

## OTIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

### STAFF:

Michael Rhode, Chief Archivist  
Joan Redding, Assistant Archivist (D)  
Heather Lindsay, Assistant Archivist (A)  
Marcy Leverenz, Volunteer

Redding left the Museum in late February to pursue a career in editing. Rhode took a short leave of absence after the birth of his daughter, Claire Elizabeth, on April 24th. Lindsay joined the staff on June 1st after graduating from the University of Arizona.

### 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. Rhode was interviewed about Civil War injuries by Laurie Block for her National Public Radio documentary *Beyond Affliction: The Disability History Project*, on December 30, 1997; the show aired on May 4, 1998. Christine Schuyler of Atlas Media interviewed Rhode on Daniel Sickles for The History Channel's *History's Lost and Found* on March 23, 1998; the show aired December 2, 1998. Simon Winchester used Army Medical Museum case records contributed by Dr. W. C. Minor for his best-selling book on the Oxford English Dictionary, "The Professor and the Madman."

Researchers were affiliated with the Alexander Ramsey Historic Site, American Museum of Natural History, Camp Dennison Ohio Civil War Museum, National Dental Museum, Smithsonian Institution-National Museum of Natural History Repatriation Office and the National Museum of American History, Arizona State University, Boston University, Columbia University, East Tennessee State University, Louisiana State University, McGill University, National Defense University, New York University Medical Center, Tallahassee Community College, University of British Columbia, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Maine, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, University of Puerto Rico, West Virginia University Foundation (for the Medical Examiner), Central Calley Press, Esquire Magazine, Jobson Publishing, Richmond Times Dispatch, Time-Life Books, A & E Television Networks, Actuality Productions, Atlas Media/History Channel, BBC Horizon, Canadian Broadcasting Company, Granite TV, Guinness World Records Primetime, NBC News, New York Times Television/Science News, RDF Television, WFAA-TV News, American Academy of Otolaryngology, Army Veterinary Corps, Dog Fashion Disco band, Image Hunters, Mt. St. Mary's Seminar, National Park Service, Schwartz Health Care Center, and Straight Ahead Pictures.

In a surprising development, Peter Baumgras (one of the Museum's minor Civil War artists) was of interest to two researchers - his descendants and a biographer. Baumgras, after leaving the Museum, had a successful career as a painter. The Vorwald Industrial Medicine Collection was getting a lot of use at year's end due to impending asbestosis court cases.

### ACQUISITIONS:

Major acquisitions included: AFIP records from former director Bruce Smith including many photographs of 1960s events; Dr. Elizabeth Lockard reprint collection, Dr. Nelson Irey's personal and office papers, Dr. Diggs' Sickle Cell Anemia photographs, Fitzsimmons Army Hospital autopsies, Gorgas Army Hospital autopsies, the Meyers Hologram collection and museum records from staff members. Many small donations of books, posters, pamphlets, trade literature and photographs were added to the overall collection.

### EXHIBIT SUPPORT:

Rhode and Mitchell Yockelson of the National Archives wrote "The Costs of 'A Splendid Little War': The Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection" exhibit which was displayed September 11 - November 29, 1998. The exhibit was intended to show treasures of the Museum and included photographs from the Archives and models, weapons and surgical instruments from Historical Collections. A positive review by Eugene Meyer ran in the Washington Post on the day the exhibit opened. Rhode worked on the new Civil War medicine exhibit, and Redding edited two exhibit scripts.

#### COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT:

Redding arranged, rehoused, and wrote the finding aid for the Army Vet Corps Archives. Lindsay processed and wrote the finding aid for the Kanof Collection. She is processing the Civil War Medical Illustration and the Ireys papers. She also added material to the AFIP Historical Files and updated the finding aid and completed various smaller processing projects. She and Rhode cataloged additions to the Medical Ephemera, New Contributed Photographs, and General Medical Products Information collections. Marcy Leverenz cataloged several boxes of the Reeve Collection photographs from World War I, veterinary pathology videotapes, and Civil War medical illustration. Grace Rodriguez, a student intern from the University of California, processed and wrote finding aids for the D.K. Winter Medical Illustration Collection; the Garnet Jex Medical Illustration Collection and the Meyers Hologram collection.

#### PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The *Guide to the Collections at the National Museum of Health and Medicine* is still essentially complete and ready for publication by the American Registry of Pathology. Photographic illustration selection continues.

The section of the *Guide* dealing with the Archives was mounted on the Museum's web site by Lindsay. Lindsay also converted and put fourteen finding aids, selections of Civil War and smallpox photographs, a guide to the Archives' Civil War material, a guide to the Museum's hospital ship material, a Civil War medicine bibliography, Rhode's report to the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board, and links to other military or medical institutions on the web site.

As Agency Compliance Official for the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board, Rhode reported on the AFIP's efforts to find material related to the President's death in 1997. The Board accepted the report in the fall and went out of business the following year. He served during the year on the AFIP's Institutional Review Board (formerly the Human Subjects Committee), the Master Planning Group (the new building committee) and the Library Committee. Rhode continued to serve this year on the Museum's Administrative committee. He was appointed to head the Museum's World Wide Web task force in the fall. In addition to two exhibit scripts, Redding edited press releases, brochures, and job descriptions. She served as a member of the Museum's Public Programs Committee. Rhode, Redding and Lindsay were members of the Museum's Collections committee. Lindsay served on the Web task force and was appointed as a Terminal Area Security Officer (TASO). Lindsay attended the Society of American Archivists convention in Florida. The Archives had no loans this year.

#### LECTURES:

Rhode, M. "Practical heresy or heretical practicality?" lecture for "So Many Boxes So Little Time: Time Management In Archives" session, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), November 20, 1998.

Rhode, M. "Hermann Faber: Civil War medical illustrator as one-time caricaturist" lecture, The Fourth International Comics and Animation Festival (ICAF), Bethesda, Md, September 25, 1998.