

HISTORY OF PHARMACY SIG

Pharmacy Chronicles: Past, Present, and Future

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, HISTORY OF PHARMACY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

As current chair for the History of Pharmacy SIG, I'd like to introduce myself and welcome you to this latest issue of the newsletter. I am a professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Downers Grove campus, and teach dosage forms, compounding, biotechnology, and history of pharmacy.

When a former colleague (Avery Spunt) and I decided to develop a history of pharmacy elective 14 years ago, we decided to model it on the Dennis Worthen *Heroes of Pharmacy: Professional Leadership in Times of Change* book, the essays of which were originally published as a recurring series in the Journal of the American Pharmacist's Association. We covered the standard topics generally covered in history of pharmacy courses, but put special emphasis on

the people involved, because it is the people who make a profession. In the early portion of the class, those people mentioned were less likely to be pharmacists as our profession had not yet split off completely from physicians, so we talked about Galen, Dioscorides and Ibn Sina, among others. As the course moved closer to modern times, however, apothecaries and pharmacists began to appear, many of whom were revolutionary, and who have shaped not only our profession, but our individual professional identities. This past summer's History of Pharmacy SIG programming tackled that current hot topic, and our immediate past chair, Scott Wisneski, discussed it in greater detail in his last note in this newsletter. One quote from his that note particularly stuck with me: "Who in the past or present influ-

enced your identity?" How would students answer that question?¹

Over time, I've focused more of the course on the recent past and current pharmacists, to emphasize to our students that while they may feel like a very small cog in the wheel, they can make a huge impact. Certainly, most expect to have a huge impact on individual patients, but in our ever-changing professional environment, I've made a point of introducing current practitioners who are making an impact on the profession.

Because of this focus on people, one of the questions I asked my students on their final assignment was "Of all the individuals you have learned about during this class, which one would you most like to have chosen as your mentor?" The responses were varied and enlightening. Several students wished to have been mentored by early physician-scientists such as Galen, Ibn Sina, Ibn Masayh, and Shen Nung. Others chose current practitioners. Some of the reasons given for choosing a mentor showed me that the course had had some impact on professional identity formation. One second-career student chose Alex Barker, founder of Happy PharmD because of his focus

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Meet the Editors

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Thank you ...

The Editors would like to thank the volunteers who performed the peer reviews and editing for this issue.

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Message from the Editor

Welcome

We are pleased to present the 15th issue in our 10th year of publishing, of the History of Pharmacy SIG Newsletter *Pharmacy Chronicles: Past, Present, and Future*. This is also our second issue for this year, and our fourth year of providing two issues per year thanks to the interest of our readers

and to the authors who labor to provide us with outstanding articles. We must give a big 'shout-out' to our peer reviewers who respond quickly and with constructive comments to the authors, resulting in a higher quality publication. We always welcome volunteers to be peer reviewers; we appreciate your efforts

and the burden is light.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer my heartfelt thanks to Cathy Tagliari, our recently retired editor. She has done an extraordinary job over the last several years, building the Newsletter to what it is today. I know she will be cheering us on as we strive to fill her shoes.

Of course, the peer-reviewers must have something to read, so we also gratefully acknowledge the authors who have taken the time to provide insightful and interesting stories to better illuminate our professional history. In that vein, we encourage our readers to enlist the aid of your students to add to our pages.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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on helping pharmacists find work that inspires them, as her previous career path was unfulfilling. Two others chose a Midwestern alumnus, Chara Reid-Reed, in part for her founding of the Pharmacist Women Networking Association; she saw a need for something that didn't exist yet and created it. The group began with a Chicagoland focus but has expanded tremendously with a current Facebook membership of over 4000.

One of the timeliest selections was that of Polish pharmacist Tadeusz Pankiewicz. I first learned of his efforts to provide essential care and support to Jewish residents of the Krakow ghetto during WWII from a prior issue of this newsletter (2). The student drew some parallels between his practice to that of the healthcare workers enmeshed in the humanitarian crisis taking place now in Israel and Palestine. She was interested in Pankiewicz's motivations as he risked his life standing up for his patients, not only providing traditional pharmacy services, but supplying hair dye to help older people look younger to avoid deportation to camps, and sedatives to keep children quiet while hiding during raids.^{2,3}

The SIG has an exciting year in the works, as our programming committee is working on webinars and a presentation proposal for the annual meeting on using pharmacy history activities to support content in a variety of courses. I welcome any thoughts or comments on the activities the SIG can do this year, or in the future.

Sincerely,
Karen Nagel-Edwards, SIG Chair

References:

¹Wisneski S. Welcome Message from the Chair. History of Pharmacy SIG Newsletter 2022;13:1,3.

²Buchanan R, Tumlinson R and Olin BR. Tadeusz Pankiewicz: A Biography of a WWII Pharmacist. History of Pharmacy SIG Newsletter 2021; 11:7,12,14.

³Pankiewicz T. The Krakow Ghetto Pharmacy, 2nd Ed. Translated 2013.

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As many of our readers are teachers of pharmacy in so many disciplines, please take a moment as you organize your courses and lectures to incorporate some historical facts or context.

Our issue this fall focuses on diverse topics that span a short period of time from the 1870's (early experiments with anabolic steroids) to the relatively modern (the pharmacy commemorative stamp and a movie with well-recognized stars where the pharmacist is the star) among other articles. Many of our younger colleagues may not be aware of the honor bestowed on our profession in 1972 with the pharmacy stamp so we are striving to fill that gap.

Bernie Olin, Pharm.D.
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RECOGNIZE YOUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY!

The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy offers certificates to students to recognize their achievements in the area of History of Pharmacy. Nominate deserving students at the link below. The certificates could be sent directly to the students or to the schools for presentation at an awards ceremony.

Link: [#AIHP/ Student recognition certificate](#)



DISPATCH FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

As the new Executive Director at the AIHP, I am delighted to provide some important news about the Institute, which serves as our national historical organization dedicated to pharmacy and pharmaceuticals. I began my role in July 2023 and time has simply flown by!

One of our initiatives since summer has been to connect with new people, whether they are pharmacists, students, or members of the public. In early July, AIHP staff shared the history of pharmacy with wider audiences on public radio. We have continued to build and share our pharmacy museum database (thank you, Cathy Taglieri!). The Institute has embarked on a digitization project that makes images and sources accessible to anyone who wishes to use them, so be sure to check out the AIHP Collection. Lastly, the AIHP recently hosted a booth at a UW-Madison conference, and you can see some of the pictures below. All of these different activities have helped us engage with more stakeholders and convey the value of pharmacy and pharmaceutical history.



There has also been a lot of change at the Institute in recent months. I am pleased to introduce Kristen Huset, who is acting as a Digitization Collections Specialist, and her role is to focus on digital project(s) aimed at the preservation and accessibility of bound volumes and artifacts/objects materials. I am also happy to introduce Ellie Preboski, who serves as an Archives Assistant. It's great to have them at the AIHP to help support our world-leading collections.

Besides bringing in new personnel and trying to connect with broader audiences, the AIHP is in the midst of a gift giving campaign and membership renewal drive. The Institute has always carried out its mission to advance the history of pharmacy and medicines through the generosity its members, sponsors, and friends. In 2023, the gift giving campaign has focused exclusively on protecting and bolstering our historical collections. I hope you can help.

What's happening in 2024? The answer is: a lot. The AIHP will be developing its annual spring Edward Kremers Seminar (our "Kreminar") around the most pressing issues in pharmacy today. We will be convening historians and pharmacists to discuss labor disputes, fatigue, and consolidation in the pharmacy and pharmaceutical space -- from multiple perspectives. The AIHP will also be developing members-only content for collectors, educators, and historians. And, finally, the Institute will continue to support new scholarship and ideas through its flagship journal and awards program.

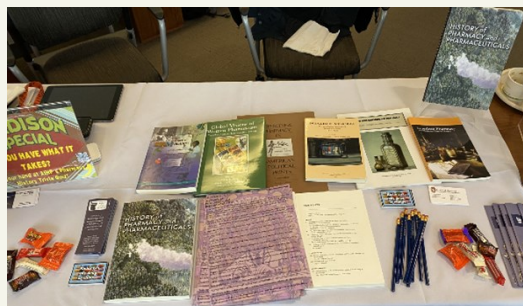
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Clinical Pearl — Teaching the History of Pharmacy

FUN FACT: WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS?

**BY MICHAEL CHANH TUAN PHAM AND
MELINDA J. BURNSWORTH**

If you are a fan of professional bodybuilding competitions or just like to watch fitness documentaries, you may wonder how individuals can achieve such impressive, and extraordinary, physiques. Aside from long hours in the gym, intensely regulated diets, dedicated lifestyles, and numerous personal sacrifices, many people suspect an additional factor in the equation - a joker card. This wild card is known as anabolic-androgenic steroids (AAS), a family of hormones that include testosterone and many of its synthetic derivatives. AAS possess both anabolic properties, allowing for muscle growth, increased metabolism, and fat loss; and androgenic properties, responsible for physiological masculinizing effects.

In the 1870s, physician Charles Edouard Brown-Séquard injected testicular extracts from young guinea pigs into aging dogs. As he failed to observe rejuvenating effects in the dogs, he decided as a last resort to conduct the experiment on himself. Preparing a similar extract from testicles of guinea pigs and dogs, he subcutaneously self-injected six doses over two weeks. Within three days, he described recovering strength, endurance, and energy. He could work standing for longer durations, perform multiple tasks at once, and be

more focused. His reports started a worldwide use of these testicular extracts, referred to at the time as “Brown-Séquard elixir”. Upon further investigation of this joker card, analyses revealed that the elixir contained testosterone concentrations four orders of magnitude below those required to produce a significant biological effect. In other words, the perceived benefits from the Brown-Séquard elixir were dismissed as a placebo effect.

Ultimately, in the 1930s, German and Dutch chemists isolated testosterone. In 1935, protocols for testosterone synthesis were published by Ruzicka and Butenandt. Of note, Ruzicka and Butenandt were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1939 for contributions to the synthesis of testosterone.

In the 1950s, the possible use of AAS for muscle gains or athletic development propagated inside the world of elite sports and athletics. For decades, the sports world kept the use of AAS a secret. In the 1990s, the public became aware of the performance and physique-enhancing benefits of AAS. Then, the use of this wild card became more widespread, hitting almost every layer of the population (even individuals not involved in elite sports or competition).

In 1975, right before the 1976 Montreal Olympics in Quebec, Canada, the International Olympic Committee prohibited the use of anabolic steroids by placing them on the list of banned substances. Furthermore, mandatory drug testing became a requirement for any athlete wishing to compete at the Olympics.

In the 21st century, the use of AAS has become a major worldwide substance abuse problem, especially in Europe and North America. Even with the rules in place, individuals and sometimes organizations still find ways to circumvent the system. For example, famous modern athletes such as Lance Armstrong (cycling), Anderson Silva (mixed martial arts), and Arnold Schwarzenegger (bodybuilding) were caught or admitted to the use of anabolic steroids at some point in their professional careers. Today, because these drugs are still very effective and easy to access, there is no indication that their consumption will decline in the foreseeable future. What will the next “ace in a hole” yield for abs?

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Anabolic Steroids

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Reference: Bing Creative Common License

Clinical Pearl — Teaching the History of Pharmacy

THE “TOOLS OF THE APOTHECARY” PRESENTATION SLIDES

BY DAVID M. BAKER

Upon learning of the passing of long-time American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) member George Griffenhagen in 2019, I became interested in his many publications regarding pharmacy history. A set that was of particular interest to me was a series of ten articles entitled “Tools of the Apothecary” that were published in 1956-57 in the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*. Upon finding the articles in JAPhA archives, I determined they could become the basis for short presentations on each of the former apothecary tools discussed, which could become nice short presentations at the Alpha Chapter meetings of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Student Association (AIHPSA) at Western New England University.

Hence, in early 2020, I began to create PowerPoint presentations based on each article in the ten-article series to be used by AIHPSA members at Chapter meetings. I created the presentations for the first five articles, and before “everything came crashing down” (i.e., the COVID-19 pandemic), the Chapter had the opportunity to enjoy two of the presentations, one by me and the second by a student-member. The two successful presentations demonstrated to me that there was a place for these presentations, and that it was a unique way to introduce and interest students in the history of pharmacy.

Accordingly, as the Chair of the Teaching Pharmacy History Committee of the AACP History of Pharmacy SIG, I polled the members of the Committee as to their interest in a project involving the development of PowerPoint presentations for all of the ten “Tools of the Apothecary” articles. The interest was overwhelming and over the last three years, our ever-evolving committee has worked together as a group creating, refining, and reviewing our ten “Tools of the Apothecary” PowerPoint presentation programs. Each presentation was based on the original article written by George Griffenhagen, but then was expanded with new information and/or more pictures of the apothecary tools described. The presentations were designed to take about 15 to 30 minutes to present, and start with an opening question to generate both interest and discussion in the topic.

This announcement is to inform all of you that these PowerPoint presentation programs are now available to all members of the AACP History of Pharmacy SIG in the SIG library in the “Teaching History of Pharmacy Assists” folder in the subfolder entitled, “Tools of the Apothecary” Presentations. Feel free to download, review, and use these new presentations any way that might assist you in teaching or presenting another wonderful aspect of pharmacy history: the tools of the apothecary.

A consistent observation made over two decades of teaching hospital pharmacy practice, is that most learners have an innate interest in history, the curiosity about what happened before. For a modern example, reflect on teaching and learning styles pre-pandemic (in person), during (virtual), and after (endemic hybrid). Bridging this to pharmacy, how can preceptors (new or seasoned) take the extra effort to arouse that inquisitive nature in students, to pique interest in learning more about a medication’s historical development? How can the preceptor bridge the history of a drug’s development to the modern pharmacist?

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PHARMACY THROUGH THE HOLLYWOOD LENS VII:

“MURPHY’S ROMANCE”

BY DAVID M. BAKER
AND ARTUR BARANETSKYY

The seventh in our leading-role pharmacist character movie articles, the 1985 film, *Murphy’s Romance*, portrays an independent pharmacy in the 1980s, owned by the main character-pharmacist Murphy Jones. *Murphy’s Romance* is an enjoyable comedy, depicting a “May-December” relationship between a small-town widowed pharmacist and a newly-arrived, divorced horse-stabler.¹

Release date: December 25, 1985

Playing time: 107 minutes

Availability: Available in DVD and Blu-ray formats; and on various online streaming services.

Production Company: Delphi IV Productions and Fogwood Films

Distributed by: Columbia Pictures

Director: Martin Ritt

Producer: Laura Ziskin, George Justin, Jim Van Wyck

Writers: Max Schott (novella), Harriet Frank Jr.

(screenplay), Irving Ravetch (screenplay)

Cast:

Sally Field – Emma Moriarty

James Garner – Murphy Jones (pharmacist)

Brian Kerwin – Bobby Jack Moriarty

Corey Haim - Jake Moriarty

Dennis Burkley – Freeman Coverly

Georgann Johnson – Margaret

Carole King – Tillie

Anna Levine – Wanda

Charles Lane – Amos Abbott

Henry Slate – Fred Hite

Bruce French – Rex Boyd

Dortha Duckworth – Bessie

Michael Prokopuk – Albert³

Movie Summary:

The film begins with Emma Moriarty driving her son, Jake, and miscellaneous furniture in a beat-up pickup truck to Eunice, Arizona. They arrive at an old ranch that requires fixing, cleaning, and repairing before it will be suitable for living. Emma takes charge of fixing up the house and with Jake’s help, cleans and sets up the barn for her horse grooming and training business.¹ After setting up, Emma goes into town to place flyers saying “Horses Boarded and Trained” on car windshields. Trying to leave a flyer on a vintage car outside

Murphy’s Drug, she is interrupted by Murphy himself. Murphy, the town pharmacist, informs her that she is covering up his causes, and after inspecting the flyer, says she can place it instead in the store window. With that, Emma meets Murphy for the first time. Entering the drugstore, Emma sits at the soda fountain, and orders a lemon Coke as she tries to find out what kind of town she moved into. Murphy tells her that the town is small, friendly, and “you can carry a gun, but you can’t get an abortion.”¹

Future scenes have Emma and Murphy seeing each other in different settings. While in town one evening, Jake and Emma notice Murphy playing the fiddle at the weekly town dance. He stops by to talk and meets Jake for the first time. He informs Emma that he is a busy widower, since available women outnumber him 10 to 1 in town. The next scene shows Emma applying for a business license at town hall, where Murphy is paying parking tickets for not feeding the parking meter while parking his classic car in front of his drug store. Murphy explains the car is a family heirloom and due to past vandalism, he parks it where he can watch it. He proposes to the city employee that if the town removes the parking meter, he’ll plant a tree in its place. The town council ends up agreeing and later, removes the parking meter.¹

As the story unfolds, the local bank denies Emma a loan due to her lack of collateral and a husband to cosign. Distraught, she stops by the pharmacy and asks Murphy for a loan. He informs her he can’t give her a loan, since he’s already supporting other people in town. Back home, Emma tells Jake they’re running low on money. So, Jake decides to go searching for a job, but can’t find one. Stopping by the pharmacy, Murphy offers him a dishwasher job, and then, takes him for a ride in his 1927 vintage car.¹

From one situation to the next, Emma struggles: finding customers for her boarding ranch; being run off the road and having a vehicle accident; being hospitalized without insurance; letting her ex-husband, Bobby Jack, move in to make her son happy; needing a toilet unclogged; and dealing with her irresponsible ex-husband’s antics.

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Murphy's Romance . . . *Continued from page 8*



Murphy Jones (James Garner), the town pharmacist, prepares a lemon Coke for Emma Moriarty (Sally Fields) at the soda fountain in his drug store.²

With each situation, Murphy appears and eases the problems, allowing Emma to keep her ranch, expand her boarding business, appreciate her age of 33 years, and learn to live without her ex-husband.¹

Slowly, the relationship between Emma and Murphy changes, with Emma beginning to realize the value of the older Murphy over her younger and irresponsible ex-husband. After fixing the clogged toilet, as Murphy is about to leave, Emma invites him to stay for dinner. The dinner invitation soon becomes a daily ritual, with Murphy spending more time with the family. Then, one evening Murphy declines the dinner invitation. As he is about to leave, Emma informs him that Jake wants to see him. Upon entering the house, Murphy finds a surprise birthday party waiting for him. Murphy tells everyone how grateful he is for their support and for tolerating him when he was going through some tough times.¹

The next day Bobby Jack tries to romance Emma while cleaning some stalls, but Emma starts sneezing uncontrollably, ruining the mood. Later, as Emma gets Jake from school, she lets him know she's kicking his dad out, since they're divorced and can't keep living like a married couple. Jake is upset, asking to be dropped off on the road and walk the rest of the way home. When Emma arrives home, she notices an unfamiliar truck in the driveway. Inside the house, she finds a young woman named Wanda with twin baby boys, who are Bobby Jack's sons. Emma tells Bobby Jack that he needs be responsible for his new family. Afterward, Bobby and Wanda leave for good with their boys.¹

Later, Emma goes to the pharmacy to ask Murphy for advice on what she should do. Murphy tells her that he's not her advisor or minister, and then passionately kisses her, before throwing her out. On her way home, Emma thinks about her situation and what she should do next. Later that day, as Murphy finishes riding his horse, he approaches Emma. Both confess their love for each other and their true feelings. Emma invites Murphy to stay for dinner, to which he replies that he will only stay if he's there for breakfast. Her response, "How do you like your eggs?" As they enter the front door holding each other, Murphy's final words of the movie are, "I'm sixty."¹

Pharmacy Depiction

Murphy's Romance portrays a small-town, independent community pharmacy of the 1980s, owned and operated by a local pharmacist. Despite *Murphy's Romance* occurring in the 1980s, in some

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THE STORY BEHIND THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STAMP

BY *HARRY S. PATEL AND
JANE E. KRAUSE*

Background

As technology continues to improve communication and the transfer of information, it's easy to forget the long-standing tradition of mailing letters and packages using postage stamps. A postage stamp is a small piece of paper issued by a post office or other authorized vendor to customers who pay postage.¹ The back of the postage stamp is either glazed with an adhesive gum or is self-adhesive. The stamp is affixed to the address-side of the letter or package and processed by the postal system, where a postmark indicating date and origin of mailing is applied to the stamp prior to delivery to the addressee. The stamp shows that postage has been paid.

Before the introduction of postage stamps, recipients were responsible for covering the cost of mail upon delivery, which made it a system primarily used by the wealthy.^{2,3} However, this changed with the advent of postage stamps as this prepaid system made communication easier, less expensive, efficient, and artistic. The introduction of postage stamps not only revolutionized the way individuals communicated, it also facilitated a transformation in commerce as postage stamps encouraged the exchange of goods and ideas across larger distances.⁴



Figure 1: Penny Black Stamp⁸

First Postage Stamp

On May 1, 1840, the world's first postage stamp was issued in the United Kingdom.^{2,4,5,6} Sir Rowland Hill, an English administrator and teacher, invented the first postage stamp which pictured Queen Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom from 1837-1901.^{2,5,7} This stamp is known as the "Penny Black" because black ink was used to print the stamp and it cost a penny to purchase (Figure 1).^{2,8} This first stamp did not have perforations as stamps, at the time, were separated from their sheets by cutting with scissors or razor blades.^{2,8,9} In 1847, Henry Archer, an English inventor, proposed using a perforation machine as an easier method of separating postage stamps.⁹ Associated with this topic, in 1845, Edwin Hill, an engineer and brother of Sir Rowland Hill and Warren De La Rue, an inventor, were granted a British patent for the first envelope-making machine.^{10,11}

The invention of the postage stamp soon caught on in other countries.¹¹ By 1843, postage stamps were introduced in Switzerland and Brazil and in 1847 in the United States.¹² By 1860, postage stamps were used in 90 countries around the world.¹³ Stamps feature the name of the issuing nation, its value, and an image (e.g., persons, events, institutions, nature) that symbolize the country's traditions and values.¹⁴ Interestingly, the "Penny Black" stamp did not contain the name of the issuing country and to this day, the United Kingdom omits its name on postage stamps. Over the years, the creation of different postage stamps has led to the development of philately.

The World of Philately

Philately, the study and collection of postage stamps, became popular starting in the 1860s.¹² The revolutionary concept of postage stamps paved the way for emergence of philately as a hobby which evolved into a discipline of study, appreciation, and a means of preserving history.⁴ Stamps commemorating important events, famous personalities, and cultural achievements provide a tangible record of significant mile-

Murphy's Romance . . .

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ways the pharmacy depicted resembles those in existence from 1920s to 1950s. For example, the store has large front glass windows to display flyers, advertisements, and the goods sold inside, more typical of the 1950s. In addition, the store left side interior is occupied by a soda fountain counter, a common attraction in pharmacies after the 18th Amendment (ratified 1919) prohibited the sale of alcohol.⁴ However, a soda fountain is not an accurate depiction of pharmacy in the 1980s.⁵ It's more a reflection of a pharmacist trying to preserve the past, since most pharmacies had closed them due to a lack of profitability and space.⁵

In contrast, other items on the pharmacist and in the pharmacy were quite authentic for the 1980s. First, Murphy wore a short-sleeved blue lab coat instead of a long-sleeved white coat, more typical of pharmacists in the 1980s.¹ As pharmaceutical care became more prevalent in community practice in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the coats worn would be more commonly white.⁶ Second, Murphy's coat and his nametag were both labelled "Valu-Rite."¹ Valu-Rite was and is the network of independently owned and operated pharmacies affiliated with McKesson Pharmaceuticals (a drug wholesaler) that was established in 1979.⁷ Third, the pharmacy interior was more reflective of the 1980s. The aisles between the front and the back of the store consisted of a variety of classic drugstore goods such as candy, glasses, camera equipment, and baby supplies.¹ An accurate portrayal of a 1980s independent pharmacy.⁶

However, reverting back to 1950s style, there was an elevated, glassed-in dispensing area with a banker's window, surrounded by mortar and pestle engravings, from

which prescriptions were dispensed.¹ One scene showed Murphy compounding, albeit a typical pharmacist's responsibility; however, by the 1970s only 1% of prescriptions were compounded.⁸ The layout inside the dispensing area consisted of a counter and shelves with various compounding tools, a manual typewriter, an apothecary scale, prescription file boxes, and various medications - all more closely resembling a pharmacy of the 1950s.¹ As practice evolved during the 1980s, computerization and simple dispensing became more the norm.⁶

Another important aspect in the pharmacy depiction is the relationship between the patients and the pharmacist. Throughout *Murphy's Romance*, Murphy is involved in a variety of non-pharmaceutical tasks, like selling sodas and other goods, but nonetheless he is always available to the public. An established relationship between a community pharmacist and a customer can play an important role in promoting the well-being of the patient, adherence, and minimizing unwanted adverse drug events. *Murphy's Romance* does an excellent job of showing how through years of successful service, Murphy developed connections with his patients that benefited both parties involved. In one scene a patient calls to let the pharmacist know that her cough isn't getting any better, and she would like more cough medicine. Murphy instructs the clerk to tell the patient to call the doctor, since he knows the patient is drinking the medicine for the alcohol. That scene depicts how important a relationship between a pharmacist and their patient is to deter abuse of medications and avoid unnecessary treatment regimens.

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An exterior shot of Murphy's Drugs, showing a classic neon "Drug" sign and exterior advertisement signs, e.g., "Film Development," of a community pharmacy of the 1980s.²



USPS Pharmacy Stamp

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stones in history.¹⁵ As postal systems expanded and new stamps were issued, philately became a way to explore the world and learn about different cultures and events that shaped society. Today, it is estimated that more than 5 million people in the United States collect, preserve, and trade or sell postage stamps.¹⁶ It is interesting to note that this retro hobby is gaining popularity among millennials, despite the fact that many have never used a stamp.¹⁷ The younger hobbyists, are “drawn to its vintage and Instagram appeal”.

Major events that have shaped society often involve the field of medicine. Stamps depicting medical and pharmaceutical concepts offer a direct window into the evolution of healthcare, scientific advancements, and humanity’s ongoing quest to improve medical knowledge and health. The design of these postage stamps often involves incorporating medical symbols, equipment, and healthcare professionals.¹⁸ These stamps also highlight public health campaigns and medical facilities demonstrating healthcare’s societal significance. Overall, the study of philately has led to the preservation and appreciation of the rich heritage of healthcare.

United States Postal Service (USPS) Pharmacy Stamp

On November 10, 1972, the USPS issued a commemorative stamp honoring the profession of pharmacy (Table 1).^{19,20,21} The stamp commemorated the 120th anniversary of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and paid tribute to more than 100,000 pharmacists.²⁰ The stamp was issued in Cincinnati, Ohio while APhA was holding a Special House of Delegates Meeting in that city.^{21,22} The eight-cent (first class) stamp contains the word “pharmacy” against a black background and depicts pharmaceutical symbols including a mortar and pestle, Bowl of Hygieia, and two medicine bottles from the 19th century (Figure 2).^{20,23}



Figure 2: USPS Pharmacy Stamp (Scott Number 1473)²⁰

Table 1: USPS Pharmacy Stamp^{19, 20}

Scott Number*:	1473
Date of Issue:	November 10, 1972
City of Issue:	Cincinnati, OH
Denomination:	8-cent (First Class)
Type of Issue:	Commemorative
Designer:	Ken Davies
Format:	Pane of 50
Plate Size:	Plates of 200 (4x50)
Quantity Issued:	165,895,000
Manufacturing Process:	Lithographed/ Engraved
Color:	Black/ Multi-colored
Printed at:	Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C.
Perforations**:	11
Orientation:	Horizontal

*Scott Publishing Company offers a comprehensive stamp identification system by assigning a catalog number to each new stamp.²⁰

**Perforations are small rows of holes punched between stamps to make them easier to separate. A perforation gauge is used to measure the number of holes or teeth within two centimeters.²⁰

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USPS Pharmacy Stamp

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APhA was founded October 6-8, 1852 in Philadelphia, PA “to assure quality and safe distribution of drugs”.^{24,25} Pharmacists from eight states met for the founding meeting including Philadelphian William Proctor, Jr., who later became known as the “Father of American Pharmacy”.²⁵ APhA evolved in the coming years as it helped to regulate the practice of dispensing medications and encouraged pharmacists to develop close relationships with prescribers and other members of the health care team.²⁰ Today, APhA has its headquarters located on Constitution Avenue NW in Washington, DC, and has a membership of more than 62,000 pharmacists and other pharmaceutical professionals.²⁴

The Bowl of Hygieia originated from Greek mythology.²⁶ Hygieia, the goddess of health and daughter of Aesculapius (the Greek god of medicine and healing), is depicted with a snake around her arm and a patera (medicine bowl) in her hand because she tended to the temples of Aesculapius where snakes were found.^{26,27} The Greeks viewed snakes as symbols of health because of the use of venom in medicine at the time, and rebirth because of the shedding of the snake’s skin.²⁷ The Bowl of Hygieia has become an internationally recognized symbol of pharmacy depicting healing through medicine.²⁶ In 1964, APhA adopted the Bowl of Hygieia as its symbol to represent the pharmacy profession.

First Day Covers

In stamp collecting, a “first day cover” (FDC) is a postal card or envelope bearing a stamp postmarked on the day of the stamp’s issuance.²¹ The postal card or envelope used for the FDC contains a printed design or inscription called a “cachet” which is related to the subject matter of the stamp. Cachets are designed and produced by organizations, businesses, or individuals interested in the commemorative stamp and are highly collectible.²⁸ A total of 804,421 pharmacy stamp FDCs were cancelled by the Cincinnati Post Office on November 10, 1972 using either hand stamp or machine cancel.¹⁹ One stamp collecting challenge is to see how many different cachets can be found for a specific stamp.²⁹ A FDC contains the following: stamp and “first day of issue” cancellation, the location of the stamp’s issuance, and the cachet (**Figure 3**).^{28,29} Today, pharmacy stamp FDCs can be purchased at stamp shows, antique shows, and auctions.



Figure 3: Example of Pharmacy Stamp First Day Cover²⁸

Since 1979, Mr. Daniel Shifrin, a retired pharmacist with a master’s degree in hospital pharmacy administration, has collected more than 75 different pharmacy stamps FDCs.^{21, 28} His extensive collection has been exhibited at stamp shows, local libraries, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Convention, and the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum.²³ The collection can also be viewed at the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) digital library.²⁸ Mr. Shifrin credits his interest in stamp collecting to the late pharmacy historian and longtime AIHP member, Mr. George Griffenhagen, who passed at the age of 95 in 2019.²³ In 1979, Mr. Shifrin attended a history of pharmacy presentation on pharmacy stamp FDCs in Trenton, New Jersey delivered by Mr. Griffenhagen. This program inspired Mr. Shifrin to start his own collection of FDCs.

Epilogue

Over the years, postage stamps have recognized other healthcare professionals such as nurses, dentists, and physicians (**Figure 4**). In addition to increased awareness, medical conditions such as Alzheimer’s Disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer have been highlighted on USPS stamps. The 1972 pharmacy stamp is the only stamp honoring the profession of pharmacy. The stamp design is so popular that it can be found on many collectible items such as mugs, trays, paperweights, belt buckles, framed plaques, and cuff links. It is interesting to note that while this manuscript was being developed,

Murphy's Romance...

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Without knowing the patient, the pharmacist's job becomes limited to verifying the prescriber's order and dispensing the medication. Establishing and maintaining a strong relationship with one's patients, through effective communication, allows a pharmacist to better assess their medical conditions, barriers to treatment, and adherence to therapy. Another scene shows a customer having a bad headache, but unable to open the Tylenol bottle. As the pharmacist converses with the patient, he learns of the problem, and with a simple demonstration, shows the patient how to open the bottle with ease, overcoming a "barrier" to therapy. *Murphy's Romance* did an excellent job of portraying the relationships that a pharmacist can build, especially after spending his entire life in one town.

Final Analysis

Overall, the movie provides an accurate representation of an old-style independent drug store in the 1980s. Despite having a soda fountain and being an older styled pharmacy, the overall pharmacy presentation was appropriate for the 1980s. As for the pharmacist, he was depicted as a public servant who prioritized his patients' well-being over monetary gain, even going so far as to financially support certain members of the community. All in all, an enjoyable comedy movie to watch with a relatively accurate portrayal of a 1980s-era independent community pharmacy in a rural mid-western town.

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Footnotes:

Murphy's Romance. Performed by Sally Field, James Garner, Brian Kerwin, Corey Haim, Dennis Burkley, Georgann Johnson, Carole King, Anna Levine, Charles Lane, Henry Slate, Bruce French, Dortha Duckworth and Michael Prokopuk. Directed by Martin Ritt. Production Company - Delphi IV Productions and Fogwood Films, 1985. Film.

Murphy's Romance. Performed by Sally Field, James Garner, Brian Kerwin, Corey Haim, Dennis Burkley,

Georgann Johnson, Carole King, Anna Levine, Charles Lane, Henry Slate, Bruce French, Dortha Duckworth and Michael Prokopuk. Directed by Martin Ritt. Production Company - Delphi IV Productions and Fogwood Films, 1985. Film. Screenshot on Classic Movie blogpost. Accessed September 25, 2023. Available from: <http://classic-movies.blogspot.com/2011/06/murphys-romance.html>.

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Figure 4: Examples of Other Healthcare Professional USPS Stamp. ^{30, 31, 32}

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