

MUSEUM OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, (SM)
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WILLIAM L. JOHNSTON COLLECTION

Introduction

- Accession No.: 2006.27
- Donors: Gail Johnston and Marilyn Johnston Brooks
- Volume: ca. 38 linear feet
- Contents: William L. Johnston, DO, FAAO (1921– 2003) was a prominent educator, researcher, and writer whose osteopathic career spanned sixty years. For the first twenty-eight of those years, he had a private practice in New Hampshire. That experience, as well as his involvement in the fledgling New England Academy of Applied Osteopathy, shaped his thinking and his treatment methods and consequently his teaching and research in his later career. Johnston (hereafter referred to as WLJ) published over fifty articles in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* and other journals, on subjects ranging from interexaminer reliability to osteopathic manipulative treatments, thermography , and standardized patient records; he was also a frequent presenter at scientific conferences. He taught at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine from 1973–90, and remained extremely active even after his retirement. The CV included in Appendix 1 to this introduction provides an overview of WLJ’s professional activities.
- The William L. Johnston Collection includes working papers, teaching and research materials, photographs, artifacts, audiovisual materials, books, and other material documenting WLJ’s professional activities; for a detailed description of contents, see the summary below and the finding aids for the individual series.
- The papers contain little “personal” material. However, the Professional Activities series contains a folder of autobiographical statements written by WLJ, and the videotaped Australia seminars included in the Audiovisual series provide a unique and vivid look at how WLJ looked, talked, and interacted with others. Individual items scattered throughout the collections give a sense of WLJ’s personality and relationships with his family, students, patients, and colleagues (see Appendix 2 for some examples).
- Dates: 1921–2004 (bulk 1973–2001)
- Processed: 2006 Apr–2007 Aug by Cheryl Gracey (consultant and former curator). Truman State University student Kara Kirchherr assisted with the folder listings and transcription of selected documents.
- See below for a description of the condition and processing of the William L. Johnston Collection.
- Access: Generally unrestricted. Special confidentiality/privacy procedures are required for some series; see finding aids for individual series.
- Handling: WLJ maintained his working papers in a variety of ways, including traditional folders, hanging files, manila envelopes, binders, loose piles, rubber bands, and in one case, a chain of twist-ties. Within these, he organized information by clipping batches of material together, clipping those batches to other batches, and so on, often with post-it

notes or small slips of paper attached to identify the group. This organization has been maintained by folding pieces of acid-free paper around each batch, one within another to correspond to the sequential groupings.

Researchers and photocopiers must be extremely careful not to disturb the arrangement of the groups and subgroups. In addition, great care should be used in removing folders from boxes to keep the small slips of paper from falling out; users must also keep the folders flat on the table when working.

Copyright and
Permission to
Publish:

See individual series listings.

Suggested
Citation:

See individual series listings.

Related
Material:

Tinning Curriculum and Planning Materials

Mid-Century Researcher Materials (Museum collections relating to J.S. Denslow, I.M. Korr, and other KCOS researchers)

Summary of Series

See individual series introductions for complete description and notes.

1. **Early Work** (EW – ca. .5 linear ft.; finding aid 7 pp.)

Chapman's Reflexes: Manuscripts, letters, and other material (ca. 1941–44) primarily relating to the work of Charles Owens, DO, with Chapman's reflexes and technic, as conveyed by Owens's assistant, A.D. Ketcham.

New England Academy of Osteopathy: Primarily announcements and programs from NEAAO study sessions and semi-annual meetings.

2. **Professional Activities** (PRF – ca. 3 linear ft.; finding aid 8 pp.): Material documenting WLJ's activities in relation to the profession as a whole, such as credentials, participation in professional organizations, service on the *JAOA* editorial board, and correspondence with other DOs. Also includes several "ideas" folders and a small amount of personal material such as birth certificate and undergraduate grade reports. Appendix includes a listing of WLJ's computer files from disks received with the collection; these may be accessed electronically.

3. **Michigan State University Faculty and Teaching Materials** (MSU – ca. 5.5 linear ft.; finding aid 8 pp.): Material documenting WLJ's activities as a faculty member at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (1973–1989; emeritus 1990–2003). Includes materials relating to PMI (Primary Medical Initiative).

4. **Research Activities** (RES – ca.7 linear ft.; finding aid 8 pp.): Raw data, data analysis, notes, working papers, and other material documenting WLJ's research activities; also small sections relating to collaboration with Albert Kelso and Joseph Vorro.

5. **Publications and Presentations** (PPR – ca. 4.5 linear ft.; finding aid 18 pp.): Working papers and final copies of WLJ's book *Functional Methods* (1994), articles, chapters, abstracts, presentations (posters, speeches, short courses, etc.), videotape project. Appendix includes a full listing of WLJ publications and presentations from his CV and other sources.

6. **Collected Research** (CR – ca. 3 linear ft.; finding aid 17 pp.): Primarily reprints and photocopies of articles by others, with a small amount of correspondence and notes.

7. **Photographs and Slides** (PH – ca. 1 linear ft.; finding aid 5 pp.): Images of osteopathic manipulative techniques and osteopathic groups, images used in presentations and publications, and a small number of personal photos and formal portraits of WLJ.

8. **Artifacts** (AF – ca. 2.5 linear ft.; finding aid 3 pp.): Medical instruments, plaques, pins, stationery, memorabilia, textiles, research poster

9. **Audiovisual Materials** (AV – 8 DVDs and 3 CDs copied from original tapes; finding aid 3 pp.): MSUCOM "Osteopathic Examination and Manipulation" series; other demonstrations and talks by WLJ; presentations by I.M Korr, Bernard St. John, and Anne Wales; miscellaneous other material.

10. **WLJ Library** (LB – ca. 6 linear ft.; finding aid 11 pp.): Selected books from WLJ's personal/professional library. Appendix includes a list of other books and tapes received with the Johnston donation but not retained as part of the WLJ Collection.

Oversize Box (OS – ca. 1.5 linear ft.; finding aid 2 pp.): Oversize materials from different series.

Terms and Abbreviations

AAO	American Academy of Osteopathy
AFK	Albert F. Kelso, Ph.D.
AOA	American Osteopathic Association
BiM	Biomechanics (Dept.)
ca.	circa (i.e., approximately)
CCCC	Core Clinical Concepts Curriculum, a 3-week course linking first-year basic science courses and second-year systems courses
CCO	Chicago College of Osteopathy (school name until 1970)
CCOM	Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
CME	Continuing Medical Education
COGMET	Consortium for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education and Training Established in 1989 to improve the quality of graduate medical education. COGMET combined the resources of thirteen osteopathic hospitals and MSUCOM to increase the quality of residency education in CME [in] Michigan. Succeeded by/related to Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine OPTI (Osteopathic Post Graduate Training Institution) or Statewide Campus System (SCS), which includes 20 member hospitals and two academic members: MSUCOM and KCOM. http://www.com.msu.edu/scs/about/index.shtml
COILS	Clinical Osteopathically Integrated Learning Scenarios (instruction/evaluation modules produced by ECOP)
COMP	College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
CRT	Continental Round-table (see WLJ article "Harold Hoover and the CRT," <i>AAO Yearbook</i> , 1969)
ECOP	Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (AACOM)
ESR	electrical skin resistance
DFM	Department of Family Medicine
FCM	Family and Community Medicine (Dept.)
FM	Family Medicine (Dept.)
FOCUS	Funds for Osteopathic Colleges in the United States (SmithKline Beecham grant program)
KCOM	Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine (now part of A.T. Still University)
MAOPS	Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (changed to Michigan Osteopathic Association in 1998 Jan)
MORNET	Michigan Osteopathic Research Network; established ca. 1995. See Hogan, M.J. et al., Abstract, <i>JAOA</i> 99:8 (1999 Aug):428.
msk	musculoskeletal
MSUCOM	Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
n.d.	no date
NEAAO	New England Academy of Applied Osteopathy
nmsk	neuromusculoskeletal
OMERAD	Office of Educational Research and Development (MSUCOM)
OSTEONET	early/proposed name for MORNET?
OUCOM	Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
PCOM	Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
PMI	Primary Medicine Initiative, new medical education model launched at Michigan in [1995] aimed at attracting more students to primary care. Key components: "an educational continuum, innovative teaching methods, an active learning environment, and new

educational technologies.” See Wood, D.L., The Primary Medicine Initiative—Continuity in medical education, *JAOA* 94:1 (1994 Jan):67–73.

RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia)
tsk	thermograms of skin temperature
UAAO	Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy
URS	Unified Record System (early 1970s work)
VUT	Victoria University of Technology (Australia; now Victoria University)

Note: The use of square brackets around information indicates a degree of uncertainty. For example, [1978] means that evidence suggests the item dates from 1978 but we do not know for sure.

Condition and Processing of the William L. Johnston Collection

Because the Johnston papers were in considerable disarray when received, and because of WLJ's particular workstyle, processing the papers involved a large amount of guesswork as to the relationships among the materials. (The archival principle of *original order*, although generally not useful, was followed where possible.) There is evidence that WLJ organized his ongoing work by (large) piles, the relational scheme of which was rarely obvious to the processor; he also apparently moved items from one pile to another as he reused them for different purposes.¹ Communications from WLJ's daughters include the following descriptions of their father's workspace and style:

Dad's office was neat, though I would not say meticulous. He was very organized in his mind and in practice. He saved everything and... couldn't throw out paper clips or rubber bands or post-its that could possibly be used again." (Meryl Johnston Brooks 5/30/06)

His mind never stopped working. He was always looking for the right way to say something, the right way to explain something, the right way to see something, the solution to a nagging problem. Always. So the notes² were sprinkled all over his office. (Gail Johnston 9/7/06)

Appendix 3 provides a look at WLJ's office in photographs taken by his friend and colleague, David Eland, DO, shortly after WLJ died in June 2003.

Most of the original boxes contained a mixture of file folders, notebooks, manila envelopes, and other enclosures, as well as LARGE quantities of loose material with little apparent relationship to each other (i.e., no discernible common subject, date, correspondent, or ...). There were also hundreds of duplicate reprints, data collection forms, presentation handouts, etc.³

Fortunately, WLJ was fairly meticulous about dating and, to a lesser extent, labeling his working papers; this provided valuable clues for identifying and grouping materials. He also was fairly consistent in using a "newer items on top" system within folders, and among folders in a filing group. This system was retained where possible during the processing.

The final series arrangement was imposed by the processor, taking into account WLJ's different spheres of activity, existing labels, and any obvious groupings (such as the hanging files in the Collected Research series). The Museum welcomes input from researchers as to needed corrections in the arrangement and description of the collection.

Arrangement and Description

Processing began in April 2006 with a survey of the 44 boxes included in the donation.⁴ The survey revealed the presence of (probably long-standing) moisture damage in the form of a musty smell, slight areas of visible staining, and rusted paper clips and other hardware. In addition, there was damage inherent to mixed materials such as these: chemical transfers from acidic and coated papers; deterioration of rubber bands holding batches together; adhesive stains from tape; etc.

Following the survey, the next step was to identify existing or logical divisions in the material (series and subseries) and outline a tentative organizational plan. Acid-free "drop boxes" were then used to sort the material in keeping with this plan. The first items to be processed were those that were clearly labeled and/or

¹ In addition, material may have been rearranged (by WLJ or others) in the process of clearing out his office at Michigan State University, sending the materials to the Museum, or other moves.

² See Professional Activities series: Ideas and Notes: Notepads, misc..

³ One of the first steps in processing was to discard all but two copies of such items.

⁴ Another box received in June 2006 was surveyed upon arrival.

easily identified, such as artifacts, publications, and syllabi for specific MSUCOM courses. The most problematic series was Research Activities (4), due to:

- large volume of material, scattered throughout 12+ boxes
- interrelation of studies, with similar and/or the same data used in different ways
- confidentiality issues, especially identification of research subjects by name
- mixed physical makeup of the materials: acidic, non-acidic, and coated paper; cloth; photographic materials; plastic; metal; other

Once all materials had been arranged, folder labels were finalized and a finding aid was created for each series. The series finding aids provide additional details about the processing and arrangement of specific sets of material.

Preservation

Artifacts were identified, cleaned, and stored in appropriate enclosures. Textiles were padded and wrapped in tissue and placed in archival boxes.

Slides and photographs were placed into archival sleeves, identified and dated (as far as possible), and housed in binders.

Framed objects were removed from frames.

Paper items were handled as follows:

- All items were identified (to the extent possible), sorted, and placed in acid-free folders and boxes.
Exception: Material from the 1986/87 follow-up study (Research Activities series) was left in the original file folders.
- Paper clips were replaced with folded paper. To avoid further confusion due to the multiple layers of attachments, staples were not removed unless rusted.
- Acidic paper was photocopied or separated from adjacent pages by acid-free paper on a case-by-case basis.
- Early photocopies (chalky gray paper) were interleaved or replaced with photocopies as needed.
- Post-its/sticky notes were photocopied in place, then moved to the photocopy, thus recording their original locations but preventing loss of information should the adhesive give out and/or darken with time. The photocopy was placed in the folder with the original.
- Notes written on the covers of manila file folders were usually photocopied and placed at the front of the new folder; in cases where the writing was too faint to copy, the original was retained (written-on part only).

Overhead transparencies (used in presentations and lectures) were discarded unless obviously written on during the presentation. The paper originals were retained if present; if not, the transparency was photocopied. Most were removed from their cardboard frames; edges were trimmed where necessary to remove tape residue.

Video- and audiotapes were copied to DVDs and CDs.

Appendix 1

Curriculum Vitae of William L. Johnston⁵ (February 17, 1921– June 9, 2003)

Education:

- 1938 Toronto University
Toronto, Canada
Associate Degree, Honor Science
- 1943 Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
Chicago, Illinois
D.O.
- 1944 Massachusetts Osteopathic Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Internship

Professional Experience:

- 1945–73 Private Practice
Manchester, New Hampshire
- 1973–81 Professor, Department of Biomechanics
Michigan State University, COM
- 1981–90 Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Michigan State University, COM
- 1989 Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
Section Chief
- 1990–2003 Professor Emeritus
Department of Family Medicine

Academic Appointments:

- 1972–74 Chairman, Conclave of Fellows, AAO
- 1983–84 Chairman, Conclave of Fellows, AAO
- 1980–81 Visiting Professor, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
- 1986– Visiting Professor, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Professional Organizations:

- American Osteopathic Association
American Academy of Osteopathy
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons
New Hampshire Osteopathic Association (honorary)

Honors:

- 1967 Fellow, American Academy of Osteopathy, FAAO
- 1967 JAOA Author's Award for 1966 publication of "Manipulative Skills"
- 1967 Board Certified, American Osteopathic Association, Special Proficiency in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
- 1974 Fellow, Office of Medical Education, Research & Development, MSU
- 1982 Louisa Burns Memorial Lecturer
- 1988 Lecturer, Donald Craske Memorial
- 1991 Gutensohn-Denslow Award, Bureau of Research, AOA
- 1996 Andrew Taylor Still Medallion of Honor, AAO

⁵ From <http://www.williamjohnstondo.com/cv.asp>.

- 1996 George W. Northup Writing Award, JAOA, for 1995 publication of "Changes in presence of a segmental dysfunction pattern with hypertension: Parts I & II Short and long term longitudinal studies"
- 1997 President's Citation, Michigan Osteopathic Association (Melvin Linden, D.O.) Scott Memorial Lecturer, Founder's Day, Kirksville, MO
- 1998 Dedication, 1998 American Academy of Osteopathy Yearbook: Scientific Contributions of William L. Johnston, DO, FAAO
- 2000 Andy Award, MORNET: Pilot Study; Michigan Osteopathic Association
- 2000 Heilig Memorial Lecture, PCOM, Philadelphia, PA

Medical Society Activities:

- 1950s NEAAO Education Committee. Development of a functional orientation for technique. Published in Academy Yearbooks, 1955,56,57
- 1960's Chairman, NEAAO Education Committee
Past Secretary, President, NHOA
- 1961–73 New Hampshire Delegate to AOA House of Delegates
- 1973–78 Board of Governors, AAO
- 1999– Board of Governors, AAO

Appendix 2

A Personal Look at WLJ - Sample Items

Description	Date	Location
“Steps in the osteopathic direction.” Handwritten position paper (draft) written as a student at the Chicago College of Osteopathy regarding school’s “proposed improvements in the osteopathic unit” and emphasizing the need for students to be “taught to think osteopathically.”	[ca. 1941]	PRF1:2B
Reference to influence of Charles Bowles on WLJ’s thinking (American Osteopathic College of Rehabilitation Medicine Mid-Year Scientific Seminar presentation).	1990 Mar	PPR3:9
Bulletin from St. Paul’s Church, Paget, Bermuda, with notes [written during the service] at the bottom.	1975 Sep 14	PRF1:16
Humorous introduction and personal reminiscences (Craske Memorial Lecture, CCOM).	1988 Sep 29	PPR3:6
Note gently chiding a young colleague for his failure to follow through on communications/arrangements with WLJ (re COMP presentations).	1997	PPR3:24
Thank you notes from students and others scattered throughout		
<i>The State News</i> (MSU student newspaper), v. 73, n. 48, reporting on basketball showdown between MSU and Indiana State University (Magic Johnson vs. Larry Bird).	1979 Mar 28	removed ⁶

⁶ This item was deemed to be relevant to the collection only as far as noting that WLJ had it.

Appendix 3

Selected Photographs of William Johnston's Office⁷



⁷ Taken by David Eland, DO, shortly after WLJ's death in 2003

