

## **The Bequest of Dr Phyllida Frost**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In September, 2014, **The Museum of Health and Medicine for Wales** was generously donated the bequest of a collection of historic medical equipment from the estate of Dr Phyllida Frost, who had been a Consultant Anaesthetist in North Clwyd for 40 years. Dr Frost, having graduated in Medicine in London, had received training in anaesthesia at UCH, the Brompton Hospital and the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children before moving to North Wales. She had shown a particular interest in the developments in anaesthetic equipment and her diverse collection reflected that.

Of particular interest was an example of *Maxwell's Portable Pneumothorax Apparatus* (1937). Unlike the majority of its predecessors, which were made of glass, Maxwell's apparatus featured a metal piston mechanism and an aneroid manometer which permitted of an unusually compact instrument.

Two sets of *Southey's tubes* 'For the Treatment of General Dropsy by Capillary Drainage' were included. These were both of a pocket design and featured rubber tubing, silvered tubes of various lengths and an adjustable trocar for their insertion. A further compact pocket instrument featured a set of three nested empyema cannulae and their appropriate trocars.

The collection was housed in a pair of glazed metal Aseptic Cabinets and included several moulded glass 'aseptic' containers with heavy metal lids.

There were also a number of tracheostomy and layngectomy tubes fashioned of silver and a range of 19th and 20th century anaesthetic sundries.

The whole of this valuable collection will be archived and ultimately made viewable on the museum website: [www.wmhm.org.uk](http://www.wmhm.org.uk).

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[www.homsw.org.uk](http://www.homsw.org.uk)