

# Using an Unindexed Journal Donation to Inspire the Creation of Archival Displays

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## Donations

In 2018 and 2019, the Boxer Library received two donations containing a total of over 200 issues of *Chiropody Record*, an academic journal that ran from 1917 to 1989 under various names. It was produced by the Illinois College of Chiropody (ICC), which eventually became the William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

Once duplicates and those issues contaminated with mold were removed from the group, we had a total of 186 issues, spanning 1934 to 1959 to be catalogued.

## Journal Issues and "Issues"

*Chiropody Record* is unindexed. The only available information is the Tables on Contents on issue covers, and these did not include all of the articles, what was in the letters to the editor section, advertisements or if the articles contained pictures.

As this journal was produced by a college now part of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS), further investigation was merited.

- Advertisements include photos taken at ICC and the Scholl Manufacturing Company.
- There are class and professor photos in the graduation articles.
- There are pictures and articles about other universities.

That said, the idea of going through each issue to look for interesting stories seemed like an unnecessary project, with possibly little outcome, but, with the 2020 lockdown and working from home putting all other projects aside, this project was finally to come to fruition.

## Process

These steps were performed on all 186 volumes.

- Examined each article's title and images for connections to ICC
- Examined advertisements for information about ICC, Scholl or products created by faculty or alumni.
- Scan all relevant articles as PDFs.
- Scan any photos from other universities and contact them in case they were interested in the photos for their own records.
- Label all PDFs with volume, issue and page number.
- Add all PDFs to a Google workspace shared with the University Archivist.

**FIRE AT ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF CHIROPODY**  
A fire broke out in the Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery on Saturday P. M., August 30th. A storeroom in the basement and the washroom on the first floor were completely destroyed and walls in two classrooms were damaged.

**Save Heart Beats if You Want to Live**  
To live long and well, save your heart by conserving your heart beats. This may be done by avoiding extreme emotion and violent physical exertion and by sleeping long hours. The human heart beats from seventy to 150 times a minute, and each beat means work equivalent to raising a two-pound weight seventy to 150 times a minute.

## Expansion

The realization that there was significant historical information about Scholl College's predecessor informed the decision to bring in the Institutional Advancement's University Archivist, Kelly Reiss.

Together, with Boxer Library's Access Services Librarian (at the time, a Tier II Library Assistant), it was determined that physical displays and digital collections would be formed or added to. One display would be put up in the Scholl Museum, the Feet First Exhibition, the other would be part of a collage in Scholl College's main hallway.

The sticking point for the Feet First display was choosing a theme. Over the course of the examination, of the journals, a process which took about two years, trends emerged depending on the era of the issue's publication.

## Trends

As with all publication, *Chiropody Record's* articles shifted to suit the interests of their readership, though research, graduations, obituaries, law, and, oddly, poetry were published throughout.

1930s volumes consisted of mostly articles focused on research, interesting cases, and what puff pieces were published, were either deeply strange or steeped in misogyny.

The first half of the 1940s was subsumed by World War II. Most advertisements were for war bonds and articles were still primarily research, but enlisted chiropodists were writing letters to the editor and articles were being published about the alumni working on military bases.

The second half of the 1940s through the 1950s saw the rise of public interest over research. Readers were learning about how other universities' programs. Significant parts of the journal were also given to gossip and innocuous, paragraph-long articles about individuals.

## Displays

The librarian and archivist determined the Feet First display would be about chiropodists in World War II as this had extensive documentation by *Chiropody Record* and could be timed nicely with Veterans Day 2022. Currently, photos, a list of serving alumni and any articles specifically about them has been collated and the printing and assemblage will take place October 2022.

The hallway display will be a wallpaper collage including photos from this project and many others from the University Archive.

There is already a digital collection of past university buildings, and that has been updated to include the photos of ICC. Another collection will include all tables of content and be open access.