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# Guide to the Johann Friedrich Ahlfeld Collection of Drawings of Medical Deformities circa 1880



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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Identifier</b>	ICU.SPCL.AHLFELD
<b>Title</b>	Ahlfeld, Johann Friedrich. Collection of Drawings of Medical Deformities
<b>Date</b>	circa 880
<b>Size</b>	2.75 linear feet (6 boxes)
<b>Repository</b>	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
<b>Abstract</b>	Dr. Johann Friedrich Ahlfeld's collection contains drawings of various medical deformities. The drawings are replications of illustrations found in two volumes containing 49 total plates.

## Information on Use

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Ahlfeld, Johann Friedrich. Collection of Drawings of Medical Deformities, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

### Biographical Note

Johann Friedrich Ahlfeld was born on October 16, 1843 in Alseben an der Saale, Province Sachsen, Germany. He studied gynecology and obstetrics in Greifswald, Vienna, Tübingen, and Leipzig, where he was an assistant of Carl Sigmund Franz Crede (1819-1892). Ahlfeld was conferred doctor of medicine on 22 February, 1868. He became professor of midwifery in Leipzig, and then relocated to Giessen. There, he was professor of obstetrics and director of the midwifery teaching institution. Ahlfeld moved to Marburg in 1883 where he served as professor of obstetrics and director of the Royal School of Midwifery. He was named privy medical counselor in 1894 and retired from teaching in 1909.

Ahlfeld is the namesake of several medical terms: Ahlfeld's manipulation, an external manipulation to push out the placenta which minimizes blood loss; Ahlfeld's sign I, an irregular uterine contraction after the third month of pregnancy; and Ahlfeld's sign II, a slight loosening of the placenta.

Ahlfeld died on May 25, 1929 in Marburg, Germany.

## **Scope Note**

This collection contains drawings and photographs of various medical deformities.

Series I and II contain replications of illustrations found in two volumes containing 49 total plates. The volumes, entitled Atlas zu Die Missbildungen des Menschen, are held in the SCRC Rare Books collection (call # fQM691.A3). The drawings and illustrations are also associated with Ahlfeld's book, Die Missbildungen des Menschen (call# ffQM691.A3). The illustrations depict abnormalities of a wide variety of body parts but most convey conjoined twins, or deformed genitalia or heads. Within the volumes, the illustrations are about four square inches in size; there are between 12 and 22 illustrations per page. The accompanying drawings are of individual illustrations from the volumes. Approximately three-quarters of the illustrations are replicated by drawings. Drawings of illustrations from the same page in the volume are grouped together. Several of the illustrations are accompanied by more than one drawing. Some of the drawings appear to be originals and others have been cut from a published piece.

Series III, Ephemera and Photographs contains illustrations that depict abnormalities, mostly those of conjoined twins, deformed genitalia, and heads. The illustrations are arranged according to the number written on each. This number may be associated with a past exhibition of Ahlfeld's drawings and illustrations. The photographs are of women during labor, infants, and other abnormalities.

## **Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

## **Subject Headings**

- Ahlfeld, Johann Friedrich, 1843-1929
- Abnormalities, Human
- Gynecology
- Labor (Obstetrics)
- Obstetrics
- Pregnancy
- Twins
- Twins, Conjoined

## **INVENTORY**

### **Series I: Drawings from Atlas zu Die Missbildungen des Menschen, Volume 1**

#### **Box 1**

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Table 1, Items 2-8, 10

**Box 1**

**Folder 2**

Table 2, Items 1, 3, 5, 7-10

**Box 1**

**Folder 3**

Table 3, Items 1-14

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Table 4, Items 1-3, 6-8, 10, 11

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**Folder 5**

Table 5, Items 2-8

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Table 6, Items 1-12

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Table 7, Items 1, 3-4, 7-10

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**Folder 8**

Table 8, Items 4, 5, 7-9

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Table 10, Items 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11

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Table 14, Items 2-8, 11, 12

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Table 15, Items 1-4, 8-10, 12, 13

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Table 18, Items 1-9

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**Folder 20**

Table 20, Items 1-12, 14-21

**Box 1**

**Folder 21**

Table 21, Items 1, 5, 6, 13

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**Folder 22**

Table 22, Items 5, 8-10

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**Folder 24**

Table 24, Items 1-3, 5-10

**Series II: Drawings from Atlas zu Die Missbildungen des Menschen,  
Volume 2**

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Table 26, Items 1, 3-21

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Table 33, Items 1, 4-14, 16

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Table 34, Items 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 17

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Table 35, Items 1, 3, 5-9, 12, 15, 16, 18

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Table 36, Items 1-5, 10-12, 15, 16, 18-22

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**Folder 9**

Table 37, Items 1, 3-6, 10-14, 16, 20

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Table 38, Item 8

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**Folder 11**

Table 39, Items 6, 9, 10

**Box 2**

**Folder 12**

Table 40, Items 1, 2, 15, 16, 19-21

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Table 42, Item 8

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Table 44, Items 4, 6-8, 10, 11

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Table 46, Items 1-4, 16, 18

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Table 48, Items 15, 19, 20

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Table 49, Items 3, 7, 15, 20, 21

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**Folder 21**

Unidentified-Conjoined Twins

**Box 2**

**Folder 22**

Unidentified-Conjoined Twins

**Box 3**

**Folder 1**

Unidentified-Genitalia

**Box 3**

**Folder 2**

Unidentified-Head

**Box 3**

**Folder 3**

Unidentified-Misc (1 of 4)

**Box 3**

**Folder 4**

Unidentified-Misc (2 of 4)

**Box 3**

**Folder 5**

Unidentified-Misc (3 of 4)

**Box 3**

**Folder 6**

Unidentified-Misc (4 of 4)

**Series III: Ephemera and Photographs**

**Box 4**

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Illustration 1

**Box 4**

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Illustration 2

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Illustration 7

**Box 4**

**Folder 4**

Illustration 15



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Illustration 22c  
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Illustration 43a

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Illustration 44

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Illustration 45c

**Box 4**

**Folder 24**

Illustration 46

**Box 4**

**Folder 25**

Illustration 47

**Box 4**

**Folder 26**

Illustration 56

**Box 4**

**Folder 27**

Illustration 56a

**Box 4**

**Folder 28**

Illustration 58

**Box 4**

**Folder 29**

Illustration 59

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**Folder 30**

Illustration 60

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**Folder 31**

Illustration 62

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Illustration 64

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**Folder 33**

Illustration 66

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Illustration 70

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Illustration 205

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Illustration 220

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Illustration 224

**Box 4**

**Folder 73**

Illustration 232a

**Box 4**

**Folder 74**

Illustration 232b

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Illustration 232d

**Box 5**

**Folder 1**

Illustration 234

**Box 5**

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Illustration 235

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Illustration 237a

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Illustration 237c

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Photographs

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Illustration 12

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**Folder 2**

Illustration, Unidentified