

A Guide to Donating an Object



While the permanent collections of the Museum of Health Care contain nearly 40,000 artifacts, we do still accept requests for donating items to the collections and we review these on an individual basis.

The large number of objects already under our care dictates that we follow strict criteria when determining whether to accept new pieces. Factors include not only storage but long-term management costs and potential for research and exhibition use. Please read our Acquisition Guidelines below. Once you are satisfied that your potential donation meets our criteria please contact our curator for further discussions about the object and how it may fit into our history of medicine collections.

A first step to propose an object/s for donation is to email or phone our curator. Provide as much information as possible on the history of the artefact and attach digital images if possible.

Acquisition Guidelines

Thank you for considering a donation to the Museum. Please review the following guidelines for Museum acquisitions:

The item(s) must be consistent with and relevant to the stated purpose, scope, and activities of the Museum.

1. The museum does not purchase objects for the collection.
2. Primary consideration will be given to the Museum's ability to provide proper care and storage for any artifact. No item(s) will be considered for acquisition if future care and preservation needs exceed the Museum's resources. Donations that include financial support for long-term storage and preservation are encouraged.
3. Items must have clear title and be free of copyright restrictions.
4. All acquisitions are to be outright and unconditional. The Museum cannot guarantee that objects donated will be placed on exhibition, or that they will be exhibited or stored intact as a single collection.
5. All donations to the Museum's collections are irrevocable upon the formal legal and physical transfer to the Museum. When you sign the Transfer of Ownership documents

you transfer full legal ownership of the object(s) from yourself to the museum in perpetuity and they are no longer yours. The Museum is under no obligation to entertain requests or return objects. Please think carefully and consult your family members before making any donations to our museum.

6. All legal instruments of conveyance and warranty of title, signed by the donor / agent setting forth an adequate description of the items involved and the precise conditions of the transfer shall accompany all acquisitions.
7. All acquisitions by gift or bequest to the Museum will remain in the possession of the Museum for as long as they retain their physical integrity and authenticity, and as long as they remain useful for the purposes of the Museum.
8. The Museum does not appraise medical objects that are not being offered for donation.

What are we unable to accept?

1. The Museum is not an Archive. Although we will consider individual artefacts on paper, such as yearbooks, photographs, or doctor's day books, we are not a repository for individual's papers or patient records. Such items are better served in archives, where technicians have the specific skills and training to preserve them.
2. We do not collect human remains or wet specimens.
3. Our storage space is currently very limited. As a result we cannot accept most large items. If it can't fit through the door, it is too large for our storage space.
4. We do not acquire archaeological materials, ancient art and valuable works of art.

IF I HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS WHO DO I CONTACT?

Please contact the Curator at:

Maxime Chouinard chouinam@kgh.kari.net
(613) 549-6666 x2569