



UK Association for the History of Nursing

The UK Association for the History of Nursing is pleased to report that it held the first meeting of its Coordinating Committee on 2 September 2011. Members of the committee are from all over the UK; their backgrounds vary although most are either women's historians or nurse-historians. The full list may be found at: www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/ukchnm/UKAHN/committee/

The UK Association is looking forward very much to working jointly with other European Constituent Associations in developing initiatives that will drive forward the discipline of History of Nursing in Europe. In spite of apparent moves to the contrary from our erstwhile political leaders, we British nurse-historians remain deeply-committed to a broad European cooperation in everything we do!

The Bulletin of the UK Association for the History of Nursing will be launched in March 2012, with the first edition being made available both

online and in a limited paper edition. Future editions will be produced twice per year, in March and November. Please contact the editor, John Adams, if you are interested in contributing to this or future volumes. He can be reached via the Association's secretary: Cassandra.Kenny@manchester.ac.uk.

We will be holding a launch event on 7 March, 2012, both for the UKAHN itself, and for an important piece of research we have been conducting over the last 24 months. 'Historical Investigations into the Professional Self-Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery' was commissioned by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, UK, and will be released as an e-book at the launch event. Unfortunately, places at this event are strictly limited, as it is being held in the Council Chamber of the NMC, with limited capacity. If, however, you might be interested in attending, please let Christine Hallett know, and she will request a ticket for you. (Christine.Hallett@manchester.ac.uk)

The work of the UK Centre for the History of Nursing and Midwifery continues. In 2011, Jane Brooks organised an important workshop entitled: 'All in the Day's Work: A Hundred Years of Wartime Nursing'. This highly successful event was funded by The Wellcome Trust, and drew upon the work of 12 nurse-historians from the UK, Norway, Canada and Australia. The papers presented will be brought together into an edited book. A contract is currently being negotiated with Cambridge University Press. Other book contracts secured this year include Christine Hallett's 'Nurses Writing on the Great War' (Johns Hopkins University Press) and Alison Fell and Christine Hallett's 'Studies in First World War Nursing' (Routledge).

We wish everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful New Year!

Christine Hallett



Spain

12th National and 7th
International History of
Nursing Conference

&

3th Iberoamerican Symposium
of Nursing History” and “7th
Culture of cares’ International
Conference

Antonio Claret García Martínez
(University of Huelva, Spain)

Manuel Jesús García Martínez
(University of Sevilla, Spain)

Under the title "History inclusive of cultures and knowledges" has been held at the University of Alicante (Spain) between 24-26 November, 2011, the “12th National and 7th International History of Nursing Conference”, “3th Iberoamerican Symposium of Nursing History” and “7th Culture of cares’ International Conference”, an event that has brought together three of the highlights scientific research in Spain, chaired by Dr. José Antonio Ávila Olivares in the Organizing Committee and Dr. José Siles González and Dr. Carmen Solano Ruiz in the Scientific Committee.

More than 200 specialists participated in the treated subjects (from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Portugal and Spain), the following activities have been developed:

- Round tables, conferences and papers (oral and posters).
- New books.
- Meetings of national and international associations.
- Stands with specialized publications.

As main conclusions could be noted the continuous emergence of new historical sources for the History of Nursing research in Spain, documents from the end of the 15th and the 16th century reporting already important changes in it, experiencing new perspectives in nursing practice in the kingdoms of Iberian Peninsula, as for example references to the existence of nurses working in Chancillería of Valladolid’s prison in the middle of the 16 century and calling for a salary increase. Moreover, the diversity of topics discussed and the places of the studies have opened up interesting prospects for research which augur success in coming years in Spain and Latin America.

Very interesting is the section “New Books”, total ten. Fit to highlight among them “History of Nursing” by José Siles González; “Culture of cares: History of Ibero-American Nursing” (J. Siles, Taka Oguisso, Genival Fernandes and P.F. Souza, compilers); “Anniversary. 1986-2011. Nursing Council of Valencian Community”, (J. Antonio Ávila, comp.) or the book with the studies exposed in the Nursing History Conference held in Barcelona in 2010, as a monograph on “Híades. Revista de Historia de la Enfermería” (directed by Manuel Jesús García

Martínez).

Associative activity around the research and teaching of History of Nursing is addressing a very prominent place in Spain in the last 20 years. Friday 25 took place the annual meeting of the Permanent Seminar on the Research of the History of Nursing, chaired by Francisca Hernandez Martin (Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid). Among other issues dealt with the holding of the next Congress (13th National and VIII International Nursing History) that will be held in Madrid, and the need to strengthen ties at the international level. Also was constituted the “Ibero-American Federation of History of Nursing”; project that takes several years in training and which was finally constituted in Alicante on Friday, November 25, with the appointment



Germany

International Conference on Nursing History in Berlin, 12.5.2011-14.5.2011

Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation Stuttgart in
co-operation with the Museum of the History of Medicine of the Charité, Berlin

Marion Baschin

For the third time, the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart organised an international conference on nursing history. This year's conference dealt with "Conflicts in Nursing History". All the speakers and their presentations focused on questions of which conflicts existed in nursing, how they emerged, who they affected and which solutions were found in the different situations. Whilst, in the past, research had mostly followed institutional or biographical approaches, this time a more complex part of daily nursing practice was considered. The different papers were presented in four sections.

The first section dealt with conflicts related to religion. Conflicts within religious communities, for example caused by different opinions concerning the tasks of nursing, were mentioned as well as those between Catholics and Protestants. Contributors: ANNETT BÜTTNER (Kaiserswerth), CARMEN MANGION (London), BARBEA WALL (Pennsylvania), ANNELIES VAN HEIJST (Tilburg) and SUSANNE DIETZ (Frederiksberg).

Wartime does not only see extreme conflicts, but also, due to the state of emergency, can hide additional tension. This was the theme of the second section. The papers presented focused on several problems which care-givers had to face during the military encounters in World War 1 and 2 as well as the American Civil War. Contributors: ASTRID STÖLZLE (Worms), CHRISTINE HALLET (Manchester), BARBARA MALING (Virginia), JANE BROOKS (Manchester).

The third section dealt with tensions within individual institutions or in the formation of organisations. This included mainly fights for the institutionalisation of professional organisations of nurses and the question of how carers were able to enforce their own professional rights. Contributors: PATRICIA D'ANTONIA (Pennsylvania), STUART WILDMAN (Birmingham), BIRGIT SEEMANN and EDGAR BÖNISCH (Frankfurt am Main), ROSIE READ (Bournemouth), JULIE FAIRMAN (Pennsylvania) and DEBBIE PALMER (Exeter).

Tensions between carers, patients, doctors and within families were discussed in the fourth section. On the one hand, self-perceptions of the carers were presented and on the other hand the papers focused on the description of nursing staff through the eyes of the patients, doctors and other people involved in those tasks. Contributors: ANJA FABER (Heidelberg), ELISABETH MALLEIER (Vienna), MARION BASCHIN (Stuttgart), JÜRGEN WILDNER (Reggio Emilia).

The various contributions to the conference uncovered the different aspects of a "conflict". Both the classic fields of confrontations with regard to gender, religion and skin colour as well as the inner conflicts of carers with regard to their task and the connected risks were presented. The same applies to the different questions concerning the professionalisation and the individual risks and tasks of the carers. It often became clear how strongly the different fields of conflict were intermeshed and how they influenced each other. This meant that the assignment of the individual contributions to the different section themes was often an irrelevance. The international perspective allowed a comparison of how the different conflict potentials were dealt with. In so doing, it became clear that this could lead to different constellations of participants and different solutions. In addition, the different conflicts with regard to the difficult professionalisation of care-giving, the handling of the different sexes or the different religious beliefs around the world also gave material for discussion. The publication of the individual contributions in a conference report is planned. A detailed report of the conference can be found at: <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3711>.

Swiss Society of the History of Health and Nursing

In spring 2009 we founded the Swiss Society of the History of Health and Nursing. Health promotion, nursing and [naturopathic treatments](#) have an important social relevance and significance, not only in Switzerland. Experts, professionals, and politicians debate issues around health care; knowledge and its transfer; techniques and treatments; questions of quality and efficiency; and matters of finance. They take historical data into consideration yet there is still a lack of scientific basis to the use of history within the fields of health and nursing. Hence, we founded an institution to promote historical research in health and nursing in Switzerland.

The Swiss Society of the History of Health and Nursing is a platform for historians, nursing and health scientists, [cultural](#) and social [scientists](#) for the exchange of information; for the discussion of research results; and for the promotion of public understanding about new findings in the field of history of health and nursing. The aims are to pursue new historical methods and questions, to develop interdisciplinary team work, to encourage students doing research in these fields and to promote history of health and nursing as subjects at Swiss universities and high schools. In order to facilitate historical research the Swiss Society of the History of Health and Nursing is aware of the importance of preserving historical sources such as documents of health and nursing associations, formation institutions and inheritance of health and nursing protagonists. Therefore the Society gives advice on issues relating to archiving.

The Swiss Society of the History of Health and Nursing is currently editing the issue of the Swiss Journal of History *Traverse* coming out in summer 2012 on “nursing crises” with articles about the working conditions in psychiatric nursing, the treatment and nursing of patients with cancer, the oversupply and the unemployment of personnel in physiotherapy, the professionalisation of day nursery staff etc. And our next significant project is the organisation of the 10th conference on history of nursing of the German speaking countries Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in 2013. For further information see www.gpg-hss.ch.



The Hellenic Nurses Association (H.N.A.)

BRIEF HISTORY OF NURSING IN GREECE

Greece can be considered the cradle of medical and nursing art.

The beginning of Greek nursing can be tracked back to Homer's time, since Homer clearly refers to heroes who were taking care of the sick and wounded as well as to women who provided nursing services during the Troic war, e.g Hygeia, daughter of Asklepios who was worshipped as the Goddess of Health.

In ancient years organized nursing was provided in the more than 300 asklepieia which had been established since the fifth century BC and continued until the fifth century AD.

Hippocrates, 460-370 BC laid the foundations of scientific medicine and he was the founder of the Kos school of medicine. He was the initiator of "holistic care" that is consideration of the general condition of the patient.

Contemporary Nursing

The first school of nursing was established in 1875 for visiting nurses and the second one in 1914, the Hellenic Red Cross voluntary nurses' school.

Both schools started later functioning on a basis of 3-year training, the first one in 1930 and the second one in 1928. Since then 8 more schools were established and operated under the Ministry of Health and 1 under the Ministry of Defense. Greece was the first European country to require by law, since 1948, 12 years of general education for entrance to a school of nursing.

In 1986 all nursing schools were transferred under the Ministry of Education and Technological Educational Institutions (TEI) replaced the hospital nursing schools. There are now 9 TEI departments on Nursing. Their curriculum is of 4 years duration now. Apart from the TEI schools there are two University Faculties of Nursing.

Nursing education offers BSc, MSc, and PhD. More than 300 nurses are PhD holders.

There are also four specialization programs, "pathological", "surgical", "paediatric" and "mental health nursing" of 12 months duration under the Ministry of Health.

The Hellenic Nurses Association (H.N.A.)

The H.N.A. was founded in 1923 and was accepted as an ICN member in 1929. Two Board Members of H.N.A have served as ICN Board Members. Representing the Greek nurses and nursing the H.N.A. is a member of many International Organizations. Priorities and goals are the welfare of the nurses and the improvement of the nurse care provided to all patients. Much has been achieved for the nursing profession and nursing care after the efforts and devotion of its board members.

In 2004 the Hellenic Regulatory Body (H.R.B.) was established. H.N.A. has representatives in the Body of H.R.B. Nurses and nursing struggle for higher education, better practice and health services administration in Greece for the benefit of both nurses and patients.

NEWS FROM ITALY

By Anna La Torre and Cecilia Sironi

In 2011, Italy has celebrated the 150th anniversary of its unification. Italy was historically born March 17, 1861, the date of the first session of the first Italian Parliament in Turin (Turin was the capital city of the Kingdom of Italy at that time). To celebrate this anniversary, some nurses from Abruzzi Region organized a cultural event from 7 to 9 October in the magnificent Orsini – Colonna Castle in Avezzano, in order to reflect on the historical and cultural evolution of Italian Nursing from the birth of the Italian nation until today. The heart of the organization was Collegio IPASVI of L'Aquila, and the event's title *The Evolution of Italian nursing over the past 150 years*. A large number of topics such as the origins of Italian nursing, its most famous figures during the Risorgimento, the difficult process of professionalization of nurses, the similarities and Italian connections of Florence Nightingale - one of the great connoisseurs of the Italian language and culture as well as a supporter of the progress of nursing in Italy -, were covered. The areas of investigation ranged from war nursing to mental assistance, with the aim of stimulate research scholarship among young researchers. The Congress revived the interest in Nursing History after the first national Conference on Nursing History held in 11 June 1993, which had no followers, allowing many people interested in the history of nursing to meet. After many years of quite lonely personal involvement in nursing History research by Cecilia Sironi, the time seems ripe now and, as she is now the president of CNAI (Consociazione nazionale associazioni infermiere/i – the Italian National Nurses Association affiliated to ICN), the idea of a special section on Nursing History on CNAI's website has been launched.

The aim of this webpage, which will be managed by Anna La Torre, is to include relevant links to international websites and analyses of historical locations and museums, as well as to provide an overall glimpse on the international literature coverage on nursing history. We hope this space will be welcomed by nursing history fans and will stimulate research and international networking. Any suggestion and help will be welcomed!