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Rose Melnick Medical Museum: Past, Present, and Future

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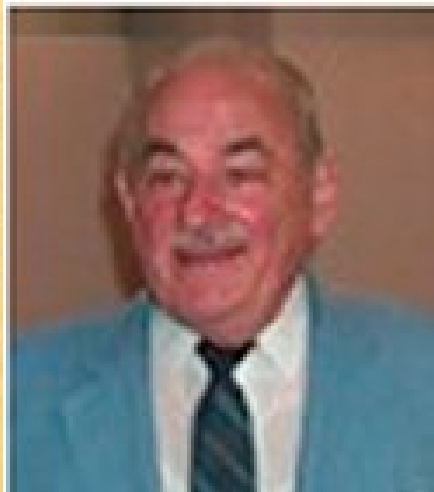
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Rose Melnick Medical Museum:

Past, Present, and Future

Past



John C. Melnick,
radiologist (1928-
2008)

- ◆ Dr. Melnick started collecting medical artifacts in 1972. Interested in local medical history
- ◆ Wanted to create a museum that would cultivate an interest in medicine and promote medical history
- ◆ Displayed at NEOMED
- ◆ Collection came to YSU in 1997 and the museum opened in 2001.

Past

Thursday, October 18, 2001

The Jambor

5

Arts & Entertainment

Urban art to be shown at the Butler



Art imitates life

Michael Levy, recognized photographer, will have his work on display at the Butler Institute of American Art, beginning Monday. It will be displayed through the month of November. The exhibit was funded by the Urban University Program because Levy's work deals the issues present of urban life, using religious landmarks as the background with modern depictions in the foreground.



By KILLIS WALSH
Jambor Editor

"Where are we going?" Mike Levy, award-winning photographer, poses this question through his photographic essay "Sacred Landmarks," a series of nearly 40 photographs, which will be on display at the Butler Institute of American Art beginning Monday.

Levy's series depicts juxtapositions presented in society by photographing different historic landmarks, mainly churches, among modern, momentary facets of society. For example, the most obvious focus in a photo will be a gas station, but a closer look at the background will reveal some historic landmark.

"The thing is gas stations come and go, and the church is still there. It has stood the test of time but is slowly fading into the background," Levy said.

Not all of Levy's work deals with this topic. Levy currently works for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, but even as a news photographer, he is able to capture the aesthetic.

Levy was recognized as News Photographer of the Year in the 50th annual Ohio News Photographers Association Contest, which is

a statewide competition. Levy also earned this title in 1998 and 1992.

Levy has worked on the staffs of five other newspapers around the country before photographing for The Plain Dealer. His work has been published in Time, Life, and U.S. News and World Report magazines.

With his experience as a photographer, Levy has traveled to many parts of the world to fulfill assignments. His most recent travels include going to Russia this year to photograph steel mills and Israel and Jordan in 2000 to photograph the pope's visit to the Middle East.

Levy's work is coming to The Butler as part of a program that actively deals with urban affairs. The Butler is presenting the exhibit in conjunction with YSU's Center for Urban Studies.

As a way to connect and reach out to surrounding urban schools, The Levin College of Urban Affairs created a statewide collaboration, called the Urban University Program in 1979, which links eight universities with their communities and with each other.

Other universities included in this network are Cleveland State University, Kent State University and the

University of Akron. Norma Stefanik, research associate of YSU urban affairs, finds this project important because "documenting sacred landmarks through dioceses, research and mapping promotes awareness of the fragility that these landmarks possess."

Levy's work connects and brings to light these concepts of fragility. His work captures both the beauty and ugliness of a city.

"I love Cleveland," Levy said. "I find it beautiful and ugly, and I see even its ugliness in an aspect maybe other photographers would try to hide. And I want to present the ugly along side with the beautiful because that's the only way I can wholly communicate Cleveland."

As Levy described, many of his photographs depict layers of time — that of an older, historic building and that of something modern. This creates not only some sort of irony but also a feeling of being stuck in the middle of something that cannot logically be processed.

This feeling of being stuck between the past and the present does not yield any clues about where we are going. The artist just presents the question and leaves the answer up to us.

Campus medical museum opens

By KILLIS WALSH
Jambor Editor

Open wide and say "Aaa!" YSU's new medical museum is a lot to take in with just one bite.

The Rose Melnick Medical Museum, which is located on Wick Avenue across from the Arnes Museum, had its grand opening Monday. The historical museum, filled with odd gadgets and interesting equipment, offers a plethora of information dealing with the evolution of the medical field from the 1700s to the present.

Visitors are able to see many old devices once used in medicine — some which are down right frightening. Blood-letting tools, an iron lung and old amputation kits containing rusty saws are among some of the items in the museum.

Many of the pieces on display come right from the

Maloney valley. "Many of the items deal with local history, and people in this area are really in touch with the past of their community," Victor Fleischer, the museum's curator said.

Along with each exhibit are informational postings that give the background and history of the pieces. There are also videos explaining some medical phenomena like polio. Also displayed in the museum are recreations of doctor and dental offices, which are based on old photographs.

Currently, the museum's featured exhibit is "When the President is Polioed," and it will be on display throughout the year until August. The installation came from the Mutter Museum of the College of Physicians in Philadelphia and it contains photographs and informational pieces about the ailments of

all the presidents up to Bill Clinton. Replacing this exhibit in August will be one dealing with the history of eugenics.

"The museum gives us a sense of the past. It shows us where we have been but also we are going."

— VICTOR FLEISCHER
Rose Melnick Medical Museum Curator

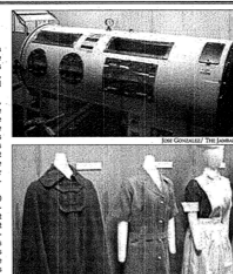
Dr. John Melnick, a local radiologist, founded the museum when he began collecting these medical artifacts in 1972. He brought everything together for the public to

experience in one museum because he wants to cultivate an interest in medicine and its history among students, physicians and the general public.

Fleischer commented, "The museum gives us a sense of the past. It shows us where we have been but also where we are going. This stuff seems outdated, but in fifty years we'll probably look back at some of our practices like chemotherapy and wonder what the hell we were thinking."

Containing around 20,000 items on the subject of medicine, the museum is a great place to do research at. It should truly be taken advantage of, especially since it is among a few museums of its kind. Only eight legitimate historical medical museums exist in the nation.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



MEDICAL HISTORY: An iron lung, created soon after polio outbreaks, and old nursing uniforms are among many of the items on display at the Rose Melnick

Present

Primary goal:

**Integrate Museum with
University and
Community**

- Respiratory Care students
- Loan out artifacts
- Summer Festival of the Arts
- Student tours K – Red Hats
- Public programs with MVHS



Present

School and group tours



Public programs

Present

Catalog library and artifact collection





Present

Completing exhibit plan
and enhancing exhibits
with multi-sensory
elements



Present

Blog

YouTube


The Rose Melnick Medical Museum

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If it ain't broke, don't fix it

March 14, 2012

Recently, I did some light research on operating table design. I was looking for changes in design and materials so that I could help a researcher date their newly-acquired artifact. What I found was that after about 1920, operating tables didn't change much. They all looked about the same and had similar features. The biggest differences among operating tables throughout the last 100 years are materials and electronic controls. The design is still very similar to those of the early 20th century.




AFFILIATED '00' OPERATING TABLE

The fully powered table with simplified controls. The simple controls control in minimum movement of the various portions. Top operation is achieved by actuating a power cable. Electric motor controls adjust head adjustments between 27 and 45 inches. And in case of a power failure, a long-range automatic brake system automatically locks the table. With manual manipulation. All electrical characteristics are designed to be incorporated in the table. The table has been used since 1900. Construction and finish similar to other affiliated tables in the area.

electronically controlled operating table from 1973 (sold by Mueller Co.)

Operating tables of the early- and mid-1800s were very simple wooden planks that may have had restraints for the chest and extremities. These would have been necessary because surgery was done without anesthesia. These basic tables were made more for the surgeon's comfort than for the patient. Operating tables or chairs would have placed the patient at a comfortable position for the surgeon to work.



1853 operating table (St. Thomas Hospital, London)

As the types of surgery increased due to the use of anesthesia and antiseptic practices, the operating tables and chairs were designed to offer a variety of surgical positions. The table was divided into multiple

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The Rose Melnick Medical Museum
at Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY
The Wooden X-Ray Machine

Future

Move to School of Health and Human Services

- ◆ new programs with students
- ◆ Distribute some exhibits throughout building
- ◆ Better location for field trips
- ◆ Increase traveling/rotating exhibits

