



**Newsletter of the Society of American Archivists
Science, Technology, and Health Care Roundtable**

Contents

Summer 2015

Message From the Co-Chairs...1

Message From the Co-Chairs

Around and About Archives.....3

**Conferences, Meetings, and
Workshops.....5**

**Dawne Howard Lucas
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

Articles

**Nora Murphy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

**The Fairchild Archives at
Fairchild Tropical Botanic
Garden.....6**

**Book Review: *The Newton
Papers*.....8**

**Whatever Duke Has, North
Carolina Must Have.....9**

About the Authors.....12

**Steering Committee Members
(2014-2015).....13**

Dear STHC Roundtable Members,

Get involved and make new connections at this year's Science, Technology, and Healthcare (STHC) Roundtable meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting at the Cleveland Convention Center.

As your calendar fills up with tours of Cleveland's many wonderful museums, libraries, and archives, be sure to leave room on Friday afternoon to attend the STHC roundtable meeting! The STHC Roundtable will meet on Friday, August 21st, from 4:30 to 6:00 in Room 13, on the Exhibit Hall level of the conference center.

We will begin the meeting with a program session (detailed descriptions below) and an update on the Medical Heritage Library. The session will conclude with the business meeting.

(continued)

STHC Roundtable 2015 Meeting

**Friday, August 21, 2015, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Room 13 (Exhibit Hall Level)
Cleveland Convention Center**

Program Presentations, 4:30-5:30:

Eleanor Brown (North Carolina State University): New Directions and Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships in Preserving the History of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center at NCSU

This presentation will focus on innovative approaches to documenting and archiving existing and emerging scientific technologies through video oral histories available on the World Wide Web. In 2014, the multidisciplinary Genetic Engineering and Society Center (GES) established "The History Project." This initiative was conceived to engage and challenge scientists, historians, public policy experts and archivists to actively collaborate, archive and preserve the history of agricultural genetic engineering and biotechnology in a "real time" environment using digital video interviews. The interviews are conducted with leading pioneers, practitioners and those with alternative opinions concerning the impact of agricultural biotechnology on society. "The History Project" builds on a similar video project: the NCSU Libraries' "Computer Simulation Archive" which was established in 2003 with the support of pioneers in the field and associated professional institutes and conferences.

Glynn Edwards (Stanford University): Augmented Exploration of Library Videogame Holdings by Techniques from Computational Linguistics

Large collections often present a challenge for researchers and patrons wishing to locate disparate items that are related in ways not revealed through standard archival discovery methods, or that are too nuanced for any single archivist to consider. For physical software collections this is even more difficult, due to the need to execute software to understand its use and visual appearance. In a joint collaboration between Stanford University Library's Department of Special Collections and UC Santa Cruz's Center for Games and Playable Media, we present GameNet, a tool for exploring the implicit relationships between computer and video game software items in Stanford's Cabrinety Collection on the History of Microcomputing.

Work on this project is being done by the following people at UC Santa Cruz:

Eric Kaltman, PhD Candidate in Computer Science

James Ryan, PhD Student in Computer Science
Timothy Hong, undergraduate student in Computer Science

Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Associate Professor of Computational Media

Dawne Lucas (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): Using Medical Instruments in Material Culture

For the past two semesters, an English composition class has used medical instruments from UNC's Health Sciences Library to complete a material culture blog post assignment. Each student selected one instrument from the Health Sciences Library's collection, and then did research about the instrument to provide historical context. Outstanding papers were eligible to be posted on the library's website. A close working relationship between the Special Collections Librarian and the English instructor has allowed this assignment to evolve in order to enhance the undergraduate student experience on the health affairs side of campus.

Medical Heritage Library Update

Business Meeting, 5:30-6:00

Adjourn, 6:00

Our chief concern is to ensure that the STHC Roundtable reflects the interests of its participants. We welcome all suggestions relating to the above topics or concerning any other issues members might like to see addressed at our meetings. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us:

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Around and About Archives

Guide to the Records of the American Anthropological Association Now Available

Alan Bain
National Anthropological Archives

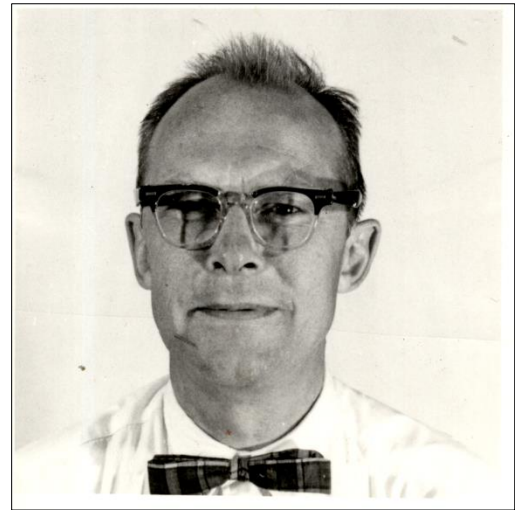
A guide to the records of the American Anthropological Association (331 pages) was published in April 2015. The records of the Association (174 linear feet) are housed in the National Anthropological Archives. The records include information from the founding of the organization in 1902 to 2007. The earliest records are relatively limited in content and not until 1920 do they start to fully document AAA's activities. In 1947, AAA created what became a robust secretariat, which would fully administer the organization and maintain detailed accounts. Presidents began transferring their organizational files to the secretariat and later, directly to the National Anthropological Archives when the latter was selected in 1972 as the official repository for its records. Included in the records is information on the censure of Franz Boas, AAA's support for its members who were discharged from their duties because of allegations of being Communists, racism in America, the question of research and ethics and the activities of anthropologists in the field, world-wide counter-insurgency support by anthropologists in Latin America and Southeast Asia, and the status of women anthropologists in the academic community. The guide is available at <http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/fa/aaa.pdf> and also by contacting Alan Bain at baina@si.edu.

James Van Gundia Neel Papers

Andrew Lippert
American Philosophical Society

After 9 months of intensive work, the [papers of James Van Gundia Neel](#) have been processed and are available to researchers. James Neel was a pioneering member of the emerging field of human population genetics in the second half of the 20th century. He is most widely known for his collaborations with Napoleon Chagnon researching the Yanomami and Xavante tribes in

the Brazilian and Venezuelan Amazon. Neel was also deeply interested in the genetic health of populations and conducted research with the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in the wake of the atomic bombings in Japan at the end of World War II. Further research interests of Neel included chemical mutagenesis, consanguinity, and heredity.



James Van Gundia Neel
Image courtesy of the American Philosophical Society

This collection has much to offer to the study of the history of science and will complement our other holdings related to the study of genetics such as L. C. Dunn and Curt Stern. The collection amounts to 115 linear feet and contains extensive documentation of Neel's professional life including correspondence, drafts of his published works, and his participation in numerous committees and organizations.

See the [full finding aid for the Neel Papers here](#).

Now Online: Back Issues of *Provenance* and *Georgia Archive*¹

Cheryl Oestreicher
Editor, *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists*
Boise State University

When I took over as the editor of *Provenance* in January 2012, the idea of putting back issues online was an ongoing project. In 2002, *Provenance* published Linda Matthews' (former editor of *Georgia Archive*) proposal for an electronic journal, including these select points:

- "Electronic publishing would enhance the recognition and readership of *Provenance* by making it more visible and useful to readers throughout the world, likely increasing the number of submissions for publication.
- The full text of the journal from its first to current issues could be made fully searchable online.
- Users would be able to print those articles of immediate use without having to give shelf space to the whole issue or many issues.
- The Society of Georgia Archivists could be in the forefront of the archives world in making its journal accessible to a worldwide audience and searchable through the Web."²

Matthews noted that when David B. Gracy II founded *Georgia Archive* in 1972, "archivists had little professional literature beyond *American Archivist*."³ Now, all past issues of *Georgia Archive* (1972-1982) and *Provenance* (1982-2013) are available online:

<http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/>. Browsing the sixty issues shows advancements in technology, trends, ideas, practices, and theories that are core to the archival profession.

There is a wealth of knowledge published in these journals in the past forty-two years that contribute greatly to archival scholarship. Subjects of articles include academic archives, access, appraisal, archival administration, archival education, arrangement, automation, cataloging, collection

development, congressional papers, description, electronic records, ethics, GLBT collections, government records, indexing, information management, military archives, Native Americans, oral history, photographs, preservation, presidential libraries, privacy, processing, records management, religious archives, use and users, user studies, volunteers, and women's archives and history. Of course, the journals also cover some very specific topics, such as circus records, folklore collections, Grand Turk Island, internet gopher, and Project Jukebox.

There are several articles that contribute to the discussion of science, health, and technology collections. Examples include:

- Ronald E. Raven, "Food for Thought: Rescuing Our Agrarian Heritage," *Georgia Archive* 6 no. 2 (1978).
- Hugh A. Taylor, "The Media of Record: Archives in the Wake of McLuhan," *Georgia Archive* 6 no. 1 (1978).
- Karen Benedict, "Archives, Automation, and National Networking: Is There a Future?," *Georgia Archive* 8 no. 2 (1980).
- Richard M. Kesner, "Computers, Archival Administration, and the Challenges of the 1980s," *Georgia Archive* 9 no. 2 (1981).
- Alan K. Lathrop, "The Archivist and Architectural Records," *Georgia Archive* 5 no. 2 (1977).
- Peter B. Hirtle, "Artificial Intelligence, Expert Systems, and Archival Automation," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 5 Iss. 1 (1987).
- Susan A. Chapdelaine, "Short Subjects: The Paperless Office: Hope for the Future or a Grand Illusion?," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 6 Iss. 2 (1988).
- Kurt X. Metzmeier, "The Ethics of Disclosure: The Case of the Brown and Williamson Cigarette Papers," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 15 Iss. 1 (1997).
- David Klaassen, "The Provenance of Social Work Case Records: Implications for Archival Appraisal and Access," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 1 Iss. 1 (1983).
- Laura Botts and Lauren Kata, "Are the Digital Natives Restless? Reaching Out to the Ne(x)t Generation," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 24 Iss. 1 (2006).

(continued)

¹ A version of this article originally appeared in the July/August 2014 issue of *Archival Outlook*.

² Linda Matthews, "Bringing *Provenance* to a Wider Audience," *Provenance* 20 (2002): 18.

³ *Ibid.*, 15.

- Allison M. Hudgins, "Preservation of the Video Game," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 29 Iss. 1 (2011).

interest and I know that both *Provenance* and *Georgia Archive* will be instrumental in future education and scholarship.

As of February 2015, there were over 23,000 views and downloads. I am thrilled to see such a high

Conferences, Meetings, and Workshops

The Science, Technology, and Health Care Roundtable will be meeting on Friday, August 21, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Room 13 (Exhibit Hall Level) of the Cleveland Convention Center. STHC will host three presentations: the first by Eleanor Brown of North Carolina State University; the second by Glynn Edwards of Stanford University; and the third by Dawne Lucas of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For the full agenda see "[Message from the Co-Chairs](#)".

Pre-Conference Tours/Open Houses:

For information on pre-conference tours see: <https://archives2015.sched.org/overview/type/tours+and+service+projects#.Vbv23GdOWM8>

For the full SAA program, please see the following: <http://www2.archivists.org/am2015#.Vbv282dOWM9>

STHC-Themed Programs:

Please be sure to read the abstracts for other sessions, because we might have missed some.

STHC Roundtable Meeting

4:30 – 6 p.m., Friday, August 21st
Room 13

P13. Central Arizona Project: Bringing Water and Life to the Arizona Desert

1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., Thursday, August 20
Ballroom Level

307. It STEMS from Us: Engaging in Archival Outreach with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Students

10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Friday, August 21
Room 22

506. The Archives as Data Set: Creating Opportunities for Big Data Through Archival Access and Description

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., Friday, August 10
Room 21

607. Research Data Management: A Space Where Archivists Belong

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., Saturday, August 22
Room 21

704. A Different Type of Animal? Advocating for Natural Science Archives

10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Saturday, August 22
Room 25C

Articles

The Fairchild Archives at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, Florida

Janet Mosely Latham
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG) is home to an archive which houses the papers and photographs of botanist and renowned plant explorer Dr. David G. Fairchild. The Archive is in a room of the William Robbins Science Building (see Fig. 1) which houses the Montgomery Research Library, the Fairchild Herbarium, and the offices of the American Orchid Society. The Archive room was named the Bertram Zuckerman Garden Archive in 1994 to honor longtime Fairchild volunteer Bert Zuckerman but is commonly known as the Fairchild Archives. Beginning in 1984, Zuckerman oversaw the process of gathering the records of Dr. Fairchild as well as the records of the history of the Garden. There are fourteen other collections in this archive which form a unique historic record of the history of US agriculture, botany and plant exploration.⁴



Fig. 1 Entrance to the William J. Robbins Building, part of the Kushlan Tropical Science Institute, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Photo courtesy Lynda L. La Rocca.

David G. Fairchild (1869-1954) was an internationally renowned botanist and plant explorer whose plant collecting career took him to every continent except Antarctica. He worked as an Agricultural Explorer for the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) and from 1903-1928 served as Chief of the Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Section. In 1903, he also met Gilbert Grosvenor (1875-1966) who invited him to speak to the National Geographic Society on his recent expedition to Baghdad. Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was in the audience and invited him to "Wednesday Evenings" at the Bell home. These were weekly salons hosted by Bell that were well attended by the leading scientific minds of that time. Fairchild married Marian, Bell's youngest daughter, in 1905 and, as Fairchild stated in his memoir *The World Was My Garden*, "...it was to be my good fortune to join this interesting family circle." Marian Bell Hubbard Fairchild accompanied her husband on his travels and from 1906 through 1948 they spanned the world looking for new plants to enhance American agriculture.

The David Fairchild Collection consists primarily of approximately 20,000 images, 478 pocket notebooks, twenty-two scrapbooks, nineteen USDA Travel Reports, three Field Notebooks, approximately 62 Plant Accession Notebooks and over 30,000 letters of correspondence.

The core of the David Fairchild Collection is the images, which include photographs, negatives, and lantern slides. The images represent an incredible pictorial record of the history of US plant exploration and introduction spanning the late 1890s through the 1940s. In the early 2000s, Librarian/Archivist Nancy Korber began the process of properly cataloging these images according to archival standards. Since then, Korber and a small group of dedicated volunteers have scanned and indexed approximately 12,000 images into a searchable database. (See Fig. 2 and 3)

(continued)

⁴ For a complete list of all archival collections at FTBG, please see end of article.

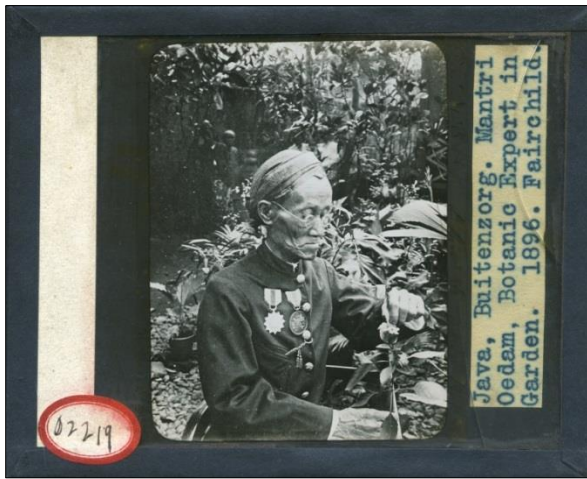


Fig. 2. Mantri Oedam, Head Gardener of Botanic Garden of Buitenzorg, Java. Taken in 1896 by David Fairchild. This lantern slide was probably used by Fairchild in lectures. Photo courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. David Fairchild Collection.

Among Fairchild's many talents was that of organization and meticulous record keeping. Throughout his career he kept little red pocket notebooks in which he would jot down reminders to himself, addresses of people he met or was referred to, recipes, market prices, notes on plants collected as well as a record of the photos he took. These pocket notebooks date from 1892 to 1954. (See Fig. 4 and 5) Along with these notebooks, Fairchild also created scrapbooks, of which the archive has twenty-two that date from 1924 to 1944. Twenty-one of these scrapbooks illustrate the Allison V. Armour Expeditions from 1924 to 1932 and the remaining is of the Fairchild's 1944 trip to Guatemala.

Of further interest are the USDA Travel Reports which are the official reports of trips Fairchild took between 1912 and 1930 on behalf of the USDA. They are bound in green leather and contain photographs and text. To date, these photographs have not been scanned or indexed. There are also three Field Notebooks which cover 1921-1923; August to November 1924; and 1925 to 1932. Fairchild referred to these either as Field Notebook, Field Diary or Desk Book. Upon reading them, it appears they were meant to be Desk Notebooks for his microscope studies but were sometimes taken on expeditions as well. A few years ago, volunteers discovered a box which contained approximately 62 Plant Accession Notebooks which record plant accessions made in the field.



Fig. 3. Harold Loomis on Isla Beata, off Haiti with recently collected *Coccothrinax ekmanii*. January 17, 1932. Photo courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. David Fairchild Collection.

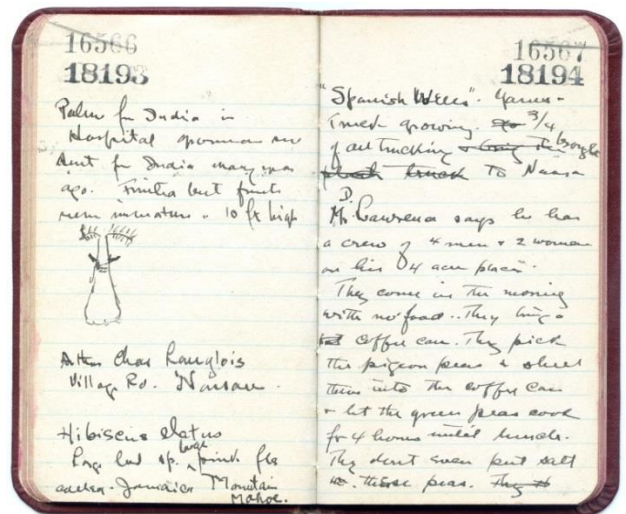


Fig. 4. A page from David Fairchild's pocket notebook from the 1932 Allison V. Armour Expedition to the West Indies. Photo courtesy of the author.

(continued)



Fig. 5. A sampling of David Fairchild's pocket notebooks.
Photo courtesy of the author.

Fairchild's correspondence is rich with information pertaining to his work with the USDA and the establishment of plant introduction gardens; the problems of plant patenting; seed distribution; record keeping on plant introductions; and the establishment of the Everglades National Park, Chapman Field Subtropical Horticultural Research Station and the Fairchild Garden. He corresponded with USDA Agricultural Explorers such as P.H. Dorsett, Frank N. Meyer, Wilson Popenoe, Walter T. Swingle, E.D. Merrill, and many others. His personal correspondence contains letters from family and close friends such as Gilbert Grosvenor, Alexander

Graham Bell, Barbour Lathrop, Allison V. Armour, Gutzon Borglum, Henri Pittier, Leo Baekeland, Thomas Barbour, Herbert Hoover, Charles Deering, Edward Clarence Dean and many others.

The Archive is available by appointment to researchers and scholars. Please contact library@fairchildgarden.org.

FTBG Collections

- David Fairchild Collection
- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Collection
- Ann Archbold or Cheng Ho Expedition Collection
- George N. Avery Collection
- George B. Cellon Collection
- Donovan S. Correll Collection
- Frank C. Craighead, Sr. Collection
- Priscilla K.S. Fawcett Collection
- Thomas F. Kilkinny Collection
- Arthur C. Langlois Collection
- Robert H. Montgomery Collection
- John Popenoe Collection
- J. Paul Scurlock Collection
- John Kunkel Small Collection
- Nixon Smiley Collection
- Dent Smith Collection

Book Review: *The Newton Papers:* *The Strange and True Odyssey of Isaac Newton's Manuscripts* Sarah Dry

**Krysten Hanson, Graduate Student
San Jose State University, School of Information**

Typically when one thinks of Sir Isaac Newton they think only of the genius, the scientist, and the mathematician, focusing on the man who invented calculus and brought the theory of gravity to the world's attention. These are only a part of the overall story of Newton and his intellectual interests. In Sarah Dry's book *The Newton Papers* there is a deeper exploration of the wide range of intellectual interests that occupied Newton's mind during his life. Along with this deeper exploration of Newton's interests, the book also charts the changes in the social fabric of England, and, to some extent, on mainland Europe from the time of Newton's death to the present. Dry focuses on the social, scientific,

archival management and religious changes during this time period. All of this is framed in the discussion of the handling of the papers Newton left behind after his death.

The choices Newton made of what papers to leave behind was deliberate. His papers have gone on an extensive journey, only having been truly brought out for public consumption and fully cataloged within the last fifty years or so. Many of his theological studies were very controversial, leading his surviving family and proponents who have gone

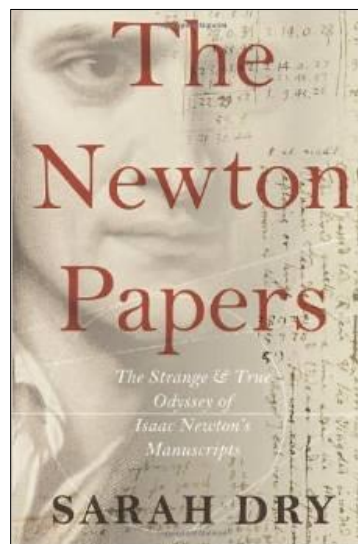
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through his unpublished papers to keep them out of the public eye until relatively recently. It turns out that Newton studied a wide range of subjects including theology, history, and alchemy (chemistry's precursor), as well as his well-known works in science and mathematics. This fuller understanding of Newton's interests brings with it a fuller understanding of the man himself: a man dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

The story of Newton's papers also brings a better understanding of the development of archival and manuscript management within England during this time period. It is interesting to see the shift from the management of manuscripts and records by the aristocracy, passed from one generation to the next, to the management of these documents centered in government and educational institutions, as is familiar to us today. As the aristocracy started to crumble, the central

government and educational institutions saw the need to preserve the gems their libraries held for the future. The story is a fascinating and educational read, touching on and examining the interrelationships of a wide variety of subjects,

including science, history, theology, and, of course, Newton.



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Whatever Duke Has, North Carolina Must Have (In This Case, Finding Aids for Medical Instrument Collections)

Rachel Ingold, Duke University
Dawne Lucas, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Introduction¹

At the 2007 annual meeting of Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS), the University of Virginia's (UVA) Joan Echtenkamp Klein presented "Now Appearing in 3-D on the Web: Medical Artifacts."² In addition to UVA, numerous institutions, including Virginia Commonwealth University, East Carolina University, and Yale University, have made their medical artifact collections accessible online since Klein's

talk.³ Making these collections accessible to the public is a worthy, yet challenging task. This paper explores the benefits and challenges faced by two neighboring institutions: Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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¹ In 2005, the historian Walter E. Campbell gave a lecture to UNC's Bullitt History of Medicine Club and Duke's Trent History of Medicine Society titled "Whatever Duke Has, North Carolina Must Have: Reflections on the Academic Medical Centers at Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill." The joke is that UNC must now have a finding aid for its medical instrument collection that is just as good as the one Duke has.

² A full schedule of the 2007 meeting is available in the ALHHS quarterly publication *The Watermark*, Vol. XXX, No. 1 (Winter 2006-2007).

³ University of Virginia:

http://search.lib.virginia.edu/catalog?f%5Bdigital_collection_facet%5D%5B%5D=University+of+Virginia+Medical+Artifacts+Collection&search_field=keyword&sort=score+desc%2C+year_multisort_i+desc;

Virginia Commonwealth University:

<http://dig.library.vcu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/mar;>

East Carolina University:

<https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/search.aspx?q=collection:Artifacts&fq=collection:%22Country%20Doctor%20Museum%22;>

Yale University:

[http://cushing.med.yale.edu/gsd/collect/medinst/.](http://cushing.med.yale.edu/gsd/collect/medinst/)

Duke University

The History of Medicine Collections (HoM), located in Duke University's David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, holds numerous rare materials, including printed books, manuscripts, and a large collection of more than 850 medical instruments and artifacts. Originating as part of Duke University's Medical Library (DUMCL), the HoM moved to become part of the Rubenstein Library (RL) in 2011. This move provided resources to provide additional access and description to the medical instruments and artifacts collection.

While part of the DUMCL, HoM curatorial staff, including a dedicated intern, devoted time and experience to photograph the instruments and artifacts and create metadata for an internal inventory in Past Perfect, a commonly used museum database. Although this system enabled HoM staff members to access the materials, which were stored onsite in archival boxes or in original cases in a climate-controlled locked stacks area, they were largely undiscoverable by the public, with the exception of materials used for exhibits and displays.

The relocation of the HoM from the DUMCL to the RL provided more processing staff, offering an opportunity for the instrument and artifact collection to become part of the technical services workflow. Becoming part of this workflow meant that the instruments and artifacts would be described, made findable by the public, and accessible in the reading room. A dedicated conservation staff in the Duke University Libraries (DUL) has aided in providing protective enclosures for items as well, although time and resources prevent all items from having their own protective enclosures at this time.

Due to the nature of the collection and pre-existing metadata, technical services staff determined that a finding aid would be ideal to describe and make accessible the variety of materials in this collection. The finding aid model allows materials to be grouped by donor and searchable by keyword.

A challenge of proceeding with this project was that this collection was impacted by the move from the DUMCL and an RL renovation project, meaning that the items had to be moved yet again. With such a short amount of time to pack and relocate materials within the RL and simultaneously work toward making the materials accessible to the public, items were grouped in boxes based on size

and space rather than by donor or housing similar materials together.

The Visual Materials Processing Archivist worked with the HoM curator to determine how best to move forward with the project. The first step was to inventory each box and create labels based on box contents. The Curator and Visual Materials Processing Archivist verified the accuracy of the box inventory against a spreadsheet containing imported Past Perfect metadata. Once all items were accounted for and metadata cleaned up, the Visual Materials Processing Archivist created the finding aid (Figure 1).⁴

(continued)



Figure 1. Screenshot of the Rubenstein Library's Guide to the History of Medicine artifacts collection.

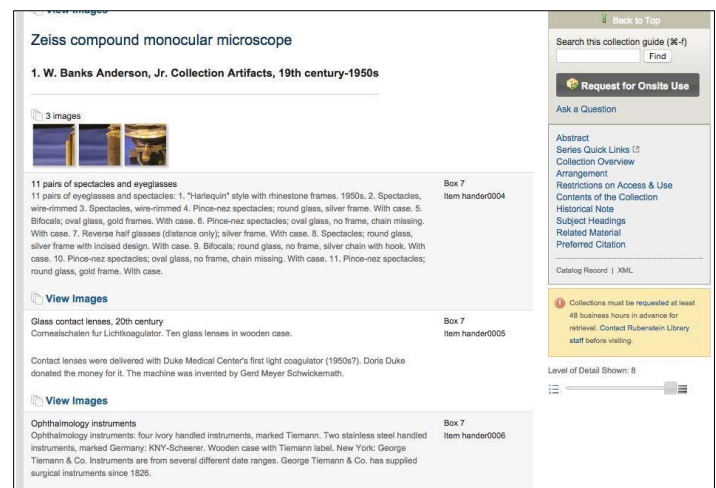


Figure 2. Screenshot of the Rubenstein Library's Guide to the History of Medicine artifacts collection, with examples of images.

The HoM Curator strongly urged that photographs taken for the Past Perfect database be included in the finding aid (Figure 2). The DUL Digital Collections team, including staff from DUL's Digital Production Center (DPC), Digital Projects Department (DPD), and the Archivist for Metadata and Encoding from the RL, all contributed to ensuring the images were included in the finding aid. Multiple photographs existed for each item, and the intention was to include all of them. Including the photographs of items has proved extremely useful for researchers. Including a ruler in future photos for providing scale would give an accurate sense of scale.

The RL uses Aeon, an online user request system that allows users to request materials via the catalog. Within twenty-four hours of the finding aid being posted, an undergraduate student made a request to access several items for a research paper. The finding aid has also proven highly effective in working with Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) students. A number of graduate students, faculty, and travel grant applicants have expressed interest in consulting the instruments for a range of research projects.

Presently, the boxes are not barcoded, meaning requests need the HoM Curator as mediator. Although the goal is for every item to be boxed by the DUL's Conservation department, items are given individual protective enclosures based on use and Conservation's available time and resources. Once every item is boxed, the goal is to barcode each box, thus allowing an item to be requested individually by a user without staff mediation. The HoM also continues to consider donations of instruments and artifacts. As with other manuscript collections, there are potential additional accessions to this collection.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Eight miles west of Duke, The Health Sciences Library (HSL) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) also has a collection of medical instruments and pharmacy items, primarily dating from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s. Highlights include a Civil War-era surgical instrument kit and a small collection of instruments owned by former UNC Department of Pathology chair James Bell Bullitt. Many of the items came to the Health Sciences Library from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) and from the office of a former small-town Virginia doctor; however, the provenance of many of the items is unknown.

In the 1980s, the HSL hired an employee to inventory this collection; however, records indicate that the

inventory was never completed. Prior to building renovation in the early 2000s, a staff member carefully wrapped and boxed all of the items, meaning that even the completed portions of the inventory were no longer useful. Although the staff member labeled each box with a general description of the contents, finding specific items often proved challenging (Figure 3). For example, students looking for Civil War-era medical equipment to install in an exhibit in UNC's Wilson Special Collections Library were unable to positively identify any items other than the aforementioned surgical instrument kit.⁵



Figure 3. Top: Box of wrapped medical instruments, labeled "Small boxed sets/cases." Bottom: Individually wrapped medical instruments.

(continued)

⁵ For more information about this exhibit, see <http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/news/index.php/2014/04/imaging-the-u-s-civil-war-1861-1900/>.

During the spring of 2014, a graduate student went through the entire collection and created a more comprehensive inventory. Although not entirely complete, staff members can now use this inventory to locate individual items. In the spring of 2015, another graduate student created a finding aid for the collection, which will be published later this year. The finding aid will have the same structure as Duke's finding aid, with items being grouped by provenance instead of by instrument type. The Special Collection Librarian's long-term goal is to have the entire collection photographed, and then make the photographs accessible via the finding aid. This project will require collaboration with UNC's Digital Production Center. The success of Duke's finding aid means that it can be used as a solid example of a desired deliverable.

Although the finding aid is not yet publicly available, the more descriptive inventory has already proved useful. For the past two semesters, the Special Collections Librarian has worked with an English composition class on a material culture blog post assignment. Each student selects one

instrument from the collection, and then does research about the instrument to provide historical context. Without the updated inventory, identifying appropriate instruments for the entire class would have been too time consuming, and the Special Collections Librarian would not have proposed the assignment. Once the finding aid is available, students will have a larger role in selecting the instruments, as they will be able to see a thorough list of the collection.

Conclusion

Providing increased access to medical instrument and artifact collections at Duke and UNC has proved that these materials have research value and can be used for more than exhibits. Although creating proper description for these items can be challenging, institutions with similar collections should consider doing so if they have not already. Identifying a similar successful project can create buy-in from stakeholders, especially if the successful project was completed by your rival institution.⁶

⁶ We kid, we kid. Kind of.

About the Authors

Krysten Hanson is a Graduate Student at San Jose State University's School of Information working towards a Master's degree in Archives and Records Administration.

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