



Canadian Association for the History Of Nursing

Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing

Newsletter

Spring 2010

Volume 23, Issue 1

The One Hundredth Anniversary of Florence Nightingale's Death

By Carol Helmstadter

On the one hundredth anniversary of Florence Nightingale's death (and the one hundred ninetieth anniversary of her birth) Nightingale remains as fascinating as ever. She was a highly controversial figure in the public sphere in her own time – for example the War Department which sent her to Scutari was by no means fully supportive of her and some of her Crimean War nurses, including Mary Stanley who had been one of her close friends, lodged a libel suit against her during the war. When in 1857 she adopted her secluded, invalid lifestyle, working behind the scenes rather than in public, as Mark Bostridge indicates, she became less controversial and more easily sentimentalized as the iconic nurse.

Nightingale has been the subject of approximately fifty biographies, most of which are hagiographies. There have also been several monographs which attacked her viciously, in particular Evelyn Bolster's *Sisters of Mercy in the Crimean War* and F. B. Smith's *Florence Nightingale: Reputation and Power*. The distance from Nightingale's time has enabled historians to gain a better perspective on her work in nursing. In the 1980s Monica Baly was the first trained nurse historian to look critically at the Nightingale training and to place it in the context of the hospital administration in which the Nightingale Fund Council had little voice, essentially only moral influence. Several very good new works on Nightingale have come out in the 1990s and in our own decade, the most recent an important biography by Mark Bostridge, *Florence Nightingale: The Making of an Icon*.

There will be many commemorative events in England of the one hundredth anniversary of Florence Nightingale's death in 1910, particularly since 2010 has been selected as the Year of the Nurse. Perhaps two of the most interest to CAHN/ACHN Newsletter readers are two scholarly conferences. The first will be held at Embley, the more grandiose of the Nightingale homes, which has now become a school, the Hampshire Collegiate School. Titled *Florence Nightingale: Influence and Inspiration*, this conference will run from 14 to 16 July and will concentrate solely on Nightingale. Among many others, American Nightingale scholars Linda Freeman, Barbara Dossey and Louise Selanders will be presenting as well as English scholars Hugh Small who published *Florence Nightingale: Avenging Angel* in 1998 and Mark Bostridge who published a fine new biography in 2008. Dame Yvonna Moores, former chief nursing officer for England will also speak.

As well as seeing one of the Nightingale family homes where Nightingale often entertained her nurses, this conference also offers absolutely wonderful opportunities for sightseeing. One will be a visit to Wilton House, the home of the Earls of Pembroke. Nightingale's close co-worker, Sidney Herbert was a younger brother of the Earl of Pembroke but the Earl actually lived abroad so it was Sidney who lived and died in the ancestral home. This magnificent house was originally a Benedictine abbey which Henry VIII seized when he was dissolving the monasteries and which he then granted to the Earl of Pembroke in 1542. Inigo Jones remodelled it in the seventeenth century and it is worth a trip in itself.

The website for this conference is:

<http://www.hampshirecs.org.uk/florence/view/158/>

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The second conference, *International Perspectives on Nursing History*, will be held at Royal Holloway College in London from 14 to 16 September. Royal Holloway College is one of the earliest women's colleges in England and is of interest in itself. *International Perspectives* is a combined conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing and the European Nursing History Group (ENHG). ENHG consists of four British organizations, the FHSC Kingston University and St. George University of London, The UK Centre for the History of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Manchester, the Irish Centre for Nursing and Midwifery History, and the Royal College of Nursing's History of Nursing Society.

The keynote speaker will be Mark Bostridge. He will be followed by a round table discussion on the two questions, 'Was there real training at the Nightingale School?' and if so, 'Did it have any impact on nineteenth century nursing?' The three panelists will be Judith Godden, Carol Helmstadter and Barbara Mann Wall; the chair will be Anne-Marie Rafferty. The conference promises to be the largest of the international conferences on the history of nursing with over 200 papers following the keynote speaker and the roundtable discussion. These papers will not be limited to Nightingale as the conference title implies but rather will cover nursing history in general. The brochure including the program are now available on the conference website.

For those who are able to go early there is also a whole day of sight-seeing in London including a service commemorating Nightingale at St. Paul's Cathedral followed by a reception at the Florence Nightingale Museum. The website for this conference is www.nursesvoices.org.uk/conference. Or you can access all the information on the AAHN website, www.aahn.org.

Two books on Nightingale will also appear shortly which may particularly appeal to our readers. The first is *Florence Nightingale: The Influence of an Icon of Nursing* which should be released by Cornell University Press any day. It consists of a series of essays by different scholars on various aspects of Nightingale's many-faceted work and her impact on the development of modern nursing. Sioban Nelson and Anne-Marie Rafferty edited this work and have chapters in it. The second is *Nursing Before Nightingale 1815-1890* by Judith Godden and Carol Helmstadter with Joyce MacQueen. This book will be published by Ashgate in 2011. It is a revisionist work, arguing that the Nightingale nurse who emerged in the 1890s to become the standard model throughout the English speaking world was the culmination rather than the beginning of nursing reform. The book follows two earlier reforms, the ward system which doctors developed in the earlier part of the century, and the central system which the Anglican Sisters developed at mid-century. The Sisters were perhaps ahead of their time in insisting that nurses control their own practice. This book demonstrates that the central system was the leading system up until the late 1880s and that the Nightingale Training School was a combination of the ward system and some of the less radical parts of the central system. The Nightingale Training School was decidedly more conservative than the Sisters' system for it had no control of its nursing practice.

These conferences are sure to be intellectually stimulating; they open new windows on our ways of looking at our profession and our work as historians and they are also always a lot of fun. It is always so worthwhile meeting nurses and historians from other parts of the world as well as old friends from distant parts of our own country to celebrate what promises to be a wonderful year in nursing history.

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CAHN Preliminary Conference Program 18-20 June 2010 Winnipeg, MB

Friday, June 18th

6:30 PM Registration, Helen Glass Atrium
7:00 PM Opening Plenary and Hannah Memorial Lecture
Sponsored by Associated Medical Services

“The Nightingale Imperative: Icons, Imaginations and Nursing Identity.”

Sioban Nelson, Dean and Professor of Nursing,
Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing University of Toronto
Reception to follow

Saturday June 19th

8:15 AM - 8:45 AM Registration and Morning Coffee
8:45 AM - 9:00 AM Introductions and Updates

9:00AM - 10:30 AM

Session 1 – **Re-thinking Victorian Nursing**

Colleen Bowers, University of Manchester, “‘Nothing which is so much wanted could fail’:
Catharine Grace Loch and the Establishment of the India Nursing Service, 1888.”

Carol Helmstadter, Independent Scholar, “The All Saints Sisters at University College
Hospital.”

Arlene Young, University of Manitoba, “Mixed Messages: Nursing, Status, and Employment in
Victorian Britain.”

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Session 2A – **Emerging Identities: Nursing During the First World War**

Deborah Sampson, University of Michigan, “Order Amidst the Ruins: Nurses and Nursing
Care During the Halifax Disaster of 1917.”

Deborah Brummell and Cynthia Toman, University of Ottawa, “‘Applicant must be of British
parentage’: First World War NS Emeline Robinson.”

Session 2B – **Translating Nursing Practice in Colonial Contexts**

Kristin Burnett, Lakehead University, “The Sisters of Charity: Nursing and Faith at the Blood
Hospital, 1893-1930s.”

Laurie Meijer-Drees, Vancouver Island University, “Translating and Transforming Nursing
Care: Health Aide Training and Practice in 1960s Native Alaska.”

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Annual General Meeting**

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CAHN Preliminary Conference Program

18-20 June 2010

Winnipeg, MB (cont'd from pg.2)

Saturday June 19th

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Session 3A – **Framing the Centre, Policing the Margins: Gender and Nursing Identity**

Michelle Filice, Wilfred Laurier University, “Handing on the Torch: Male Nursing-Orderlies in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and Nursing Profession, 1939-1950.”

Jayne Elliott, University of Ottawa, “Historical Perspectives on Film as Recruitment Strategy for Nursing.”

Session 3B – **Migrants and Missionaries: Nurses Crossing Borders**

Charlene Ronquillo and Geertje Boschma, University of British Columbia, “Filipino nurse migrants in Western Canada: An Oral History.”

Sonya Grypma, Trinity Western University, China Nurse Jean Ewen and the Conundrum of Norman Bethune.”

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Session 4A – **Blurring Boundaries: Nursing Practice in the Near and Far North**

Joyce Schroeder MacQueen, Laurentian University, “Nursing in a Canadian One-industry Resource Town 1933 to 1974.”

Whitney Wood, Lakehead University, “Blurring Cultural Boundaries and Transgressing Professional Roles: Vera Roberts and Health Care in the Canadian North.”

Session 4B – **Diffusing Nursing Ideas Through Transnational Networks**

Jaime Lapeyre and Sioban Nelson, University of Toronto, “The bonds that bind: the role of friendship in the creation of an international nursing network during the interwar years.”

Esyllt Jones, University of Manitoba, “Nursing, Multi-disciplinary Practice, and Transnational Models of Health Care Organization in the 1930-40s.”

6:30 PM Dinner, Location TBA

Sunday June 20th

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Session 5 – **Praxis and Practice: Transforming Nursing Work**

Marg Olfert, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, “The History of Collaborative Nursing Education Programs in Canada, 1980-2009: Challenges and Benefits.”

Deborah Hamilton and Geertje Boschma, University of British Columbia, “Work, Education and Technology: ICU Nursing Practice at Vancouver General Hospital, 1965-1985.”

Leah Morton, University of Manitoba, “Nursing and the 1953 Polio Epidemic in Manitoba.”

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NEWS

Conference update

The 2010 CAHN/ACHN Conference is right around that corner. This year it will be held at the **Helen Glass Faculty of Nursing at University of Manitoba**. Approximately 25 papers are scheduled to be presented. The evening dinner event is being held at the Southwood Golf Club which is in walking distance of the University and the AGM will be held on Saturday afternoon. We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing everyone there.

New Books

Hallett, Christine E. *Containing trauma: Nursing work in the First World War.*

In this lucid and cogently-argued book, Christine Hallett explores the nature of the practices developed by nurses and their volunteer-assistants during the First World War. She argues that nurses found meaning in their complex and stressful work by identifying it as a process of "containing trauma." Broad in its scope and detailed in its research, the book analyzes the work of nurses from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. It draws on highly personal writings: letters and diaries drawn from archives and libraries throughout the world. This wide-ranging book explores a range of treatment scenarios, from the Western and Eastern Fronts to the Eastern Mediterranean, Mesopotamia and India. It considers both the efforts of nurses to provide physical, emotional and moral containment to their patients, and the work they did to maintain their own physical and emotional integrity. (Taken from back cover).

CAHN-ACHN- www.cahn-achn.ca



Announcing.....

The new CAHN/ACHN website !!!

Check out what everyone is talking about, at:

www.cahn-achn.ca/

Also check the website for updates regarding the upcoming CAHN/ACHN 2010 Conference in Winnipeg, MB.

CAHN/ACHN Preliminary Conference Program (cont'd from pg4)

Sunday June 20th

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Session 6 – **Continuities and Ruptures at the Intersection of Policy, Politics and Practice**

Heather Graham, University of Manitoba, "Nurses on Strike: The 1991 Manitoba Nurses Strike and the Changing Image of Nurses."

Geertje Boschma, Nerrisa Bonifacio and Helen Vandenberg, University of British Columbia and Marg Gorrie, British Columbia Institute of Technology, "Work, Rehabilitation, and Housing in Discourses on Mental Health Care." Beverley Hicks, Brandon University, "Political Contingencies in Registered Psychiatric Nursing in Manitoba."

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Can you help?

Interesting Artifact

I recently found this pin (see picture below) in an antiques store. According to Anne Crossin, nurse historian in Manitoba and the curator of the Winnipeg General Hospital/ Health Sciences Centre Nursing Archives, it is a “registration pin” issued by the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses. I had never heard of these early “registration pins.”

Anne Crossin reported that the archives has several of these pins, as well as some similar pins marked “M.A.G.N. Reg. Nurse.” The MAGN pins were issued by the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses between 1903 and about 1913. The pins were changed to MARN pins when the province passed legislation governing nurse registration and the association became the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses. Manitoba was the first province in Canada to have provincial registration for nurses.

The RN’s name and registration number are engraved on the back of the pin, which is sterling silver, with blue-and-red enamel on the front. The pins were manufactured by Dingwall Jewelers of Winnipeg, which eventually joined Birks (and for a time was known, at least in Winnipeg, as Birks-Dingwall).



My question is: Did other provinces also have “registration pins”? I would appreciate hearing from others across Canada if you know whether other provincial associations issued such pins. Many thanks!

Glennis Zilm
White Rock, BC E-mail gzilm@telus.net

Remembering First World War Nurse Casualties

As an historian for Parks Canada, responsible for women’s history, I’ve long been interested in the ways women are commemorated. Nurses seem to be among the few women who have received some national level recognition, although there is still a great deal of silence around this theme. I am presently researching an article that will explore efforts to commemorate First World War nurse casualties, looking beyond the major national level monuments such as the Parliamentary Nurse memorial erected in 1926 and studied by historian Kate McPherson. I will look at the lives of these 62 nurses (including those who served with American and British forces) who died as a result of their wartime service. Specifically I’m looking at whether local and provincial level commemorations take a different focus than national ones. Some of these are listed in the Veterans Affairs Canada website, but I’m guessing there are others out there as well. If you know of any such historic/memorial markers erected in towns, churches, graveyards, etc. to remember these nurses, could you please get in touch with me? Ideally, I would like a photograph and description of the memorial.

Thanks so much,
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Updates

New Online Journal

Aporia: The Nursing Journal is a new online, fully accessible journal dedicated to scholarly debates in nursing and the health sciences. Committed to a pluralistic view of science and to the blurring of boundaries between disciplines, it publishes manuscripts that include (but are not limited to) nursing and health care practices, ethics, politics of health care and policies, technology, bioethics, biopedagogies, biopolitics etc. This welcome extends to nursing history research that fits into its mandate. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.oa.uottawa.ca/journals/aporia/index.jsp?lang> or contact Amélie Perron, receiving editor, atamelie.perron@uottawa.ca

Dissertation Awards

Two Former Allemang Scholarship Recipients Receive Distinguished Dissertation Awards. At the graduate awards ceremony on December 10, 2009 at the University of Manitoba two Allemang Scholarship recipients received distinguished dissertation awards. Mary Jane McCallum, PhD was the recipient of the award for the Faculty of Arts. Her dissertation explored the experiences of aboriginal nurses. She was the Allemang recipient in 2007. Beverley Hicks, PhD received the distinguished dissertation award for the Faculty of Education for her work on psychiatric nursing in Manitoba. She received the Allemang award in 2008.

Nursing Shortages in History: Mid-20th Century Canadian Recruitment Films

The Associated Medical Services Nursing History Research Unit is offering a half-day workshop following the 2010 Tau Gamma Conference that will be held at the University of Ottawa 14-16 June 2010. The workshop will use selected film clips in French and English to explore how nursing leaders represented both nurses and the profession to potential recruits in order to address contemporary workforce shortages. It will help participants to situate present day issues associated with recruitment and retention of nurses within larger nursing history contexts. There is no additional cost to participate in this workshop but pre-registration is required, with cancellation if there are fewer than 10 registrants.

L'Unité de recherche sur l'histoire des sciences infirmières de l'AMS offre un atelier d'une demi-journée qui se tiendra lors du Congrès Tau Gamma le 14-16 juin 2010. Cette activité propose le visionnement d'extraits de films en français et en anglais qui mettent en lumière le travail de l'élite infirmière des premières décennies du 20e siècle comme force de recrutement d'une main-d'œuvre infirmière en ces temps de pénurie. L'objectif de cette présentation cinématographique est de sensibiliser les participantes et les participants au parcours effectué par les générations d'infirmières qui les ont précédées, pour ainsi mieux saisir les obstacles surmontés; les acquis obtenus et les enjeux, en ce début de 21e siècle, au cœur de la pratique infirmière marquée par une importante pénurie de main-d'œuvre. Inscription sans frais, toutefois les organisateurs se réservent le droit d'annuler l'activité s'il y a moins de dix inscriptions.

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