



NEWS RELEASE

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Mobile, Alabama – On March 24th, the Mobile Medical Museum will open the *Josiah Clark Nott Pathological Specimens*, an exhibit of historical artifacts from the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. On view for six months, the exhibit will provide visitors of all ages with a rare encounter of extraordinary anatomical art and deep insight into one of the most important eras in our region's medical history.

Josiah Clark Nott Pathological Specimens includes twelve wax anatomical models that were purchased by Dr. Nott in 1859 for the Medical College of Alabama in Mobile. The Medical College was the first legislatively constituted orthodox medical school within the state, and the models were part of its anatomical museum, considered the finest of its kind in all of North America.

These eerily lifelike models, still sealed in their original glass containers, represent common diseases of the 18th and 19th century, such as smallpox, gout, impetigo, and vaccinia. They were created by the English artist Joseph Towne, the official Modeler for Guy's Hospital and Medical School in London. Towne's anatomical works in wax and marble are now collected and exhibited throughout the world.

"This exhibit is a powerful remnant of the Medical College and its world-class museum collections," said Dr. Glassbrook, Executive Director of the Mobile Medical Museum. "As Mobile kicks off the ALABAMA 200 Bicentennial celebrations, we hope people will seize this opportunity to explore why anatomical studies and medical museums played such an important role in the advancement of health care in the early years of statehood."

"We're honored that the Nott specimens can once again be seen in Mobile, where they first served as an important teaching tool for medical students over 150 years ago," said Stefanie Rookis, curator of the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. "The

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specimens, along with the other instruments, equipment and models from the early days of healthcare that are held in the collections of the Mobile Medical Museum and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, help to trace and define the development of world class medicine in Alabama.”

The Mobile Medical Museum will offer educational and public programming during the run of the exhibit to help visitors engage on many levels with its content. Programming will include tours, hands-on activities, and public talks by distinguished guest speakers. The exhibit will be particularly useful in teaching visitors about nine medical conditions, many of which are still common threats throughout the world.

Josiah Clark Nott Pathological Specimens will be on display through September 29th in the Mobile Medical Museum’s newly named Mary Elizabeth and Charles Bernard Rodning Gallery. “The Rodning family is privileged to host this unique exhibition. We are most grateful to Ms. Rookis for her depth of knowledge and curatorial skills,” said Dr. Rodning, President, Board of Trustees. The exhibit and related programming are generously supported by Dr. Charles Bernard and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Rodning, Dr. Samuel J. Strada, and Dr. Elizabeth Mancini.

About the Mobile Medical Museum

Founded in 1962, by Dr. Samuel Eichold, II, the Mobile Medical Museum preserves and exhibits medical artifacts and archives to commemorate Mobile’s prominent place in the history of medical education and public health within the state of Alabama and the Gulf Coast. The Museum’s collections and exhibitions provide the public with a broad understanding of the evolution of the art and science of health care.

Since 2004, the Museum has been located at the Vincent-Doan-Walsh House, Mobile’s oldest extant private residence, which is located on the midtown campus of the University of South Alabama Children’s and Women’s Hospital. Included on the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service, the house was built in 1827 by Captain Benjamin Vincent, who commanded several cargo vessels that sailed between New Orleans and Mobile.

The Museum’s collections include thousands of medical artifacts, photographs, and documents from the past 300 years. The Museum also houses the J.L. Bedsole Archives and Ben May Library, which together contain over 50 cubic feet of letters, doctor’s registers, photographs, and rare books.

The Mobile Medical Museum is a locally supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and does not receive any funding from federal, state, county, or city taxes.