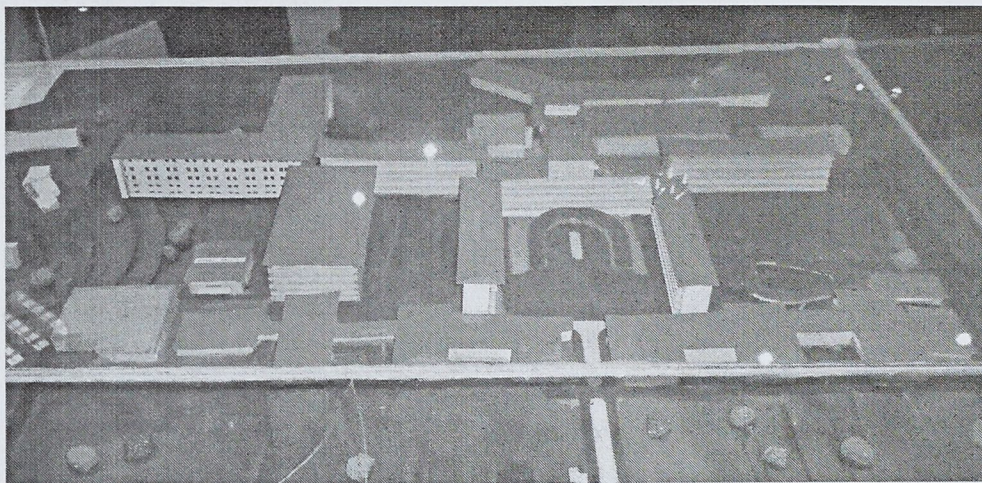


THE MEDICAL MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL (UCH), IBADAN

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It would be appropriate to start by recounting some events that preceded the establishment of the Medical Museum at the College hospital of the premier university in Nigeria. Recount because this is the first time the story of this museum would be written and to me, it is auspicious that it be published by the Nigerian Field Society.

It is imperative that mention be made of the immediate past Chief Medical Director [CMD] of the institution, Prof. Abiodun Ilesanmi who initiated the idea in 2004. I was called upon to reproduce some of the old photographs and search for information surrounding them [in late 2006]. His support to search and document the history of the medical profession in Nigeria was total. It was a surreal experience for me being a graduate of the College of Medicine of the same institution, with a passion for history and art to be involved in such a venture since a walk backwards into history here was a very personal one.



Original layout

Not long after, the able architect for the project, Arc. [Mrs]. Funto Oyeeye came over to discuss plans for the design of a structure for an archive/museum for the institution on the instruction of the CMD. The plan from the onset was to create a structure that would be a platform for further development because we realized that if we were able to get the public to engage the content effectively, it would be a sustainable venture and a participatory one.



Viewing first phase photos

The only available space then was on the 5th floor which was more a store for obsolete items. The subject of history of medical practice is a vast one. The College Hospital was to clock 50 years in 2008 and we were requested to prepare the space for the 50th year celebration. Hence, the emphasis in this section was the history of UCH (Now called the 1st Phase). While the architect set out to build and restore, I prepared to set up the records and artifacts. The main thrust of the project was to showcase the key functions of the hospital through the years and its impact on the health sector within and outside the country. These include promotion of manpower development, service as a research centre and provision of secondary and tertiary health care for the people.

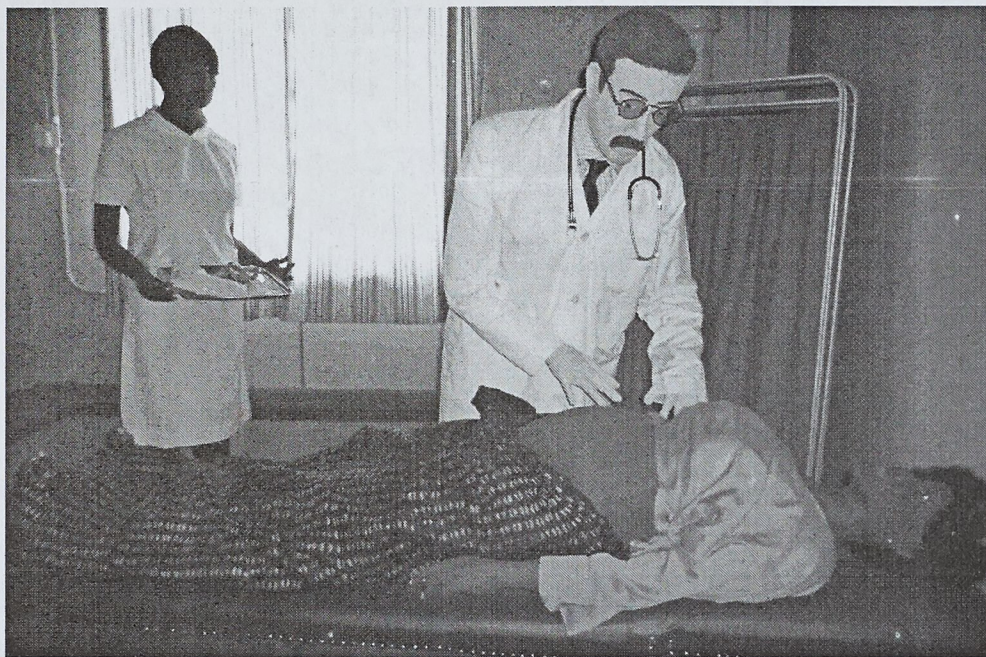


Second phase dummy

First Phase

The primary aim was to go back in history and examine the concept, policy, design and construction of the Teaching Hospital. This phase or section was to house two photo galleries, the first showing the early years of UCH and the second to contain the photographs of the House Governors and Chairmen of the Board.

Though display units were under construction to house the artifacts, a multimedia unit was included to store and exhibit other images such as staff and event photographs, documents, instruments, as well as film and sound because we realized that not long after, the space may not be adequate to house them physically and it may be necessary to compress content digitally.



Second phase dummy

The first and biggest challenge was that no records or artifacts were identified and kept for this purpose through the decades and if action was not taken, it may be almost impossible to retrieve most of such items. Hence the search began in earnest which started first in the corridors and rooms of UCH and later to the most unlikely places in and outside the city of Ibadan, indeed a story full of adventure.

Presently, this section houses several artifacts including instruments, text books, documents,



Third phase doctor

Room' with models of life size doctor, nurses and patient. The set would give the audience of the semblance of 'how it looked like' in the early years. Hidden speakers reveal a conversation between the pregnant patient, the doctor and nurse. Here, the visitor would be able to compare and contrast the hospital at present [and it's modern technology] with it's humble beginnings.

teaching aids and photographs from the early years. Noteworthy are images of 'the cutting of the sod' [on October 1st, 1953], the photographs of the first batch of doctors and nurses. Photographs of the visit of Queen Elizabeth in February 1956 and the formal commissioning of the hospital by Mary, the Princess Royal on 20th of November, 1957 are also displayed here. It also contains the earliest diagrams, artist's impressions done in 1953 of what the colonial authorities conceptualized of this teaching hospital. An early architect's model of the hospital is also on display.

2nd Phase

After the 50th year celebration, the management of the institution reconsidered that the exhibition space may need to be enlarged to accommodate the content that was being gathered. Two additional rooms, adjacent to the first, were dedicated for this purpose.

The first of these rooms would house a set of an 'Old Doctors

The second room, an actual classroom in the early years had a pair of sliding blackboards from inception. This we found very interesting and maintained them to preserve the identity of the institution as the first teaching hospital in the Federation. This room was developed into a second exhibition space and it contains some vital literature and documents from the institution, including the original site plans, financial records, newsletters, dispatch books and such like that draw the observer further into history.

It also contains the photo gallery of past Chief Medical Directors.



Third phase doctor

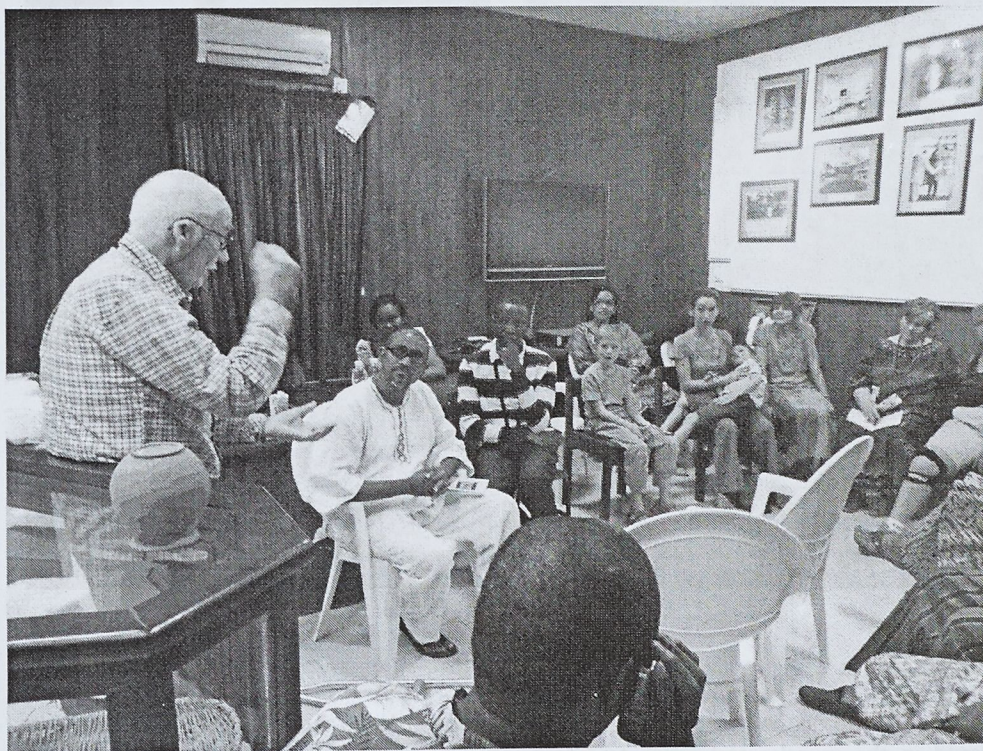
3rd Phase

At this point, it was apparent that we could no longer keep ourselves within the limits of the history of UCH and we needed to accommodate the larger picture of Nigeria's medical history. The CMD, Professor Abiodun Ilesanmi, once again stepped in. This time, we were offered a much larger space behind the earlier mentioned sections, which at the time was the control room for the central air conditioning (now obsolete) and a large dump for many obsolete equipment and items. It was decided that it's huge engines and vents of the central A/C be decommissioned because of a threat posed by rodents and insects occupying it over

the decades to other artifacts in the museum.

At this point, it must be mentioned that Prof. Adelola Adeloje, a neurosurgeon of repute and medical historian made invaluable contributions that enabled us plan and project what would be exhibited in the 3rd section. It was considered that a good starting point would be to animate the first Nigerians who qualified as doctors between 1858 and 1895 by constructing their life-sized sculptures. The images of five out of eight of these physicians were sourced with assistance from Prof. Adeloje. Our search for the images of the other three is still on most especially of the first West African (Sierra Leonean) to qualify as a doctor, William Broughton Davies (1831-1906). A brief journey into their lives can be read here and reveals the 'back-story' of the challenges they faced, their triumphs as well as their ideologies. Furthermore, a standing sculpture of Hippocrates who established medicine as a distinct field of study as well as a profession connects us to the larger picture of the quest for medical knowledge.

This section also offers a panoramic view of the city of Ibadan stretching from the Government secretariat to Mokola Hill, in Ibadan. The hall therefore serves as an excellent



Doig Simmonds talks to Field Society members

place for the academics and the public for reflection. The hall is also equipped for exhibitions, presentations and seminars.

Two smaller rooms that once housed the filters for the central air conditioners are being modified to contain two sets of models. The first would depict a village setting, replete with houses, people and an old medical outreach centre. This is to commemorate the worthy efforts at medical outreach that today have evolved to become primary, secondary and tertiary medical centres across the country. It is also a reminder of the gaping need for rural health care in most parts of the country since most facilities are concentrated in urban areas.

The second room would contain relics of old teaching aids including fabricated body parts, thus defining the role of the institution as a teaching hospital and granting it that special position it holds in the history of medical practice.



Doig chats with Pat Oyelola

In Conclusion

This is just the beginning. [although this is supposed to be a conclusion!]. The museum would in the months and years to come, begin to attract more public attention and

awareness and ultimately, appreciation of the values, efforts and growth of the institution in particular and the medical profession as a whole. The 'Friends of the Museum' is a recently created group to connect the museum better with the public. The institution is keen to document and conserve content that would be relevant to the history of medical practice in Nigeria. In the course of the next few months, museum studies programs as well as exhibitions, seminars and workshops would commence in order to create greater awareness. The passion to search and document the history of medical practice should not abate for it creates value and encourages merit.

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