

WELCOME to *history-of-obgyn.com*

October 2015

APOLOGIA

This site was created in November 2014 —primarily as occupational therapy for a recently-retired Canadian/American OBGYN with an interest in the history of his profession. It now contains thousands of active links—enough to provide days of casual reading, or to serve as a resource for writers seeking background information not available from the usual WEB searches.

As the name implies, history-of-obgyn.com concentrates on topics germane to women’s health, and is aimed at professionals in this field. However, OBGYN is historically a recent specialty whose development is best appreciated in a broader cultural and medical context. The non-specialist will thus be particularly attracted to the topics under the *Miscellanea* menu tab.

The other menu and sub-menu tabs are self-explanatory. To minimize screen clutter, many WEB pages cannot be accessed directly from the tabs, so feel free to click around. History-of-obgyn.com remains a work in progress, so not all links are active yet. Keep coming back for more.

CREDENTIALS and BACKGROUND

After completing my professional training in 1982, I worked as an OBGYN in Canada and the USA until 2014. I am the 2003 A.C.O.G. Fellow in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology, and author of various articles on historical topics. In 2010, Dr. Thomas F. Baskett and I published a critically-acclaimed English translation of François Rousset’s 1581 treatise on Cesarean Section.

I have collected antiquarian books and instruments for over 30 years. During the first two decades, I spent many evenings in libraries photocopying journal articles. When EBAY came along, I bought dozens of discarded bound journals to tear up, and expanded my collection of plastic-protected articles catalogued in over 200 three-ring binders. As evermore books and instruments accumulated on the shelves in my man-cave, my wife asked: “What are you going to do with all this s***?”

That particular pack-rat activity stopped around 2007, when [GOOGLE](#) began digitizing entire university libraries. Since I had always been more interested in the content of old books than in their value as artefacts, it seemed more convenient to go the digital route. I used slow on-call time to download literally thousands of books and journals from GOOGLE and other Internet sites. Anticipating retirement and house-downsizing, I gradually scanned most of my articles and got rid of the binders. My database currently takes up about 600GB on a portable USB drive. Most of the books and instruments are in storage —awaiting a later stage of retirement when I hope to sell them back on EBAY to those who prefer tangibles to bytes, and have the space for them.

TECHNICAL

This is my first attempt at WEB design. After looking at a few You Tube videos, I ended up at HostGator.com. This site provided the domain name, hosting, and design software. Since my HTML skills are rather basic, I have been using the “drag and drop” WEEBLY PRO software for my site design. Since this is a non-commercial site, I choose to emphasize content over appearance.

I use ADOBE ACROBAT PRO and PHOTOSHOP to shrink and optimize articles and images from my database for the WEB.

COPYRIGHT ISSUES

The material in my database was acquired over many years for my own use, and I have not always kept track of its origin. I am making it available to a wider audience in a spirit of information-sharing. Most of the free GOOGLE books and journals were published before 1925 or so, and assumed to be in the public domain in the USA. There are only a few articles published in the last 50 years on my site. If any readers believe I have infringed upon their copyright, and are unwilling to grant *post-hoc* permission, please contact me at the email below with your concerns.

COLLABORATION

I appreciate any constructive feedback, and am happy to be a resource person to anyone looking to collaborate on a historical article for publication (or not). Please contact me at:
ronaldmcyr@gmail.com

If you are selling a product, service or promoting a commercial site, please don't clutter my inbox.

Ronald M. Cyr M.D.