

OTIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

STAFF:

Michael Rhode, Chief Archivist
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RESEARCH REQUESTS:

The Archives received approximately 200 requests for information this year not including medical museum and AFIP requests, visitors or referrals to other institutions. Requests for information dropped significantly after the September 11 terrorism.

Researchers were affiliated with AFIP and WRAMC including the Director's Office and WRAMC Vaccine Healthcare Center. External users included Academic Press, Ames Middle School, Army Historical Foundation, Big House Productions, Bunda Stutz & DeWitt, Burnett Howard Productions, California Newsreel's *The Human Race*, Center for Research -- Allied POWs under Japan, Connections Productions, Connell Foley Library, DOD Health Affairs, Dept. of History/Albright College, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences Inc, Forest Glen Commonwealth, Galen Press, Geo Magazine, George Washington University, Greystone Communications, HICFA (Port West), Hakala Communications, Handbook of the North American Indian National Museum Natural History, Harvard Business School, History Channel, Hoggard Films / National Geographic Society, Kirchoff/Wohlberg, MPH Entertainment, Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Mcguire Reeder, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Office of Military Health Systems, Philadelphia University, Roja Productions, Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett, US Army, University of Virginia Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina, United States Naval Shipbuilding Museum, and the Washington Post. International requests for photographs from Italy and Peru.

ACQUISITIONS:

The Archives had few new collections this year. New material acquired included Klionsky's pathology records, the Saga Hospital register from the atomic bombings of Japan, an editorial cartoon on AIDS by Swann and several small photograph collections, films and books. The McCormick collection of material on Pelam company consisted mostly of three-dimensional instruments for Historical Collections, but records of the company and schematics of the instruments came to the Archives. Many small donations of books, posters, pamphlets, trade literature and photographs were added to the overall collection. Museum records from staff members were added to the archives. Book donations included two on medical numismatics and orthopedic surgery in Puerto Rico from a donor in Puerto Rico and *Healthseekers in Arizona* from Phoenix Baptist Medical Museum.

The OHA deaccessioned New York Police Dept. Missing Person Photographs to New York City Municipal Archives in the fall.

RESEARCH:

2001 was a productive year for lectures and publications, but the largest effort was put into the production of an exhibit on Anita McGee's Russo-Japanese War photographs.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT:

Computerized cataloguing on the collection level has continued in the shelf inventory.

Cataloguing for the General Medical Products Information Collection, Medical ephemera, New Contributed photographs, Audiovisual collection, AFIP Historical Files and others was done. Research continued into a comprehensive computer catalogue for the entire Museum, and a system was recommended for purchase. Over 200 substantial requests for information were handled, frequently regarding sensitive topics. Several collections were arranged and described with finding aids written for them. Oglesby processed the following collections and wrote finding aids for them: Zimmerman, Irely, Klionsky, Kirschenbaum, Goler, and Kavruck. A significant Archives presence including the Guide to the Collections of the Museum on the website continues to bring in researchers. The McGee collection was recatalogued to make it useful for the new exhibit; research was done at the Library of Congress on the photographs as well.

PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

The main project of the year was the Russo-Japanese war photograph exhibit. Rhode and Connor developed and ran the exhibit production and successfully opened the exhibit on time with a very short leadtime. Donor Fred Sharf assisted the Museum to produce a catalogue of the exhibit, ending in a donation of \$15,000 worth of posters, postcards and catalogues. The OHA continues to update its significant presence on the Internet including the Guide to the Collections of the Museum which continues to bring in researchers. The World War I influenza page continues to be especially popular with researchers. Rhode served during the year on the AFIP's Institutional Review and the Transition Senate. Rhode continued to serve this year on the Museum's Administrative committee. In the summer, Oglesby participated in the Museum's career day. The Museum loaned the Thomas Eakins painting of John Hill Brinton, to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Louvre. We provided a small level of support for the 2001 ARP Calendar. We provided conservation recommendations and duplicated a historic photograph album for the WRAMC command; a set of the duplicate pictures was retained by the OHA. A proposal to do a session on the Museum in 2002 for the American Association for the History of Medicine has been accepted for the Kansas City meeting. Rhode also has had a paper, "'An enduring monument': Philadelphia's Contributions to *The Medical & Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* (1870-1888)," accepted for Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing 2002 meeting in London. Helen N. Jacobs, granddaughter of Henry Hobart Nichols, one of the Museum's Civil War era wood engraver, visited the Museum and saw his work. The OHA's Halon fire suppression system released twice as a result of construction elsewhere in the south wing; the OHA will close to undergo renovations in 2002 to have asbestos abatement and the system replaced with a modern one.

OFFICIAL TRIPS

1. April 2001, American Association for the History of Medicine, Charleston, SC, M Rhode (AFIP).

PRESENTATIONS

1. October 2001: Washington, DC, Fourth Annual Archives Fair at the Smithsonian Institution's Ripley Center, M Rhode and T Oglesby.

2. October 2001: Richmond, VA, "On collecting Dr. Arthur Vorwald's asbestosis records: A Cautionary Tale," lecture for "Documenting Adverse Reactions: Doctors, Patients, and Lawyers in the Archives" session Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, M Rhode.

3. December 2001: Washington, DC, Gallery talk on "*American Angels of Mercy*" for Washington Society for the History of Medicine, National Museum of Health and Medicine, M Rhode.

4. December 2001: Washington, DC, Gallery talk on "*American Angels of Mercy*" for DC Picture Group and general public, National Museum of Health and Medicine, M Rhode.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

1. Rhode, M. "The Other Battle of WWI," *Hogan's Alley*. 2001; Summer; 9: 105-109

Books and Chapters

1. Sharf, Frederic A, M Rhode, and JTH Connor. "*American Angels of Mercy*": *Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee's Pictorial Record of the Russo-Japanese War, 1904*, Newbury, MA: Newburyport Press, 2001.

Exhibits

1. Rhode, M (curator and project manager) and JTH Connor et. al. "*American Angels of Mercy*": *Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee's Pictorial Record of the Russo-Japanese War, 1904* exhibit, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington, DC, October 1, 2000-February 28, 2001.