

Collaborating to Preserve Mister Neurology's Legacy: A retrospective look at an exhibit

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The Key: A Motivated Faculty Advocate for the History of Medicine

The Special Collections Department has long benefited from a strong relationship with Dr. James L. Stone, a faculty advocate for history of neurology. Dr Stone has published widely in the history of neurology and was a regular conduit for institutional archival material and exhibit ideas.

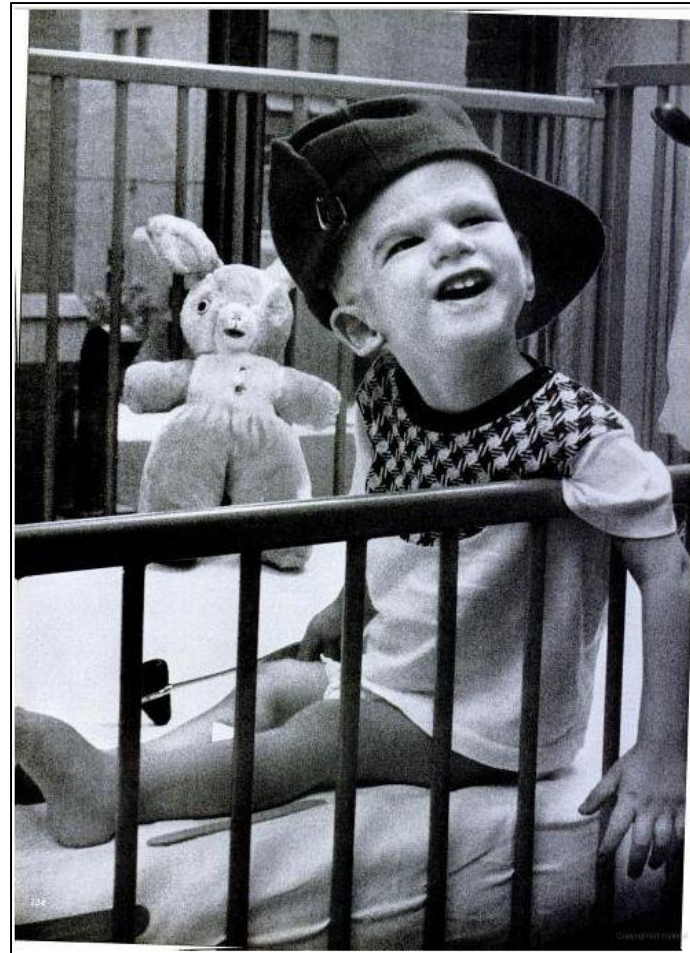


Photo by Ayman Hussein

A Record of Collaboration

Our first collaboration was a 2008 exhibit documenting the cranial separation of the Brodie twins by Dr. Oscar Sugar and Dr. Herbert Grossmann in 1952.

Pictured is surviving twin Roger Brodie, featured in a June 15, 1953 *Life* magazine article.



An Exhibit Proposal

- In the spring of 2010, Dr. James Stone of the UIC Neurosurgery Department approached the UIC Library of the Health Sciences Special Collections Department with a proposal to cooperate on an exhibition of selected examples of a collection of approximately 300 plastic-embedded normal and pathological brain specimens retrieved by him from the basement of the NPI building.

Percival Bailey: “Mr. Neurology”

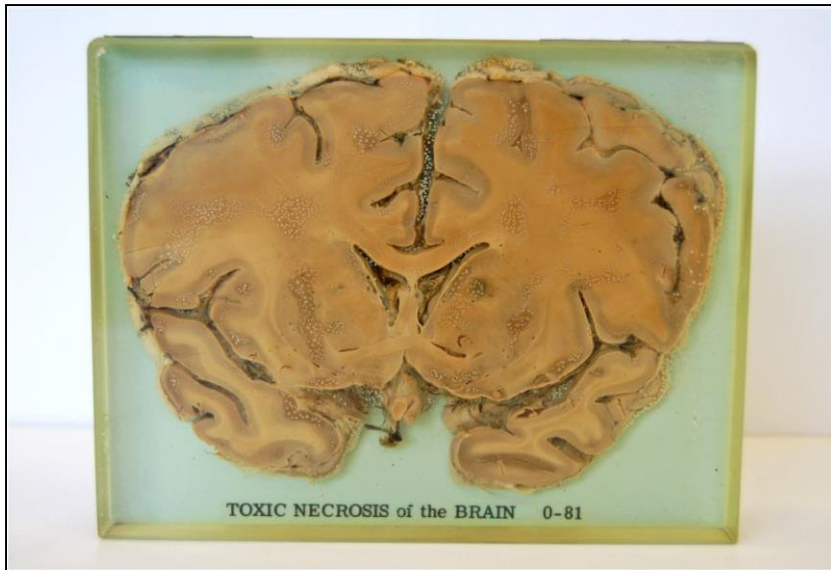
These specimens were created by Dr Percival Bailey (1892-1973) while he was a member of the faculty of the University of Illinois Neuropsychiatric Institute in the 1940s. Dr Bailey obtained a PhD from U of C and an MD from Northwestern University in 1918. He worked with Harvey Cushing at the Brigham Hospital in Boston (they co-authored *A Classification of Tumors of the Glioma Group* in 1926) from 1919 to 1928; served on the faculty of the U of C; went to U of I in 1939; and capped off his career as the director of the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute. Along the way, Dr Bailey earned the honorific title, “Mr. Neurology.”



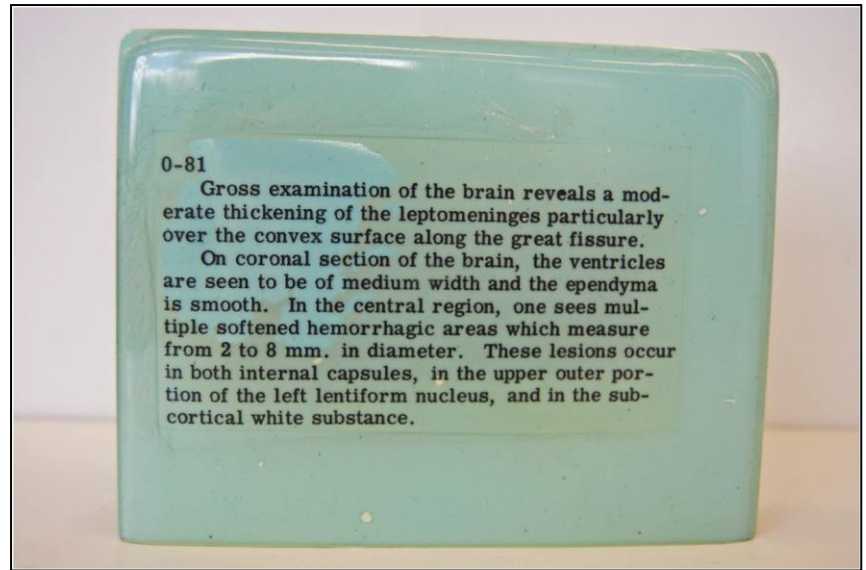
Percival Bailey in 1932

(UIC University Archives)

Examples of Bailey's Collection



An example: front



An example: back

- Created between 1939-1963
 - The history of the specimens is not well documented
- Accompanying patient records were lost or destroyed at some point
 - Exact technique of preservation not recorded

An Additional Collaborator

Dr Stone invited a member of the UIC Pathology Department, Dr. Tibor Valy-Nagy, to assist in classifying the specimens for display. Dr. Valy-Nagy examined each object and assigned it to a category using contemporary pathological terms.

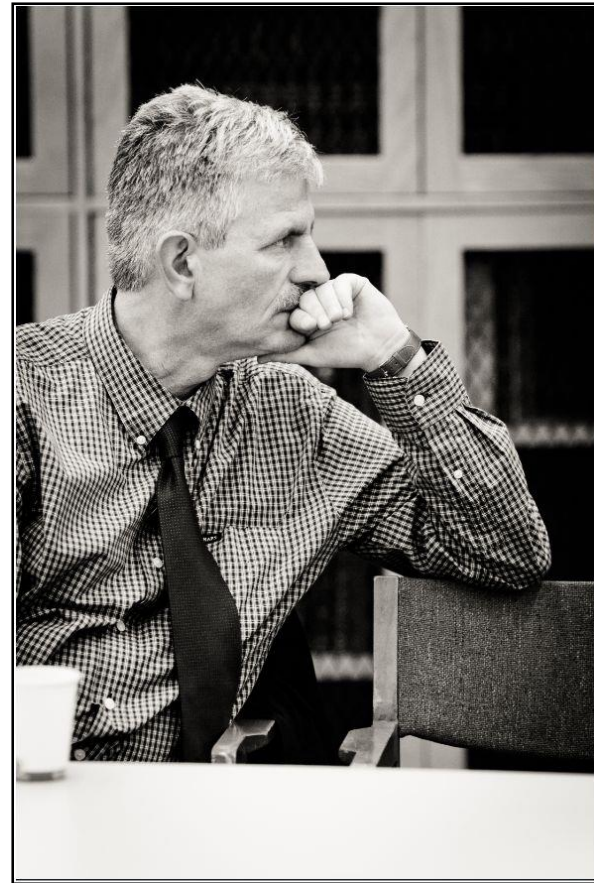


Photo by Ayman Hussein

The Exhibit Process

Members of the Special Collections Department assisted with selection and transportation of the specimens to the library, designing signage, installing, and publicizing the exhibit. In addition, photographs of a selection of the specimens were taken by a volunteer intern and developed into a publicly accessible online digital collection of 233 images. See:

<http://bit.ly/1DARKcJ>



Photo by Jen Dahlgren, UIAA

The Exhibit in Place



Photo by Ayman Hussein

The exhibit officially opened on November 3, 2010 in four cases on two floors of the building. It was considered a success by both Dr Stone and the Special Collections Department.

Strengths of the Exhibit

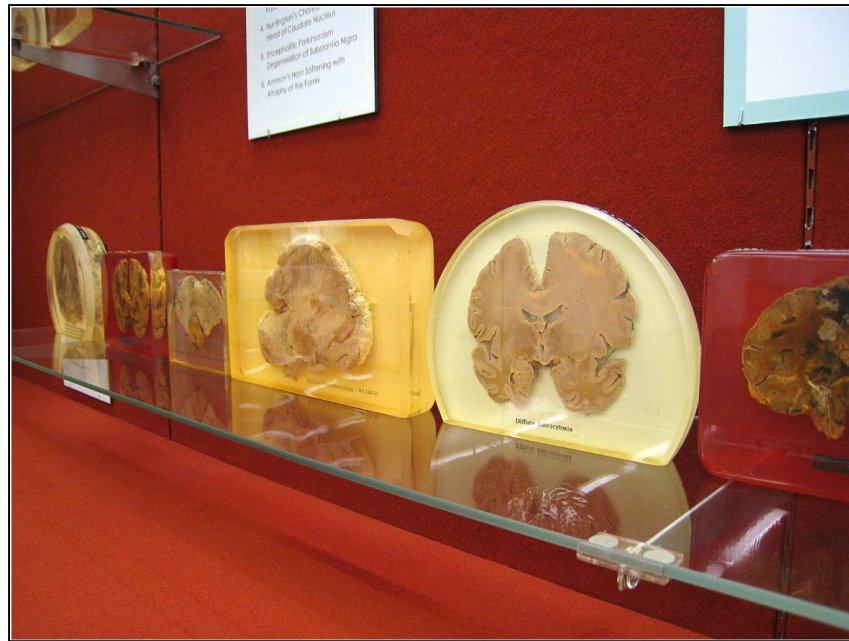


Photo by Jen Dahlgren, UIAA

- Well-publicized lecture event featuring Dr. Stone was held on November 3, 2010.
- Good relations with Neurology and Neurosurgery Departments
- Institutional publicity: Prominent *UIC Alumni News* article (Spring 2012 issue)

Weaknesses

- Did not gain an substantive external audience for exhibit
- Did not measure visits or assess reception of exhibit
- Patient names appear on two of the specimens and both made it into the digital collection
- Did not measure the physical dimensions of the specimens for inclusion in Content dm metadata
- We did not generate a publication from the experience