



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the University of Pennsylvania Dental Collection

NMAH.AC.0025

Grace Angle

1986

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Dr. William Ziesel	4
Series 2: Dr. Edwin Tyler Darby	5

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	University of Pennsylvania Dental Collection
Date:	1885-1935
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0025
Creator:	Ziesel, William, Dr. (Author) University of Pennsylvania (Collector) Darby, Edwin Tyler, Dr. (Author)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences (Collector)
Extent:	0.66 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medical Sciences (now Division of Medicine and Science)

Related Materials

Materials in the Division of Medicine and Science

Collection contains 2871 specimens of dental instruments, furniture, equipment and other materials relating to the history of dentistry. See Accession # 218383.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Grace Angle, 1986

Preferred Citation

University of Pennsylvania Dental Collection, 1885-1935, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. William Ziesel, who developed a surgical technique to eliminate pyorrhea, practiced dentistry in Philadelphia. This collection contains Dr. Ziesel's speeches and articles. In these he describes his surgical techniques and the instruments he used in pyorrhea treatment. The collection begins in 1919 when Dr. Ziesel asked the National Dental Association to allow him to be on the program of its annual convention although he was late in so requesting and he was refused. It encompasses his disagreements with the entrenched traditionalists, his correspondence with many dentists interested in copying his technique, his work with patients referred to him for this surgery, and his attempts to have this surgery made part of dental school curriculum.

Dr. Edwin Tyler Darby was one of the founders of the dental school at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a professor of operative dentistry from 1878 to 1926. He was Emeritus Professor for five years. An attempt was made to set up a Chair of Operative Dentistry in his name. Dr. Ziesel referred to Dr. Darby as a supporter of his methods to eliminate pyorrhea. The papers are largely mementos of several occasions on which Dr. Darby was honored. They also include a record of the practice of an unnamed dentist that began in May 1885. Scope and Content

Scope and Contents

Papers of two dentists: Ziesel, who developed a technique and instruments for treating pyorrhea, and Darby, a founder of the University of Pennsylvania Dental School.

Included are articles, speeches, lectures, correspondence, unidentified photographs; an autograph book of attendees at testimonial dinner for Darby, dinner menus and programs; copies of journal entitled *The Dental Cosmos*, with articles by Ziesel; notebook of an unidentified dentist with names of patients, including Mr. and Mrs. Henry Adams; notebook presumably belonging to Lt. Cmdr. G. R. Bevan. The papers are largely mementoes of several occasions on which Dr. Darby was honored. They also include a record of the practice of an unnamed dentist that began in May 1885. The collection contains speeches and articles in which Ziesel describes his surgical techniques and instruments used in pyorrhea treatment. The series begins in 1919 when he asked the National Dental Association to allow him to speak at its annual convention, but his proposal was late and he was refused. It encompasses his disagreements with entrenched traditionalists, correspondence with many dentists interested in copying technique, work with patients referred for surgery, and his attempts to have this surgery made part of dental school curriculum.

Arrangement

Divided into 2 series

Series 1: Dr. William Ziesel

Series 2: Dr. Edwin Tyler Darby

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Dental instruments and apparatus -- 1880-1940
- Dental schools -- 1880-1940 -- Pennsylvania
- Dentistry -- Pennsylvania
- Periodontal disease

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Correspondence -- 1930-1950
- Lectures
- Menus
- Notebooks
- Programs

Names:

- Adams, Henry, 1838-1918
- National Dental Association
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Medical Sciences
- University of Pennsylvania

Occupations:

- Dentists

Places:

- Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Preferred Titles:

- The Dental Cosmos (monthly journal)*

Container Listing

Series 1: Dr. William Ziesel

Box 1, Folder 2	Articles, speeches, lectures and correspondence concerning pyorrhea extermination, 1919-1921
Box 1, Folder 2	Articles, speeches, lectures and correspondence concerning pyorrhea extermination, 1922 - 1935
Box 1, Folder 3	Miscellaneous including undated notes, articles and unidentified photos.
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs
Box 1, Folder 5	Requests of Dr. Ziesel for articles, lancets and correspondence regarding patients, 1920 - 1927

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Dr. Edwin Tyler Darby

Box 2, Folder 1	Autograph book of attendees at a testimonial dinner for Dr. Darby and Dr. Simeon Guilford on December 11, 1915.
Box 2, Folder 2	4 page folder dated September 1923 giving important dates in Dr. Darby's professional life.
Box 2, Folder 3	A folder with Dr. Darby's picture on the cover for a tribute to him on his 48th anniversary as professor - March 31, 1926 and request to endow a chair in his name.
Box 2, Folder 4	Dinner menu and program in honor of visiting delegates to the 7th International Dental Congress, August 23, 1926
Box 2, Folder 5	Dinner menu and program for complimentary dinner to Dr. Jesse Cope Green by the Dental Society, December 18, 1917 listing Dr. Darby as a speaker.
Box 2, Folder 6-8	The Dental Cosmos; a monthly record of dental science. July 1920; April 1921 with article by Dr. Ziesel; August 1924 with article by Dr. Ziesel.
Box 2, Folder 9	Small notebook of unnamed dentist with names of patients, work performed, hours spent, charges from May 7, 1885 in Washington, D.C. Among patients were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Adams, and Surgeon-General Gunnell. One comment about a patient stated that all her teeth seem frail "perhaps because her father was too old when he married".
Box 2, Folder 10	A small notebook presumably belonging to Lt. Comdr. G. R. Bevan, U.S.N.R. giving mileage and gasoline purchases

[Return to Table of Contents](#)