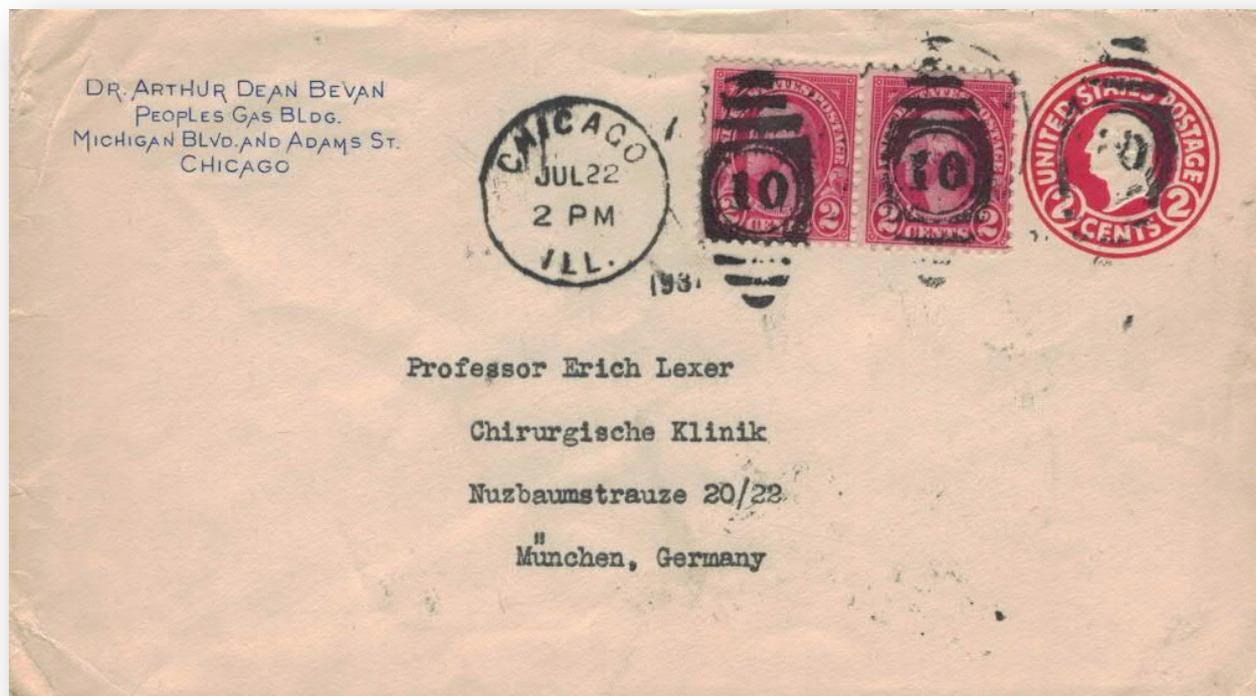


Two grandees of surgery: Arthur Dean Bevan & Erich Lexer

Once again we find two luminaries of medical history on a postal stationery cover.



Ganzsache mit Zufrankierung aus Chicago, Illinois, am 22. Juli 1931 nach München aufgegeben

The sender, **Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan** (1861-1943), works at Rush Medical College in Chicago for four decades beginning about 1887 and is best known for his association with the AMA, American Medical Association, which today represents 244,000 physicians and medical students and of which he is president during the World War I era. He is a co-founder of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), a professional society for surgery beginning in 1913. He opposes AMA involvement in the recruitment of physicians for the Volunteer Medical Service in World War I; however, he himself serves in the Office of the Inspector General of the United States in Washington DC. Throughout his life he is a respected and influential surgeon, specializing in urology, spinal injuries, cancer, and anesthesia, and has published numerous technical papers on these subjects.

The addressee, **Professor Erich Lexer**, together with Jacques Joseph, is considered the founder of plastic surgery. Born in Freiburg in 1867, he passed through various stages of training [assistant at the Georg-August University under Friedrich Merkel, assistant physician under Ernst von Bergmann at the Charité Berlin, where he habilitated]. He has a special talent for drawing. In 1903 he publishes his textbook of general surgery. In 1905 he transplants a knee joint from one person to another. As early as 1906, he reports on his method of facelifting, better known today as face-lifting. A call to the Hubertus University in Königsberg follows, and in 1910 he moves to the University of Jena, separating aseptic and septic surgery. In 1914 he joins the Imperial Navy as chief surgeon and advises the navy in Hamburg, Bruges and Ostend. He operates on mutilated patients in Flanders. In 1919 he becomes full professor and clinic director at the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg, he publishes the first volume *Die freien Transplantationen*. The second volume follows in 1924. He lays the foundations for bone transplantation. In 1928 he accepts the call to the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich as Sauerbruch's successor. Lexer develops new

surgical procedures. In 1931 he publishes his Complete Reconstructive Surgery. In 1936 he becomes head of surgery at Schwabing Hospital.

From 1933 Lexer is a supporting member of the SS and is appointed SS-Sturmbannführer or SS-Obersturmbannführer by Heinrich Himmler. He became a commentator on the National Socialist Sterilization Law and in 1933 wrote the article Die Eingriffe zur Unfruchtbarmachung des Mannes und zur Entmannung. He died in Berlin in 1937.

Further reading: Wikipedia. German-Biography.de