



HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY

A SHORT HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGICAL WAX MUSEUMS IN EUROPE

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The authors tried to make a short history of dermatological wax museums and collections all over Europe starting from around two centuries ago, in Saint-Louis Hospital de Paris until nowadays. These museums are presented in chronological order. The main reason to create such three dimensional realistic depicted imitations of skin diseases was the lack in other modalities to store an image, at that time only hand made pictures, printed graphics or black and white photos being available. These moulages were important for didactic purposes and scientific ones, but with time these dermatological pieces gained a great historical and artistic value. Among the latest created is the collection from Cluj-Napoca University, Romania. The initiator was prof. Coriolan Tataru and the moulage artist employed was dr. Richard Hoffmann who made between the years 1923 and 1928 around 200 wax moulages, all realised after patients hospitalised in the clinic. The models depicting different stages of syphilis won the gold medal at the Ninth International Congress of Dermato-Venereology held in Budapest in 1935. After our knowledge today active museums where new dermatological pieces are created are in Zurich (dr.Michael Geiges) and Dresden. We believe that all collections have a great value from a historical, artistic, didactic and scientific point of view and they must be preserved.

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