

# HOUSE CALL



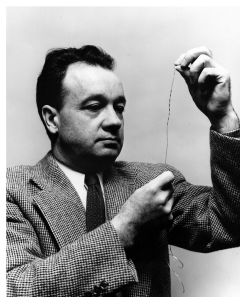
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## The William G. Myers PhD, MD Collection and Digital Elements

**By: Mary Manning, MA, MLIS**  
**Myers Archivist**



*Myers with radioactive gold seeds for permanent seed implantation in cancer therapy. (Photograph courtesy of The Ohio State University Photo Archives).*

In our last issue of House Call, we looked at the life of William G. Myers. In this issue, we will look at the materials in the collection and some of the digitized images from the William G. Myers PhD, MD Collection which have been included in the Medical Heritage Center's new digital library and the Myers online exhibit. Digitized images from the Myers Collection will illustrate this article.

The William G. Myers, PhD, MD Collection contains approximately 140 linear feet of material and was opened to the public in July of 2006. Formats in the collection include approximately 3,840 photographic prints, 4,508 negatives, 18,400 slides, and 15,440 pieces of correspondence. The collection has been divided into the following eighteen series:

- Series I: Artifacts and Oversize Materials
- Series II: Associations and Conferences
- Series III: Audio and Video Recordings
- Series IV: Awards/ Memorials
- Series V: Correspondence
- Series VI: Negatives
- Series VII: Slides
- Series VIII: Photographs
- Series IX: Interests, Personal and Professional
- Series X: Publications
- Series XI: Research
- Series XII: Speeches and Exhibits
- Series XIII: Teaching
- Series XIV: Equipment, Laboratories, and Supplies
- Series XV: Original Myers Library and Conference Room Exhibit
- Series XVI: Notebooks
- Series XVII: Asa Seeds Photocopy Collection
- Series XVIII: Hal O. Anger Publications

Correspondence in the Myers Collection is especially strong. Myers cultivated professional and personal relationships with Nobel Prize winners and other important figures in the fields of chemistry, physics, and nuclear medicine at hospitals and research centers throughout the world. Fortunately, Myers made copies of the letters he sent, so we hold an almost complete record of his written communication. The subjects of his correspondence include his teaching, research, conference attendance, students and colleagues, reprint requests, civic and administrative activities, awards, accomplishments, association memberships, supply companies, publishing activities, and professional associations and memberships. The correspondence also provides information about Myers's interest in the history of nuclear medicine. Myers was the historian for the Society of Nuclear Medicine from 1973 to 1986. Correspondence with various United States government agencies is also represented including the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The Myers collection also includes audio and video recordings on cassette and reel-to-reel tapes, which document Myers's lectures; an oral history project in which Myers participated in 1986 entitled "Early History of Nuclear Medicine;" and an interview with Georg Charles de Hevesy, who won the 1943 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Myers was an avid photographer and shot a wide variety of subjects during his lifetime. The resulting photographic prints, slides, and negatives are part of the collection. Included are images of conferences and other professional functions, scientific equipment, exhibits,

### Also in this issue

Student History of Medicine Committee	page 3
Lecture Series Announced	page 3
Recent Donations	page 4

## MYERS (continued)

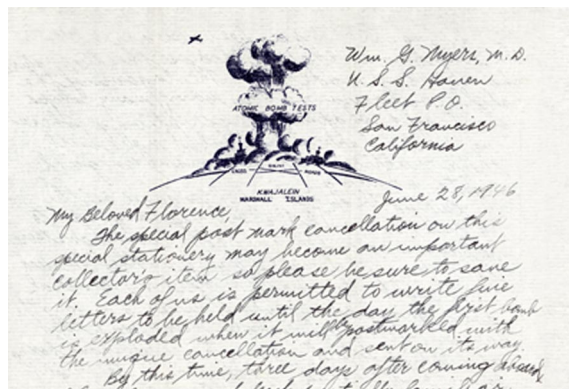
images for lectures and teaching, publication illustrations, and private life and travel. The images of scientific equipment are particularly important, as they depict experimental models of which very few images exist today. In order to identify this equipment, while there are still professionals around who can do so, the MHC has been working with Dennis Patton (past historian of the Society of Nuclear Medicine) and other professionals in the field on a photograph identification project.

Materials related to the professional associations of which Myers was a member are also strong. Pamphlets, conference documentation, organizational publications, minutes, proposals, and planning documents are included. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is especially well represented. There are also records documenting Myers's involvement with the Civil Defense Corps.

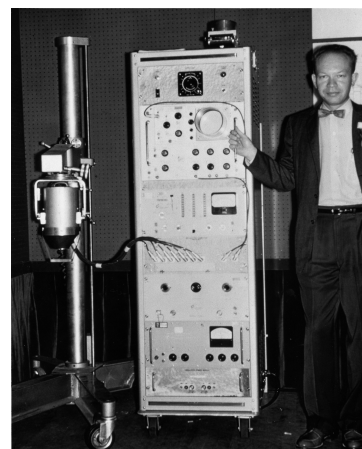
The materials in the Myers collection are in good condition today. They originally arrived in various states, some fairly pristine requiring only removal of paper clips and staples and placement into preservation housing. Other documents and photographs required repair and flattening through humidification. Solvents were required to remove some adhesive tapes. Furthermore, cleaning of photographs and x-rays was completed at the OSU Main Library Conservation Laboratory. The only work that remains to be done is preservation reformatting of cassette and reel-to-reel tapes in the collection, a project which will be undertaken at a future date.

In order to reach a wider audience, selected materials from the Myers Collection have been digitized for inclusion in the new Medical Heritage Center digital library and an online exhibit. The Medical Heritage Center (MHC) will soon launch a brand new digital library, with images from the William G. Myers, PhD, MD Collection and Columbus Hospitals. Images from more collections will be added to the digital library in the future. The digital library allows patrons to search and browse by Title, Subject and Keyword, Description, Creator, Type, and All Fields while searching across one or all collections.

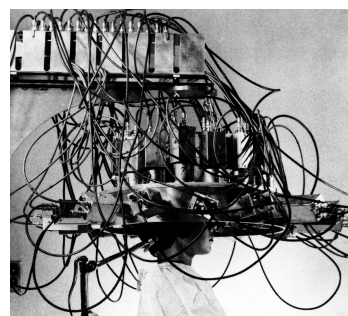
Whereas the digital library allows searchability and access to specific images, the Myers virtual exhibit provides context for the Myers collection materials that are included on MHC digital library. By explaining it in a narrative format, web exhibits help patrons understand the importance of Myers and the Myers Collection. The MHC digital library and the Myers virtual exhibit will be released to the public from the MHC's new website after its redesign and launching scheduled for late fall 2006.



Letterhead depicting the atom bomb tests of Operation Crossroads. This letter was written from Myers to his wife and was dated June 28, 1946. The letter explains that personnel were permitted to write five letters that were held until the day the first bomb was exploded. The letters were sent in envelopes with the same design as the letterhead and received a special postmark commemorating the date. (Letter from the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Collection.)



Hal O. Anger with early version of the Anger scintillation camera, which is also called a gamma camera. (Photograph from the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Collection.)



The "Head Shrinker:" one of many images of early, experimental equipment in the Myers Collection. (Photograph from the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Collection.)

# Student History of Medicine Committee Has a Successful Year

**By: Ryan Hackett, History of Medicine Committee Co-Chair**

Between lectures and lab, some students in the OSU College of Medicine are finding time to study the historical roots of health care. They are appreciating the past and gaining new perspectives as they attend events coordinated by the Medical Heritage Center and The History of Medicine Committee. Now in its second year, the History of Medicine Committee is a medical student organization that works to connect interested students with the rich historical resources on campus.

This year's events began in October with a guided tour of the Medical Heritage Center by Curator Judith Wiener, who also arranged for the group of students to have lunch with the current MHC scholar-in-residence Dr. John Burnham. Then, in February, at the release of Dr. George Paulson's latest book, students learned about the contributions of James Fairchild Baldwin, MD, to healthcare in Columbus. The James V. Warren Memorial Endowed Lecture was a chance for students to hear Nanette Maciejunes, Executive Director of the Columbus Museum of Art discuss the mix of art history and medical history behind a few well known works of art. The final event this year was a lecture and lunch where Dr. Paulson met with a large group of students and presented slides of Ohio's early hospitals, medical schools, and pioneering physician-educators.

The success of the events this year shows there is ample interest in medical history among the students. They see the value in looking back while pressing ahead with their own contributions. In response to this student support, the History of Medicine Committee plans to continue working with the Medical Heritage Center to add even more events to next year's calendar.

## ***2006-2007 Medical Heritage Center Lecture Series Announced***

The MHC is proud to announce its 2006- 2007 Lecture Series:

### **The John C. Burnham Endowed Lecture**

**Nancy Tomes, PhD**

**"Medicine and Madison Avenue"**

**October 26, 2006, reception at 4pm and lecture at 4:30-6pm**

In this lecture, Professor Tomes explores the longstanding bans against the advertising of physicians' services and prescription drugs directly to consumer-patients, and why those bans have been lifted since the early 1980s. This history illuminates the complicated relationship between advertising and information, and the long term consequences, negative as well as positive, of the tendency in the United States to confuse the two. Professor Tomes is a Professor of History at Stony Brook University. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, she received her undergraduate education at Oberlin College and the University of Kentucky, and her doctorate in American history from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Nathanial R. Coleman Memorial Endowed Lecture**

**MHC Scholar-in-Residence John C. Burnham, PhD**

**"Eras: Trying to Figure Out What Happened in American Medicine in the Twentieth Century"**

**November 16, 2006, reception at 4pm and lecture at 4:30-6pm**

During this lecture, Professor Burnham will discuss that in the century after 1900, so much happened in the scientific and social history of medicine in the United States that it is difficult to see patterns that make sense for those trying to understand these decades of the immediate past. Historians have constructed narrative sequences that summarize events in special areas, but these independent stories, such as the history of medical technology, the history of medical economics and consumerism, and the history of various biomedical sciences are remarkably dissimilar and unparallel. Burnham will analyze ways of fitting all of these divergent accounts together.

### **James V. Warren Memorial Endowed Lecture**

**Charles F. Wooley, MD**

***The Second Blessing Book Event***

**Time and date TBA**

Join us for this lecture celebrating the publication of the book, "A Second Blessing," by Charles F. Wooley and Barbara Van Brimmer. The book's publication was supported in part by grant funding through the Columbus Medical Association.

### **Annual Friends of Nursing History Lecture**

**Linda Baas, RN**

**May 10, 2007, reception at 4pm and lecture at 4:30-6pm**

Baas will trace the history of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) during this informative lecture. Held during national nursing week, the MHC will also feature nursing artifacts from its collections.

# Recent Donations

The Medical Heritage Center thanks those listed for their recent support:

Thelma Holmes, RN: Nursing Books • Karen Lane: Nursing Books • Rita Smith: Nursing Yearbooks and Book • Gloria Warren: Additions to James V. Warren Collection

## Monetary Donations

Pamela Bradigan • Dr. Robert Michael DePhilip • Mid-Ohio District Nurses Association (Friends of Nursing History Fund) • Dr. Bruce Perry Meyer • Ohio Health Care Federal Credit Union (Friends of Nursing History Fund) • Beth Malchus Stafa in recognition of David Stafa (Coleman Fund)

## HOUSE CALL

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