

OTIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

STAFF:

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RESEARCH REQUESTS:

The Otis Historical Archives (OHA) received approximately 165 requests for information this year not including medical museum and AFIP requests, visitors or referrals to other institutions. The number of requests increased slightly from last year. Researchers were affiliated with the Mutter Museum, American Social Health Association, National Library of Medicine, SUNY Health Science Center, US Army Center for Military History, American University, NOVA, Department of Energy, Holocaust Museum, National Park Service, and National Museum of Civil War Medicine, among other institutions. Demonstrating the reach of new technology, several requests for information came through the AFIP's new Internet access.

The 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought interest in Otis Archives' Atomic Bomb Material. Researchers representing Japan's Tokyo Broadcasting and Kyoto News Service used the collection, as did staff from the National Air and Space Museum, who were collecting material for their exhibit on the bombing. The Nagasaki Broadcasting Company filmed Rhode explaining the bomb proof features of the AFIP building. The Archives also provided several photographs for the "Science in American Life" exhibit at the National Museum of American History. The Vorwald Collection of industrial medicine material continued to receive heavy use, primarily by law firms. A graduate student at Harvard's History of Science Department, Lisa Herschbach, spent several days at the Archives studying early Museum records for her dissertation.

ACQUISITIONS:

Collecting continued to increase this year. Major acquisitions include 60 cubic feet of pathological reports from Gorgas Hospital in Panama and 18 cubic feet of personal papers of Dr. Loren Ackerman, the author of the standard textbook on pathology. The Archives received the papers of AIDS victim Ron Wogaman, which document his illness and death. These were used extensively in the Museum's new AIDS exhibit. Another acquisition was a historical mural by WPA artist Jack McMillen showing psychiatric patients at Walter Reed's Forest Glen Annex in World War II. Already damaged by water leaking from the roof, the painting was in danger of destruction had it remained in an unstable building at the Annex. Archives staff removed the painting and procured funding for its restoration. Now restored to its original state, the painting is on exhibit in Silliphant Hall. A donated scrapbook belonging to a nurse who served at Walter Reed during World War I added to the Archives holdings in the history of nursing and WRAMC. Many small donations of books, posters, pamphlets, trade literature and photographs (especially of AIDS material) added to the overall collection.

A group of 178 non-medical films with historical value were transferred to the Library of Congress in March. These films had apparently been shown at the downtown Museum & Library Building in the 1940s.

EXHIBIT SUPPORT:

Rhode resuscitated and expanded his Civil War Medical Illustration exhibit that had been shown at the Pentagon several years ago. It went on display in December. Redding spent a substantial amount of time on the Museum's revised AIDS exhibit, conducting research, locating artifacts, and writing part of the script. Rhode also contributed to this effort with research and editorial support.

The Archives' collection of American Society of Clinical Pathologists 1992 Photography Competition photographs were framed and placed on exhibit in the Museum, with the introduction panel written by Redding.

In addition to displaying the McMillen painting, Rhode wrote new text for the William Hammond portrait and the copy of the JK Brinton portrait.

PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Dana Le Master, a DOD Science & Engineering Apprentice Program student, worked on basic cataloging of the videotapes in the NMHM Audiovisual collection. She completed the cataloging of the modern-era videotapes, leaving only the historical 16mm films to be done. She also helped arrange and prepare a finding aid for the Medical Ephemera collection.

The computerized inventory and finding aid project started in 1989 continued and is finally approaching completion. Redding has been editing a version of the inventory for eventual publication. It is anticipated that publication of this *Guide to the Otis Historical Archives* will make the rich history contained in these collections much more widely available. An updated and simplified third edition of the *Index to Photographs of Surgical Cases and Specimens and Surgical Photographs* was self-published in January. This *Index* lists 400 of the Museum's Civil War photographs.

Redding processed and wrote finding aids for the Wogaman Collection; Dick Levinson office files; and Military Hospital Material, an artificial collection of related documents. She processed various other small collections; rearranged and rehoused much of the Atomic Bomb Material; and cataloged additions to the Medical Ephemera, New Contributed Photographs, AFIP Historical Files, and General Medical Products Information collections. She also identified and rehoused a large amount of previously inaccessible lantern slides.

In addition to the McMillen painting, several other paintings in the Archives' holdings were professionally conserved. Portraits of William A. Hammond, Joseph K. Barnes, George Otis, Mary Walker and Ambrose Pare are all being treated by Page Conservation.

A collection of historical lantern slides of early 20th century Japan were offered to the Archives but did not meet our collecting scope. Instead, Rhode found a home for these artifacts at the Southeast Museum of Photography in Florida. This museum, which collects all types of historical photography, was extremely pleased with the donation.

Dr. Stocker's project for an AFIP Oral History continued with Dr. C. Stuart Kennedy of the Foreign Affairs Oral History Program at Georgetown University doing the interviews. This year's participants were Vernon Armbrustmacher, William R. Cowan, Richard Froede, Kamal G. Ishak, Donald King, John Madewell, Marc Micozzi, Florabel Mullick, and Charles Stahl. Most of the interviews were filmed by WRAMC-TV and are available as transcripts or videotapes. Redding has arranged the material and created a finding aid so it is now available for research. Groundwork was laid to begin a fifty year history of the AFIP to replace Robert Henry's badly-dated account.

Several outreach programs were done this year in an attempt to make people more aware of the Archives' resources. *Fight Syphilis* and *Know For Sure*, two 1940's public health films, were provided to the Public Programs division for a showing in December. Unlabeled photographs were hung outside the cafeteria for help from the AFIP staff in identifying them. Announcements of activities were made on cc:Mail's Museum bulletin board. As a member of the Steering Committee of the DC Picture Group, Rhode organized meetings and maintained the institution's membership database. He lectured to the group in February on "Photography and the Army Medical Museum, 1862-1945."

Rhode revised and expanded the Museum's fee schedule, designing a standard form to be used for all research requests. He also wrote a form letter referring researchers to other institutions, detailing their holdings and providing addresses and phone numbers. Redding wrote a bibliography of published sources on Civil War medicine, which was also supplied to researchers. As a member of the Public Programs Committee, Redding drew up a list of guidelines for catered events at the Museum.