



Collection 29

Name and Location of Repository:

Northwestern Health Sciences University, Greenawalt Library. 2501 West 84th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431. 952-885-5419. library@nwhealth.edu

Title: Edith Davis Collection

Dates: 1970s-2000s

Extent: 3 boxes

Name of Creators/Collectors: Edith Davis, Barbara Davis

Biographical History

Edith Davis grew up in New York City and moved to Minneapolis after World War II. She studied English in a master's degree program at the University of Minnesota, and after completing her degree, worked in curriculum development with U of M professors and in curriculum development, standards, and evaluation for the state of Minnesota. At that time, she began taking tai chi classes with her husband, Lionel, from a teacher named Sean Marshall. Marshall was studying Vietnamese/French-style acupuncture via correspondence course from OICS, and one day in 1977, applied acupressure behind Davis' knee to treat her backache. Davis had had polio as a child, and that experience was part of her interest in non-conventional-Western medicine and approaches to health.

After that successful backache treatment, Davis and some other tai chi students clamored for Marshall to teach them some of what he was learning, and some of the students, including Davis and her daughter Barbara, also signed up for the OICS course. Davis completed the program in late 1978 and began teaching acupuncture out of her Minneapolis home shortly thereafter. Marshall and Davis, along with Michael Helffrich, founded the Acupuncture Society of Minnesota in late 1978, with their first public meeting in February 1979. Around this time, Davis and Helffrich began meeting with the state Department of Health Human Services Occupational Advisory Council to attempt to begin the regulation of acupuncture practice in Minnesota, so that acupuncturists could practice openly and without fear of accusations of practicing medicine without a license. The first legislation allowing the practice of acupuncture in the state went into effect in 1981.

Davis opened the first acupuncture clinic in Minnesota in 1982. Named Bao Jen, the clinic was located at Emerson and Lake St. in Minneapolis, and operated only for a couple of years. Davis opened another clinic, The Healing Point, in Richfield in 1983. It operated at that location until 1990 and served as an observation and training site for Davis' acupuncture students. In 1990, the clinic moved to 5251 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, when Davis opened the Minnesota School of Acupuncture & Herbs (later Minnesota School of Acupuncture & Herbal Studies) and ceased teaching out of her home. The school became known as the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture & Herbal Studies by 1995, when it moved to 1821 University Ave. W., Suite 278-S, St. Paul. In 1999, MIAHS merged with Northwestern College of Chiropractic in Bloomington to form Northwestern Health Sciences University. At that time the school

was re-named to the Minnesota College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, and is now known as the Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Program within NWHSU's College of Health and Wellness.

Davis was also involved at the national level, serving on the board of the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture (later the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine) from its foundation in 1982 until 1990.

Davis passed away in 2008.

See Deah Kinion's article on the history of acupuncture in Minnesota for much more information.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of materials regarding Edith and Barbara Davis' personal study and training in acupuncture and Chinese medicine (formerly often called Oriental medicine; the field of acupuncture and Chinese medicine will be referred to as "acupuncture" throughout this finding aid); acupuncture schools, classes, and clinics started and run by Edith Davis; and state and national acupuncture organizations. Some materials are publications (e.g., school catalogs and handbooks, acupuncture training materials), while others are originals (e.g., Edith Davis' treatment protocols).

The collection includes two copies of the Occident Institute of Chinese Studies (OICS, Montreal, Quebec) acupuncture correspondence course, used by Edith and Barbara Davis, and continuing education materials from OICS and their later incarnation, the Occidental Institute (Florida). Also included are numerous materials from Edith Davis' long history of teaching acupuncture, including materials from the Minnesota School of Acupuncture & Herbal Studies and the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture & Herbal Studies.

Conditions Governing Access: Access to some materials is restricted. Please contact the Archives for further information and to request access to the collection.

Physical Access: Materials are housed in archival storage and may require advance notice for access. Older materials have sustained some damage and should be used with caution. Materials may require additional processing prior to public use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright to these materials remains with the University. The reproduction, broadcast, display, public presentation, and other uses in any means or format of materials protected by copyright, beyond that which is allowed by fair use, requires written permission of the University. The user is responsible for ensuring permissions have been attained as necessary.

Preferred citation format: [Title and date of item]. Edith Davis Collection, University Archives, Greenawalt Library, Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, MN.

Languages and Scripts of Material: English, Chinese

Other Finding Aids: Folder listing available in collection file

Custodial History: Materials were created or collected by Edith Davis during her lifetime. Her daughter, Barbara, sorted materials for donation, and also included her own copy of the Occidental Institute of Chinese Studies master's program materials in the donation. Some of Edith Davis' materials were given

or lent to her former students prior to donation; some materials returned by former students may be included here.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Lionel Davis, widower, and Barbara Davis, daughter

Appraisal, Destruction, and Scheduling Information: None

Accruals: Additional materials may be donated in future, particularly on Davis' involvement in state and national acupuncture organizations, and drafts of a book on which she was working

Existence and Location of Copies: None known

Related Archival and Special Collections Materials: Collection 7 – Collection of Student Notes from Edith Davis' Teachings, Collection 14 – NWHSU Collection of University History Materials, Collection 19 – NWHSU Commencement Programs, Collection 20 – NWHSU Collection of Professional Convention Programs; Pamphlet Collection (includes leaflet for Edith Davis' first clinic, Bao Jen); Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine Association of Minnesota (AOMAM) article designed and produced by Deah Cain Kinion in March 2008 titled "Our History, People and Activities: Celebrating the History and Professional Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine in Minnesota, 1978-2008," accessible in print and digital versions in the archives

Publication Note: None known

System of Arrangement: Materials are arranged in no particular order. Materials from Series 1 are located in Boxes 1-2 and from Series 2 in Boxes 1-3.

Series 1: Personal Study and Training Materials, 1970s-1980s

This series consists of correspondence course and continuing education materials used by Edith and Barbara Davis. Most materials are out-of-print publications and/or publications along with study notes.

Series 2: Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Schools, Clinics, Teaching, and Organizations, 1980s-2000s

This series consists of materials from Davis' various schools and clinics, including teaching materials, school catalogs, treatment protocols, and newspaper clippings. Also included are materials on the general practice of acupuncture in Minnesota.

Finding Aid Description Information

Sources used

- Lionel and Barbara Davis donation interview
- Collection materials
- AOMAM history article
- Davis obituary in the Star Tribune -- <http://www.startribune.com/edith-davis-87-acupuncture-pioneer/19374049/>
- "Mission and History: Northwestern Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine" -- <https://www.nwhealth.edu/acupuncture-oriental-medicine/mission-history/>

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