

The Todd-McLean Collection

The following information was prepared at the request of Vic Boff, for distribution at the seventh annual awards dinner of the Oldetime Barbell and Strongmen Association. It is reproduced here to allow readers to more completely understand the history and mission of the collection.

The Todd-McLean Collection in the History of Physical Culture was begun in 1983 when Terry and Jan Todd decided to donate their extensive collection of books, magazines, courses, films, videos, photographs and artifacts in the field to the University of Texas, where they both teach. Shortly after the Todds' decision, U.T. Professor Emeritus Roy J. McLean added his own collection to the Todds' and donated \$50,000 to support the collections through the establishment of the McLean Research Fellowship in Sports History. Over the next several years, that \$50,000 donation was matched by the university, as were later gifts by Mrs. McLean and Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Hartman.

The primary purpose of the McLean Fellowship, which now has an endowment of approximately \$250,000, is to maintain and expand the Todd-McLean Collection, to conduct historical research using the materials in the collection and to disseminate the results of that research. Interest on the endowment can be used for such things as preservation material, cataloguing, telephone calls and travel to academic conferences; the interest cannot be used for purchases. Everything in the collection has either been purchased by the Todds or donated by people with an interest in working with the collection to preserve the history of the Iron Game.

Terry Todd began collecting books and magazines in the field of physical culture over 30 years ago and he was encouraged in this effort by his coach at U.T., Professor McLean. Later, when Todd was working on his doctoral dissertation on the history of resistance exercise, he met Ottley Coulter, who had what was said to be the largest collection in this field in the United States. Coulter, who began collecting in the first decade of this century, befriended Todd and graciously allowed him to use this collection. In 1975, after Coulter's death, the Todds purchased the collection from the family.

Gradually the Todds added to the collection and then, when they joined the faculty at the University of Texas, they decided it was time to make a home for the growing collection so that it would live on beyond them and be used and enjoyed by scholars and lovers of lifting for decades to come. The Todds understood that the collection should be part of the library system at a major, research-based university with a

history of kindness toward specialized collections of rare material.

As time went by and the collection received attention through articles by such people as Al Thomas and Charles A. Smith, the Todds approached other people about donating their materials to the collection. In this way, all or part of the collections of David P. Willoughby, Joe Assirati, Dr. Jack Leighton, Dr. Christopher Gian-Curseo, Sam Loprinzi, Dr. Jesse Mercer Gehman, George Hackenschmidt, Sig Klein and Vic Boff have been added to the holdings at U.T.

All of the material is on reference cards and the Todds are in the process of entering the entire collection into the computer so that, in time, anyone at the university with a computer hookup will be able to locate and use the material in the collection. The collection itself currently consists of approximately 100,000 books, magazines, photos, courses, videos, films, artifacts and pieces of correspondence. Among the holdings of the collection are the personal scrapbooks of George Hackenschmidt, Ottley Coulter and Professor Attila; the drawings and notebooks of David P. Willoughby; an oil painting of Professor Attila done in 1887 by a royal court painter in London; a complete set of the major magazines in English, including *Strength & Health*, *Iron Man* and *Muscle Builder/Power*, newsreel footage of dozens of lifters, bodybuilders and strongmen from the 30's, 40's and 50's; correspondence from such people as George F. Jowett, Ottley Coulter, George Hackenschmidt, Professor Attila, Warren Lincoln Travis, Earle Liederman, Sig Klein, Mac Batchelor, Joe "The Mighty Atom" Greenstein, Alan Calvert, Mark Berry, Bob Hoffman, Hermann Saxon, and many others; Joe Bonomo's publicity photo collage; and books, dealing with exercise, dating back to the 1700's.

It is a collection of which the Todds and the University of Texas are proud, but it is a collection which requires the help and support of people who believe it is important to remember the pioneers of the sport and to preserve the historical records of their accomplishments. By working together, people who want to preserve the history of progressive resistance and physical fitness can see to it that 100 years from now it will be possible for interested people to visit Austin and study the lives of the leaders who laid the foundations of physical culture. Anyone wishing to make arrangements to visit the collection or to donate either materials or money should contact Dr. Terry Todd or Jan Todd, 217 Gregory Gym, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Their telephone numbers are: 512-471-4890 (office) and 512-447-3635 (home).