

# House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library

## FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



First logo of the MHC, mimicking the archway of Starling Loving Hall

## THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences is born.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Autumn 2022 | Volume 22 | Issue 2

- 1... The Medical Heritage Center Celebrates 25 Years, by Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS
- 3... Collection Highlight: Curator's Top 25
- 4... Recent Donations

## The Medical Heritage Center Celebrates 25 Years

*By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS*

In place of the Curator's Note this issue, we will look back at the history of the Medical Heritage Center in celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences is born.

### Inception

The Medical Heritage Center (MHC) opened on May 1, 1997, shortly after The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library moved back into the newly renovated Prior Hall building in October, 1996. The center began through a generous seed grant of \$300,000 from the Academy of Medicine of Columbus and Franklin County Foundation (now the Columbus Medical Association Foundation). The Ohio State University Hospitals contributed \$250,000 to complete the physical layout of the center, on the fifth floor of Prior Hall. In 1998, the Columbus Medical Association awarded the center a grant for \$50,000 to complete the furnishings.

### Leadership

The MHC is the special collections department of The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library (HSL). The center is also advised by the Medical Heritage Center Advisory Committee, which originally included many of the center's original founders and leaders. The Medical Heritage Center Advisory Committee works jointly with the Office for Health Sciences, the Columbus Medical Association and the HSL to accomplish the mission of the MHC.

### Medical Heritage Center Advisory Committee Original Members

- Philip Cass, PhD
- Louis Goorey, MD
- Edwin B. Hamilton, MD
- Susan Kroll, MLS
- Tom Lewis, MD
- Paul Metzger, MD
- Michael Mishkind, MD
- George Paulson, MD
- Ronald St. Pierre, PhD
- Barbara VanBrimmer, MLS
- Jane Witherspoon
- Charles Wooley, MD

*Continued on page 2*



# The Medical Heritage Center Celebrates 25 Years

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## Leadership, continued

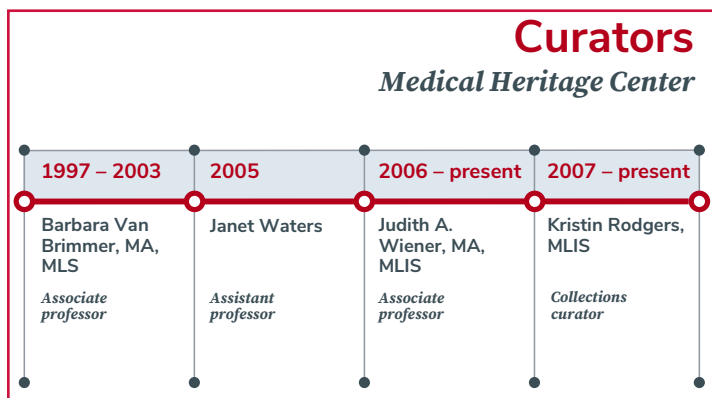
A Friends of Nursing History Steering Committee was started in 2007 and was founded by Carol Robinson, MS, RN. The committee collects, preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the legacy of nursing in central Ohio.

## Collections

Prior to the inception of the Medical Heritage Center, the Health Sciences Library already had a legacy of preserving historical collections and rare books. Sarah J. Coleman orchestrated the first special book and journal collection within the library on November 15, 1913, by donating her late husband's collection of 538 volumes and \$500. In 1922, Marietta Comly, Sarah's sister, contributed additional funds and in 1933, created the Nathaniel R. Coleman Endowment. The original book collection has expanded to encompass books and journals from Willoughby Medical College (1847–48); Starling Medical College/St. Francis Hospital (1848–1907); Ohio Medical University (1892–1907); Columbus Medical College (1876–1892); and the College of Homeopathic Medicine (1914–1922). In 1959, additional medical items were transferred from the Columbus Public Library (a Columbus Medical Association grant supported collection) to the rare books collection. On permanent loan is an important collection of dental books and journals from the Dr. John Harris Dental Museum Foundation in Bainbridge, Ohio. In 1987, the Lionel Topaz Memorial Optometry Library was absorbed into the library collection, adding rare optometry items from Dr. Richard Hall and Dr. Charles Sheard. Several items also came from the Ohio State Dental Association and the Columbus Dental Society. A collection of materials from the Red Cross Library was given to the HSL sometime in the 1950s.

### Friends of Nursing History Steering Committee Original Members

- Mary Ann Burnam, PhD, RN
- Jeanette K. Chambers, PhD, RN
- Sandra Cornett, PhD, RN
- Debbie Freece, MS, RN, CNS
- Kitty Kisker, MS, RN
- Karen Lane, MA, RN
- Kathy Peppe, MS, RN
- Carol Prince, MS, RN
- Carol Robinson, MS, RN
- Rita J. Smith, RN



The medical artifact collection began during The Ohio State University Medical Center's Centennial Celebration in 1934. At that time, the Medical Archives Committee began collecting items from individual donors that included bloodletting instruments, probes, medical bags, bedpans, Civil War surgical sets and other historical items. Many of these items remain in the MHC collection. Several unique artifacts include: Dr. George Kahn's set of rare medical coins, donated to the library in 1975; a second set of medical coins, donated in 1990 from an unknown source; and a set of 11 moulages (wax figures) donated to the library in 1986 by the Department of Dermatology, all manufactured between 1876 and 1893 in Sonneburg, Germany.

From its beginnings, the Medical Heritage Center has acquired historic material and artifacts that speak to central Ohio's rich health sciences history and add to the historical materials already present in the HSL's collection. MHC collections are housed in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment. Overall collection strengths include medicine, homeopathy, central Ohio health sciences history, nursing, optometry and dentistry. The center also has an ever-growing digital collections program to improve access and to preserve born-digital materials. To learn more about the MHC's rare books, artifacts and archives, please visit our website at [go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc).



## Scholarship

The Medical Heritage Center established a Scholar-in-Residence program in 1998. The program allows a scholar to spend up to one year within the MHC to use its resources in order to research and publish in health sciences history. Scholars are recruited and selected on an annual basis by members of the MHC Advisory Committee. Scholars come from a variety of backgrounds and provide demonstrated need for the use of MHC collections. Program participants receive dedicated space within the center and a stipend to complete their work. The program is now named the George W. Paulson, MD, Scholar-in-Residence Program, in honor of the memory of George W. Paulson, MD. Dr. Paulson was a long-time MHC scholar, founding MHC member, and extraordinary physician and local historian. Past scholars in the program have produced eight books and numerous articles, presentations and other research works.

## Programming

In addition to collections, the Medical Heritage Center hosts programs that promote the history of the health sciences. The center curates both physical and digital exhibits at the MHC and throughout campus and the community. The MHC is home to four endowed lectures per year. These include the James V. Warren,

MD, Medical Humanities Fund, the John C. Burnham Lecture Series Fund in the History of Medicine/Science (held in conjunction with the Department of History), the Grayce Sills Archive Endowment Fund, and the James R. Wright, Jr., MD, PhD, Lectureship. These lectures are always free, open to the public, and bring local as well as international scholars on a variety of health sciences history and humanities topics to the MHC. Additional programming held in the MHC includes touring exhibits, community events and tours to the public.



Barbara Van Brimmer,  
circa 2001

The MHC has grown in the past 25 years from a few historical collections to an active and thriving center. As we look into the next 25 years, we are excited about the future of the center as well as continuing to build our collections, programming and scholarly support for generations to come. We encourage you to follow MHC news on our website at [go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc).

## Collection Highlight: Curator's Top 25

*By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS*

In celebration of the Medical Heritage Center turning 25 on May 1, 2022, MHC staff chose their top 25 items to highlight throughout the year. These items are being featured on the Health Sciences Library social media accounts during our anniversary celebration year. Look for @OSUHSL on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

- Amputation Kit
- Anger Scintillation Camera
- Atlas of Surgical Operations
- Bis-Lumin
- Bleeding Bowl and Scarificator
- Celebrity Eyewear Collection
- De Humani Corporis Fabrica Libri Septem  
(On the Fabric of the Human Body in Seven Books)
- Doctor's Bag of William G. Myers
- Emerson Respirator or Iron Lung
- Here's What I Think
- Homeopathy Kit
- James Halford Warren Diploma and Medical License
- McIntosh Polysine Generator
- Medical Lecture Tickets
- Mildred Newton Stamp Collection
- Moulage Dermatology Models
- Notes on Nursing: What It Is and What It Is Not
- Ohio Medical University Scrapbook
- Ohio State University Hospitals Nursing Cape with Hood
- Optical Set of Lenses in Display Box
- Opticks: or A Treatise of the Reflexions, Refractions, Inflexions and Colours of Light
- Report Card of Dr. Arthur G. James
- Tooth Key
- Trephining Set
- Wheelchairs



## Recent Donations (December 31, 2021 to August 26, 2022)

### Material

Craig Adrain (Caducean yearbooks) • Anonymous Donor: in honor of Norma Flesher (book: Thomas Hale's Eden: Or, A Compleat Body Of Gardening) • Debbie Freece (nursing memorabilia) • Diane De Luco (additions to the OHSLA Records) • Estate of Garth F. Essig, Sr. (medical instruments) • Patricia Fertel (paper dolls) • J.T. and Jennifer Guy (books) • Steve Hines (Margaret Hines materials) • Nancy Kuhn (Lillian Singer Will materials) • Aaron Moats: given in memory of Charles V. Collier, OD, and Robert H. Miller, OD (books) • Craig Miller (book: A Time for All Things The Life of Michael E. DeBakey) • Nancy Rini (books) • Kristin Rodgers (COVID-19 masks) • Luzviminda Sinha (Ohio Hospital Association Hospital Library Manual) • Bette Jo Stempel: in memory of Laurence E. Stempel, MD (books) • Rhonda Watt (glass IV and surgical gloves) • James Wright (Bulletin of the History of Medicine)

### Financial

Ruth Pope Dangel • Eric and Debbie Freece • Farrell Hamill • Nancy Hamilton (in memory of: Robert E. Batterson, MD, Edwin Hamilton, MD, George Harding IV, MD, Bette Millhon and John Bloom Roberts, MD) • John and Anne Hohmann • Marilyn Kelley • Andrew Korsak • Karen Lane • Krzysztof Mrozek • Martin Post • Laurence and Linda Stone • Michael and Judith Wiener

## Upcoming Events

Visit our website at [go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc) for more details about upcoming events.

- October 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Medical Heritage Center Curator Open House featuring the Curator's Top 25 items from the collections at Prior Hall (376 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, 5th floor).
- November 17: John C. Burnham Lecture in the History of Medicine/Science featuring Robert Aronowitz, MD, Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, at The Ohio State University Faculty Club. Time and additional details to be announced.

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact staff at [mhcmail@osumc.edu](mailto:mhcmail@osumc.edu) or visit our website at [go.osu.edu/GiveToHSL](http://go.osu.edu/GiveToHSL)

**House Call** is published by the Medical Heritage Center, the special collections of The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library.

[go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc)

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Kristin Rodgers, circa 2017



Judith A. Wiener, circa 2001