

## 'Koken Barbers' Supply Co'

### Publication/Creation

1913-1914

### Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qv66kubj>

### License and attribution

Works in this archive created by or for Henry Wellcome or the Wellcome organisation are available under a CC-BY license. Please be aware that works in this archive created by other organisations and individuals are not covered under this license, and you should obtain any necessary permissions before copyright or adapting any such works.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

KOKEN BARBERS' SUPPLY CO.

ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.

'13/'14

Ham

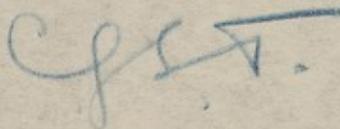
8 April 1914.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your kind letter of the 24th ult. enclosing a copy of your article, I regret I cannot accede to your request to publish it at present together with the illustration you suggest. Later on after we have brought out our large catalogue of the Museum, I will give the matter further consideration, and see what I can do to meet you in the matter.

I am,

Faithfully yours,



T. W. Van Esq.,

Messrs. Koken Barbers' Supply Co.,

913-915 Market Street,

St. Louis.

KOKEN BARBERS' SUPPLY CO., ST. LOUIS.

CONGRESS CHAIRS  
BEST  
IN THE WORLD



FOUNDED 1874 BY E. E. KOKEN

G. W. SUTHERLAND, Pres. and Treas.  
W. F. KOKEN, Vice Pres. and Secy.

# Koken BARBERS' SUPPLY CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**BARBERS' FURNITURE**



Decorators of Shaving Mugs,  
Wholesale Steam Grinders and Coneavers.

Importers of fine Cutlery.  
Address all Communications to the office.  
Cable Address, KOKEN, St. Louis.  
Lieber's Code.

FACTORY, 2500-2598 OHIO AVE.

OFFICE AND SALESROOMS,  
913-915 MARKET ST.

ST. LOUIS, March 24, 1914.



Mr. C. J. S. Thompson,  
54 A Wigmore street,  
London W,  
England:

Dear Sir:

We have your kind letter of January 26th,  
which through an accident did not reach our hands until  
to-day.

In the meantime, taking for granted that you  
would have no objection to our describing the Museum and  
illustrating this article by using a duplicate of the cut  
showing a "Persian Barber Surgeon extracting a guinea worm  
from the leg of a patient", also the "Barber operating on  
patients in the hospital in the Sixteenth Century", we had  
proceeded to write up the article and have the two cuts made.

Your letter reached us just in time, however, for  
us to withdraw these from the printer, and we are very glad  
indeed to be able to do so, as we would not have you feel  
that we had imposed upon your kindness by publishing an  
article and cuts which would not be agreeable to your good  
self.

In this connection, however, would ask if you  
cannot reconsider the matter.

Our business is one that is closely connected with the Barbers and Hair Dressers of the present day, due to the fact that we have factories wherein we are building fixtures and goods such as are used by this class of trade.

We have for some time published a newspaper wherein we keep them posted as to things of interest, and have always appreciated the business from a historical standpoint, and have been anxious to pass on such information as we could from time to time.

We were especially pleased to note that the Wellcome Museum had been so successful in getting together so many exhibits connected with this business, and acting on the theory that a Museum is a public enterprise and service, we took for granted that an article written up describing this Museum and some of the exhibits which you had therein would not be amiss or construed by you as detrimental to your interests or that of the public at large.

We happen to have a copy of the article as we were sending it to the printer, which we are enclosing herein. You will note therein that we give full credit to the Museum for the permission to reproduce the two cuts, and we trust that after again considering the matter you will permit us to let this article run in a later issue of our paper.

We are quite willing that you shall eliminate any portion of the article which in your judgment is not correct or which you may desire to change. We assure you that we shall be glad to run it exactly as you want it.

C. J. S. Thompson,

--3--

Thanking you in advance for any consideration that you may be so kind as to give this request, and sincerely trusting that this long letter will not inconvenience you, as we felt that you were entitled to an explanation, we remain,

Yours very truly,

*Koken Barbers' Supply Co.*

Per *J. N. Van.*

TWV

Enclos.

## BARBER SURGEONS.

The history of no profession has a more strange or varied career than that of Barbering.

Some day a genius will tell its story as a connected whole and interesting reading as a study of evolution will be assured, not only the casual reader, but the student as well.

No period of Barbering is so little known or appreciated as that which saw the development of the art of surgery in the hands of the Barber Surgeon.

There has really been organized in London the Historical Medical Museum, and to its organizer, Mr. Henry S. Welcome, we are indebted for a copy of catalogue showing the various exhibits therein. It contains thirty-two articles pertaining to the Barber Surgeon, consisting of tools, prints and carvings dating back to the fourteenth century.

We reproduce, with compliment to Mr. Welcome, two ancient engravings showing the Barber Surgeon in action. Bottu in own shop surrounded by the equipment of his day and in the hospital.

Dr. Norman Moore F. R. C. P., Pres. Eighteenth International Congress of Medicine, made a careful study of the History of Medicine and in a recent address said,--

"Up to the time of Queen Elizabeth more books had been produced on the subject of Surgery than Medicine and we infer their authors were largely Barber Surgeons. The distinction between the physician and the barber surgeon was clearly drawn.

The physician did not think it consistent with propriety to write in any language except Latin, while the surgeons held a different view.

The Barber Surgeon was chiefly concerned with operative proceedings and lived among the people. One of them in his writings said, "I care nothing whether a surgeon know Latin or not so he be a good artist."

That he was skilled and unafraid to relieve his patient, no matter how afflicted, is proved by an ancient model of the Barber Surgeon at work on the injured skull of his patient while around him are lying shaving bowls and other implements of his occupation.

These Barber Surgeons were practical, educated men, made so by the circumstances of their times, and not the least ashamed of being able to shave a man or cut well his hair.

A notable Barber Surgeon, whose name will always grace the page of the History of Surgery, was William Clowes, a man who had a scientific mind and the intelligence to search after the <sup>truth</sup> the manner in which he could cause his patients the minimum of pain and the way to cure them most rapidly. He was appointed surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but began his work while in the army. He served on the famous field of Zutphen and with the fleet against the Spanish Armada. He wrote several books, all of them fine examples of English and containing many fine illustrations of life in the Shakesperian period.

Oil paintings of the Sixteenth century show how interesting must have been the stage setting of an operation performed by these early Barber Surgeons. One represents a patient being prepared to have his leg amputated. By the bedside sits the Barber Surgeon warming his instruments preparatory to the work of operating, while at the foot of the bed is a group of monks praying for the recovery of the patient and entering the door is a physician.

Their exhibits in this interesting museum show that in early centuries there were lady barbers and they like the men practised surgery. Many barbers became monks and spent their lives relieving suffering humanity as Monk Barber Surgeons.

That the Barbers were the first surgeons among other peoples would seem to be verified by the collection of stands for the holding of Barbers' bleeding basins secured in China, some dating back to a remote century.

Truly in the day when the Barber was likewise a surgeon we feel that his varied activities, all looking to the comfort of the people, must have made him a public benefactor indeed.

Rosen Barbers'  
Supply Co

---

Hamm

26 January 1914.

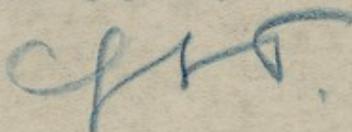
Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 13th inst. With respect to the illustrations in the hand book of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum which we sent you, I regret I am unable to give you permission to copy them. We obtained the originals of these pictures at great trouble and expense for the Museum, and by the regulations concerning them their further reproduction is prohibited. I regret therefore it is not practicable for you to have a half tone for publication.

There is no charge whatever for the hand book which I trust you will accept with our compliments.

I am,

Faithfully yours,



H. W. Van Esq.,  
913-915 Market St.,  
St. Louis.

CONGRESS CHAIRS  
BEST  
IN THE WORLD



FOUNDED 1874 BY E. E. KOKEN

G. W. SUTHERLAND, Pres. and Treas.  
W. F. KOKEN, Vice Pres. and Secy.

# Koken BARBERS' SUPPLY CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**BARBERS' FURNITURE**



Decorators of Shaving Mugs.  
Wholesale Steam Grinders and Conceavers.

Importers of fine Cutlery.  
Address all Communications to the office.  
Cable Address, KOKEN, St. Louis.  
Lieber's Code.

FACTORY, 2500-2598 OHIO AVE.

OFFICE AND SALESROOMS,  
913-915 MARKET ST.

ST. LOUIS, January 13, 1914.



S

Mr. C. J. S. Thompson,  
54 A Wigmore street,  
London, W.  
England.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your kind letter of December 20th, together with copies of catalog of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.

We do not find any charge made therefor, and if there is any we assure you we will take pleasure in remitting for same if you will let us know what it is.

We have looked over this publication, together with the pamphlet concerning/ <sup>opening ceremonies</sup> with a great deal of interest and pleasure.

We are sorry to note that you do not have any photographs of these particular exhibits which have to do with the Barber Surgeons of the past, and sincerely trust that you will keep us in mind should you have any made.

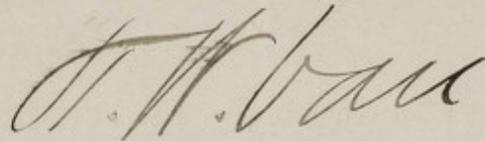
In this connection we desire to ask if you have any objection to <sup>ourselves</sup> making a half tone for publication in a Barber's Journal of the two pictures which you have in the catalog at the present time; namely, the Barber Surgeon's Shop

shown in cut between pages 14 and 15, also the one  
shown in cut between pages 96 and 97, to be used in a  
publication going to the Barbers of the United States.  
Due credit therefor will be given yourselves for the  
privilege of so doing.

Trusting that we may hear from you in regard  
to the matter, and again thanking you for your kindness,  
which we will also extend to Mr. H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,  
we remain,

Yours very truly,

TWV

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. W. B. B. B.", is written in dark ink on the right side of the page.

Van

N. 91  
Bliss

but then

help

Wm. Munn

Inputs not  
practical to

we have to

copy them

~~to~~

Redler

*Amun*

20 December 1913.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 9th inst. I have pleasure in forwarding you a copy of the Hand-book to the Historical Medical Museum.

You will see an account of the Barber-Surgeon's shop in the 17th century, also a large number of oil paintings, engravings, etc. referring to the barber-surgeons of the past. We have no photographs available at present of these exhibits, but should we be able to have some done later, we will bear your request in mind.

Faithfully yours,

*C. J.*

Messrs. Koken Barbers' Supply Co.,  
913-915 St. Louis, U.S.A.

KOHEN BARBERS' SUPPLY CO., ST. LOUIS.

CONGRESS CHAIRS



FOUNDED 1874 BY E. E. KOKEN

G. W. SUTHERLAND, Pres. and Treas.  
W. F. KOKEN, Vice Pres. and Secy.

# Koken BARBERS' SUPPLY CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**BARBERS' FURNITURE**



Decorators of Shaving Mugs,  
Wholesale Steam Grinders and Conceavers.

Importers of fine Cutlery.  
Address all Communications to the office.  
Cable Address, KOKEN, St. Louis.  
Lieber's Code.

FACTORY, 2500-2598 OHIO AVE

OFFICE AND SALESROOMS,  
913-915 MARKET ST.

ST. LOUIS, December 9, 1913.



Henry S. Wellcome, Esq\*,  
Wigmore Street W.,  
London, England.

Dear Sir:--

We have read with much interest the fact that you have carried out your plan of forming a museum of rare and curious objects of historical interest connected with medicine and allied sciences and that you have brought out a well-printed, neat catalog of 140 pages, describing the things which you have brought together.

We are particularly interested in those articles which you have on exhibition which have to do with mediaeval barber surgeons, including bas reliefs in terra cotta of the 17th and 18th centuries; a Chinese barber-surgeon's stand for bleeding, also facsimile of charter granted to barber-surgeons in 1752 and cuts of sign boards, etc., etc.

We would ask that you kindly supply us with a copy of this catalog and advise us if you have any photographs or prints of the various objects which have to do exclusively with the barber-surgeons.

As the largest manufacturers of barber fixtures and supplies, we are particular<sup>ly</sup> interested in what you have gotten

Mr. H.S.Wellcome

-2-

12/9/13.

together, and trust that you will kindly reply to this letter and supply us with a copy of the catalog which you have printed, sending us at the same time bill to cover any charges which may be thereon, and rest assured we will take great pleasure in remitting by first mail.

Hoping to hear from you promptly, we remain,

Yours very truly,

*Koken Barbers' Supply Co.*

Per

*T. N. Van.*

W-H

Koken Barbers  
Supply Co.

---

12/1/22