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A Glimpse at the Treasures of the Jewish General Hospital Archives

The Jewish General Hospital (JGH) Archives is an integral part of the services provided by the Health Sciences Library of the JGH. It is designed to preserve the institutional memory of the Hospital dating from its forerunners in the 1910s to the present.

Since the official inception of the library in 1941, it has become the repository of archival donations from various departments of the hospital and its affiliates, interested members of the public, and transfers from other archival institutions, in particular the Jewish Public Library Archives. The clientele encompasses a varied spectrum: hospital staff members and affiliates, external researchers, students, archivists, and museum curators, to name a few. Prior to the 1980s, the staff of the library provided reference services for the archives' users. Sybil (Lapin) Cadloff, a former librarian, took over the Archives in 1986 as a part-time Archives Consultant on a volunteer basis until 2003. Momentum gained during the preparation of the Hospital's 75th anniversary in 2008, during which a full-time digital archival consultant and a full-time archives assistant were hired, finding aids for selected fonds were created, and a database was purchased, making possible electronic management and easier access to the holdings. A database-driven website (jgh.ca/archives) was launched the following year, which allows for keyword search among nearly 4000 descriptive records, ranging from item to fonds.

Despite being a small repository managed by one archivist, the JGH Archives houses materials that are highly focused either on the hospital or its personnel in a variety of formats. There are approximately 35 feet of textual materials, including administrative and legal documents, correspondence, hospital publications, course materials, news clippings; approximately 8 feet of photographs; and negatives, slides, artifacts, audio-visual materials, and an increasing amount of born-digital records.

One of the key collections of the JGH Archives is the Pledges and Brick Cards acquired from The Foundation of the JGH in 2008. This collection encompasses over 3000 original pledges subscribed by the individuals, families, and businesses of the Montreal Jewish population in 1929 toward founding the Jewish General Hospital. Each pledge card shows the date of subscription, the pledged amount, and the subscriber's name and address. The brick card was a program devised for children. Certificates were printed in the shape of bricks, and children who donated to the campaign received one 'brick' for each dollar they collected. Relatives could also purchase these 'bricks' on

behalf of children, thereby identifying even the youngest members of society with this endeavour. Information on each card includes the child's name, address, and the number of bricks purchased. Since the goal of the capital campaign was to canvass the entire Jewish population of Montreal, this collection can be used as a resource for genealogists and scholars to verify Jewish Montreal dwellers and businesses of the time. The entire collection has been digitized, indexed, and is searchable online from the JGH Archives website (<http://jgh.ca/en/archivesbricks>), as well as through the portal of Jewish-Gen (<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Canada/MontrealHospital.htm>).



Brick and pledge cards and a Brick Certificate issued during the capital campaign for founding the Jewish General Hospital, 1929.

Another highlight is the Samuel Cohen collection for which descriptions are available online, down to the series level (<http://www.jgh.ca/en/archivesfindingaids> Samuel Cohen Fonds). Samuel Cohen was the founding Executive Director (1933–1968) of the JGH who was instrumental in helping the Hospital transform from a small, local health institution into one of the largest tertiary university teaching hospitals in Quebec. Among the 3 boxes of materials, primarily textual and administrative, the Wartime Planning Series (PF4.14) distinguishes itself from the rest by its 5 cm of World War Two-related records that cover subjects such as Victory Bonds, wartime regulations and rationing, civil defense, and hospital evacuation, which are not the types of documents one would expect to find in a hospital archives. The correspondence contained in file “Refugees 1930s & 1940s” (PF4.14.1) gives research-

ers an insight into the Hospital's efforts in assisting fellow Jews to establish a new life in Montreal through creating more opportunities for work. Digitized items can be seen on the online exhibition entitled *A Glimpse Through the Samuel Cohen Fonds* at <http://jgh.ca/en/archivessamuelcohen>.

THE WARTIME PRICES and TRADE BOARD

MAY 28, 1942



RETAILERS' BULLETIN

Special to Food Retailers and Operators of Public Eating Places

REGULATIONS ON TEA, COFFEE & SUGAR

Food retailers and operators of public eating places across Canada are vitally affected by new regulations on tea, coffee and sugar. Sugar was already rationed but the new rulings reduce the ration to one-half pound per person per week, this to include all grades of cane and beet sugar. In restaurants and all other public eating places, it is no longer permissible to allow sugar containers of any kind, or loose or wrapped sugar to remain on a table, counter, tray or

TEA - RATION $\frac{1}{2}$
Normal Consumption

COFFEE - RATION $\frac{3}{4}$
Normal Consumption

SUGAR - RATION *To* $\frac{1}{2}$
REDUCED *pound*
per person per week

saucer. The waiter must not offer sugar to a customer—the customer must ask for it first, and even then, the amount he receives must not exceed three lumps or two teaspoonfuls for any beverage. Not more than two teaspoonfuls of sugar may be used to sweeten any dessert, cereal, or food of any kind. The use of shakers for dispensing granulated or fruit sugar is forbidden.

The regulations on tea and coffee require the consumer to reduce his tea consumption by one-half—and his coffee consumption by one-quarter. The dealer is required to co-operate in the enforcement of these rules and he may refuse to sell to any customer who he believes is attempting to break the law. A retailer must not have on hand at any time more than one month's supply based on his normal sales quota, whether in bulk or packages.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS

Summaries of the New Regulations for Quick and Easy Reference

CONSUMER

SUGAR
Personal ration cut to one-half pound per week. Special provisions made for home canning and preserving (see details of regulations inside).

TEA AND COFFEE
Tea Ration—personal consumption to be cut by at least one-half.
Coffee Ration—personal consumption to be cut by at least one-quarter.
Purchases limited to two weeks' supply at a time.
No further purchases must be made if two weeks' supply on hand.

RETAILER

SUGAR
Customers now entitled to purchase on the basis of not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per person per week.
Can sell additional quantities for home canning and preserving (See details of regulations inside).
May refuse to sell and may limit sales to any person he believes is attempting to break the law.

TEA AND COFFEE
Customers now entitled to buy only one-half their former tea purchases and three-quarters of their former coffee purchases.
Dealer may refuse to sell and may limit sales to any person he believes is attempting to break the law.
Dealer must not have on hand stocks greater than one month's normal sales, whether packaged or bulk.

PUBLIC EATING PLACES

SUGAR
No sugar container, or loose or wrapped sugar to be left on the table, counter, tray or saucer.
No sugar shall be served unless asked for by the customer.
Not more than three lumps or two teaspoonfuls of sugar for any beverage or more than two teaspoonfuls for any dessert, cereal or other food, shall be served at any one sitting.
Perforated shakers for dispensing granulated or fruit sugar are forbidden.

TEA
No operator can use more than one tea bag or the equivalent loose tea for one person at any serving.

COFFEE
Not more than one cupful per serving.
Discontinuance of additional quantities previously given without charge does not necessitate reduction in price of meal or serving.
Every effort to avoid wasteful uses of tea and coffee must be made.

In addition, there are two important collections that could be useful for investigation into women's roles in the provision of health care as nurses and volunteers in Quebec – The Women's Auxiliary Fonds., and the School of Nursing Sous-fonds (SofN, succeeded by Department of Nursing after 1972). The Women's Auxiliary was founded in 1936 to provide the staff and patients of the Hospital with moral support and material aid. The School of Nursing opened its doors in 1951. Prior to that, the JGH was the only large hospital in Montreal without a school of nursing. Once the School opened the JGH operated the only nursing school in Canada that recruited applicants of all backgrounds, under Jewish auspices. The School ceased operation in 1972 as a result of a new educational system requiring nursing education to be integrated into CEGEPs, which continues today. Together, these two collections comprise nearly 4.6 linear feet consisting of a wide variety of materials ranging from photographs, correspondence, newsletters, scrapbooks, year-books (SofN), textbooks (SofN), VHS tapes (SofN), and ephemera that create a colourful account of the activities and the people who contributed to the Hospital's growth and development over the years. Fonds, sous-fonds and series-level descriptions for both collections are available from the webpage <http://www.jgh.ca/en/archivesfindingaids>.



Garden party at the home of Allan and Lucy Bronfman to celebrate the launch of the new JGH Women's Auxiliary, Montreal, June 9, 1936. Inset is an image of Mrs. Alton Goldbloom, Founding President of the Women's Auxiliary. 2.9-1.1.8. Photographer: Associated Screen News Limited.

In addition to the JGH-related materials, holdings pertinent to other health care organizations in Montreal can also be found in Archives, in particular historical accounts of the Montreal Clinical Society (MCS) by Dr. Etziony, Archivist of the Society, and by Dr. Nathan Segall, a prominent member and former president of the Society. These documents provide detailed information about the history of the Society and are viewable onsite at the Archives.

This article mentions but a few samples from the highly specialized collection of the JGH Archives. In conjunction with the related holdings at the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives, the Jewish Public Library Archives, and the online exhibition of the Museum of Jewish Montreal, the JGH Archives is a valuable resource for scholars who hope to gain insight into the evolution of the JGH and its contributions to the provision of health care in Quebec. For any assistance, researchers can contact the archivist by email at legacy@jgh.mcgill.ca or by phone at (514) 340-8222 x 23277. Access restrictions may be assigned to some files containing patient information.