National Museum of Health and Medicine
Otis Historical Archives

OHA 184.06
Harvey Collection

Date of Records: 1955-2007

Size: 5.5 linear feet, 8 boxes

Finding Aid: Revised by Eric W. Boyle (2012)

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Biographical Note: Thomas Stoltz Harvey, M.D. (October 10, 1912 – April 5, 2007) was a pathologist who conducted the autopsy on Albert Einstein in 1955. Harvey studied at Yale University as an undergraduate and later as a medical student under Dr. Harry Zimmerman.

The autopsy was conducted at Princeton Hospital in Princeton NJ, on April 18 at 8:00 am. Harvey sectioned the preserved brain into 170 pieces in a lab at the University of Pennsylvania, a process that took three full months to complete. Those 170 sections were then sliced in microscopic slivers and mounted onto slides and stained. There were 12 sets of slides created with hundreds of slides in each set. Harvey retained two complete sets for his own research and distributed the rest to handpicked leading pathologists of the time. No permission for the removal and preservation had been given by Einstein or his family, but when the family learned about the study, permission to proceed with the study was granted as long as the results were only published in scientific journals and not sensationalized.

In August, 1978, New Jersey Monthly reporter Steven Levy revived interest in the subject when he published an article, "I Found Einstein's Brain", based on his interview with Dr. Harvey when he was living in Wichita, Kansas. In 1988, Dr. Harvey retired and moved to Lawrence, Kansas. In 1996, Harvey moved to Titusville, New Jersey.

In the 1994 documentary Relics: Einstein's Brain, Kinki University Professor Sugimoto Kenji asks Harvey for a piece of the brain, to which Harvey consents and slices a portion of the brain-stem. Footage shows Harvey segmenting and handing over to Sugimoto a portion. In 1998, Harvey delivered the remaining uncut portion of Einstein's brain to Dr. Elliot Krauss, a pathologist at University Medical Center at Princeton. Certain parts of Einstein's brain were found to have a higher proportion of glial cells than the average male brain.

In 2005, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Einstein's death, the 92-year-old Harvey gave interviews regarding the remarkable history of the brain from his home in New Jersey.
Series/Scope and Content Note: This collection consists of photographs, correspondence, and articles collected by Harvey, pertaining to Albert Einstein’s brain and Harvey’s possession, histologic processing, and distribution of the tissue. The collection includes photographs of the brain before and during block sectioning, labeled diagrams of block sectioning, correspondence, scholarly reprints, popular articles, newspaper clippings, and other documents.

SERIES 001: PHOTOGRAPHS

This series includes several hundred photographs of Einstein’s brain after it had been removed during autopsy. The organization of the photographs reflects their division and labeling when they were donated. Many of the photographs are numbered, overlined with grids, or labeled with pen. However, rarely is a complete series packaged together. The original names and order of the folders have been preserved when possible, as denoted by titles in quotation marks. The series also includes Kodachromes, photomicrographs, negatives, photocopies, and transparencies.

SERIES 002: TISSUE PROCESSING RECORDS

This series includes drawings, charts, and diagrams used by Harvey in processing Einstein’s brain. Additional materials include lists of measurements, background material on dissection, chemistry and conducting autopsies.

SERIES 003: LEGAL DOCUMENTS

This series consists of copyright information and registration for photographs of Einstein’s brain and a photocopy of Einstein’s will.

SERIES 004: CORRESPONDENCE WITH ASSOCIATED REPRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND NOTES

This series is organized alphabetically and includes Harvey’s correspondence and collaboration with various individuals and institutions regarding the study of Einstein’s brain and the acquisition of specimens. Three folders also include dozens of letters written to Harvey seeking information about Einstein’s brain. One folder also contains material related to Harvey’s medical licenses and hearings regarding his status as a practitioner. All correspondence is restricted for 75 years from the date of its creation.

SERIES 005: REPRINTS, ARTICLES, CLIPPINGS, AND MISC. RESEARCH MATERIAL

This series consists of reprints, clippings, and miscellaneous research material collected and organized by Harvey. Items are grouped according to subjects as originally organized when donated, including material on Einstein’s brain specifically, Einstein as a historical figure, brain research broadly construed, brain research applied to the study of Einstein, as well as miscellaneous subjects of interest to Harvey.

SERIES 006: SCRAPBOOK

This series consists of a large scrapbook kept by Harvey, with clippings related to the subject of
SERIES 007: HISTOLOGIC MATERIAL

This series consists of 566 sections of brain tissue, mounted on 1x3” and 1.5x3” slides, alternately stained for Myelin and Nissl, between approximately 12 and 20μ thick. The sections were originally cut from more than 200 parts of the brain, divided using the von Economo method. Brain part numbers were assigned by Harvey during sectioning and correspond with the drawings and diagrams in series 002.

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BOX AND CONTENT LIST

SERIES 001: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 001:

00001: Brain “With Meninges, Grids and Measures”
  • Series of forty-eight black and white 3”x5” photographs of brain, including one photo of Sandra Wittelson and one photo of Marion Diamond with T. Harvey

00002: “Set A—Brain Covered With Leptomeninges”
  • Series of fifteen black and white 8”x10” photographs of brain numbered in series 1-8

00003: “Set B2”—Brain With Measures
  • Series of 9 black and white 8”x11” photographs of brain numbered in series 1-9, two copies of #3, #5 missing
00004: “Low”—Brain With Measures, Grids and Drawings
  • Series of black and white photographs includes eight 8”x11”, eleven 7”x10”, and seven 5”x7”: includes numbers 5, 12, 14-15, 19, 22-23, 26, 28-30
    o Two sketches of outlines of exterior brain correspond to photos #22 and 28

00005: External Brain With Grids
  • Series of black and white photographs includes nineteen 7”x10”, eight 5”x7”, and one 1”x3/4”: includes numbers 10, 11, 15, 19, 23, 26, 28-30

00006: Brain During Sectioning [1 of 7]
  • Series of black and white photographs includes twenty-four 5”x8”, fourteen 7”x10”, and nine 8”x11”: includes numbers 1-20, 28, 33, 36, 58, 79-83, 85-88

00007: Brain During Sectioning [2 of 7]
  • Series of forty black and white 4”x6” photographs with lines and grids, unnumbered

00008: Brain During Sectioning [3 of 7]
  • Series of thirty-three black and white 3”x5” photographs with various sections numbered and labeled: includes numbers 21-52 complete with negatives

00009: Brain During Sectioning [4 of 7]
  • Series of black and white photographs of cerebellum, brain stem, temporal poles, and cortex sections with grids, including eleven 8”x11”, seventeen 7”x10”, and sixteen 5”x8”: includes numbers 53-61 and 54-67

00010: Brain During Sectioning [5 of 7]
  • Series of black and white photographs including thirty-six 7”x10” and thirteen 8”x11”: includes numbers 32-33, 35, 37-42, 44, 47-50, 52, 62-64

00011: Brain During Sectioning [6 of 7]
  • Series of eighteen 3”x5” black and white photographs including numbers 66-78

00012: Brain During Sectioning [7 of 7]
  • Series of twenty-nine 4”x6” black and white photographs, unnumbered; four misc. unlabeled personal photographs

Box 002:

00001: “Labeled Photos of Gross Anatomy and Arteries”
  • Series of fourteen 8”x11” black and white photographs
00002: “Histology Slides and Kodachromes”
• Includes twenty-eight histology slides numbered 10-37; approximately seventy images numbering from 1-214 from an envelope labeled “Kodachromes- Photomicrographs”

00003: Negatives in Canisters—“Cuts”
• Photographic negatives of brain prior to and during sectioning [photographic prints are located in Box 001]

00004: Negatives in Canisters—“A55-33”
• Photographic negatives of brain prior to and during sectioning. Photo numbers 1-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-45, 47-48, 61-67. [Photographic prints are located in Box 001]

00005: Photocopies of Brain Photos

00006: Transparencies of Brain Photos
• Includes six transparencies of brain images with descriptions and two personal photographs, one of Dr. Diamond and one of Witieson and Kriger

**SERIES 002: TISSUE PROCESSING RECORDS**

**Box 002:**

00007: “Brain Stem Teaching Drawings”
• Includes thirteen pencil drawings of various sizes

00008: “Charts of Cutting—Copies”
• Includes original drawings and copies of nine different views of the brain, with notes and sections numbered. Folder labeled “copies” but appear to be originals.

00009: “Diagrams of Cutting”
• Includes original drawings and copies of six different views of the brain, with notes and numbering

00010: “Good Charts, Cutting”
• Includes photocopies of brain views duplicated from those in folders 00008 and 00009

00011: “List of Kodachromes and Autopsy Block”
• Includes multiple lists of photographs with descriptions, information about the photographer, and miscellaneous related notes

00012: “Measurements”
• Includes measurements from left and right hemisphere, and cerebellum with reference information from C.U. Ariens Kappers, a Dutch neurologist

00013: “Cell Counts”
• Includes information from article on the motor cortex of the cat; a manual titled “Particle Counting by Television Techniques,” by Flory and Pike; announcement for the 12th Annual Conference on Electrical Techniques in Medicine and Biology; handwritten paper titled “Airborne Inst. Lab, Long Island”; and a copy of the National Bureau of Standards Report 5713 “Experiments in Processing Pictorial Information With a Digital Computer”

00014: “Chemistry”
• Includes photocopies and originals of five short articles and various chemistry-related topics along with citations for articles on formaldehyde, tissue fixation, and DNA

00015: “Comparative Autopsy Material”
• Includes four pages of handwritten notes

SERIES 003: LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Box 003:

00001: “Copyright”
• Information and registration for photographs of Einstein’s brain (1994)

00002: “Einstein’s Will”—photocopy

SERIES 004: CORRESPONDENCE WITH ASSOCIATED REPRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND NOTES

Box 003:

• Regarding co-authored article on neuronal density in Einstein’s brain

00004: Boyd, Charles (1991)
• Regarding interest in Einstein specimens, along with reprints and CV

00005: Japan (1990-1999)
• Requests and appreciation for Einstein specimens, clippings, and reprints

• Regarding photomicrographs of Einstein’s brain, dementia, and Lewey bodies

00007: Kuhlenbeck, Hartwig (1981-1982)
• Regarding collaboration on Einstein’s brain and reprints of Kuhlenbeck’s work

00008: McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School [1 of 2] (1994)
• Regarding donation of Einstein’s brain, reprints, pamphlets, and general info

• Notes, reprints, photographs of Harvey at home

00010: Noback, Charles (1994)
• Cover letter and CV

00011: Ohno, Kazumoto (1994)
• Cover letter and color photos taken by Ohno in Harvey’s home

00012: Rachlin, Harvey (1993-1997)
• Regarding collaborative article and draft of chapter on Einstein’s brain

00013: Rorke, Lucy B. (1993)
• Regarding sets of slides of Einstein’s brain and who has them

Box 004:

• Regarding acquisition of pieces of Einstein’s brain and new techniques

00002: Witelson, Sandra F. [1 of 3](1995-2007)
• Regarding acquisition of specimens and blank summary protocol sheets

00003: Witelson, Sandra F. [2 of 3]
• Photocopies of articles, photographs, and contact information

00004: Witelson, Sandra F. [3 of 3]
• Notes on slides, photocopy of article by Ariens Kappers

00005: Misc. Correspondence [1 of 3]
• The following Misc. Correspondence folders include letters regarding newspaper and magazine articles from documentarians, journalists and readers; acquisitions and loans of brain tissue and slides to various individuals and institutions; requests for photographs and autographs; and photocopies of articles from a variety of sources

1. Louis Fishman re: Paterniti article “Driving Mr. Albert” (12/15/97)
2. Marta to Tom re: Sectioning Technique (2/27/84)
3. Harayasu Yamaguchi re: Findings from Study of Einstein’s Brain (3/7/90)
4. Otto Nathan (Executor and Trustee) re: Publishing Results of Research (12/30/81)
5. Otto Nathan (Executor and Trustee) re: Follow-up Request for Reply (2/28/82)
6. Roger Highfield (Science Editor) re: Info on Einstein’s Autopsy (11/2692)
7. Christine Shuler re: “Stones, Bones and Missing Links” Documentary (2/24/98)
8. Alfonso Escobar (Universidad Nacional Atonoma, Mexico) re: Info on Results from Study of Einstein’s Brain (5/30/79)
9. Peter Carlson (Wash. Post) re: Letter to Harper’s, Results, Future Plans (3/10/98)
10. John Koessler re: First Day Cover and Autograph Request (1/8/01)
12. Daniel Elsen (Neuroscience Student) re: Request for Portion of Brain (5/6/94)
13. Helen Garriot (Leonardo’s Discovery Warehouse) re: Portion of Brain (5/6/94)
14. Michael A. Sposito (Aspiring Writer) re: Possible Book on Harvey (2/26/80)
15. Larry Swanson (USC Biologist) re: Info on Slides Under Study (3/24/98)
17. Kenji Sugimoto (Kinki University) re: Future Publication Plans (9/30/78)
18. M.L. Franks (British Educator) re: Donation of Specimen (1/28/95)
19. Bert Vogelstein (Johns Hopkins) re: Harvey’s Offer of Tissue Specimen (10/22/93)
20. C. Bryce Hartley (Georgia Lung Assoc.) re: Research Findings on Intellect (12/16/93)
21. William A. Huckabee (Ohioan) re: Request for Specimen (11/1/93)
22. Stephen Forsling (Photo Researcher) re: Permission to Use Photo (2/12/92)
23. Dave Jones (Drexel Communications Prof.) re: Documentary on Harvey (8/6/87)
24. Dave Jones re: Meeting with Harvey and Funding Possibilities (9/21/87)
25. Robert W. Sullivan (Collector) re: Request for Piece of Brain (11/2/93)
26. Agnes Green re: No Response to Earlier Correspondence (12/28/94)
27. D.C. Hadjipateras (Linnell House) re: Future Home for Brain (7/14/94)
28. Virginia McKay re: Article in The Times in Shreveport, LA (8/30/93)
29. Ximena Duevas (Hispanic Radio Network) re: Interview w/ CD (1/2000)

00006: Misc. Correspondence [2 of 3]

1. Carrie Wallace (Kansas Elementary Student) re: Phone Interview (1/22/90)
2. Margaret Syring (Minnesotan) re: Story About Harvey (12/2/93)
3. Rene Vlug (Holland) re: Autograph Request (1/22/95)
4. Judy Arms (Minnesotan) re: Wall Street Journal article and Home for Brain (5/5/94)
5. Barney Cothers (Internal Medicine News) re: Article on Harvey and Einstein w/corrections (11/5/93)
7. Liz Obata (Hawaii) re: Purchasing Shares in Something (8/30/67)
8. George H. Gurley (The Kansas City Star) re: Possible Article (2/6/85)
13. A.G. Alias (Psychiatrist, St. Louis State Hospital) re: Proposed Research (11/2/78)
14. Aaron B. Lerner (Yale M.D.) re: Harvey’s Findings from Brain Study (6/1/65)
15. David H. Jones to Princeton, Referred to Harvey re: Study Findings (5/9/61)
16. Dan C. Coyle to Jones, re: Harvey’s Responsibility for the Brain (5/12/61)
17. Glenys Cobeen (Reference Librarian) re: Publications on Einstein’s Brain (5/12/61)
18. Margaret Orcutt (Californian) re: Update on Research (10/13/59)
19. Rickie Dulay (Pennsylvanian) re: Secrecy Surrounding Einstein’s Brain (n.d.)
20. Margaret Ann Culbreth (S.C. Elementary Student) re: Information (3/2/61)
21. Ann Beurskens (Photo Coordinator) re: Permission to Use Photos (10/31/94)
22. Kevin Hull (BBC Television) re: Interview Arrangements (3/2/93)
23. Kevin Hull (BBC Television) re: Contacts in Japan (12/6/92)
24. Gay Hedani-Palin (BBC) re: Arrangements for “Einstein’s Legacy” Documentary (3/19/93)
25. Kevin Hull (BBC) re: Meeting Harvey and Future Plans (11/1/92)
26. Mildred Farrow (World Book Encyclopedia) re: Published Study of Brain (4/19/61)
27. Sarah Gonzalez (Californian) re: Conversation With Harvey and Possible Visit (5/6/94)

00007: Misc. Correspondence [3 of 3]

1. Kenji Sugimoto re: Business Card and Jokes (1/14/00)
2. Constance Mineur re: Email from Dr. Yamaguchi (1/13/00)
4. Mary Anglin re: Einstein Trivia (11/14/81)
5. Harvey to Kevin Hull (BBC) re: Japan Contacts (11/29/92)
6. Claudia Lopez (CT High School Student) re: Wall Street Journal Article (12/13/94)
7. Maurice L. Franks (British Educator) re: Section of Einstein’s Brain (12/21/94)
8. Kevin Hull (BBC) re: Letter of Introduction (10/11/92)
9. Harvey to Pam Wolfe (Atlas Media Corp.) re: Permission to Use Photo (7/27/98)
10. Harvey to Editor of Harper’s re: Objections to Peterniti’s Article (n.d.)
11. Nik Neville (California) re: General Interest and Autograph Request (12/11/06)
12. Misc. Reprints, Copies, and Drafts of Articles
13. Zoe Heron (BBC) re: Meeting, Photos, and Slides (4/21/99)
14. Adrianne Noe to Frederick Lepore re: Repository for Einstein’s Brain (11/7/01)
15. Fred Lepore (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) re: Noe’s Proposal (11/21/01)

00008: Medical Licensing

- Includes material regarding Harvey’s medical licenses in North Carolina, Kansas and Missouri; a hearing by the American Board of Pathology; transcript from an administrative hearing before the State of Missouri’s Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and subsequent disciplinary order; transcript of administrative proceeding before the Kansas Board of Healing Arts; application for appointment to medical staff and related materials for practice in Colorado.
SERIES 005: REPRINTS, ARTICLES, CLIPPINGS, AND MISC. RESEARCH MATERIAL

Box 004:

00009: Einstein’s Brain
2. “‘We held Einstein’s brain and we were in awe,’” The Globe and Mail (6/18/99)
3. “Description of the third frontal gyrus on the right,” Thomas S. Harvey
4. Notes, “Kodachrome Photos on A55033”
5. “A key area of his was larger than normal,” New York Times (n.d.)
10. Network: Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, newsletter, (Dec. 1995)
12. “Strictly Professional: Relative to Einstein,” Chapter Five, Try and Stop Me, Bennett Cerf (1944)
13. “Einstein’s brain still a convoluted puzzle,” Kansas City Missouri Times (10/27/81)
14. “Mercer Man Has Einstein’s Brain in Jar,” The Trentonian (9/18/97)
15. “Inside the brain of Albert Einstein,” New York Post (2/14/85)
16. “Einstein’s Brain Studied in Wichita,” The Kansas City Times (7/28/78)
17. “Wichitan studying Einstein’s brain,” unlabelled clipping
18. “Einstein’s Didn’t Request Brain Study, Trustee Says,” Julie Charlip, unlabelled clipping
19. “Why Einstein Was a Brain,” unlabelled clipping with photo of Dr. Sandra Witelson
20. Portion of article from Scipquest (April 1979)
21. “Einstein’s brain finds a home in Kansas closet,” San Jose Mercury News (10/21/93)
24. “Secrets of the Rich and Famous,” n.a. (question about Einstein’s brain answered)
25. “Brain of Einstein Continues Perigrinations,” Nicholas Wade
27. “Studying Einstein’s Brain” and “Debunking An Old Myth”—undated Discovery clipping
31. “Einstein brain reported kept in Kansas lab,” Trenton Times (6/27/78)
33. “Was Einstein’s Brain Built for Brilliance?,” Time (6/28/99)
35. Article in Japanese newspaper
36. “Lawrence pathologist ponders Einstein’s brain,” The University Daily Kansan (10/27/93)
37. Misc. notes, correspondence, and book jackets

00010: Einstein in the Press
1. *The Sciences* special issue: The Einstein Century (March 1979)

Box 005:

00001: “Einstein: Correspondence, Research, Misc.”
3. “Neuropathology—Then and Now,” *JAMA* (11/18/88)
12. “Particle-Counting and Sizing by Electronic Scanning,” unattributed bibliography
16. Misc. correspondence and research materials

00002: Brain Articles
3. Chapter Three, “Images of the Brain,” unlabelled photocopy
4. Notes, “Ratio of gl. to n. at various ages”
5. “Structural Variety of Neurons,” unlabelled photocopy
6. “In Major Advance, Scientists Discover Cause of Brain Cell Death,” Sandra Blakeslee, AOL article (8/8/97)
9. “Boosts Memory—and Liver Enzymes,” unlabelled clipping
11. “‘Androgen Dysgenesis’ A Predisposing Factor in Schizophrenia?,” Lancet (12/9/72)
15. “Special Abilities of the Sexes: Do They Begin in the Brain?,” Psychology Today (Nov. 1978)
20. Misc. Business Cards
22. “How the Brain Learned to Talk,” Discover (June 1994)
23. Outlook special issue: Advancing Neural Regeneration (Fall 1984)
24. “A wound that won’t heal: The trials of surviving brain injury,” USA Today (1/9/97)

00003: Misc. Clippings, Pamphlets, and Mailings
  1. “How is contradancing different from football?”—pamphlet
  2. “Oppenheimer Floating Rate Fund”—pamphlet
  4. Image-Pro Plus pamphlet
  5. “Guidelines for the Management of the Depressed Patient,” CIBA
  6. Eastern Service Workers Association memo

00004: “Libraries”
  1. Circulation and Fines Policies for The University of Kansas Libraries
  2. National Library of Medicine Fact Sheet
  3. Accessibility at the National Library of Medicine

00005: “Johns Hopkins Library Reference”
  1. Map of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
  2. Journal Request Form: Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications
  3. Handwritten Notes—Citations, References
SERIES 006: SCRAPBOOK

Box 006: Scrapbook

SERIES 007: HISTOLOGIC MATERIAL

Box 007:

00001: Slide box 001—brain part numbers 3, 5, 7, 12-13, 46-47, 51, 56-59, 62-64
00002: Slide box 002—brain part numbers 65, 70, 74-76, 87, 95, 96, 152-54, 174-76
00003: Slide box 003—brain part numbers 177, 179-80, 187-89, 223
00004: Slide box 004—brain part numbers 1, 2, 15-16, 23, 25, 27, 55, 60, 61, 66-69, 71, 73
00005: Slide box 005—brain part numbers 77, 79-84, 88-89
00006: Slide box 006—brain part numbers 104-06, 117-19, 163, 171-74, 178
00007: Slide box 007—brain part numbers 181-86, 203, 214, 219
00008: Slide box 008—brain part number 222

Box 008: Harvey’s original slide boxes and film canisters