



EAHN

EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE HISTORY
OF NURSING

Editorial

Completed by Karen Nolte



Figure: Young Nurse, Heidelberg 1967

Dear colleagues,

we have a historic year behind us, the COVID 19 pandemic was and still is a great challenge, especially for those of us who are practically caring for COVID 19 patients. The pandemic has also stimulated historical research on nursing care.

Between the articles you will find photos of the nurses who have written down their personal experiences during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic for the homepage of EAHN (<http://eahn.net/covid-19-nurses/>).

Lastly, I would like to thank Jane Brooks and Mathilde Hackmann for editing the texts.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and better times in 2021,

with best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Nolte".

Belgium – The Belgian Association for the History of Nursing

by Luc De Munck

Organisation

After an initial meeting in 2018 and different contacts with current and potential members in 2019, the official start of the Belgian Association for the History of Nursing was planned in Spring 2020. Unfortunately, covid-19 didn't allow to organize this meeting. But this doesn't mean that there were no activities in the past year.

Networking

Three members of the association (Paul De Raeve, Bert Kwaspens and Luc De Munck) were speakers at the International Conference on the History of Nursing in Florence, and acting president Luc De Munck participated at the annual meeting of the EAHN Committee.

Communication

In reaction to the appeal of the EAHN-president to collect testimonies of nurses during the corona-crisis, An Vandenberghe and Luc De Munck took the initiative to start with a Facebook account of the association. Today this page gathers a community of 108 followers. Currently, the page is only Dutch speaking, but we plan to launch a French speaking page next year (see "Plans for 2021").



Figure: The Belgian Association launched its Facebook page in April 2020

Nine testimonies were published on this page, and the original texts and the English translations were also published on the EAHN website. The testimonies on the

FB-page were read extensively. One had almost 5.000 readers, 4.795 to be exact.



Figure: Some of the COVID-19 testimonies that were published on the Facebook page

Beside these testimonies, we also regularly posted on national and international events about the history of nursing themes (EAHN activities, published articles, current research, portraits of nurses...). In total, 28 posts were published, reaching an average of 380 persons per posts or a total of 10.000 views for all posts together.



In addition to Facebook, we also set up a Twitter account @BE_HistNursing. Here we opted for English because of the international reach of the medium.

Finally, we also launched a series of digital photos related to the history of nursing in Belgium that followers of our association can use as virtual backgrounds during their

online meetings in Zoom or Teams. The photos are available for download on Flickr and all mention the name of our association.

Article on Florence Nightingale

On May 12, the acting president of the association wrote an article on the life of Florence Nightingale and her meaning for nursing today on the site of the Flemish broadcasting company (also published on the EAHN-website). He had as well given an extensive interview to a Flemish catholic opinion magazine, on the occasion of the International Year of Nursing.

Plans for 2021

The organisation of the 'official' foundation meeting of the association, together with the election of an executive committee, is planned in 2021 (probably on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale).

Following the preparations for the foundation meeting, the association also had different contacts with the General Union of Belgian Nursing, the association who represents 46 professional nursing organisations in Belgium. The union will probably support and facilitate the functioning of the Belgian Association in the future. At their request, we are preparing a project to draft a guideline on digital document and archives management for the union and its depending professional nursing associations.

Next year, we also intend to publish an article on the historiography of Belgian nursing for the bulletin of the Belgian Association for Contemporary History. Finally, we want to further expand our communication 'channels' by launching a website (bilingual French-Dutch) and a French-speaking Facebook page in addition to our existing Dutch-speaking page. In order to achieve this, we hope to find a French-speaking communication officer/volunteer.



Figure: Edith, Leuven, Belgium: COVID pulled me out of my comfort zone
<http://eahn.net/edith-leuven-belgium/>

Croatia – Croatian Nursing History Society (HNS)

by Sanda Franković, Zvonimir Kralj

Representatives of the Nursing History Society participated in an annual meeting of the European Association for the History of Nursing coordinating board in Florence that was held as part of International conference on the history of nursing Florence 2020. During the conference *History of Croatian nursing* exhibition was presented.

During the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs held a Joint Meeting of Chief Medical, Nursing and Dental Officers – CMOs, CNOs, CDOs, from 2 to 4 March 2020. A revue of his-

torical uniforms was presented as part of the meeting. “Living Images from the History of Nursing” is a costume revue of uniforms of religious communities and nurses, accompanied by a description of the historical moments in which nursing in Croatia grew from a vocation into a profession. The participants in the revue were: The Nursing History Society of the Croatian Nurses Association, the School for Nurses Mlinarska, and the Ivanec Knights Association from Ivanec.

(<https://eahn.net/2020/05/21/living-images-from-the-history-of-nursing-croatia/>)



Figure: Joint Meeting of Chief Medical, Nursing and Dental Officers. 3 March 2020. Zagreb

Members of the Association in cooperation with the High school Bedekovčina participated in creation of virtual exhibition, for the occasion of International Nurses Day in 2020. Virtual exhibition originated as a project during virtual teaching in schools. Exhibition shows historical development of nursing with a goal to stimulate students to adopt values and behaviors according to model of positive role models, raising the awareness of the importance of historical contents and promotion of nursing profession. (<https://padlet.com/bozicajurinec/evyhf16t1fmb3j6x>).

5. symposium of Nursing History Society was held on 20th August 2020, as part of 8. Congress of Croatian Nurses

Association „Nursing without limits“ in cooperation with Societies of nursing educators, students and retired nurses.

Traditional marking of the Book Night in cooperation with Andrija Štampar Teaching Institute of Public Health was not done due to ongoing epidemiological concerns with COVID 19. Because of the same reason yearly assembly of the Society was done virtually.

In preparation is a book “Nursing History Society CAN 2013-2021” which will present the work of the Society in last eight years.

During 2020, the society made efforts in finding a place in which it would store archival material that it collected so far.

Denmark – The Danish Museum of Nursing History

by Susanne Malchau Dietz

The Danish Museum of Nursing History celebrated its 20th birthday in August 2019 and is still an important centre for the history of nursing. Despite the fact that the history of nursing is only left a little space in the curriculum of modern nursing education, the museum is well visited by groups of nursing students, teachers and researchers from different disciplines. In addition, many nurses celebrate their anniversaries at the museum and there are many individual visitors. The year 2019 set a great record for the number of visitors while Covid-19 then reduced the number in 2020. Due to Covid-19 the museum was closed for three months from March 2020 and then reopened with the hygienic measures necessary to ensure that visitors are protected from Covid-19.

The Year of the Nurse and Midwife was celebrated at the museum with a special exhibition on Florence Nightingale and the 200th anniversary of her birth. A festive opening of the exhibition with participation of the Danish Nurses Organisation's president Grete Christensen and nursing students was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19. Externally, the museum collaborated with the Nursing Education, Copenhagen University College and the famous Conditori La Glace in Copenhagen. On May 12, the patisserie launched a Florence Nightingale cake to pay tribute to all-time nursing. The museum assisted with items for the patisserie showcase.



Figure: May 12, 2020 Conditori La Glace in Copenhagen launched a Florence Nightingale cake. Here a view at the patisserie's showcase – the cakes are decorated with a four-leaf clover The Danish Nurses Organisation's logo (Photo: Susanne Malchau Dietz)

An investment in the Covid-19 year has been digital exhibitions and among them one about past epidemics and infectious diseases in Denmark. The exhibition has received a great deal of attention from professionals and the media because much factual information could be learned from here.



Figure: The Nordic Nurses' Federations founding meeting in Copenhagen in 1920. The photo of the presidents of the respective countries was taken in the Danish president's private home. At the back Bergliot Larsen from Norway (left) and Bertha Wellin from Sweden, in front Henny Tscherning (Denmark) (Photo: The Danish Museum of Nursing History)

Another digital exhibition marks the Nordic Nurses' Federations 100th anniversary in September 2020. The cooperation between the Nordic Nurses Associations took its start in 1920 at the first Nordic nursing conference in Copenhagen 6 - 9 September. The foundation of the Nordic Nurses' Federation was confirmed September 8 where the presidents of the Nordic nursing associations signed a resolution confirming they would work for the nursing profession in four areas: 1) three years of education 2) reduction of nurses working hours per day 3) uniform im-

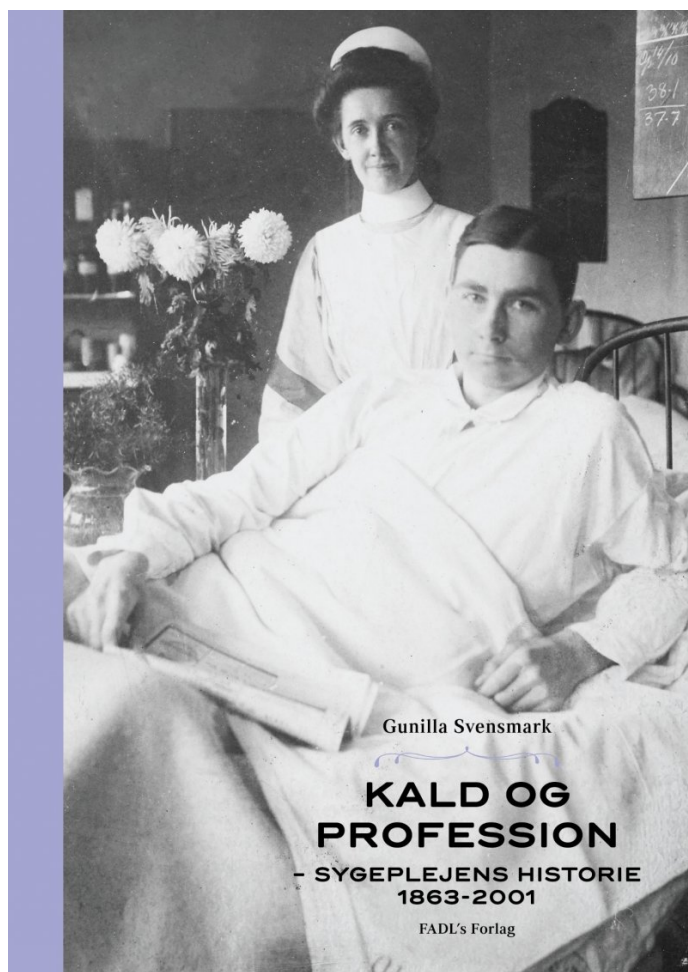
provement of nurses' working conditions and pay terms
4) Nordic co-operation. The NNF member associations today are Denmark, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. In 1935 the NNF represented 25,000 nurses and today it represents more than 340,000 nurses. (The exhibition is published in English at <https://dsr.dk/dshm/english/the-nordic-nurses-federation-nnf-1920-2020>)

In 2018, the museum got a new role on the film medium, when SF-Studios started producing a drama series named "The Nursing School" taking place in the early 1950s. The series take focus on the first men to be trained as nurses in Denmark in 1951. The museum has supplied the series with items and factual knowledge, and Gunilla Svensmark and Susanne Malchau Dietz have been consultants on the production from script to filming clinical scenes. In parallel, the museum has had an exhibition about the series. Four seasons of the series have now been recorded, and will be shown on the Danish TV channel TV2 - Charlie.

In 2020, Gunilla Svensmark's new book "Call and Profession" was launched. It is an impressive work covering the history of Danish nursing from 1863 to the present. In 1863 the Danish Deaconess Foundation introduced skilled nursing and in 2001 the Danish nursing education was lifted to a bachelor degree. (Ref. Gunilla Svensmark, "Kald og Profession", FADL's forlag 2020)

In February 2020 EAHN successfully held the Nursing History Conference in Florence. Danish Susanne Malchau Dietz attended the conference and presented the paper: "New Perspectives on Christiane Reimann (1888-1979): Life and work of the lady behind ICNs "Nobel Prize in nursing".

Figure: In 2020 Gunilla Svensmark's new book "Call and Profession" was launched.



Germany – German Association for the History of Nursing (GAHN)

by Karen Nolte

As experienced by others, the COVID 19 pandemic situation also slowed down the activities of the German Association for Nursing History in 2020. The workshop on “Nursing in National Socialism” which was planned for June 19th to 20th 2020 at the Pirna-Sonnenstein Memorial near Dresden, unfortunately had to be postponed due to the pandemic situation. A new date for the workshop will be set as soon as attendance is possible again.

The members of the association met on 19th of June 2020 in a small group via ZOOM and elected a new board of

directors, which now consists of Prof Dr Karen Nolte (chairperson), Dr Jette Lange (deputy chairperson), Dr Pierre Pfüttsch (secretary), Dr Sünje Prühlen (treasurer) and Markus Thulin (administrator of the homepage).

Currently, a working group of GAHN is developing a concept for a compendium on the history of nursing, which should help nursing teachers to integrate nursing history into the newly developed curriculum as regulated by the new Nursing Act in Germany (in effect since 2020).

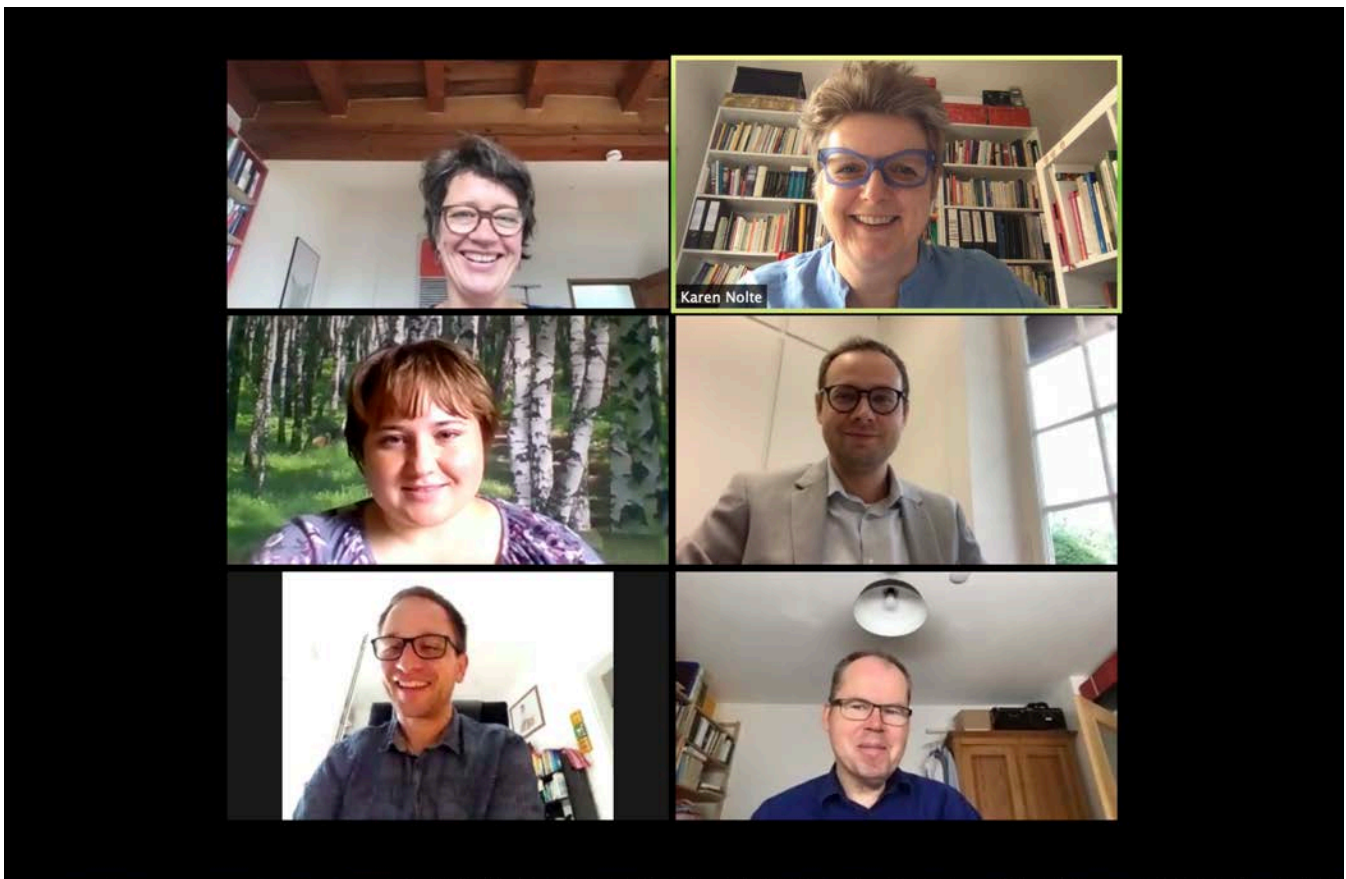


Figure: Zoom meeting of the GAHN members, 19th of June 2020

Germany – The Historical Nursing Section of the German Society for Nursing Science

by Mathilde Hackmann

2020 was a busy year for the members of the Section. Our work was dominated by the SarsCoV2 pandemic and topics of nursing history were less on the agenda. In spring 2020 our members working in nurse education were busy to transform their teaching into online courses. Now in November with Germany in the middle of another lockdown of public life the situation is similar. A planned meeting of the Historical Nursing Research Section in April 2020 was cancelled, another took place online in September with only a few participants.

Before the lockdowns we had the opportunity to present results from a study on textbooks (Hackmann 2019) at the yearly meeting of all sections of the German Society for Nursing Science in Bielefeld on 6th March.

In 2020 new regulations on nursing education were put into practice. The former three different courses for basic nurse education (adult nursing, sick children nursing and elderly nursing) are combined to courses for generalist nurses. Prolonged discussions in the preparation of this law were the reason for me to look into textbooks and find out how the three patient groups (children, adults and elderly people), the different settings of nursing (own home, hospital or institutions for long term care) and nursing interventions in the field of prevention, palliative nursing and patient education/counselling were presented in the books. I conducted a content analysis of German standard nursing textbooks from the time when Prussia first regulated nurse education in 1907 to the end of the 1970s. Results show which aspects of the generalist approach were included in the books. Over the time period of the seventy years it can be concluded that advances in health care and social changes are mirrored in the contents of the textbooks. For example the first half of the century saw a focus on the care of newborns and infants while this was left out in the later books when sick children nursing had been established and specialist books for the care of (sick) children were available.

Apart from this presentation several members of the Historical Nursing Research Section are busy preparing a book with chapters from the papers given at the fifth symposium on historical nursing research in Berlin, 20.09.2019. A publisher has been found and the book will be published in 2021.

Literature

Hackmann, M. (2019): Aspekte der "Generalistik" und Spezialisierung in Pflegelehrbüchern des 20. Jahrhunderts. In: *Geschichte der Pflege* 8 (2): 100 – 108.

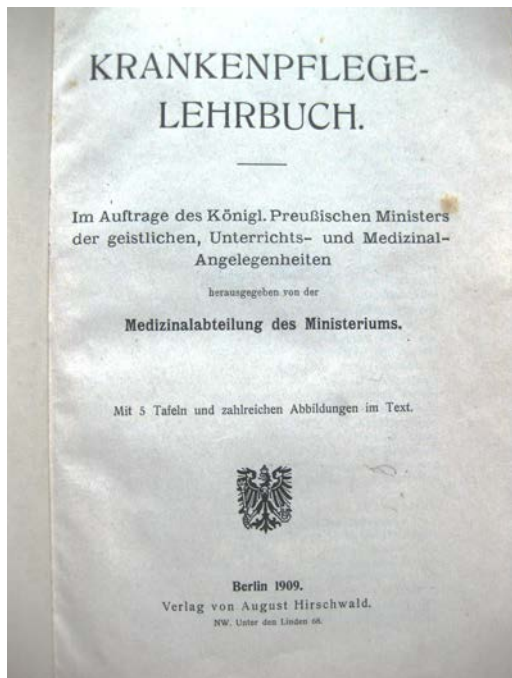


Figure: title page German nursing textbook from the year 1909

Israel – The Israeli Society for the History of Nursing (ISHN)

by Nira Bartal

This year (2020) the ISHN is celebrating its seventh anniversary. The current number of its registered members rose to 240.

Unfortunately, because of Covid 19 pandemic we were forced to cancel our annual meeting which was aimed to focus on encouraging our members to document their own nursing experiences and provide them with the necessary skills. The topic of the conference was: "Every nurse is capable: Ways and methods to document the history of nursing in Israel". Instead, we moved to bi-monthly short zoom meetings, following the general themes of the postponed conference, while fostering our cooperation with selected educational-historical high rank relevant institutions.

The first zoom meeting, held on July 16, 2020, dealt with the subject of personal letters as an historical asset. We initiated a joint project held by The Israeli Society for the History of Nursing and "Treasures - the National Letters Collection", within The Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History (Jerusalem). Ms. Shira Myerson, the digital coordinator of Zalman Shazar Center, presented several nurses' personal letters during our war of independence that demonstrated the unique perspective that nurses could contribute to the history of the nation. This 1st internet meeting was attended by 18 participants

The second zoom meeting took place on September 9, 2020 and was dedicated to the timely topic of: "Epidemic and Pandemic – from the past to the present". The first lecture: 'Forgetting the epidemics - from the typhus epidemic in Athens to the Corona' was presented by Prof. Shifra Schwartz, a member of our Coordinating Committee and an emerita faculty member of Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

The second lecture: 'Corona and Nursing in Israel 2020' was given by Dr Shoshy Goldberg, the National Head Nurse and the director of the Nursing Department of the Israeli Ministry of Health. This meeting was attended by 48 people and stimulated a lively discussion.

The third zoom meeting (October 15, 2020) was held in cooperation with Yad Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem (a leading Israeli research and educational institute). The meeting dealt with exposure, observation and preservation of artifacts: photographs, objects and visual images of nursing which were found in the archives of medical in-

stitutions, and small museums' collections. The presenter was Dr Nirit Shalev Khalifa, the curator and director of the Department of Visual History, Yad Ben-Zvi and 54 participants attended the meeting.



Figure: Presentation of Dr Nirit Shalev Khalifa

Our next meeting will be led by Dr Michal Mann, a nurse historian, on the topic of: 'Documents, photographs and objects as a source for preserving our collective memory of nursing history.'

With a personal note - I am happy to inform that the project of transferring my oral history interviews collection (1936-2012) to the Central Zionist Archive in Jerusalem (one of the major Israeli archives has been completed). This project consists of transcripts of 78 nursing history interviews and other materials (photographs, certificates, letters, newspaper clippings, etc.) with Israeli nursing leaders in administration, service and education, pioneering clinical specialist nurses, and more. These materials are now available for other researchers and can serve them for further historical research on the development of nursing in Israel.

Dr Ronen Segev, and I attended the International Conference of the History of Nursing (Florence, Italy, 13-15 February, 2020), and the Annual Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the EAHN. Some of us took part in the process of evaluating abstracts for this conference.

The 16th newsletter of the ISHN has been distributed on our internet network. The 17th issue will be sent out by the end of 2020.

Italy – Italian Nurses’ Association with a Nursing History Group, CNAI (Consociazione nazionale delle Associazioni infermiere/i)

FLORENCE2020. Thank you to everyone for making the event an enormous success!

by Anna La Torre

Twenty-two countries were represented, there were 128 reports, and 204 attendees. Florence 2020, 13 – 15 February, brought experts from all over the world to Florence for a conference on the history of nursing, health and military nursing care. The congress paid tribute to the “mother” of the modern nursing profession, Florence Nightingale, and the two hundred years since her birth. It was organised by the National Association of Nursing Associations (CNAI) for Italy, in particular those interested in the history of nursing, along with the European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN).



Figure: Opening Event

Over the two days, participants were able to join parallel sessions with reports from participants from many countries: Italy, Australia, Chile, Japan, Slovenia, Switzerland, Holland, Slovakia, Malta, United States, Canada, Poland, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Croatia, Germany, Estonia, Great Britain. The Poster section had entries from Spain, Italy, Brazil, Poland, and Slovakia. Four Italian regions

were represented: Lombardy, Lazio, Veneto and Tuscany. February 14th also had a room for presentations in Italian, which allowed us to share work which otherwise would not get to a conference in English. All these put the spotlight on a profession that has an important history, and got people talking about nurses and nursing care. In the calendar of the event was also an exhibition consisting of five posters on the evolution of nursing care in Croatia in recent centuries, a young European nation, but rich in tradition and history. On Saturday, February 15, two tours were organised for the attendees. The first one was dedicated to the discovery of Villa Colombaia, birthplace of Florence Nightingale, a great opportunity to rediscover the origins of this English nurse. The other took place at the Spedale degli Innocenti, a structure born in modern times as a shelter for abandoned children or those in poverty, which today represents a magnificent example of Brunelleschian architecture, in which the master experimented his great art in perspectives and innovative realisations, maintaining a typical rigour of the classical age. The British military nurses presenting at the conference chose to visit the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Fiesole. They were accompanied by an Italian military nurse, Camillo Borziacchiello who had presented at the conference, the Mayoress of Fiesole, Anna Rovani, an Italian Army guard of honour and a trumpeter from the Carabinieri. This made it a beautiful though simple ceremony.





No one in Florence would have imagined that those days would be the only moments in which we would find ourselves commemorating the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. This year, 2020, a year that we will hardly forget. We could not have imagined the changes that would take place in our health care systems, nor the challenges facing nurses and midwives as the Covid 19 pandemic swept across Europe. The European Association of the History of Nursing, through the publication of stories and pictures of colleagues from all over Europe, has tried to capture the essence of this unprecedented time in these short stories from nurses and midwives working in different countries in 2020, to leave a testimony of what we have lived every day.

However, I would like to leave you with a sincere thanks, to all those who participated in Florence, to all those who worked for the event and to all those who helped us. Without you nothing would have been the same and this magnificent memory would have vanished into thin air.



The Netherlands – The Dutch Centre for Nursing History: the Florence Nightingale Institute (FNI)

by Hugo Schalkwijk

About us

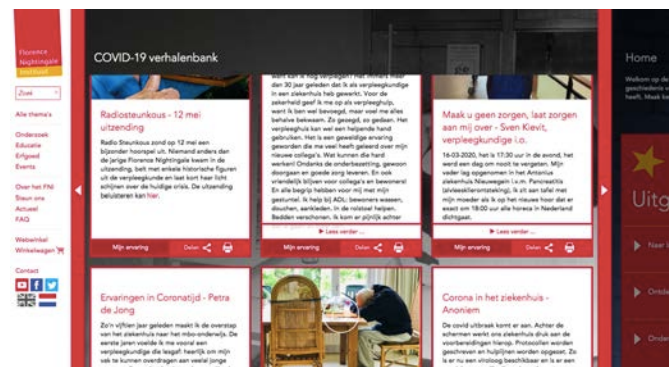
In 2020 the Florence Nightingale Institute (FNI) merged with the Dutch nurses association Verpleegkundigen en Verzorgenden Nederland (V&VN) to form the Historical College FNI. The Historical College has six members consisting of nurses, historians, and heritage professionals who manage the online museum FNI.nl. As part of the V&VN, the Historical College FNI aspires to be the center of a growing network for the history of nursing in the Netherlands.



Activities in 2020

COVID-19 Database

2020 was intended to be internationally celebrated as Year of the Nurse and Midwife, commemorating the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). Regrettably, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, our ambitious plans to celebrate Nightingales bicentenary were cancelled. On the 12th of May we did unveil a short digital photo exhibition presenting 200 years of critical nursing work.



The video, (which is in Dutch), can be watched via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4rOyx-EuIPw.

As the impact of COVID-19 has taken a large toll on Dutch nurses, the Historical College FNI challenged itself to provide them with support in the best way it could. FNI.nl hosted a COVID-19 story database through which nurses could share experiences of their work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. So far more than thirty nurses from all over The Netherlands have shared their experiences on this page. The nurses contributed in many creative ways, such as by writing short stories and poems, and by posting photographs.

Corona in the City

The Historical College FNI also participated in the digital exhibition Corona in the City by the Amsterdam Museum. In this exhibition, the Historical College FNI hosted a separate room on nursing work undertaken during the pandemic: Amsterdam Cares. Amsterdam Cares showcased photographs taken by Amsterdam intensive care unit (ICU) nurse Kim Marquardt. Through her photography, Marquardt tells the moving story lived by many nurses during the most critical times of the pandemic. Amsterdam Cares was a real blockbuster, generating a significant amount of website traffic, and featuring in the national press. The exhibition can still be viewed via the following link: <https://www.coronaindestad.nl/en/zaal/exhibition/amsterdam-cares/Infected!>



In cooperation with Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, the Dutch national museum on science and medicine, the Historical College FNI contributed to a chapter in their book *Besmet!* ('infected' in Dutch). The book accompanied Rijksmuseum Boerhaave's exhibition on contagious diseases. In this chapter, Hugo Schalkwijk (director of FNI.nl and advisor to the Historical College FNI) and Pieterbas Lalleman (chairman of the college), describe the historical work of nurses during pandemics.

Florence Nightingale Symposium

October 7th 2020 should have marked the fifth annual Florence Nightingale Symposium. This would have been a special edition as it marked the celebration and start of the Historical College FNI at V&VN. Sadly, due to tightening government COVID-19 measures the meeting was cancelled. Instead, the college members recorded the meeting as a podcast episode. You can listen to the interview (in English) between Pieterbas Lalleman and Professor Manon S. Parry discuss their plans for 2021 via the following link:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6OtlZbECOMrc22uokVhKHs>

Plans for 2021

On the 10th of October 2020 Hugo Schalkwijk was elected Young Historian of the Year by the Young Historian Foundation (Jonge Historici) because of his efforts to raise awareness about the importance of collecting nurses' experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this position Hugo will actively promote the field of nursing history within both nursing and history faculties via the organisation of podcasts, and should the future situation allow it, by holding small meetings.

2021 marks the 100-year anniversary of the nursing diploma in the Netherlands. Together with our Dutch colleagues from Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit (SHVB), the Historical College FNI will draw widespread attention to this milestone.



The Netherlands – Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit, SHVB (The Dutch Nursing Heritage Foundation)

by Cecile aan de Stegge

After participating in the great EAHN conference in Florence in February 2020 with three delegates of the Board, the Foundation lived in 2020 through its calmest year ever, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The Dutch Government closed all musea during many weeks in Spring and Autumn, for which reason not only many expositions in The Netherlands to which the Foundation had contributed some objects were cancelled, but also many visiting days on the location in Urk. Only during the summer the Foundation received some visitors, among whom Hugo Schalkwijk, the ‘young historian of the Year’ who is the main advisor of the Historical College FNI at the Dutch Nurses’ Association. During the summer the Foundation is usually calm because of the holidays of the volunteers.

The Foundation has been invited to support a television-production about the writer Alexander Münninghoff (born in Posen in 1944), whose very impressive and wellread truly European familichronicles *De stamhouder* (in English: “The son and heir”) will be broadcasted serially on Dutch tv next year. Because Alexanders wife has lost several children, of whom one by a too early birth, the Foundation was asked to lend the broadcasting company an incubator and other nursing materials that were used on maternity wards of their day and age (see figure 1).



Figure 1: The Dräger Incubator that is owned by the Foundation (± 1957) still in use during the seventies.

It is not clear yet, when exactly the broadcasting will take place.

While volunteers and the collection itself thus had a rather quiet year, members of the board have been active in creating a better relation with the Historical College FNI, with several colleagues in the field of medical history and with preparing some feasty activities for 2021. We will celebrate the 100th birthday of the legal protection of the Dutch nursing title and education with the Historical College, and the 35th birthday of the Foundation itself.



Figure 2: Anna Reynvaan wearing a mask with the logo of SHVB.

Looking forward to a vaccine for COVID 19 and these two Dutch feasts, the year 2020 will be closed with a usual seasonal greeting card for our relations. We chose one that depicts the Dutch founder of the nursing education, miss Anna Reynvaan, while wearing a mask. We felt that this uncousy pandemic year could best be closed with an iconic image (see figure 2).

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Poland – Central Historical Commission in Cooperation with The Main Board of Polish Nurses Association

by Krystyna Wolska-Lipiec and Małgorzata Marcysiak

On January 25, 2019 in Warsaw the Museum of the History of Nursing began its activity. It was the initiative of The Commission of History at the Polish Nurses' Association Main Board. Museum is localized in headquarters of the District Chamber of Nurses and Midwives in Warsaw at 59 Żelazna Street. It was an important event for Polish nursing.

The exhibition thematically refers to the beginnings of Polish professional nursing related to the activity of Warsaw Nursing School (WNS) which was established in 1921. Its organisation were based on Anglo-American standards. The choice of this leading theme was the result of the school's influence on: raising the rank of the profession, the level of modern health care, introducing social nursing and becoming a model for emerging schools not only in Poland. Exhibits include the description of the school's history, related to the role of Ignacy and Helena Paderewski and the Dorothea Hughes for its creation. A significant place was allocated to principals: Helen Bridge (1921-1928), Zofia Szlenkier (1928-1936) and Jadwiga Romanowska (1936-1950).



Figure 1 The exhibition “Polish nurses in the struggle for independence”, source: Collections of Grażyna Gierczak

The exhibition includes documents, a guest book, biographies of principals, photographs and the correspondence of Helen Bridge.

In 1923 Graduate Association of the WNS was established. In the aftermath – in 1925 they established The Polish Association of Professional Nurses. That year Helen Bridge became a member of the International Council of Nurses. The exhibits include the achievements of The Polish Association of Professional Nurses: the first professional magazines “Polish Nurse” (1929) and the first Act on the Profession (1935).



Figure 2: Lecture room of Warsaw Nursing School - photo by Krystyna Wolska-Lipiec

An important part of the exhibition is the Medalist Gallery. It is dedicated to Polish nurses, who were awarded the Medal of Florence Nightingale. Since 1920, this has been the highest medal awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. It is awarded for outstanding merits in saving human life and health or for the development of nursing. In the years 1920 - 2017 there were 103 Polish women who received it. The first Polish nurse honored with this award, at the request of the Italian Red Cross was Maria Concetta Chłudzińska. She received it for her heroic activity during

the First World War. After the recovery of Polish independence, she returned to the country. During the Polish-Bolshevik war, she acted on the front as a nurse, and then took part in the fight against the typhus epidemic in Volhynia.

Other elements of the exhibition are state decorations, which were awarded to the graduates of WNS, and brooches of nursing schools. The most valuable is the WNS brooch. There is an inscription on it indicating the values instilled in future nursing students: KNOWLEDGE, FAITH, SERVICE, FATHERLAND. There are also archival diplomas, photos, and materials about outstanding Polish nurses including Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, founder of parish nursing, editor of the "Polish Nurse" (1929-1939).

The second part of the Museum consists of exhibitions related to teaching the profession guided by the idea of *Salus aegroti suprema lex esto* (The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law). There is a reconstructed lecture room with teaching aids and the oldest textbooks, workshop, a treatment room with a rich collection of medical tools, sterilizers, cups and sets of tools for performing care, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and a patient room outfitted with equipment from the beginning of the 20th century.

The museum is only a part of the collections gathered since 1957 by The Commission of History. The museum enjoys great interest, it is visited by groups from many medical centers from Poland and abroad as well as individuals, often not related to medicine. We hope for its further development.



Kelly, Huddersfield, UK
<http://eahn.net/kelly-huddersfield-uk/>

Switzerland – Swiss Society for the History of Health and Nursing (GPG-HSS)

By Véronique Hasler

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, GPG-HSS activities were limited in 2020. The Committee met infrequently and only remotely, by videoconference.

In February, our member Sabine Braunschweig represented the GPG-HSS at the EAHN Committee held in the city of Florence.

After hopes and hesitations, the GPG-HSS Committee finally gave up organizing its annual workshop. It is planned to celebrate the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in 2021, hoping to organize a workshop in the presence of the public.

Our ordinary General Assembly was held on September 18, 2020. It brought together the Committee and 5 members. Kristin Hammer (Treasurer) and Véronique Hasler (President) stood for re-election. After many years on the Committee, Sabina Roth (President until 31.12.2018, then Member) wished to retire. Sabine Braunschweig kindly agreed to participate in the Committee's work and stood for election.

The GPG-HSS Committee was therefore recomposed as follows:

President: Véronique Hasler

Treasurer: Kristin Hammer

Member: Sabine Braunschweig



Vito, Milano, Italy
<http://eahn.net/vito-milano-italy/>



Serbia – Nursing History in the Association of Medical Nurses-Technicians

by Marija Galić & Danijela Sladović

Association of Nurses “Sestrinstvo” is the non-profit association, founded on September 23, in 2003, in order to achieve the objectives in the nursing profession and the health care. There are many associations of nurses in Serbia (over 200) but we are the only one who are engaged with history of nursing. Since the foundation, the work on improving the profession has been acquired through professional meetings, courses, symposiums, conferences. Exchange of experience in professional and organisational terms is implemented in organizing international conferences with foreign eminent speakers, as well as international study visits.

Our Association has 4.000 members. In the area of continuing education and mandatory professional development we provide free education.

From the beginning until today, we are working on a history of nursing professional development in the Republic of Serbia, from the roots to the modern nursing and published the **book** in Serbian and English language – “**The History of the Serbian nursing**”.

As the profession is regulated in terms of modern nursing, we have described the National scope of nurses, 2007 and the second edition in 2010.

Standardised nursing activities and patient care through the **Guide for Nurses** (group of authors), second edition. Association also publishes a **magazine “Sestrinstvo” (“Nursing”)** which is distributed to all health, education and other similar institutions in Serbia, as well as to the associates who appreciate the work of nurses and cooperate with the nurses at all levels.

On Dobrila Pejović’s idea nurses’ anthem was composed by Žarko Dančuo and sang on Congress openings.

UMST KCS “Sestrinstvo” since 2005, when the “**DUŠICA SPASIĆ**” award was established, has been awarded to nurses who have spent their working lives caring for the sick. It is given at the memorial to Nurse Dusića Spasić, who died caring for the sick during the Variola Faith epidemic in 1973.

In 2015, at the V Nursing Congress on the History of Nursing in the Republic of Serbia, the award for the results in the development and improvement of the quality of nursing and midwifery profession “**ŠDOBRILA PEJOVIĆ**” was awarded for the first time.



Figure: Congress 2019

Every year, on **May 12th, International nurses Day** a “thank you note” to the most deserving nurses of the year is awarded.

In 2020, Association has shown gratitude and solidarity to the nurses of Serbia since the beginning of the pandemic, emphasizing their importance in preventing the occurrence and spread of infection caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus in our country.

We have provided members of the association with continuous education, by organizing 29 professional meetings, ie. 58 lectures on various topics and 3 courses at the Clinical Center of Serbia in Belgrade, 21 professional meetings, 42 lectures and 9 courses in other cities of Serbia with a limited number of participants, respecting the prescribed epidemiological measures in accordance with the epidemiological situation, as well as online education at our platform <http://sestrinstvo.rs/on-line-edukacija/> with accredited works.

We provided one-time financial support of a two-year membership fee to all our members working in hospitals and triage centers with Covid infection, as well as to nurses suffering from Covid 19 infection.

This year, we published the magazine “Sestrinstvo”, which is published 4 times a year, twice as a double issue in May and December.

Association actively collects data on experiences and specifics in the care and treatment of patients with COVID 19 virus, with special emphasis on nurses who themselves became ill working with COVID-positive patients. Although we have enough protective equipment in Serbia, so far 89 nurses, our members, have been infected at the Clinical Center of Serbia.



United Kingdom –The UK Association for the History of Nursing (UKAHN)

by Christine E. Hallett

The year 2020 has been an extraordinary and challenging one for us all. At the UK Association for the History of Nursing, we have experienced this historic year as one of change, challenge and unexpected shifts in our work-emphases. Many of us have delayed our existing projects in order to focus on the immediate crisis. Christine Hallett worked with two of her postgraduate students at the University of Huddersfield, Amanda Gwinnup (also a UKAHN Committee member) and Olivia Gordon, on a project to analyse the resonances between COVID-19 and the so-called Spanish Influenza, the pandemic that coincided with the end of the First World War: a crisis that was, if anything, even more overwhelming than our present one. The project resulted in an article in *The Nursing Times*, a UK professional nursing journal, and a recorded presentation at the Royal College of Nursing, UK.

In addition to focusing on COVID, we have also been able to advance many of our existing projects, and many of us were delighted to be able to attend the Florence 2020 Conference last February, which was so ably organised and run by our Italian colleagues, Anna La Torre and Cecilia Sironi. Florence seems rather like a dream now – a lovely memory of collegiality and insightful research. We congratulate our Italian colleagues on the achievement of the conference, and wish them well during the ongoing crisis.



Figure: Members of UKAHN at the Florence 2020 Conference
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The 2020 UKAHN colloquium would have been held in Chichester in June, but has now been postponed, and we hope very much that it can go ahead in June 2021. Please check out our website and sign-up for the colloquium:

<https://ukahn.org/ukahn-colloquium-2021/>

In 2020 we were delighted to learn that Dr Claire Chatterton, one of our committee members, had been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing and also received the Karyn and Terry Holm Visiting Scholar Award from the Midwest Nursing History Research Center, Chicago. Claire has been able to advance her work on the nursing care of men with facial injuries during the First World War. She presented this work at the Florence 2020 Conference and has now submitted a paper to EAHN on this topic. She has also been working with Dr Pauline Brand on a research project on the impact on health of the East Coast Floods in England in 1953, and hopes to publish this next year. With Dr Ann Mitchell, a colleague from the Open University, UK, she recently presented her work on 'Postpartum Psychosis: Then and Now' as an online lecture for the University of Chester's historical series. This was an updated version of the lecture they gave at the EAHN conference in Winterthur. Claire has also given an online talk for the RCN on the history of black nurses in Britain, and is part of the planning committee for a series of AAHN online events starting in January, 'Talking History 2021'.

Dr Sue Hawkins's focus in 2020 has been on early nursing at Great Ormond Street Hospital. She presented a paper at the Florence EAHN Conference in February on this topic, which will lead to an article for the EAHN journal, *European Journal for Nursing History and Ethics* on the development of children's nursing in nineteenth century England. She also continued work on an AHRC project at The National Archives on pauper letters in nineteenth century England and Wales called 'In Their Own Write' (<https://intheirownwriteblog.com/about/>). While the focus has been the 'poor voice', it has been impossible to ignore a mountain of material on poor law nursing and this sparked a short article in the 2020 issue of the *Bulletin* (UKAN's annual online journal, of which Sue is also

Editor: <https://bulletin.ukahn.org/>) on a Black nurse at Huddersfield Workhouse. During lockdown, she produced a podcast on the Royal Philanthropic Farm School in Surrey, for Surrey History Centre and blogged for History@Kingston on women in the First World War.

For Dr Jane Brooks, it has been a year of publications, grants and presentations. At the beginning of the year she published an article on girls from the Kindertransport who became nurses during the Second World War in *Transactions: Journal of the Jewish Historical Society*. Then in February she presented at Florence 2020: International Nursing History Conference. The paper was entitled, 'An alien space: Refugees and nursing as refuge'. She is currently working on her monograph, and has had a paper accepted by *Nursing History Review*. She presented her research as part of her Barbara Brodie Fellowship via Zoom for the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry in November, and was awarded the AAHN H15 grant to undertake some research on refugee nurses who emigrated to the USA. In October she gave the plenary lecture for the AAHN annual conference via zoom.

Dr Janet Hargreaves's current research interest revolves around the life of Molly Murphy, 1890 - 1964, about whom she eventually hopes to write a biography. Molly was, amongst other things, a trained nurse. What makes her interesting is her active engagement in six separate events of the 20th century. She was a suffragette; she trained as a nurse during World War One; she married Jack Murphy, a founder of the British Communist Party and through sharing his life she experienced this movement first-hand in the Soviet Union and in Britain; she was an independent nurse working in private nursing homes during the 1930s; she volunteered as a nurse during the Spanish Civil War and her final role before retirement was as a sister with a mobile medical unit in London during World War Two.

Janet's focus at the moment is on Molly's experience as a private nurse in the 1930s. This is an area about which relatively little has been written in terms of its place within the overall infrastructure of care provision and the development of nursing practice. A detailed Select Committee report from 1926 and subsequent Nursing Home Registration Act of 1927 offer great detail in terms of the role, function and problems of private nursing home provision just prior to Molly's engagement in this work. Her own memoir offers insights into the opportunities and issues of such practice. Janet plans to produce a paper on this aspect of Molly's work in the coming months.



Figure: Matron Eva Lückes. From: 'How to become a nurse and how to succeed' by Honnor Morten, Credit: Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

Sarah Rogers' post graduate research continues into Eva Lückes, influential nurse reformer and Matron of The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London, between 1880-1919. Lückes was a friend of, and mentored by, Florence Nightingale. She was well known for her anti-nurse registration stance and ongoing dispute about this issue with Mrs Bedford Fenwick. Sarah's enforced time at home since Florence 2020-during Covid lockdowns and whilst shielding, has enabled her to start writing up her research into Lückes as a 'matron-maker'. Fortunately, she had already completed a vast amount of my primary source gathering. Whilst she has an ever-increasing list of archives to visit after Covid 19 she has more than sufficient material to begin writing up her research. She has drafted two chapters; firstly, discussing how Lückes made her ideal, Nightingale style nurses. She has examined the interplay and importance of class, tone and education, and nursing characteristics to Lückes when producing her nurses, and nursing leaders. Secondly, she has explored Lückes's significant, but perhaps hidden, role within the development of British Military Nursing, and the part that Sydney Holland, Chairman of The London Hospital played. She is currently working on her third chapter plan, and is considering the role that mentoring, networking and patronage played in Lückes's success, and that of her nurses.

It has been a busy year for UKAHN - even though so much of our work has been conducted 'online' and 'virtually'. We look forward hopefully and optimistically to meeting in person with colleagues at some point next year.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and New Year. Stay safe and well!
Your UKAHN Colleagues.



Figure: Christine Hallett of UKAHN hands over the Presidency of EAHN to Anna La Torre at the Florence 2020 Conference



The European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN)

The European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN) was established 2012 to promote development and advancement of Nursing History through scholarly work and public outreach. The Association brings individuals and associations together in order to provide mutual support and opportunities for collaboration.

The purpose of the Association is to provide a European focus for the development of the discipline of Nursing History. It has three aims:

- To promote scholarly work in the Nursing History, by providing a mutually supportive network of individuals working in the field and by creating opportunities for direct collaboration on significant research projects.
- To promote the public understanding of Nursing History, by supporting initiatives for public engagement.
- To gain recognition for the discipline of Nursing History throughout the European region.

The Association has a federal structure. Constituent member associations are autonomous and self-governing. A constituent association may be administered through an academic centre, a scholarly society or an interest group. Each constituent association will be eligible to send at least one member to a European Coordinating Committee.

The membership comprises individuals who are members of a constituent association. The membership is intended to be inclusive. Members may be nurses or non-nurses, and might or might not hold an appointment in a recognised academic institution. An individual from any part of the world may join any of the constituent associations, and thereby become a member of the EAHN.

EAHN member associations

→contact email addresses see EAHN-Website:
<http://eahn.net/member-organisations/>

Austria: *Historical nursing research in Austria*

Croatia: *Croatian Nursing History Society*

Denmark: *The Danish Society of Nursing History*

Finland: *Finnish Association for History of Nursing Science*

Germany: *German Association for the History of Nursing (Fachgesellschaft Pflegegeschichte)*

Germany: *The Historical Nursing Research Section of the German Society for Nursing Science*

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Ireland: *The Irish Association for the History of Nursing and Midwifery*

Israel: *The Israeli Society for the History of Nursing (ISHN)*

Italy: *Italian Nurses' Association with a Nursing History Group, CNAI (Consociazione nazionale delle Associazioni infermiere/i)*

Netherlands: *Dutch Centre for Nursing History: Florence Nightingale Instituut*

Netherlands: *Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezit (SHVB)*

Norway: *The Norwegian Association for the History of Nursing*

Poland: *Museum and Archive for Polish Nursing History at the Polish Nurses Association*

Serbia: *Association of Medical Nurses-Technicians,*

Spain: *Qalat Chábir. Asociación Cultural para el Estudio de las Humanidades*

Sweden: *The Swedish Society of Nursing (Svensk sjuksköterskeförening)*

Switzerland: *Swiss Society for the History of Health and Nursing*

United Kingdom: *The UK Association for the History of Nursing*

EAHN Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee consists of delegates from the member association. The committee meet at least once per year.

EAHN Coordinating Committee elected officers

President: Anna La Torre, Italy

Deputy President: Dr María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez, Spain

Secretary: Dr Gerard Fealy, Ireland

Communications Officer: Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany
(<http://eahn.net/contact/>)

EAHN Bulletin

The annually EAHN Bulletin is published on the EAHN webpage. Editor of the Bulletin is Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany (<http://eahn.net/contact/>)

[EAHN webpage](#)

The EAHN webpage <http://www.eahn.net> is managed by webmaster Keiron Spires, UK: (<http://eahn.net/contact/>)

[EAHN Twitter account](#)

The EAHN Twitter account EAHN@HistNursingEU is edited by Dr Anja Peters, Germany

[Membership](#)

If your association would like to affiliate with the EAHN please contact EAHN president Anna La Torre, Italy (<http://eahn.net/contact/>). There are no fees for membership.

[EAHN meeting 2021](#)

Due to the pandemic situation, the next EAHN meeting will be held online in a ZOOM video conference on February 19, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. More information and the ZOOM link will be sent out well in advance.



German Graffiti Art “For the true heroes”, 2020