

LOST ARTIFACTS?

The F. J. Moore Portrait Collection

In 1949 Henry Monmouth Smith of MIT published a collection, titled *Torchbearers of Chemistry*, of 250 portraits and prints of famous chemists, with short biographical captions by Ralph Oesper of the University of Cincinnati (1). In the forward to the book it was indicated that these portraits were part of a collection which hung in the halls of the Chemistry Department at MIT and that many of them had been purchased with a fund established by the widow of the late Forris Jewett Moore, who had been Professor of Organic Chemistry at MIT and the author of a highly successful history of chemistry (2). The question is what has happened to the Moore Portrait Collection since the publication of Smith's book 60 years ago? Does it still hang in the halls of MIT? Is it in the archives of MIT? Or has it been dispersed and lost to future historians?

References and Notes

1. H. M. Smith, *Torchbearers of Chemistry*, Academic Press, New York, 1949.
2. F. J. Moore, *A History of Chemistry*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1st ed. 1918, 2nd ed. 1931, 3rd ed. 1939. A portrait and short biographical sketch of Moore appear in the 2nd and 3rd editions.

Readers having information relating to the above artifacts or questions of their own, which they would like to see addressed in future columns, should send their comments and questions to Dr. William B. Jensen, Oesper Collections, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0172 or e-mail them to jensenwb@email.uc.edu.

RESPONSE TO LAST ISSUE'S COLUMN

Numerous responses were received to last issue's question concerning the The Squibb Ancient Pharmacy Museum, which established the following facts. After being purchased in Europe by Squibb in 1932, the artifacts were put on display at the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress Exhibition. From 1934 to 1945 the collection was on display at the New York offices of the Squibb Company, as described in the small booklet mentioned in the previous column. In 1945 the collection was loaned to the Smithsonian. In 1989 Squibb was purchased by Bristol-Meyers, and in 1991 the collection was permanently donated to the Smithsonian. It was previously on display in the Hall of Pharmacy of the National Museum of American History but is currently in storage. Persons interested in further information should contact Judy M. Chelnick, Associate Curator, Division of Medicine and Science, National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitutional Avenue NW, MRC 637, PO Box 37012, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 20013-7012. Thanks to Lydia Hines, Ron Brashear, Richard Ulrych, Arnold Thackray, and Judy Chelnick for their helpful responses.