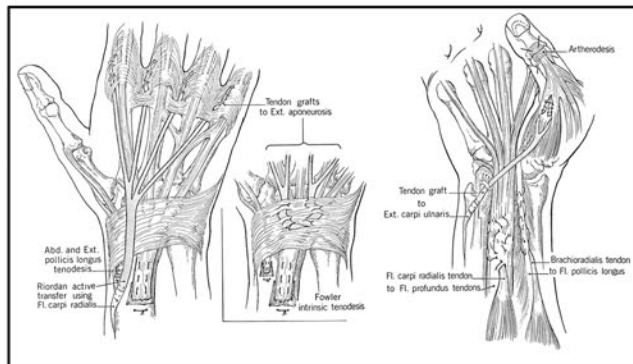
Ranice as a student in Max Brödel's Department of Art As Applied to Medicine, creating an ophthalmological illustration under the direction of Annette Burgess. (ca.1939)

Ranice W. Crosby

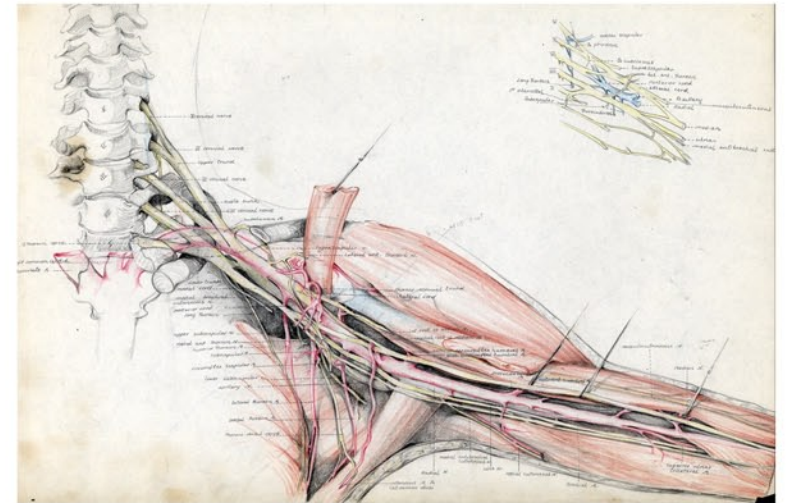
1915-2007

Charter member of the AMI

Ranice W. Crosby was born Ranice Winifred Varcoe Birch on April 26th, 1915, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Her family moved to the United States when she was 13. She attended Saturday classes at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) during her high school years but declined an RISD scholarship to attend instead the Connecticut College for Women. She majored in studio art and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1937. During two summers of her college years, she studied with the celebrated realist painter, Robert Brackman.



Techniques of tendon transfers: (Left) Riordan (A) and Fowler (B) intrinsic transfers with extensor and abductor tendons. (Right) Transfers when wrist extensors are functioning (fig. 4 and 6, pp. 421-422). R. M. Curtis, *Orthopedic Clinics of North America*, Symposium on Tendon Transfers in the Upper Extremity, 1974. Pen and ink on Strathmore bristol.



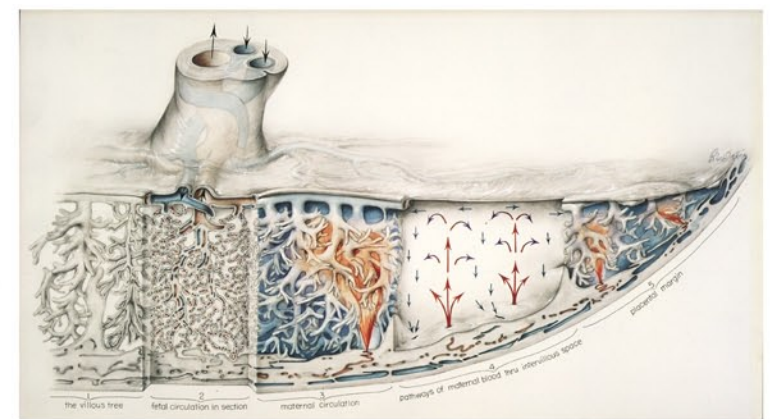
Sketch of the brachial plexus of nerves and arteries of the shoulder and arm (circa 1939). Wolff carbon pencil and Dixon Best color pencils on bond paper.



Three of forty portraits of physicians and surgeons who made major contributions to the advancement leading to open heart surgery. Ludwig Rehn (p. 6), Alfred Blalock (p. 79), and Helen Taussig (p. 78). Stephen L. Johnson, *The History of Cardiac Surgery 1896-1955*, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1970. Pen and ink on Strathmore bristol.

Ranice studied under Max Brödel in the department of Art as Applied to Medicine at Johns Hopkins (1937 - 1940). Following this certificate program, she was recommended by Brödel to Dr. Nicholson Eastman, Chief of Obstetrics at Hopkins. Eastman was looking for an artist to illustrate a book on obstetric nursing as well as to update *Williams' Obstetrics*. Ranice created these illustrations in pen and ink and tone.

After Brödel's retirement in 1940, James Didusch became the Director of the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine. After two years, Didusch decided he preferred his previous work, illustrating for the Department of Embryology, and gave up the directorship. Another search, in which Dr. Eastman sponsored Ranice Birch for the position, culminated in her appointment in 1943 to the Directorship of the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine. She was the first woman to direct a department in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Ranice was 29 years old at the time of her appointment and she served as director for forty years until 1983. Under her leadership, the program evolved from the three-year certificate program to a graduate level degree, including a rigorous thesis project and culminating in the award of a Master of Arts degree in Medical and Biological Illustration, which the first students received in 1961.



Composite drawing of the hemochorial placenta characteristic of man and the higher primates. Segments depict the structure, physiology and circulation pattern. First appearing in the Carnegie Yearbook, 1961-1962, then by permission of Carnegie Institution of Washington (fig. 31, p. 70) in Elizabeth M. Ramsey, *The Placenta: Human and Animal*, Praeger Publishers, NY, 1982. Carbon pencil and watercolor on Strathmore bristol.

Ranice's labor of love was the care of the medical art archives in the department of Art as Applied to Medicine, featuring over 3,000 of Max Brödel's original illustrations. She co-authored the biography, *Max Brödel, The Man who Put Art into Medicine*, with former student, John Cody, MD. Ranice was a meticulous researcher, writer and archivist. She also enjoyed spinning with her beloved "Cloverhill Spinners," reading biographies, and the company of animals (especially horses in her earlier years and, later, dogs, including a wonderful succession of dachshunds).

Accomplishments and Awards

- 1937 Bachelor of Arts, Connecticut College for Women
- 1937-40 Student of Max Brödel, Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- 1943 - 83 Director, Department of Art as Applied to Medicine
- 1945 Charter member, Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI)
- 1961 Established graduate level program for medical and biological illustration Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; first awarded 1961
- 1963-64 President of the AMI
- 1974 Master of Liberal Arts, Johns Hopkins University
- 1984 American Urological Association's William P. Didusch Award for outstanding contributions to urological illustration
- 1987 Lifetime Achievement Award, AMI
- 1988 Inaugural Fellow of the AMI
- 1991 Co-author, *Max Brödel: The Man Who Put Art into Medicine*
- 1993 Outstanding Teacher Award, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- 2002 Doctor of Humane Letters, Johns Hopkins University

Ranice received the graduate student teaching award for Outstanding Teacher at the Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1993, recognizing her 50 years of teaching at that time. Amazingly, she continued to teach for another 12 years! Elizabeth Ramsey, MD, a researcher who worked closely with Ranice, described her students as "... carefully selected, superbly trained and imbued by her with the scientific spirit of accuracy and with artistic sensitivity to beauty, (they) have assumed positions of importance and responsibility nationwide." Over 250 students have had the opportunity to benefit from her instruction.



Ranice and Lynn Poole (first director of public relations at JHU 1946-1965) reviewing a script in the Johns Hopkins television studios. Lynn hosted and produced the first educational television series in America, "Johns Hopkins Science Review" from 1948-1955 in which the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine and its students played an important role producing the educational graphics.

In her own words, to John Cody, Ranice described her love of teaching: "Actually, TEACHING is a HIGH, especially with students of the graduate age... A special kind of friendship comes with sharing a learning experience and the comfort and pride of growth and (even occasional) success." She listed the qualities of a good medical artist: "Passion, curiosity, persistence, reliability, ambition, critical judgment, resilience, humor, kindness, imagination, generosity."

Ranice passed away on Feb 18, 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland. She is survived by her loving daughter, Ranice H. Crosby, and her daughter's partner, Alice Aldrich. The family is grateful to the many colleagues and former students who so greatly enriched her life.

- Cory Sandone, *The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Art As Applied to Medicine*