Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library

Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology Medical Illustrations

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. Medical illustrations, 1911-1973 (bulk 1932-1969) 35 cubic feet (2732 folders in 120 flat boxes)

HISTORICAL NOTE: Although ophthalmological instruction appears to have been offered at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) on an occasional basis as early as the 1820s, the first professor of ophthalmology, Cornelius R. Agnew, was only appointed in 1867. A formal department emerged in the early twentieth century with an "Executive Officer" (chairman) first appearing in the 1915/16 P&S annual catalog.

A gift of \$5 million by philanthropist Edward S. Harkness led to the construction of a separate structure for the department which opened in January 1933. Though formally known as the Edward S. Harkness Institute of Ophthalmology, it is generally referred to as the Eye Institute.

In 1940, the Herman Knapp Memorial Hospital, founded in 1869 as the New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute, merged with the department and its assets were used to support the Knapp Memorial Laboratory of Physiological Optics. A laboratory addition was opened in 1970.

Sources: Wheeler, Maynard C. The Eye Institute in New York: An Intimate History (New York: Cooper Square Publishers, 1969); Merriam, John C. The Collection of Medical Illustrations of the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in the City of New York (New York, 2001); Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Annual Catalogue, 1915/16.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Illustrations of eye diseases and conditions created by medical illustrators in the Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology, 1911-1973. A wide range of ophthalmological diseases are documented, almost all taken from patients seen in the department. Most of the illustrations are in color and appear to have been made in pen and ink on paper.

The collection holds 2732 numbered folders and four unnumbered folders; however most folders contain more than one illustration, some of which are duplicates but many of which were done over time of the same patient or are images of multiple patients with the same diagnosis. A few folders are empty.

The versos of the images usually include name of patient, date of examination, name of examining ophthalmologist, and diagnosis. Among the ophthalmologists most frequently represented in the collection are A. Gerard DeVoe, John H. Dunnington, Daniel B. Kirby, Algernon Reese, and John M. Wheeler.

The overwhelming majority of the illustrations were done by Emil G. "Gus" Bethke (1906-1995) who was employed at the Eye Institute, 1933-1973. The surnames of several other illustrators employed by the department appear on the drawings but it has not been possible to determine the full names of most. The exceptions are the New Orleans-born artist Emily M. Freret, who appears to have worked for Dr. John Wheeler in New York circa 1919-1920, and Marjorie Quinlan who was employed by the department in the 1930s and who later married Bethke.

ARRANGEMENT: In drawing number order which is roughly chronological.

LANGUAGE: English.

ADDITIONAL FORMAT: Digitized copies have been made and can be accessed at Archives & Special Collections.

ACCESS: The collection is stored off-site. Researchers will need to request this material from Archives & Special Collections at least two business days in advance to use the collection in our reading room. Generally, Archives & Special Collections will not recall more than 12 boxes at a time.

Because the illustrations include Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' <u>Access Policy to Records Containing Confidential Health Information</u>.

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OTHER FINDING AIDS: Archives & Special Collections holds an item listing for the collection published in 2001 as *The Collection of Medical Illustrations of the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in the City of New York.* It was compiled and edited by John C. Merriam, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia.

PROVENANCE: Transfer from the Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology, 2005 (accession #2017.044).

CITE AS: Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology Medical Illustrations, 1919-1973.

Subjects

Bethke, Emil G.

Quinlan, Marjorie.

Columbia University. Department of Ophthalmology.

Eye – Diseases.

Eye – Infections.

Medical illustration.

Ophthalmology – Patients.

Ophthalmology – Practice.

Eye Diseases.

Medical records.

Pen and ink drawings.

Scientific illustrations (images)

Finding aid written by Stephen E. Novak, 2017.

Columbia University. Department of Ophthalmology. Medical Illustrations, 1911-1973

Box 1	Drawing Nos.
2	32 - 70
3	71 - 87
4	88 - 111
5	112 - 121
6	122 - 144
7	145 - 168
8	169 - 188
9	189 - 198
10	199 - 208
11	209 - 218
12	219 - 249
13	250 - 261
14	262 - 284
15	285 - 311
16	312 - 326
17	327 - 345
18	346 - 366
19	367 - 387
20	388 - 408

- 21 409 431
- 22 432 453
- 23 454 472
- 24 473 488
- 25 489 510
- 26 511 526
- 27 527 546
- 28 547 568
- 29 569 595
- 30 596 620
- 31 621 644
- 32 645 672
- 33 673 692
- 34 693 710
- 35 711 736
- 36 737 756
- 37 757 775
- 38 776 802
- 39 803 827
- 40 828 846
- 41 847 863

$$929 - 954$$

$$46 955 - 977$$

$$48 998 - 1019$$

$$49 1021 - 1042$$

$$50 1043 - 1066$$

$$51 1067 - 1096$$

$$52 1099 - 1118$$

$$53 1119 - 1140$$

$$54 1141 - 1162$$

$$57 1216 - 1237$$

$$58 1238 - 1254$$

$$60 1278 - 1295$$

$$61 1296 - 1316$$

$$62 1318 - 1340$$

$$63 1341 - 1365$$

$$64 1367 - 1393$$

$$65 1394 - 1416$$

$$66 1417 - 1440$$

$$67 1441 - 1463$$

$$68 1464 - 1993$$

$$70 1519 - 1545$$

$$71 1546 - 1565$$

$$72 1566 - 1596$$

$$74 1628 - 1648$$

$$75 1649 - 1673$$

$$76 1674 - 1696$$

$$77 1697 - 1724$$

$$78 1725 - 1757$$

$$79 1758 - 1782$$

$$80 1783 - 1806$$

$$81 1807 - 1827$$

$$82 1828 - 1848$$

$$83 1849 - 1875$$

$$90 1986 - 2006$$

$$91 2007 - 2021$$

$$92 2022 - 2043$$

$$93 2044 - 2070$$

$$94 2071 - 2094$$

$$98 2152 - 2170$$

$$100$$
 $2194 - 2216$

$$101$$
 $2217 - 2233$

$$102$$
 $2234 - 2261$

$$103$$
 $2262 - 2288$

$$104$$
 $2289 - 2315$

$$105$$
 $2316 - 2341$

$$106 2342 - 2362$$

$$107 2363 - 2394$$

$$108 2395 - 2415$$

$$109 2416 - 2447$$

$$110 2448 - 2472$$

$$112 2496 - 2533$$

$$113$$
 $2534 - 2573$

$$114$$
 $2574 - 2596$

$$2597 - 2625$$

$$116 2627 - 2651$$

$$117 2652 - 2679$$

$$118 2680 - 2706$$

$$119 2707 - 2720$$

120 2721 – 2732; and four folders of unnumbered illustrations