

# Peek Inside AHIMA's Curio Cabinet

Save to myBoK

AHIMA's headquarters in Chicago, IL houses a treasure trove for medical historians, archivists, and anyone who wants to know more about the history of health information management (HIM) and the association. The onsite library holds all 89 volumes of the *Journal of AHIMA* dating back to 1930, news clippings chronicling major HIM events, and annual AHIMA convention agendas dating back to the days when AHIMA founder Grace Whiting Myers herself was in attendance.

The front reception area of AHIMA's office includes the association's very own curio cabinet, which is home to a first edition copy of Myers's autobiography, various awards, and several items featured above. As AHIMA celebrates its 90th birthday this year, the *Journal* highlights some of the keepsakes AHIMA has preserved over the decades.

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Before she was First Lady Mrs. Kennedy, Jacqueline Bouvier was a reporter who covered the 1952 Medical Record Association Annual Convention. She asked members, "What's the most interesting phase of being a medical record librarian?"

# Inquiring Photografer

By JACQUELINE BOUVIER

## THE QUESTION

*What's the most interesting phase of being a Medical Record librarian? Asked at the annual convention.*

## THE ANSWERS

Lydia Voelker, Baltimore, Md.: I'm in the training program. Every year I turn out a dozen young girls, after a course that touches on all fields of medicine. Then I place them in hospitals. It's good to start young people out on a promising career. In one of the speeches here they said we were the communicators of medical progress.



Ruth G. Watson, Tuskegee, Ala.: Listening to patients describing their complaints, they'll say, "Well, Doc, I got a pain right in over thru here," and the Doc says, "When did it start?" and the patient answers, "Oh, about the time I got out of the Army, just after that big snow, '46 or '47 I think." All that goes in the files.



Eleanor Kirwan, New Rochelle, N.Y.: Keeping records is fascinating. Once we were requested to locate the record of a young man who was court martialed in Japan and sentenced to death. We found he'd fractured his



Mrs. Bernadette Hanna, New York City: As part of our training we attend operations. I'll never forget the first one. I saw. It was a Caesarean. That's such a productive operation. It's not like removing a tumor. You see something alive being brought into the world. It was so exciting when the doctor picked up the baby and it cried.

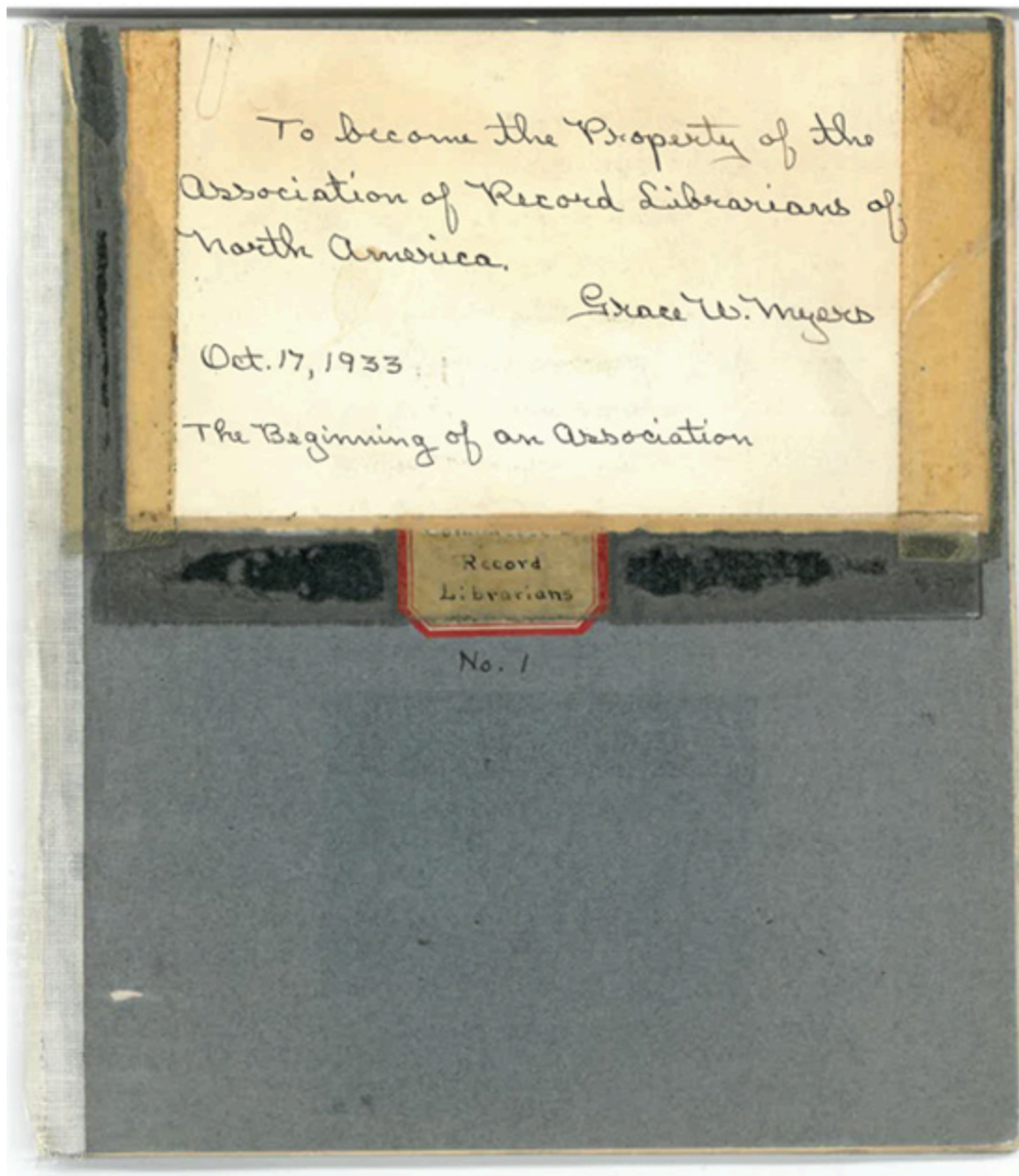


Mrs. Grace H. Hines, Glenn Dale, Md.: I've been a hostess most of the time so that's the only part of the program I know much about. I love going to all the different conventions. Next to Washington, Philadelphia's my favorite convention city. I'm so mad I missed the tour of European capitals our group just got back from.



JeHarned Buffkin, Durham, N. C.: The opportunities this field

This notebook holds a log of meetings held in 1916 and 1917 to discuss what an association dedicated to medical records might look like. Kept by Myers, it also includes sample medical records, early forms of coding and grouping, and "admission" slips from Massachusetts General Hospital (where Myers worked).

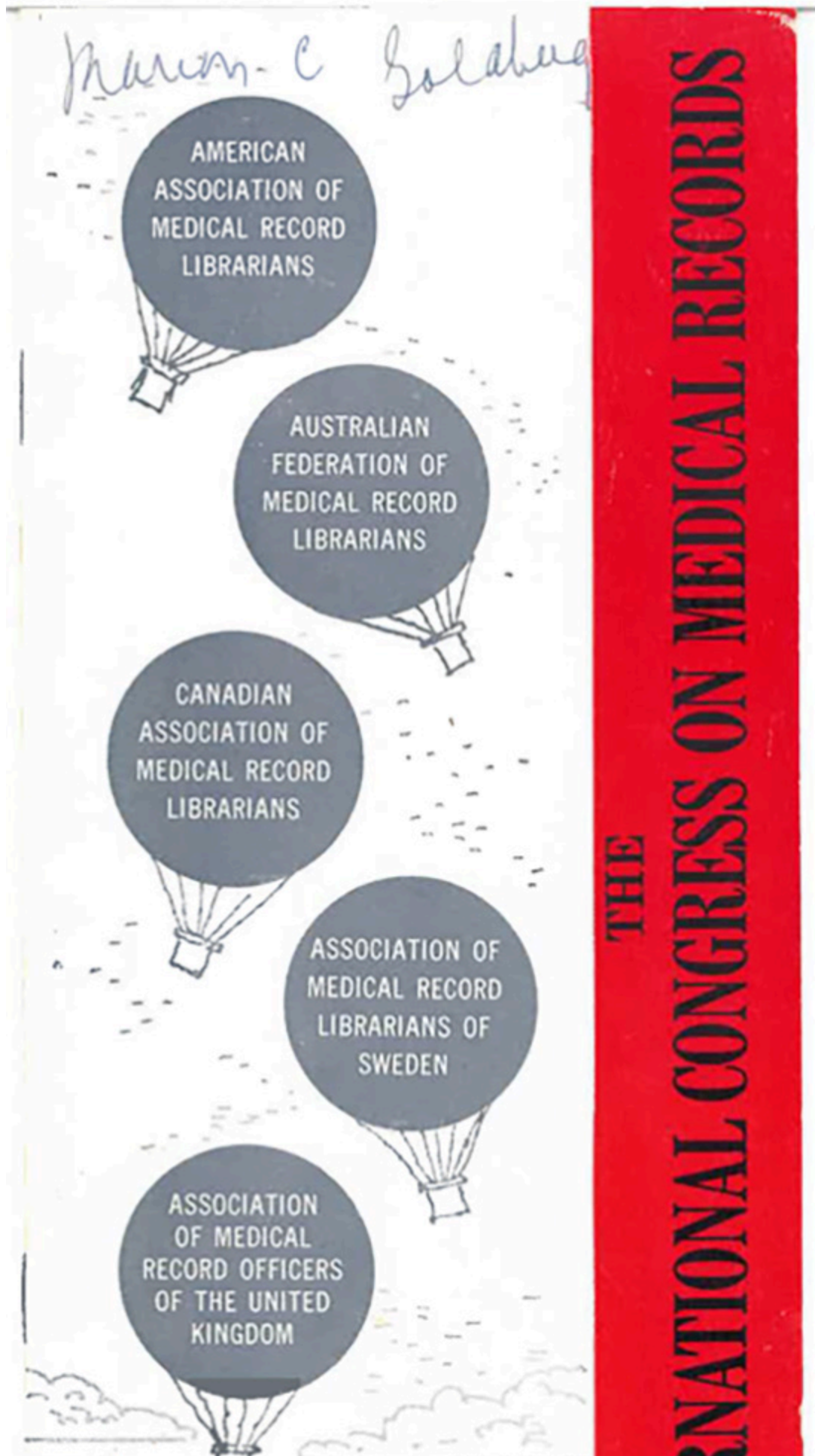


Two years of membership cards for Active level member Marion G. Cushing. For years AHIMA issued physical membership cards that members could use to display their expertise and commitment to the profession. The cards were phased out in 2009.



A pamphlet for the 4th International Congress on Medical Records, held in 1963 and co-sponsored by the American Association of Medical Records as well as HIM organizations from Australia, Sweden, Canada, and Great Britain.







According to an undated script used during the installation ceremony of Alabama Medical Records Association officers, this lamp was lit and given to each association's president, who was instructed to "uphold its radiance so that it may be an inspiration to all who see it or its reflected rays."

**Article citation:**

. "Peek Inside AHIMA's Curio Cabinet." *Journal of AHIMA* 89, no.6 (June 2018): 72.

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