



HISTORY OF NURSING GROUP

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 7, 1994

Hyatt Regency Hotel (Turner Room)

Displays Open 4 pm - 7 pm

Annual General Meeting starts 5 pm

A bowl used by Florence Nightingale in Crimea and the military medals of Daisy Bridges (later an Executive Director of ICN) will be on display at this year's annual general meeting. As well, a series of displays featuring history of nursing themes will be the focal point for members attending the History Group's annual meeting, which will be held between 4 pm and 7 pm, April 7, 1994, in the Turner Room, 4th Floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver.

The annual general meeting of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group is always held in conjunction with the RNABC's annual meeting. This allows our out-of-town members more opportunity to plan to attend as many of them are involved with RNABC affairs. This year, however, the RNABC's convention was cancelled and its annual meeting is considerably shorter. The only time available to the History Group was the late afternoon session on the Thursday.

The HoN Executive committee there-

fore decided not to have a guest speaker but to concentrate on the business meeting and the opportunity for members to have an informal gathering, with tea and coffee available.

As well as the display of the Nightingale bowl and the Bridges medals, which will be shown by owner Ron Penhold, a collector of military medals, plans are being made to have other exhibits that will be of interest to members. For example, the Executive will display this year's B.C. nominees for the CNA's Memorial Book.

Sister Carrigan has agreed to arrange a display related to the 100th Anniversary celebrations of St. Paul's Hospital and the Sisters of Charity.

The Group also hopes to have "book signing" and display of a new book related to history of nursing: *Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health*:

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Focal Points for Nursing Leadership, by Richard B. Splane and Verna Splane. The book was published in February 1994 by the University of California San Francisco Nursing Press. A few copies of the book will be available at the meeting for sale and the authors (Verna is a member of the History Group) will be on hand for a book signing.

Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek, both members of the HoN Group, will display photographs gathered for use in their book, *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia 1919-1994*. The book is to be released later this summer, as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the UBC School of Nursing.

Elections for new officers will be held during the business meeting as well as a discussion on a motion to raise fees. A draw for door prizes will be made for members attending the meeting. Be sure to attend.

History Group members are reminded that any RNABC member may attend, as an observer (no fee), the RNABC's annual meeting. Registration for that meeting starts at 8:30 am and business sessions start at 10:00 am. The History Group will have a "display table" in the Regency Room (next door to the business sessions). HoN members who would like to help staff the display table (and sign up new members!) for an hour or two between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on April 7 (before our own meeting) are urged to phone Nina Rumén. (Or you can just come and help!)

CHURCH GAINS HERITAGE STATUS

The Canadian Memorial Church (corner 16th and Burrard in Vancouver) was one of 13 recipients of 1994 Heritage Awards from the City of Vancouver in recognition of its stained glass windows, one of which depicts a World War I Nursing Sister. The following report from History Group member Florence Dougherty, who represented the Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada, Vancouver Unit, gives more details.

The City of Vancouver, through its Heritage Advisory Committee, recognizes and honors accomplishments in the field of Heritage Conservation. To this end, an award was conferred on the Canadian Memorial Church in recognition of restoration of its stained glass windows. Mayor Philip Owen and the Councillors of the City hosted a reception in honor of the 13 1994 Heritage Award recipients at the Hotel Vancouver on Feb. 21, 1994. The representatives of the Canadian Memorial Church invited a Nursing Sister to attend with them, and I was the fortunate one chosen. It was a gala affair and most interesting.

When Don Hume was presented with the award for the Church, he gave a brief summary of the Church's history and spoke of the window restoration project. He acknowledged the "significant contribution" of one group of women -- the Nursing Sisters -- to the project.

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**VIEWING THE PRESENT
IN LIGHT OF THE PAST**

Sheila Rankin Zerr of the History Group presented a paper on the teaching of nursing history in schools of nursing to the Conference of the Western Region of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing in Saskatoon in late February. The abstract of that presentation follows.

**A Nursing History Teaching Project:
Viewing the Present in Light of the Past**

This presentation will describe efforts made by the British Columbia (B.C.) History Group to reclaim a spot for nursing history in the nursing school curriculum. The B.C. History Group is a professional practice group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

The B.C. History Group believes nursing students can benefit from viewing contemporary issues in the light of past accomplishments. The Group believes that the spirit of nursing history is alive and well in students and schools. To this end, the Group launched a pilot project to test the interest of students and school faculties.

[The project was] ... launched September 1992 at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops, B.C. The objective was to develop teaching/learning activities around the history of nursing. Thirteen students in the Trends and Issues course carried out special projects to study and share local nursing history. Video and oral tapes, pictures, and written materials were gathered. Class presentations by participating students

demonstrated enthusiasm and zeal for local nursing history. A prize, in the form of an historical "portrait doll" was placed in the B.C. History Group memorial collection in honor of the students who participated in the project. The students chose the theme for the doll, selecting the graduating uniform of the first college class in Kamloops (circa 1972).

The project represented only a beginning. Based on its results, the B.C. History Group will refine the project and plans to promote the teaching project throughout the province.

--Sheila Zerr

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It was in 1989 that he asked the Vancouver Unit of the Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada if we could contribute \$3,000 to restore the Nursing Sister window. We followed the example of WWI Nursing Sisters who had raised \$350 to install the original window in 1928 and contacted all our members as well as those in other units across Canada, other nurses, and friends of nurses. The response was most gratifying and we were able to give the Church \$6,728.

Sale of note cards of the Nursing Sister window resulted in a further \$5,400 which was given to the Canadian Nurses Foundation for nursing scholarships. We feel justly proud of our accomplishments.

-- Florence Dougherty

*** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ***

This letter brings news of the resolution the History of Nursing PPG is submitting to this year's annual meeting of the RNABC. The History Group is asking the RNABC Board of Directors to develop an "In Memoriam" book in which names and accomplishments of RNABC members who have made major contributions to nursing and the community can be stored, documented, and displayed.

At present, the major way the profession honors B.C. nurses for their achievements is through annual Awards and Recognition Ceremonies held in conjunction with the annual meeting. We believe a B.C. Memorial Book will bring an added and important dimension to recording B.C. nurses' lifetime achievements. This book could form the basis for future consideration of a biographical dictionary of B.C. nurses.

For several years now the History Group has assisted in the nominating process for B.C. nurses for the CNA's Memorial Book. Resumes and descriptive narratives are prepared by the History Group and submitted to the RNABC Board. Usually the Board approves the names and forwards the nominations to the CNA Board for its decision. Although most B.C. nominees are accepted, not all of them are. The criteria for the CNA Memorial Book specify nursing contributions made at national and international levels as well as provincial contributions to the nursing profession.

We in B.C. know that there are nurses who have made notable contributions to the nursing profession in this province but

who may not meet the criteria for national recognition. We think it is time we had our own Memorial Book.

The book could begin by recognizing deserving nurses with memorial testimonies to those in current years and be added to gradually as we work back through the decades. Once again, we need to play "catch-up" in our recognition of those who have gone before. However, we definitely need to establish a permanent means to honor outstanding B.C. nurses and keep their names recognized.

Implementation of this resolution should not require a major sum of money from the RNABC budget. We know that attractive pages can be produced at minimal cost with new computer technologies and programs. The book could be both attractive and practical and could be on permanent display at the RNABC and used for reference purposes by those doing historical research.

We believe there will be considerable support for this resolution. However, just to be on the safe side, we are asking the support of members who will be voting delegates to the RNABC Annual Meeting. Also, we are asking History Group members to approach voting delegates in their own districts. Would you please draw their attention to this resolution and ask them for their support. Thank you for whatever assistance you can give.

-- Helen Shore, President

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BARBARA KEDDY EXPLORES "NEW PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY"

"Historical data does not get old; it can be looked at again and again," guest speaker Barbara Keddy reminded 20 members at the Feb. 12, 1994 History Group meeting. "However, we can examine the data in light of a new perspective."

Professor Keddy, a nursing historian, is Visiting Scholar 1993-1994 at the University of Victoria. She is on leave from her teaching position in the School of Nursing at Dalhousie University in Halifax, where she teaches research methods as well as a feminist perspective related to history of nursing. She was invited to visit Vancouver to meet with History Group members and speak on her recent work. Her presentation was titled "Correcting the Bias: Avoiding Romantic Notions in Nursing History."

Dr. Keddy, a founder of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, opened her presentation with comments on her early approaches to collection of oral histories of "rank and file nurses" who had practised, often in small towns, in Nova Scotia in the 1930s and 1940s. She said that when she approached these nurses about recording their stories, the nurses usually were reluctant because they believed they did not have anything important to tell. In fact, the stories and the storytellers proved to be fascinating. She has amassed a lot of "raw data," but as she collected the stories, she began to go through a series of changes. She noticed that scholars in women's studies were undertaking their research with women in "different ways."

Male scholarship, she said, has stressed "objectivity," but the feminist perspective allowed for a new way of looking at information. Dr. Keddy said that she realized that she had been "caught up in a romantic notion of nursing history." She realized that, if nursing wants to see not only where it has been but where it is now, that we need to "rethink nursing knowledge ... in light of political and social history."

She recommended a "feminist methodological approach" in which the researcher acknowledges his or her subjectivity and uses an "interactive perspective." In her later interviews, she does not just have the individual tell the story, but asks for interpretation and analysis so that the issues can be brought into a new context.

"To be understood, they [the stories] need to be re-examined in context of the time and in view of the newer understandings of the present," she said.

The meeting closed with questions and general discussion on these newer approaches.

The American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) and the University of Illinois School of Nursing are co-sponsoring the 11th Annual AANH Conference in Chicago, IL, September 23-25, 1994.

*** NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ***

The following notes relate to items on the agenda at meetings of the Executive committee in December and February. A meeting is also scheduled for March 11, 1994, to finalize plans for the Annual Meeting.

- * Nina Rumen reported on plans for the History Group's Annual meeting (see page 1).

- * Treasurer Nina Rumen reported that a finance committee meeting in December had made recommendations concerning the clear separation of the tax-exempt History of Nursing Scholarship funds from the History Group's general revenue funds. At the end of the year, the Scholarship fund contained \$3,882.16. This money is invested in a interest-bearing certificate.

The History Group, at the beginning of March, had a bank balance of \$2,234. with all outstanding bills paid.

- * Memberships renewals for the 1994 year (January to December) have been coming in regularly. As well, the new forms to attract new members have been moderately successful and the membership for 1994 so far is 47 full members, 14 associate members, 5 student members, and one honorary life member. The total is 67 compared with 82 at the end of 1993.

- * Glennis Zilm reported that she had received a telephone call from Kari Moore regarding the Victoria group. Kari Moore had suffered a broken leg in November that had restricted her activities and that the other Victoria HoN Group members also had other priorities. The

group has not met since last summer.

Kari Moore said she had noted the History of Nursing/ Nursing Alumnae Partnership Plan put forward by the Executive committee last summer and thought this would be an excellent way to achieve liaison because Nursing Alumnae groups from the Victoria hospitals are still active. However, she feels that, until there is a larger active History Group membership in the area, Victoria members will have to proceed mainly with projects as individuals rather than as a sub-Group.

[Ed. Note: After months of casts, canes, and physio, Kari reports that she once again has managed to get back onto the tennis courts! Great recovery. Congratulations.]

- * Helen Shore reported on the History Group/ Nursing Alumnae Partnership plan with St. Eugene's Hospital in Cranbrook. Several letters have been exchanged and plans for oral history interviews are underway. History Group members who have names of contacts (and, most importantly, addresses) of Nursing Alumnae groups around the province are urged to send these to Helen Shore.

- * Sheila Zerr arranged to have the job descriptions of all the officers typed onto a computer disk so these could be compiled into a small booklet for the History Group files and be made available to new officers. Glennis Zilm has taken on the project of editing the computer material and producing the booklet. She hopes to have this ready for the annual meeting in April.

(More News from the Executive on page 7)

*** MORE NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ***

(Continued from page 6)

* Ethel Warbinek, chair of the Biographical Committee, reports that progress has been made on collection of a number of files. Six completed files have been turned over to the RNABC Library and two more are ready.

Librarian Joan Andrews is arranging for the completed biographical files to be indicated on the library's computer catalogue, which means that access to this information will be greatly facilitated for research purposes. However, the Library will not store original documents, only copies, to ensure that valuable materials are not lost.

* President Helen Shore has written to the archivist who has been appointed to assist with the closure of Shaughnessy Hospital urging that care be taken to preserve and protect historical materials related to nursing in B.C.

* Final approval has been granted to the History Group's Constitution and Bylaws by the RNABC's Board of Directors. Any member who wishes to have a personal copy of the revised Constitution and Bylaws (as approved at the 1993 annual meeting) should call or write Vice-President Ethel Warbinek. Copies will also be available at the annual meeting in April. Given that no further revisions are foreseen, the Constitution and Bylaws committee has been dissolved.

* The History Group has received an invitation from the Vancouver Chapter to participate in the "Health Fair" to be held on Granville Island Sunday, May 22 from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. The purpose of the Fair is to show the diverse roles of nurses and to provide information on health education, hospitalization, disease prevention, and health promotion. The matter will be discussed further at the next Executive Meeting.

* Kari Moore of Victoria has sent the Executive Committee some information related to provincial government grants to help develop archives. President Helen Shore will seek further information.

* Members are reminded that if they wish to attend Executive meetings -- for fun, or to help with a project -- they should get in touch with the president or vice-president.

PROPOSED MAY MEETING

A May Meeting has been proposed by the Executive Committee. The idea is that History of Nursing Group members should attend one of the key events being held that month by St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver in celebration of its 100th Anniversary.

On Thursday, May 26 (evening), St. Paul's Alumnae will be hosting a **Fashion Show** featuring costumes and uniforms worn by nurses throughout the ages. The site likely will be the St. Paul's Auditorium. Mark your calendars now. More information will be available in the next Newsletter. Depending on the wishes of the new Executive (following elections at the annual meeting), we may also meet for dinner before the fashion show.

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FEE DISCUSSION SCHEDULED FOR ANNUAL MEETING

At last year's annual meeting, Treasurer Nina Rumen gave notice that the annual fees would have to be discussed -- and possibly raised -- at the 1994 meeting. Fees for 1994 are: \$15 for full (voting) members (those who are practicing or non-practicing members of RNABC); \$15 for associate members (non-members of RNABC), and \$5 for students.

At the meeting on April 7, the treasurer will propose a motion to raise fees, likely to \$20 for full and associate members for the 1995 calendar year. Student fees would remain at \$5. Members should come prepared to discuss the motion. Those who cannot attend the meeting, but have thoughts about a proposed raise in fees should get in touch with Nina Rumen at 733-7529.

CNA SELLING HISTORICAL "NOTES"

The Canadian Nurses Association has produced sets of five "hasty note" cards featuring notable figures from nursing's past. The cards, which will be sold to support the CNA Memorial Book project, feature portraits of Florence Nightingale, Jeanne Mance, Isabel Hampton Robb, Mary Agnes Snively, and Nora Livingstone. Cost of the cards is \$10 (including taxes and shipping) for a set of five.

The CNA Memorial Book honors deceased Canadian nursing leaders; each page contains

a biographical sketch of the individual in illuminated calligraphic script. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will help offset costs of the calligraphy. Cheques (payable to CNA) for the cards can be sent to: Publication Sales (CNA), 50 The Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1E2.

"IDEAS" PROGRAM REBROADCAST

I thought you might like to know that the program you were interested in, *A Sense of War*, is being repeated on *Ideas* on Monday, June 6th -- the 50th anniversary of D-Day -- on the CBC Radio Newtwork at 9:05 pm. ...

It's particularly significant that the nurses' story is being retold on that day. A section of the program describes nursing sisters' contributions to that memorable event, as well as to all other events of World War II around the world. And there will be a new introduction to the program, which will focus on D-Day.

I'm very pleased, as I'm certain you are, that Canadians will once again be reminded of the nurses' achievements -- especially on such an historic anniversary.

Perhaps you could let your organization know of the repeat broadcast. ... Please let me know if you need further details. Thanks.

-- Doug MacDonald
Writer-Producer: "A Sense of War"

*** NEWS FEATURE ***

ANOTHER WINDOW MEMORIAL

Another memorial stained glass window that honors nurses has been identified in B.C. This one is in Victoria, and will be on display in the New Tillicum Lodge, a 225-bed, multi-level care facility being built in Saanich.

The window honors nurses and shows Florence Nightingale, a World War I Armed Forces Nursing Sister, and a modern-day nurse, in white uniform working with veterans in hospital. It was designed by Maurice Hartle, an orderly who had worked for many years at the Memorial Pavilion. The work was executed by Tom Mercer of Orillia Glass in Victoria.

The Reverend Mr. Peter Isles, Chaplains Office, Memorial Pavilion provided background information on the windows, including this most recent addition. It is one of a number of stained glass windows in the Memorial Pavilion at Royal Jubilee Hospital. When it was planned that veterans living in the Memorial Pavilion were to move to the new Tillicum Lodge, it was decided that the stained-glass windows would be moved with them. Veterans' Affairs Canada provided funds for the veterans' beds in the new facility, which replace the 138 beds in the 43-year-old pavilion at RJH.

The window was originally inaugurated in 1984 and dedicated on May 12, 1985 (anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth).



An article in Legion (October 1991, p. 26), the magazine of the Canadian Legion, described the move and the windows. The windows will be moved early in 1995, once funds are raised. Funds are being raised by the Chief Petty Officers' group through the various Legions in Canada.

I have obtained a photograph (slide) of the window from the Greater Victoria Hospitals (courtesy of Sharon Morgan, Information Officer for GVHs). I have incorporated this into a display book on B.C. monuments to nurses. If you have photographs and information on other B.C. monuments, would you please let me know.

-- Glennis Zilm

* LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS *

The following letter was received by the Executive in mid-February. Some editing has been done to make it fit onto one page.

Tapes for "Distant Members"

As a member of the History Group since its beginning, I have for the most part contributed little and felt quite isolated. I feel I need more contact, more stimulation. I read about all these neat speakers and wish I could hear them. I read about meeting activities and wish I could have been there. So I've dreamed up a solution for myself and all other members who are unable to attend regular meetings for whatever reason -- I'll call them "distant members."

My idea is to record the meetings and speakers (if they don't object) and mail these tapes to distant members. The way I see doing it is that one person at the meeting does the recording, the tape is then edited to cut out noise and distractions and ... make it fit onto a one-hour tape. The editing could be done by a central or a distant member.

Copies could then be made and sent to distant members. The copying and sending out of the tapes could be done by either a central or distant member who has access to cheap tapes. I have looked into the cost of this endeavor and it looks like we could do it for about \$1.26 per tape, including postage and tax. [Details on pricing omitted]

There are three or four meetings a year, so mail outs would cost \$3.78 to \$5.04

per distant member. If we cannot afford to mail out tapes from all meetings a year, we might start with one tape a year and plan to increase.

Where would the money come from? If we can handle it without increasing fees that would be best. Otherwise an increase would have to be looked at.

With the tape mailing program, we might achieve several things:

1. Better communication with distant members.
2. More members might be stimulated to become actively involved in some way.
3. Education re the history of nursing could be shared -- one of our goals.
4. Membership might increase as distant members would get more benefits from membership.
5. If membership would increase, our new revenue might cover cost of mail outs.

We might try one mail out and ask for feedback.

I'm quite enthusiastic about this idea. I'm looking forward to hearing your reaction.

-- Kathy Kovacs
Cranbrook (formerly Kamloops)

[Ed. Note: The idea is to be discussed at an Executive Meeting in mid-March. Some meetings are already taped and these tapes are available on loan to members. A full reply will appear in the next Newsletter.]

*** MORE NEWS ***

SHIRLEY STINSON "RETIRES"

Shirley Stinson, an out-of-province member of the History Group and a long-time supporter of history of nursing projects in Canada, has officially retired from her position as professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Alberta. She will remain as Professor Emerita at the University, but her "retirement" will leave her more time for her various projects, many of which include support for history of nursing. (Her list of retirement projects, including three "visiting professor" appointments for 1994 would make many full-time workers blush with shame!)

Dr. Stinson, one of Canada's best-known nurses and a former president of the Canadian Nurses Association, was the major force behind the University of Alberta's doctoral program for nurses. A strong supporter of nursing research, she was the founding chair of the Alberta Foundation for Nursing Research. In recent years, she has particularly encouraged research into history of nursing, and her students in the master's and doctoral programs have created a major oral history collection.

The Archival Collection at the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses owe much to Dr. Stinson's untiring efforts. She has donated her own collection of papers to the AARN Archives, and these will prove a valuable addition to nursing history research in coming years.



She is shown in the photograph with one of the rare lamps used by Florence Nightingale at Scutari, which is part of the AARN collection. As well, she has contributed many history of nursing books to the AARN Library. The Alberta Nurse Administrators' Council has offered support to this collection and, in her honor, the AARN's rare book collection will be known as the Shirley Stinson Collection.

Many B.C. History Group members have received advice, assistance, and support from Shirley Stinson and we join with Alberta nurses in offering congratulations on her retirement.

*** MORE NEWS ***

CAHN MEETING IN JUNE

The Seventh Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) will be held in Winnipeg June 17-19, 1994. The meeting and two-day conference is held just before the biennial meeting of the Canadian Nurses Association. It will be held at the Westin Hotel; fees for CAHN members are \$120 for the full meeting.

Several members of the B.C. History Group will present papers at the CAHN Conference. Sheila Zerr will take part in the opening Panel presentation on the teaching of history of nursing and will describe the B.C. Group's project to try to promote this subject in the curriculum in B.C. Schools of Nursing. Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek will present a paper on "Leadership Networks" based on their studies into the six directors of the nursing program at the University of British Columbia.

Verna Huffman Splane also will be attending the meeting and will have copies of her new book, written with Richard B. Splane. The book is titled *Focal Points for Nursing Leadership*, and is a major historical study of *Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health*. (A review of the book will appear in the next Newsletter.)

CAHN is planning several innovative ideas, including a "progressive tea" during which those attending the meeting will be taken by bus to various history of nursing sites in Winnipeg, including the small museum of the Grey Nuns, which is housed in the Order's first

hospital built on the Red River site.

During the meeting, plans will be discussed for future CAHN meetings. Some CAHN members are interested in meeting in Vancouver in 1997, during the International Conference of Nursing meeting, which also will be here in 1997. They have asked the B.C. Group if it is interested in hosting this meeting. This matter has been referred to executive of the B.C. Group. Much more information is needed about the ICN's international history group, which also may be planning a meeting in Vancouver at that time.

For further information about the CAHN meeting, please call Glennis Zilm (535-3238) or get in touch with CAHN President Ina Bramadat, Associate Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2. Dr. Bramadat will be able to supply programs and full information about CAHN membership.

THE HISTORY GROUP'S NEWSLETTER

The History Group's *Newsletter* is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to shorten, reject, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred.

Editor Glennis Zilm

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