

## Guide to D.H. Rankin Medical Artifacts Collection. 1850-1950

### Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Rankin, Douglas H.
Title:	D.H. Rankin Medical Artifacts Collection
Dates:	1850-1950, bulk dates: 1880-1920
Quantity:	20 boxes, 36 cubic feet
Identification:	MS 160
Repository:	McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library.

### Biographical Sketch

Dr. Douglas H. Rankin is a family physician practicing in Austin, Texas. Dr. Rankin earned his BA in Zoology from the University of Texas in 1971 and went on to get his MD from LSU MC in 1978. Dr. Rankin did his residency from 1978-81 at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas. In 1981 he established his private practice.

### Scope and Contents

The D.H. Rankin Medical Artifacts Collection was donated by Dr. Rankin, a family physician in Austin, Texas. Dr. Rankin had a personal interest in hearing related devices and early twentieth century quack medical devices. Dr. Rankin acquired artifacts from online auction sites, auction houses, and catalogs. Receipts and sale information for some items are included in the control folder.

The donated materials also included a number of rare books that been separated from the collection and will be added, if deemed appropriate, to the McGovern Rare Books Library.

The collection is arranged within five series with the bulk items belonging to Series I: Deaf Treatments and Series II: Medical Devices. When the collection was obtained an inventory list was provided with an organizational schema present. Dr. Rankin attributed a letter-number classification system to the bulk of the items in the collection. This classification system has been maintained and noted in the detailed description of contents. Some items may have been reorganized though no new letter-numbers assigned.

Highlights of the collection include bloodletting tools, vibratory quack medical devices, drug bottles with original medicines, and alcohol prescriptions during the United States' Prohibition era.

The collections of materials are dated from 1700 through 1950. The bulk of materials are from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. The materials are predominantly from the United States with a few outliers from Great Britain, China, Mexico, and Denmark.

The collection totals 36 cubic feet and 20 boxes. Many objects are oversized and thus not stored in any box. The majorities of artifacts are stored in their original boxes and complete

with promotional material where applicable. The condition of objects are, on average, very good. Damage is usually only present on the original boxes. Drugs and liquids have been saved and are stored separately in water-tight bags. Care should be taken when unpacking boxes and unwrapping items as some items are sharp and/or have mechanical blades.

### **Access Restrictions**

This material is open for research.

### **Use Restrictions**

Permission to publish material from the D.H. Rankin Medical Artifacts Collection must be obtained from the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center of the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library.

### **Index Terms**

### **Related Material**

Name other collections here. Collections may be book or manuscript collections in the McGovern Collections or at other archives.

### **Preferred Citation**

D.H. Rankin Medical Artifacts Collection, 1700-1950, MS 160, John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center of the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

Dr. Douglas H. Rankin donated the collection in February of 2013.

The collection came from his medical office.

### **Detailed Description of the Collection**

#### **Series I. Deafness treatments**

##### Subseries A: Cures

Sub-subseries 1: Bloodletting

#### **Box Folder**

1	--	BB1. Possibly 18 <sup>th</sup> century bleeding bowl BB2. Possibly 18 <sup>th</sup> century brass bleeding bowl BB3. Phlebotomy tin bleeding cup, Civil War era BB4. Bleeding bowl
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BB5. Silver bleeding bowl, number 17 of a set  
BSc1. Round chrome 8-blade scarificator  
BSc2. 1880s French scarificator set  
Lebenswecker

- 2 -- BK1. Civil War (or earlier) fleam by Joseph Rodgers & Sons  
BK2. Revolutionary War-period fleam  
BK3. Ca. 1800s fleam & vaccination knife in faux tortoiseshell  
BK4. 19<sup>th</sup> century bleeder with bone scraper  
BK5. 1780 fleam lancet in leather case  
BK6. Bone-handled Borwick 3-blade bleeding knife  
BK7. Borwick 3-blade bleeder  
BK8. Bleeder with curved blade  
BK9. Bone-handled 2-blade pocket bleeding knife  
BK10. 1800s ivory-cased gold blade bleeder  
BK11. 1800s ivory-cased gold blade bleeder

Sub-subseries 2: Actina

**Box Folder**

- 1 -- A1. Actina WC Wilson Medical Electric Pocket Battery  
A2. Actina Deaf and Blind Cure

Sub-subseries 3: Oxygen

**Box Folder**

- 3 -- Oxydonor in box  
Oxydonor in box  
Oxydonor in box  
Oxydonor in box  
Oxydonor in box  
Oxydonor  
Oxydonor  
Oxydonor

Sub-subseries 4: Electromagnetic

**Box Folder**

- 4 -- E1. 1878 Boyd's Medical Battery Cure-All Pendant  
E2. 1885 Electric Belt  
E3. Viracor Electrical Shock Treatment for Deafness

E4. Renulife electrical shock treatment for deafness  
E9. Electreat mechanical heart, 1919  
Electreat mechanical heart, 1919

5 -- E8. The Violet Ray  
E15. 1840s magnetic hearing aid Invisible Bernard Audiphone  
Electrical shock treatment for deafness

6 -- E5. Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
E7. Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
E10. Early 1900s Electraply medical electric device  
E11. 1854 Davis Kidder Medical Cure All machine  
E12. 1854 Davis Kidder Medical Cure All machine

7 -- E6. Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
E13. Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
Electrical shock treatment for deafness

3 -- Electrical shock treatment for deafness

Oversize E14. Electrical shock treatment for deafness  
Oversize E16. 1915 Dr. Roche Cure All Medicine quack machine  
Oversize E17. Spectrochrome light treatment box

#### Sub-subseries 5: Vibratory

#### **Box Folder**

8 -- V3. Aural Exerciser, National Exerciser  
V4. Gemphone Ear Auto Massager in box  
V5. 1902 Arnold Vibrator Machine  
Vibrator machine

Oversize V2. LC Grains Co Chicago Patented Electro-Apparatus Cure for Deafness  
Oversize Premier vibrator  
Oversize Pulsating Electric Massage Pillow  
Oversize RelaxAcizor  
Oversize RelaxAcizor

#### Subseries B: Hearing aids

#### Sub-subseries 6: Ear trumpets

Box	Folder	
9	--	<p>ET1. Cow horn</p> <p>ET2. Ram's horn</p> <p>ET3. Trumpet Napoleon, engraved</p> <p>ET4. Round leather telescoping horn</p> <p>ET5. Hawksley round brass trumpet</p> <p>ET6. Ear trumpet tapered telescoping</p> <p>ET7. Round hearing trumpet</p> <p>ET8. Brass telescoping trumpet</p> <p>ET9. Large ear trumpet, dipper style</p> <p>ET10. Large ear trumpet, dipper style</p> <p>ET12. Ear trumpet</p> <p>ET13. Ear trumpet, RJ Dowling</p> <p>ET14. Ear trumpet</p> <p>ET15. Ear trumpet, celluloid</p> <p>ET16. Ear trumpet, folding celluloid</p> <p>ET17. Ear trumpet, folding tortoiseshell</p> <p>ET18. Ear trumpet, restored, 1850s</p> <p>ET19. Ear trumpet, antique brass, 1900</p> <p>ET20. Ear trumpet, brass, telescoping</p> <p>ET21. Ear trumpet, stove-pipe horn</p>
10	--	<p>ET22. Ear trumpet, coin silver</p> <p>ET23. Ear trumpet, Bakelite, 1930</p> <p>ET24. Ear trumpet, Bakelite, telescoping</p> <p>ET25. Ear trumpet, Bugle, flat earpiece</p> <p>ET26. Ear trumpet, Brass</p> <p>ET27. Ear trumpet, Hawksley</p> <p>ET28. Ear trumpet, Bonnafont, 1800s</p> <p>ET29. Ear trumpet, Bugle Style</p> <p>ET30. Ear trumpet, Hawksley, silk case</p> <p>ET31. Ear trumpet, wood case</p> <p>ET32. Ear trumpet, Galante</p> <p>ET33. Ear trumpet. London Dome</p> <p>ET34. Ear trumpet, Small Black</p> <p>ET35. Ear trumpet, Small Black</p> <p>ET36. Ear trumpet, silk-covered</p> <p>ET37. London Dome, pocket</p> <p>19 Wood, metal, and plastic ear trumpets</p>
11	--	<p>ET38. London Dome with box</p> <p>ET39. Ear trumpet, Beehive 1800s</p> <p>ET41. Ear trumpet, Rochhausen 1916</p>

ET42. Ear trumpet, Silver with case  
 ET43. Ear trumpet, Pocket 1900s  
 ET44. Ear muff trumpet, Super Ear  
 ET45. Ear trumpet on headband, Rochausen  
 ET46. Ear trumpet on headband, Faure Bernard  
 ET47. Ear trumpet on headband, Super Ear  
 ET49. Ear trumpet, drum in case, 1870  
 ET50. Ear trumpet, in case. 1920  
 ET51. Ear trumpet, drums swivel  
 ET52. Ear trumpet, drums swivel  
 ET53. Ear trumpets, drum style in box  
 ET54. Globe Audio Phone  
 ET 56. Pocket London Dome ear trumpet, 1840

Oversize ET11. 1885 Large Duplex ear trumpet  
 Oversize ET48. 1920 Ear trumpet walking cane  
 Oversize ET 57. 1850 Ear trumpet walking cane

Sub-subseries 7: Vacuum Tube

**Box Folder**

12 -- VHA1. Vacuum Tube Aid with Bone Conductor  
 VHA2. Radonic Tube Aid

Sub-subseries 8: Transistor

12 -- THA1. Transistor hearing aid  
 THA2. Transistor hearing aid  
 THA3. Transistor hearing aid  
 THA4. Transistor hearing aid  
 THA5. Transistor hearing aid  
 THA6. Transistor hearing aid

Sub-subseries 9: Electro-digital

12 -- EHA1. Hearing aids in glasses frame  
 EHA2. Electronic hearing aids  
 Electronic hearing aid  
 Electronic hearing aid

Sub-subseries 10: Conversation tubes

12 -- CT1. Conversation tube, telephone end

CT2. Antique Conversation tube  
CT3. 1920s red hearing tube  
CT4. 1850s conversation tube  
CT5. Vibratube in box  
CT6. Conversation tube  
CT7. Conversation tube  
CT8. Conversation tube

13 -- CT9. Conversation tube  
CT11. Conversation tube  
CT12. Conversation tube  
CT13. Conversation tube

Sub-subseries 11: Carbon transmitter

13 -- CHA1. Acousticon, 1907  
CHA2. Stolz Electrophone, 1908  
CHA3. Acousticon, 1907  
CHA4. Bone conduction hearing aid  
CHA5. Hearing aid, 1920  
CHA6. Fortiphone  
CHA7. Hearing aid, 1900s  
CHA8. Williams Ampliphone, 1912  
CHA9. Ardente for Deaf Ears  
CHA10. Western Electric Audiophone  
CHA11. Acousticon

Sub-subseries 12: Diagnostic tools

**Box Folder**

14 -- D1. 1866 Brunton otoscope in box  
D2. Gordon ear syringe  
D3. Ear douche  
D4. 1869 Barany hearing test instrument

Oversize Hearing test instrument  
Oversize Prescription audiometer in carrying case

Subseries C: Miscellaneous

**Box Folder**

14 -- MT3. Nasal douche

MT4. Nasal douche  
MT6. Wilson's Ear Drum Victorian medical device  
MT7. Wilson's Ear Drum Victorian medical device  
MT8. Wilson's Ear Drum Victorian medical device  
MT 10. 1908 artificial eardrum in wood box  
MT 11. Blowena artificial eardrum trumpet cure for deafness  
MT 12. Hearing glasses for the deaf-blind  
MT 13. Iron for ear cures  
MT 14. Ear pump  
MISC1. Telephone amplification device  
MISC2. Hearing evaluator  
MISC 3. Hearing aid battery tester  
Aid-a-Phone  
Duratone

Oversize      MT2. H E Nichols nasal siphon

## **Series II. Medical Instruments.**

### Subseries A: Eye Therapies

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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15	--	1930s eyeball massager Eyeball massager Natural Eyesight System
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### Subseries B: Knives and Files

15	--	1902 Dr. Van Schott Emergency Wound Clip Curved blade Metal file Metal file Military neurosurgery kit Set of French knives in box
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### Subseries C: Measuring Instruments

15	--	Tycos Standard urinometer, mall sample type, no. 7503 Tycos Doremus' Ureometer, Hind's Modification, no. 7540 Tycos saccharometer, Lohnstein's Pattern, no. 7544 Tycos Esbach's and Pfeifer's Standard albuminometer, no. 7553 Tycos Urin-Acidimeter, no. 7556
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Tycos Indicanometer, no. 7558

Subseries D: Speculums

- 15 -- Stainless steel speculum, small  
Stainless steel speculum, large  
Stainless steel speculum  
Stainless steel speculum

Subseries E: Syringes

- 15 -- 150cc glass syringe  
Gate City brand No. 16 syringe box  
Glass plunger  
Hypo brand 1cc glass syringe in box  
Tomac brand 30cc glass syringe in leather bag

Subseries F: Needles and sutures

**Box Folder**

- 2 -- Box containing 088 size needles  
Davis & Gleck brand Thermoflex Kaimerid Catgut plain sutures  
J. Ellwood Lee Braided Silk  
Johnson & Johnson brand 13" Silkworm –Gut Fine sutures  
Johnson & Johnson brand 13" Silkworm –Gut Fine sutures  
Johnson & Johnson brand Intestinal Silk No-cap sutures  
Stainless steel needle

Subseries G: Miscellaneous

- 2 -- Metal strainer  
Perfected "Oxygenor King"  
Small tin bowl  
Small glass bowl on pedestal  
Tongue depressor

**Box Folder**

- 16 -- V1. 1908 Macaura blood circulator machine  
Dr. Shrader's Ear Pump  
Enema and stomach pump  
Large enema and stomach pump  
Glass atomizer and accessories in box

Hemacytometer  
Izal medicated toilet tissue  
Lycosite  
Slenderizer  
Static Master Jr. brush  
Thermal-Aid Massager  
White's Brand electric comb in box

17 -- Healthboy electromagnetic toxin eliminator belt

Oversize Chinese acupuncture doll  
Oversize Fairbanks brand recruiting scale, 1908  
Oversize Kolon-Motor mechanical laxative  
Oversize Ray & radiation therapy machine  
Oversize Ray & radiation therapy machine  
Oversize Slenderizer and accessories in box  
Oversize Woven wicker wheelchair. undated  
Oversize WWI Stonebridge folding medical lantern

### Series III: Drugs

#### Subseries A: Bottle, s

#### **Box Folder**

18 -- Brown glass bottle with cork and label "Hypno-Sedative"  
Glass bottle  
Glass bottle, "Citrate of Magnesium"  
Glass bottle with cork "Burnett's Cocaine"  
Glass bottle with cork and label "Tolubin"  
Glass bottle, stained brown, with cork and label "Tr. Cannabis"  
Glass bottle with screw cap and Label "Coca Leaves"  
Glass bottle with screw cap and Label "Glyco-Heroin" and 7 Gelatin Caps  
containing white powder (housed separately)  
Glass bottle with cork and label "Solution. Cocaine 7%"  
Glass bottle with Cork and Label "Tincture. Glyco-Heroin 12.5%"  
Green glass bottle, "Coca Mariania"  
Green glass bottle, "Coca Mariania"  
Green glass bottle with cork and label "Coca Wine"  
Modern glass bottle with screw cap and label "Premium Coca Tea"  
Small glass bottle, "Elixir of Opium"  
Small glass bottle, stained with red powder, and dropper  
Small glass bottle with cork  
Small glass bottle with cork and label "Laudanum"

Oversize      Leather box with empty medicine vials  
 Oversize      William Radam's Microbe Killer No. 1, jar  
 Oversize      William Radam's Microbe Killer No. 2, jar with cork

**Box    Folder**

2      --      Small glass bottle with cork and poison label

Subseries B: Drugs

**Box    Folder**

18      --      MT1. Tex Bailey's Rattlesnake Oil Medicine  
                  80 tablet "Chingchunbao Recovery of Youth" pills  
                  90 tablet Chinese obesity reducing pills  
                  100 tablet Halazone in glass bottle  
                  Asthmador cigarettes  
                  Blosser's cubeb cigarettes for asthma  
                  Greatwall brand "Seahorse Genital Tonic" pills  
                  Leather pouch with medicine vials  
                  Mexsana Mexican Heat Powder in metal shaker  
                  Requa'a Cubeb Cigarettes for Influenza  
                  Theioroma Fumigating Wafers in metal box  
                  Tsingtao Medicine Works "Healthy Brain" pills

19      --      MT5. Original Medical Cigarette Deafness Cure in wood box  
                  Cocaine toothache drops  
                  Cocaine toothache drops  
                  Dr. Guild's Green Mountain Asthmatic Cigarettes  
                  Kinsman's Asthmatic Cigarettes  
                  Kinsman's Asthmatic Cigarettes  
                  "Ounce of Prevention" Cure All Tablets

Oversize      First aid kit in wooden carrying case  
 Oversize      Leather box with medicine vials and instruments

**Series IV: Printed Material**

**Box    Folder**

20      1      Advertisements  
 --      2      Almanacs  
 --      3      Catalogs

- 4 Ephemera
- 5 Medical journals
- 6 Medical journals
- 7 Pamphlets
- 8 Prescriptions
- 9 Prescriptions, handwritten recipe book

**Series V: Collectibles**

**Box Folder**

- Oversize Incan funeral mask and instruments, circa 1400, framed
- Oversize Medieval bronze medical instrument, circa 1200-1300, framed