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PICTURE COLLECTION IN THE
ARMY FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY





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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Picture Collection In The Army Medical Library

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THE Army Medical Library Picture Collection, begun many years ago, is now being re-cataloged and developed, in order that it may be of greater use to those seeking pictorial material on medicine and on people associated with medicine.

At present the collection consists of some 15,000 items, chiefly prints and photographs, including over 12,000 portraits of medical men of all ages and countries.

Nearly all the great names in the history of medicine are represented in this portrait collection. For example, there are likenesses of such noted men of the past as Aristotle, Galen, Guy de Chauliac, Hippocrates, and Harvey, to pick at random some of the earlier names; as well as those of a later date such as Billings, Currie, Darwin, Pasteur, Reed, and many others. There are also to be found portraits of little known subjects, and certain rare prints, which may be just what some research scholar is seeking. One individual is often portrayed by various engravers, in different media (woodcut, etching, lithograph, etc.), in different poses, and at various ages—sometimes as many as 15 to 30 likenesses of a single subject. The catalog gives details about each print, including full name, dates if possible, medium and inscription, brief description of subject, size (if oversize), and identification number.

Besides these portraits in prints and photographs, the Army Medical Library has a collection of over 30 large portraits in oil, most of which hang in the reading room. An article entitled, "A Portrait Gallery of Physicians" by Colonel Harold W. Jones, first published in 1937, in *Annals of Medical History*,¹ describes the portraits of such physicians as Joseph K. Barnes, John Shaw Billings (painted by Cecilia Beaux), Fielding Garrison, William Gorgas (by Alexander James), Philip Syng Physick (by Benjamin West), and others who "have done something in the world."

A series of 19th Century caricatures of "Men of the Day," from *Vanity Fair*, published by Vincent Brooks, Day & Son, represent the clever

¹Jones, Harold W. A portrait gallery of physicians. *Ann. Med. Hist.*, 9: 517-532, 1937.

work of the cartoonists Spy, Ape, Quiz, Imp, Ray, and Stuff, in mimicking great doctors of that period.

There are over 300 medical caricatures, chiefly French and English, depicting miseries of human life, quackery, mesmerism, facial distortions (grimaces), customs of the time, ridicule of the doctor, etc. The caricatures are for the most part hand-colored lithographs and etchings—by artists like Boilly, Cruikshank, Daumier, Hogarth, and Rowlandson, to mention the best.

Among the medical subjects, the following categories may be mentioned: illustrations of operating techniques, of effects of diseases; diagrammatic and cutaway illustrations of the anatomic structure of the human body; "fugitive sheets"; early woodcuts; a 17th century broadside entitled *Dance of Death* by Altenbach; photostat of the 16th century broadside *Map of Mortalite* in the Huntington Library; pictures of medical institutions, medical instruments and apparatus; pictorial records of medical work during the Civil War (including lithographs in color by Charles Magnus and photographs by Matthew Brady), the Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II; posters, maps, and charts.

As an historical record of medicine, the picture collection offers material not readily available elsewhere. The operations required to catalog the pictures, such as editing captions, deciphering the terms and abbreviations used on early prints, identifying the names of engravers, and establishing correct name entries, require a considerable amount of research, even for a person well acquainted in the field of art.

The Army Medical Library Manual (arranged under 14 different headings) covers the operations followed in the Art Section. In many instances these procedures may be practical help in cataloging and servicing other collections of similar pictorial material. The following quotations are taken from the Manual:

Scope of the Art Section

The Art Section will include all varieties of pictorial material (oil paintings, watercolors, sculpture, prints, photographs, caricatures, cartoons, posters, broadsides, maps, charts, negatives, cuts, slides, etc.) relating to the field of medical science and to persons associated with medicine.

Posters, advertisements, etc., which are not of artistic or historic value, but which are to be preserved, will be processed as "boxed material" in the general collection.

In addition to its art books, the Section will contain also such reference books as are required for its work.

The catalogs of the Section will provide an index to the materials in the Art Section and to related material located elsewhere.

General outline of work

Receiving

- a. New material will be examined for suitability of inclusion in collection.
- b. If unsuitable, (i. e. substandard in physical form or outside the scope of the collection) the material will be segregated, pending decision to discard or replace.
- c. If suitable, the pictures will be searched to determine which are duplicates (these will be segregated pending exchange).
- d. Non-duplicates will be sorted roughly by type of material and counted.

Recording

- a. Information about each picture will be added to preliminary work card. A sample is given below:

PORTRAIT:

MEDIUM:

DATE:

POSE:

NOTES:



- b. A temporary identification number will be assigned to the picture and added to its card record.
- c. Identification labels will be prepared by typist from work cards.
- d. Cards will be filed.

Mounting of pictures

General

Pictures will be cleaned and repaired by the Binding Studio at the time they are mounted.

Picture mounts will measure 11¼" x 15¼" and 14" x 18".

As each picture is mounted its temporary identification number will be pencilled lightly on mount. The picture label will be pasted on back of mount in upper left corner and stamped with special AML stamp.

Photographs

a. Photographs will be pasted on four edges when there is no factual information on the back of the picture. A name not in the autograph of the subject will not be regarded as factual information if the picture is autographed on the front. In the absence of an autograph, a name on the back will be preserved and any additional information regarding the person pictured will also be preserved.

b. Whenever there is information on the back of the picture which must be preserved, the picture will be hinged either at the top or at the side.

c. Information which may accompany a portrait will be pasted on the back of the mount.

d. Portraits on heavy mounts, or so large that mounting is unnecessary, will be preserved "as is."

Prints

a. Prints will be tipped on mount at top edges of prints.

b. The finest prints will be mounted with hinged face mat and hinged at top to back of mount with gummed linen tape.

*Catalogs and special files in Art Section**Union catalog of portraits*

This union catalog now contains references to portraits in the John Crerar Library, New York Academy of Medicine Library, The College of Physicians Library (Philadelphia), Northwestern University Medical School Library and the Jefferson Medical College Library, Philadelphia. The catalog was begun in 1941 by filming copies of the portrait files in the first three libraries.

Cards for portraits in journals, prepared in the Index-Catalogue Division, also are included in the Union Catalog.

Portrait catalog

This catalog contains a record of each portrait in the AML.

The portrait catalog will include cards for subject of portraits and for artists, engravers, etc., as needed.

Picture catalog (exclusive of portraits)

This catalog will contain cards for all Picture Collection material, except portraits.

Cards will be made for medical subjects, subjects related to medicine, for artists, engravers, etc.

Book catalog

Cards for books in the Art Section will be made in the Catalog Division. (This catalog will later be incorporated into the catalog of the History of Medicine Division.)

Autograph file

A card will be made for each autograph signature represented in the Picture Collection. These cards will eventually be combined with those for autographs in AML books.

*Building the picture collection**Gifts*

a. Portraits of well-known medical men will be requested by personal letters.

b. Whenever the Library has a call for a contemporary portrait not in its collection, a request will be sent by letter either to the individual or to some known source of supply.

c. Letters of request (in standard form already approved) will be prepared by the Director's secretary from lists supplied to her by the Registrar.

d. Publicity releases on the Picture Collection will include information on pictures desired for the Collection.

Purchases

a. Purchases of single pictures and of picture collections will be made whenever possible.

b. Lists of pictures for purchases (other than contemporary portraits) will be prepared for the Acquisition Division by the Registrar.

Exchanges

The duplicate pictures discovered during the reorganization of the Picture Collection, will be used as a basis for exchanges.

The procedures just described from the Manual have proved of value in the maintenance of the AML Picture Collection. Some further notes on the filing and mounting equipment may be pertinent.

The medical portraits, chiefly prints, are mounted on a moderately heavy board, with high percentage of rag content. This board is durable, does not become easily discolored, and finger marks may be removed easily by using art gum. There are various standard sizes—small, medium and large—determined somewhat by dimensions of the largest sheets, which may then be cut to required specifications. For the finest prints, a face mat is used, which is attached to the back by gummed linen tape fastened along the left edges. The print is fastened to the back mount by hinges placed at the upper edge of the print. Hinges are made by cutting the gummed tape in one-inch lengths and doubling in in the middle, so that half fastens on the print and half on the back board. After pictures have been matted, or mounted, they are labeled on the back (upper left corner), and are then ready to file, either in special blue portrait envelopes, or in portfolios, or solander boxes, as the case requires.

Details of the equipment are given herewith:

Mount board—sizes 11¼" x 15¼" and 14" x 18" (white and ivory).

Hinges—linen tape, gummed.

Labels—Oxford-roll, R-444; 250 on roll; 12 rolls in box. Blank; white.
Each label measures $3\frac{3}{8}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Filing envelopes—for portraits; open—but with wide flap without button or string—heavy blue stock—size 14" x 18".

Solander cases for prints—sizes $23\frac{1}{4}$ " x $17\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{3}{8}$ ".

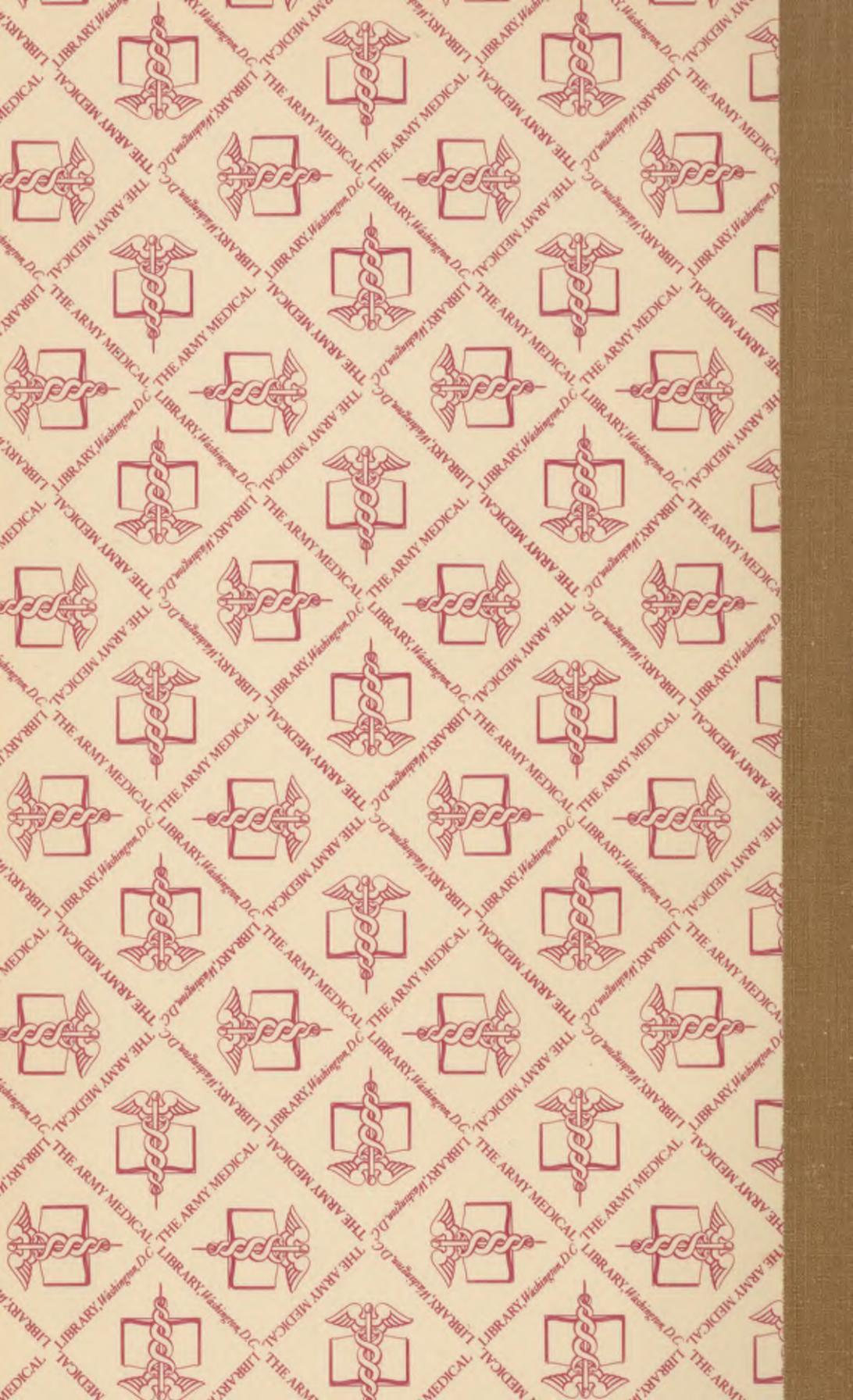
Files—vertical steel—standard and "Jumbo" size ($18\frac{1}{4}$ " x 24").

Portfolios—size, 14" x 18" and 22" x 28".

Rubber stamps

Bins for large framed pictures

Material in the picture collection may be copied and used for educational purposes by newspapers and magazines; by editors, historians, research writers, specialists, and by business firms. Inquiries are welcomed in order that the Art Section may render greater service.



Gaylord 

PAMPHLET BINDER

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Stockton, Calif.

