Illustrating the History of Medicine

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Note: The opinions expressed in this presentation are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Department of Defense or the United States government.
Otis Historical Archives

OHA 229
Medical Illustration Collection

Date of Records: 1802-1960s

Size: 18 linear feet, 33 boxes

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as much as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Some of the records may contain restricted material. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

Series/Scope and Content Note: This artificial collection of medical art (completed primarily by Museum staff) includes illustrations from the nineteenth century, World War I era, the interwar period, and World War II through the 1960s. The collection is organized into three series based on chronology. Within each series the illustrations are organized by the individual artists represented. A wide range of medical subject areas include battlefield wounds, anatomical and pathological studies, hygiene and preventive medicine measures, and surgical techniques.

SERIES 001: PRE-WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

This series, limited to Box 001, consists of two 19th-century caricatures by Milton and Williams, and four post-Civil War medical illustrations by two unknown artists and Schultze.

SERIES 002: WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

This series comprises the bulk of the collection (Boxes 001-017) and includes several hundred illustrations from the following artists: Bower, Brainard, Chesney, Chickering, Conrath, Drake, Edwards, Ewald, Faber, French, Goodwin, Haneforth, Hier, Meyer, Moncure, More, O'Brien, Owens, Perry, Prior, Richardson, Schwarz, Stocking, PBS, JFS, and Wild. Box 018 contains single pieces by Butler, Lambert,
SERIES 001:
PRE-WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

Box 001: 19th-Century Caricatures and Post-Civil War Illustrations


00002: "The Tractors," C. Williams, 1802
SERIES 002: WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

Box 001: Bower, Brainard and Chesney

Illustrations by Lt. M.L. Bower:

00006: Section of Tuberculous Intestine, 1918

00007: Specimen G319, Trachea and Lungs From Dog Dying One Day After Exposure to Arsine

00008: Specimen BL40, Pneumonia Confined to One Lobe in Dog Dying 5 Days After Exposure

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SERIES 003: WORLD WAR II ILLUSTRATIONS

BOX 023: Mildred G. Burrage, Halloran General Hospital

00001: Osteomyelitis, Chronic Ethmoid, PFC Menzo M. Burt, May 1945, #1

00002: Right Eye Developed Growth, Glass Sphere Implanted, PFC Buddy G. Sharp, March 1945, #2

00003: Appearance Following Plastic Operation on Left Upper Lid, PFC Menzo M. Burt, June 1945, #3
Mayer, Summers, Thayer, and Waters. Boxes 019-022 include nearly 100 illustrations by unknown artists.

SERIES 003: POST-WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

This series (Boxes 023-032) includes a series of illustrations by Burrage, Cleare, Dorne, Gibbons, Jex, Jones, Netter, Simpkin, and Wilson. Boxes 031-033 contain single pieces by Askey, Childs, Day, Hadden, Hollis, Potter, Smith, and Sturm along with a limited number of illustrations by unknown artists.

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SERIES 001: PRE-WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

Box 001: 19th-Century Caricatures and Post-Civil War Illustrations

Box 001: Post-Civil War Era Illustrations

SERIES 002: WORLD WAR I ERA ILLUSTRATIONS

Box 001: Bower, Brainard and Chesney

Box 002: Chesney, Chickering and Conrath

Box 003: Drake, Edwards and Ewald

Box 004: F.F. Faber

Box 005: French

Box 006: Goodwin

Box 007: Handforth, Hier, Meyer, Moncure, More, O'Brien and Owens

Box 008: J.J. Owens

Box 009: E.S. Perry [1 of 2]

Box 010: E.S. Perry [2 of 2]

Box 011: F.E. Prior [1 of 3]

Box 012: Prior [2 of 3]

Box 013: Prior [3 of 3] (Oversized)

Box 014: Richardson [1 of 2]

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Heart and Lung of A Dog Following Exposure to Poison Gas

Thoracic Organs of a Dog Exposed to Superpalite

Specimens from Animal Experiments
Pathological Specimens

Encephalitis After Gunshot Wound

Heart Showing Endocarditis
Chemical Burns and Skin Conditions

Lymphoblastic Erythrodermia

Mustard Gas Burns
Gangrene of the Foot

Gangrene of the Appendix
Machine Gun Bullet Lodged in Pulmonary Artery

Gunshot Wound with Abscess

Box 20, Folder 11

Box 5, Folder 14
Facial Graft

Surgery to Repair Nerve Damage
Varieties of Surgical Procedures and Treatments
Varieties of Pathological Specimens
• Finding aids for collections with visual materials can be immeasurably more valuable by embedding those images

• Finding aids with artwork can be more useful not only if they are arranged chronologically and by individual artist, but also if they are searchable by subject or type

• Although time consuming, creating these types of finding aids will increase the value and use of collections