MARINA LIENERT · CARIS-PETRA HEIDEL

The Medical-Historical Collection

The origins of the Collection

Exhibits collected by the Duke of Weissenfels provided the basic stock for a larger collection of the Collegium Medico-Chirurgicum in Dresden. This was the first Saxon school of surgery, opening in 1748. It was succeeded by the Provisional Teaching Institute of Medicine and Surgery (1814/15) and the Surgical-Medical Academy (1815 to 1864). These institutions also made use of comprehensive collections in their training of military doctors, surgeons and medical practitioners. Unfortunately, none of these exhibits made it into the possession of the indirect successor institution, the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", founded 90 years after the Surgical-Medical Academy closed. However, a physician interested in medical history began acquiring new objects for teaching purposes. Heinrich Fritz, head of the X-ray and Radium Institute of the Dresden-Johannstadt Hospital from 1948, then Professor of Radiology and Radiotherapeutics at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" and Director of the Radiology Clinic, collected more than 20 different X-ray tubes, documenting the development of the relatively new discipline. They were on display in a purpose-built cabinet and were used in the training of medical students and medical technical assistants. Nevertheless, there seem to have been no systematic efforts at the new institution to collect material witnesses to medical history, despite the efforts of Heinz Egon Kleine-Natrop, a proven expert and promoter of Dresden's medical history at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus". Kleine-Natrop was the first Director of the Dermatological Clinic and full Professor of Dermatology from 1957. This lack of system when it came to acquiring historical exhibits was perhaps due to the proximity of two important institutions, both of which had been founded before World War I and already owned extensive medical history collections: the Karl Sudhoff Institute for the History of Medicine and the Natural Sciences in Leipzig and the "Deutsches Hygiene-Museum" in Dresden.

In 1978, the introduction of history of medicine as a compulsory subject at all medical higher education institutions in the GDR led to the establishment of an independent department for the history of medicine at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", headed by Günter Heidel. Heidel was a lecturer who had written his habilitation on the subject, and when the department was elevated to the status of Institute in 1990, he became the first Chair of the History of Medicine at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus". Establishing this discipline in teaching and research was the primary goal of the Chair. It explains why simultaneously developing a medical history collection of substance was neither planned nor possible, due to a lack of staff and funding. However, as far as the limited means allowed, material witnesses relevant to medical history were acquired second-hand, a practice that continues to this day.

In 1746, Count von Hennike took possession of the Duchy of Weißenfels in the name of the King of Poland and Elector of Saxony. He found several anatomical specimens in the duke's collections and sent them to Dresden to be used in training surgeons.

Seiler 1820, p. 439–440

Although there are more glorious causes for the foundation of high schools and universities than secular need, there can hardly be a more cogent, let alone a more humane one for a medical school than that its establishment is necessary in the strict sense of the word.

Kleine-Natrop 1964, p. X

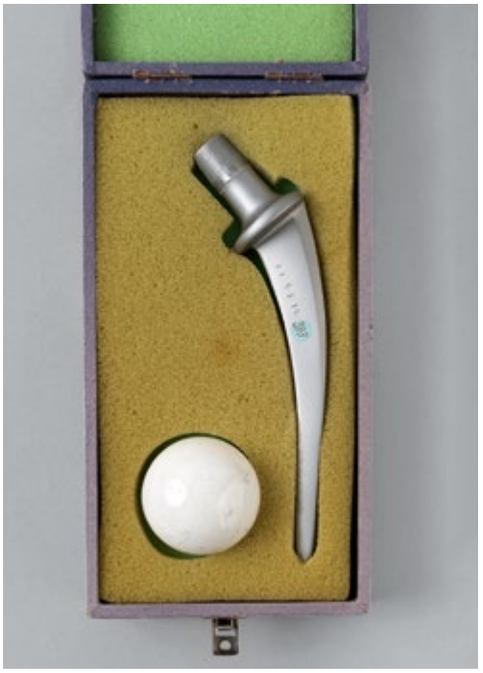
◀ **Treadle drill and dentist's chair,** circa 1890
The treadle drill was supposedly used by a dentist in Dresden as late as the 1960s.

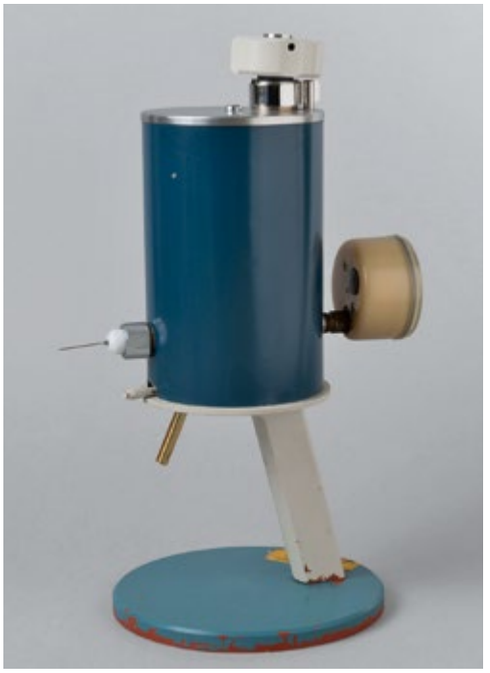
Coffee cup with a view of the Royal Surgical-Medical Academy in Dresden, circa 1830 to 1840
The hand-painted porcelain cup was made as a precious souvenir and highlights the Surgical-Medical Academy as a tourist attraction in Dresden.

2010 saw the purchase of a very special item: a coffee cup that must have been made around 1830 to 1840. The outside is decorated with a rectangular cartouche framed in strict classicist style. It shows a finely painted polychrome view of the Royal Surgical-Medical Academy in Dresden, based on a print by Johann Friedrich Schröter. The piece was produced as a souvenir and depicts the Surgical-Medical Academy as a tourist attraction, lending the item its unique value. This image was certainly not chosen solely for the architectural quality of the "Kurländer Palais" and "Oberzeugwärterhaus". After all, Dresden had an abundance of buildings that were equally worth depicting. It was due to the Academy being unique in Saxony and offering an education of high renown that made it a place of interest in Dresden.

Systematic collecting activities regarding the history of the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" and Dresden's medical history

Extensive renovation and reconstruction measures were undertaken after German reunification, culminating in the integration of the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" into TUD Dresden University of Technology as the Faculty of Medicine Carl Gustav Carus in 1993. Back then, cellars and attics of the clinics and institutes still harbored a plethora of technological devices from medicine and nursing, along with instruments and furniture from bygone decades, which were now to be discarded. The Institute for the History of Medicine was asked if it could store these objects in its building. The staff of the Institute – headed from 1992 by Albrecht Scholz, initially on a provisional basis and then as holder of the Chair of the History of Medicine from 1996 to 2005 – assumed responsibility for safeguarding and cataloguing these artefacts. Repeatedly, they appealed to the clinics and institutes to offer these witnesses to medical and technical development and to standards of the GDR era to their Institute before disposing of them. The collecting activities became more systematic and resulted in an inventory explicitly designed as a medical history collection that documents and illustrates the history of the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" and its preceding institutions. From 2000 to 2018, Peter Schneider supervised the Collection with great dedication and wide-ranging expertise. From 2019 to 2021, Jörg W. Schneider devoted himself to the comprehensive tasks involved in maintaining, scientifically recording and exhibiting the historical objects.





Total hip joint prosthesis (two-piece, with press fitting) with transport case, circa. 1980
This prosthesis represented an early variant of hip joint replacement.

Apparatus for cryotherapy in dermatology
It was developed by the Dermatological Clinic of the Dresden Medical Academy in the 1980s and was also used there.

In 2000, the Collection comprised some 300 objects. 2001 to 2004 was a particularly valuable period, with the Institute accepting numerous medical devices and equipment, including hospital furnishings from the University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine. For example, the Surgical Clinic handed over a total of 219 objects of all kinds: rib shears, vascular staplers, abdominal wall holders and intestinal clamps.

Technical devices and instruments for medical diagnostics and therapy, specifically developed at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", are an exclusive feature and the centerpiece of the collection. As evidence of the innovative research in the different specialist fields of medicine and its application in high-quality medical care, these objects allow a historical evaluation and illustration of the achievements of the Dresden institution. With this in mind, it has been possible to garner objects from medical technology that had been developed primarily during research into cryomedicine, endoscopy, electrotherapy, vascular surgery, endoprosthetics (the artificial replacement of joints) and implant medicine. What is more, the Institute now incorporated items donated by private individuals, mostly physicians or their heirs, into the collection. In this way, the inventory was not only supplemented with instruments and devices from private practices, but specifically with objects from former polyclinics run by East Germany's state-owned firms with a focus on the field of occupational medicine. In 2002 and 2003 alone, some 220 individual items were donated.

Of particular value are complete sets of instruments and devices. These include a set from the estate of the late Oschatz physician Leopold Wilhelm Lohmann, which was donated to the Institute in 2006. A total of 48 instruments and other objects, such as the examination case, provide insights into the everyday life of a general practitioner – who also made house calls in the surrounding villages – in the first half of the 20th century. Most of the objects originate from the time before World War I, with only a few dating back to around 1930. Diagnostic instruments such as a pocket set for laryngeal examinations or an electric hand-held ophthalmoscope are among the items, as are a chloroform anaesthesia mask, a metal bone saw, obstetrical forceps, and universal dental forceps.

In 2003, the niece of Kurt Warnekros, Director of the Dresden State Women's Clinic from 1925 to 1949, transferred ownership of her uncle's written documents to the Institute. She also handed over the medical bag used by Warnekros when he was called to consultations, operations and deliveries in France, Sweden, Italy, Greece and Romania, or within Germany.

Instrument set with physician's case belonging to Dr. Leopold Wilhelm August Lohmann, before 1945
The great variety of instruments illustrates the universality of the work of a country doctor in the first half of the 20th century – from internal medicine, obstetrics and surgery to ophthalmology and ENT medicine.

However, the significance of this donation lies not so much in the person who bequeathed it as in the complete preservation of a well-equipped physician's bag from the middle of the last century, with 58 different instruments, medications, dressing materials and other utensils.

Two more exhibits that reached our Collection in different ways are also connected to the history of the Women's Clinic. In a little cot, we find what is called a "Kaiser baby". This doll, which was produced by the Kämmer & Reinhardt company from 1909 onwards, is considered the first "character doll", as the head has the first naturalistic portrait of an approximately six-month-old child. Incidentally, the designer was the sculptor Otto Wilhelm Lewin-Funcke, who was born in Niedersedlitz (Cieslik 1987). The ball-jointed doll is on loan from Jutta Diefenbach, the granddaughter of Carl Hermann Walther, who in his time was house inspector of the Royal Women's Clinic. His second marriage was to the head midwife of the clinic, Ernestine Juliane, née Müller. According to family tradition, this doll was used for practicing handling infants by midwifery students and women undergoing what were known as "house pregnancies". These women, who were generally unmarried and destitute, were admitted to the clinic before giving birth and were expected to allow themselves to be examined for teaching purposes. They also had to carry out household chores. The cot with the "Kaiser baby" also originates from the Royal Women's Clinic and as such was already part of the Clinic's inventory in 1903.

When the Clinic's former service building (building D) was to be demolished in 2014, the building manager told us there were still objects from the Women's Clinic in the second-level

Showcase with Kurt Warnekros' obstetrician's bag, 1949
In particular, the fully preserved set of instruments and medications illustrates the state of outpatient obstetrics in the post-war era.

Infant's cot with "Kaiser baby" and hot water bottle for babies, around 1910
The cot, which was part of the initial equipment of the New Royal Women's Clinic in 1903, stood next to the bed of the young mother. Using the ball-jointed doll, midwives and pregnant women learned how to handle babies.

Ether anesthesia in the Surgical Clinic of the Johannstadt City Hospital, photograph, 1950
Until the 1960s, drip anesthesia with the Schimmelbusch mask was still part of everyday clinical practice, even at the Medical Academy Dresden "Carl Gustav Carus".

basement. After it had been salvaged, the baby's cot was repaired by in-house handymen and is now one of the most attractive objects of our collection.

The donation of a more than 100-year-old dental treadle drill, which had still been used by the descendants of the "dental artist" Alexander Stephan until the 1960s, is a fan favorite. In 2020, Onno Janßen entrusted the Institute with a permanent loan of the instructive and impressive collection "Living with Diabetes".

Three models, commissioned by the Institute for various exhibitions, serve exclusively to illustrate the previous history of our University Hospital: The model of the barracks in Dresden-Neustadt with the Collegium Medico-Chirurgicum (1748 to 1813), the model of the Dresden-Johannstadt city hospital as it looked at its opening in 1901, and the model of the New Royal Women's Clinic when it was opened in 1903. There is also a collection that at present comprises 59 medals, which were issued on the occasion of anniversaries in general and which make specific reference to medical institutions in Dresden.

This means that a total of 1,650 objects from medical history have been recorded and catalogued to date. Diverse new additions are still awaiting precise scientific processing. The oldest exhibits can be dated back to around 1800. A larger inventory comprises pieces from the second half of the 19th century. These include microscopes, induction apparatuses, hearing aids, surgical instruments, and dental drills, with the majority of the objects originating from the years after 1900.

The Picture Collection

Alongside the material witnesses, the Medical-Historical Collection also includes a picture collection, which initially served to illustrate publications, lectures and courses. The abundance of material first needed to be structured, and during the process, its value as a historical source became more and more obvious. As a consequence, targeted acquisitions of illustrations were pursued wherever possible. Here, the focus is on the development of the University and the institutions that preceded it. The documentation of Dresden's medical history is an additional objective. To date, more than 2,200 photos and picture postcards have been acquired and catalogued. The vast majority of these are originals, although a few are reproductions.

The photograph collection of the "Akademie-Echo", the in-house newspaper of the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", was unique both in terms of its self-contained nature and the wealth of motifs it covered. The paper was published by the East German Communist Party organization (SED) of the University from 1959 to 1989. When its successor, the in-house magazine "Akademia Medicinae Dresdensis" merged with TUD's "Dresdner Universitäts-Journal" after the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" had been integrated into TUD in 1993, the Institute of the History of Medicine received the majority of the 10,000 photographs, while the University Archives (Faculty of Medicine Branch) received a smaller number. These photographs uniquely documented how the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus" developed throughout almost its entire existence. After the photos were handed over on loan by the University Archives, they were united in the Institute of the History of Medicine, where they were also arranged in order. Most of them were already indexed at the time, with some 1,460 photos showing motifs from the clinics and institutes. Other events were also depicted, such as the "student summer", the everyday life in the in-house kindergarten or the snowy blizzard winter of 1979. 375 photos were taken at sports events alone. The "photo society" contributed 70 works.

Picture postcard of the Dresden-Johannstadt City Hospital on the corner of Fürstenstrasse and Trinitatisstrasse (today Fetscherstrasse/Fiedlerstrasse), circa 1910
The buildings of the hospital, which opened in 1901 and was a predecessor of the University Hospital, were still stylistically rooted in historicism, although Art Nouveau details also adorned the facades and interiors.

X-ray tube collection of Heinrich Fritz
The X-ray tube collection started by Fritz is on display today in the Diagnostic-Internal Medicine-Neurology Center.

How the Collection is utilized – exhibition venues

At present, parts of the collections are on display in various areas of the Faculty of Medicine and the University Hospital. Display cases and six wall cabinets housing valuable objects are located at the Institute for the History of Medicine. Several additional display cases with exhibits from the collections can be found throughout the Dresden University Hospital and in buildings of the Faculty of Medicine Carl Gustav Carus: In the Medical Theoretical Center, the Operative Center, the Children's and Women's Center, and the Diagnostic Neurological Center (DINZ). In the latter, Heinrich Fritz's X-ray tube collection described at the beginning of this chapter is also on display in his custom-made cabinet. This presentation is, in several respects, of particular interest to our alumni.

A true radiologist will consider himself first and foremost to be a clinician and put the technical aside. He wants to be a helper and advisor.

Fritz 1954, p. 109

The Collection is used for the education and training of medical professionals as well as nursing staff. It also introduces the employees of the Faculty of Medicine and the University Hospital to the history of their own institutions. The public image projected by these institutions – of a long and distinguished tradition of patient care and medical research – is not only created by the objects permanently on display, but also through special exhibitions, put together either by the Institute itself, or by other museums and event organizers. The expositions in 2001 and 2005, marking the centenary of the opening of the Dresden-Johannstadt Hospital and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", are particularly worth mentioning. Most notably, the Carus exhibition of 2009, initiated and designed by Dresden's State Art Collections with significant contributions from the Institute, created a buzz among the visitors. Equally, however, the expositions devised by the State Medical Chamber (*Landesärztekammer*) or the multiple loans to the Dresden City Museum and the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum in Dresden raised the profile of the Institute among wider circles of the population. The Collection is also readily used beyond the Dresden area, as in 2020 during the 4th Saxon State Exhibition in Zwickau. The photograph collection is of great interest to filmmakers and has provided inspiration for film sets such as those of "The Tower" (*Der Turm*) and "The Danish Girl". It also proved valuable in clarifying questions of content. For example, photos document the relatively close collaboration between doctors and nurses at the Medical Academy "Carl Gustav Carus", while the photographs taken by

Warnekros during a Caesarean section provide insights into the number and selection of medical and nursing staff present during a surgical intervention. This proves that the Medical-Historical Collection is being utilized in diverse ways, and that its scope extends far beyond the University or even the region.

Heinrich Fritz explains the various forms and functions of X-ray tubes to student nurses, photograph, ca. 1955
Both nurses and part-time medical lecturers taught at the Medical College, which was attached to the Medical Academy Dresden "Carl Gustav Carus".

Outlook

Dresden's medical history, especially that of the GDR period, will continue to be the focus of the collection policy of the Institute of the History of Medicine. However, due to a lack of available space, there is a strict limit to how many museum artefacts can be secured and – even more critically – put on display. On our digital platform "Time Travel Medicine" ("Zeitreise Medizin"), we present selected museum objects and many exciting stories about them. Additional plans include the cataloguing and scientific processing of smaller collections that exist at individual clinics and institutes, such as at the Neurosurgery Clinic and the Urology Clinic. The latter has a collection of historical urological instruments dating back to Johannes Keller, the first director of the Clinic for Urology at Johannstadt Hospital from 1950 to 1952, and a man of great ambitions regarding medical history.

The goal is to unite, at least virtually, all museum objects owned by the University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine, to record them scientifically and to exhibit them at the various locations for the public to enjoy. The idea is also to expand existing collaborations with museums and other exhibitors and to ensure the collections remain available to all those who wish to use them.