TREASURES
FROM THE A. D. BLACK
HISTORY OF DENTISTRY COLLECTION

RARE BOOKS AND INSTRUMENTS

Display prepared by Ron Sims

GALTER HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
303 E. CHICAGO AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611
312-503-8126
http://www.galter.nwu.edu
This exhibit is in honor of Dental Alumni Weekend, February 16-22, 1998


For further reading:

Black, Carl E. *From pioneer to scientist*. St. Paul, Minn.: Bruce Publishing Co., 1940


The A. D. Black History of Dentistry Collection was housed in the 10th floor Ward Building A. D. Black Memorial Library until the merger of the Dental and Medical School's libraries in 1996. As a tribute to Arthur Davenport Black, MD, DDS, dental educator and scholar, the former Rare Book Collection of the Dental Library has been named in his honor. The original Dental School library was created by G. V. Black and Theodore Menges in 1896 when they purchased the collection of Dr. Jonathan Taft of Ann Arbor. William Bebb, Librarian of the Dental School (1924-1927), visited Europe in 1924 and bought several private collections, as well as making purchases at second-hand book stores. In addition, the personal collection of Dr. William H. Trueman, of Philadelphia, was received as a gift in 1925. Since then occasional purchases and gifts have been added, along with manuscripts and personal memorabilia of G. V. Black and other Dental School Faculty members.

The book collection now consists of 1,390 volumes representing over 775 authors, forty-five per cent in English; thirty-five per cent in French, nine in German, and others in Latin and Italian with a few in Dutch, Greek, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The oldest volume is Cirugia magistri by Pietro d'Argellata, Venice, 1499. The majority of the titles were published in the 19th century, with excellent examples from the 16th through 18th centuries.

Numerous “milestones” in dental literature are part of the Collection. Among them are the first French dental book, Recherche de la vraye anathomie des dents, 1582 by Hemard; the first German work which is a real treatise on dentistry by Pfaff, Abhandlung von den Zaeheie des menschlichen Koerpers und deren Krankheiten, 1756; one of the earliest Italian texts, Comparini's Odontologia, 1793; and Longbothom's A treatise on dentistry, 1802, the second book published on dentistry in the U. S.

The Black Collection compliments the Archibald Church History of Medicine Collection, together forming an incredible resource for medical and dental historians.