



# EAHN

EUROPEAN  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE HISTORY  
OF NURSING

## Editorial

*Completed by Karen Nolte*



*Figure: Seven head nurses at the Bennekom Hospital, The Netherlands. Christmas, 1960s, ©Dutch Museum for the History of Nursing FNI*

Dear colleagues,

Just before Christmas, I am sending you the collected reports of the EAHN member organisations from 2024.

We look back on a difficult year 2024! I hope we all have a better year in 2025!

The Christmas photo of this Bulletin was sent to me by our president Hugo Schalkwijk from The Netherlands. It shows seven head nurses at the Bennekom Hospital in the Netherlands on a Christmas day in the 1960s.

If you have any Christmas photos showing the history of nursing in your country, please send them to me next year for the next EAHN Bulletin!

I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and a good start to the New Year 2025!

Your

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

## Belgium – The Belgian Association for the History of Nursing

by Luc De Munck

Launching of a book on the Belgian pioneer of nursing  
On May 25, the association's president presented his book *Always the first* (*Altijd de eerste* in Dutch), about Sister Jules-Marie Heymans (1897–1986), pioneer of nursing in Belgium. She was director of the first university school for graduated nurses in Belgium, also one of the first in continental Europe. The book launch was attended by more than 70 people, and the book is now in its second printing.



Figure: Book Cover

### Publication for the 50th Week of Nurses

The 50th Week of Nurses, an annual training week for nurses organised by the professional organisation of which the association is a working group, took place in Ostend from September 30 to October 4. To mark the golden jubilee, the association's president published "A History of 50 Years Week of Nurses" (in Dutch *Een geschiedenis van 50 jaar Week van de Verpleegkundigen*). The publication was delivered free of charge to the more than 4,000 participants of the training week.

### Two new initiatives

The association has launched two informative initiatives. On the one hand webinars, in which young researchers on the history of nursing are given the opportunity to share the results of their research. On November 18, Tim Debroyer was the first to present the results of his master's thesis in history on the influence of antibiotics on the work of nurses who cared for tuberculosis patients at the Elisabeth sanatorium in Sijsele between 1945 and 1986. Moreover, information evenings were held to reflect on important events in the history of nursing in Belgium with a range of stakeholders. The first evening on December 18 was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the law on the practice of nursing, which gave nurses their own statute. The evening was preceded by the association's general meeting, during which, among other things, the 2025 annual program was discussed.



Figure: Sanatorium Sijsele

## Croatia – Nursing History Collection and Society for the History of Nursing Croatian Nurses Association (CNA)

by Sanda Franković & Zvonimir Kralj

The Croatian Society for the History of Nursing, in cooperation with the Croatian Society of Teachers in Healthcare and the Croatian Society of HUMS Students, organized the 10th symposium, which took place in Opatija from March 21 to 24, 2024, as part of the 13th Congress of the Croatian Nursing Association “Nursing without Borders”.

A Facebook page has been launched that publishes contributions regarding nursing history and announcements by European Association for the History of Nursing.

[https://www.facebook.com/dpszbirka?locale=hr\\_HR](https://www.facebook.com/dpszbirka?locale=hr_HR)

The Nursing History Collection participated in organizing the exhibition by the Croatian Red Cross titled „The Path of Humanity - Štefanija Papailiopulos: From Red Cross Volunteer to Florence Nightingale Award.” The exhibition was opened on December 5, 2023, in Zagreb. This is the first time an exhibition has been organized to honor nursing, particularly Red Cross volunteer Štefanija Papailiopulos. Nurse Štefanija Papailiopulos left an indelible mark on Croatian nursing and healthcare, particularly through her dedicated work in rural communities throughout Croatia. The exhibition was also displayed in Lipik from May 6 to May 27. In 1933, she was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal.

<https://hums.hr/svjetski-dan-crvenog-kriza-i-crvenog-polumjeseca/#more-38324>



Figure 1: The opening of the exhibition at the premises of the Croatian Red Cross in Zagreb

With the funds from the branch of the Croatian Chamber of Nurses in Karlovac County, the first poster depicting the history of nursing in Karlovac County has been created. The poster was created on the initiative of Snježana Mirilović with the support of Sanda Franković. It is intended as an introduction to the history of nursing in Karlovac County. The pace of creating additional posters will depend on the amount of archive material analyzed and the available resources. The posters will be available to all institutions in the county at nursing meetings and will also serve as an educational tool due to their content.



Figure 2. Presentation of the first poster History of Nursing in Karlovac County. From left to right: Roberta Kok Petrak, Snježana Mirilović, Blaženka Pavlić, and Barka Horvat.

On May 13, 2024, a permanent exhibition entitled „Croatian Nursing Through History“ was opened at the premises of the Croatian Chamber of Nurses. The exhibition shows the development of health care in Croatia from the late 19th century to the Homeland War and includes more than 1,500 exhibits. At the same time, part of the historical materials collected by the Nursing History Collection were properly stored and preserved.

We thank the president of the Croatian Nurses Association, Mario Gazić, for his support and look forward to working with him on future projects aimed at researching and promoting the history of nursing in our country.

In collaboration with the Mlinarska School of Nursing, the Collection supported a project led by Dubravka Trgovec at Pregrada High School, entitled „Nurses' Uniforms Through History.“ This initiative is



the beginning of creating a historical nursing corner within the school premises. The aim of the project is to present the history of Croatian nursing through the uniforms of nuns and civilian nurses.

The Collection participated in the realization of Snježana Mirilović's initiative to name a park in Karlovac after Jelka pl. Labaš Blaškovečka. The park is located in the city center and spans 7,174 square meters. It will be named after the first head of the School for Assistant Nurses in Zagreb. The school's founding in 1921 marked the beginning of the professionalization of nursing in Croatia. Jelka pl. Labaš Blaškovečka, the first nurse to be trained in Croatia, laid the foundation for the organization of teaching and the operation of the school. <https://www.hkms.hr/arhiva/10098>



Figure 3: Park Jelke Labaš Blaškovečke, Karlovac photo: Snježana Mirilović

## Denmark – The Danish Museum of Nursing History

by Susanne Malchau Dietz

Greetings to EAHN from the Danish Museum of Nursing History. To keep you updated on the museum leadership: Curator is Trine Gjesing Antvor and Chairperson Kristina Robins (Second Vice-president DNO).

In 2024, Danish nursing has celebrated two anniversaries: the Danish Nurses' Organizations (DNO) 125 anniversary and the Danish Museum of Nursing History 25 anniversary.

### *The Danish Nurses' Organization 125 years*

The Danish Nurses' Organization was founded on 21 July 1899 with Charlotte Norrie as first President. Three months later 27 October 1899, at the first general meeting, Norrie was overthrown. Henny Tscherning was elected new DNO President. Norrie refused to step down and in the DNO history this incident is talked about as "when ladies wage war". Norrie, co-founder of the International Council of Nurses in 1899, was supporting the women's movement, and that is believed to be the reason she was not re-elected. However, it was argued she didn't meet the DNO requirement of 3 years nursing education. Tscherning was an excellent DNO President for 28 years. She was in the forefront of DNO's key issues: three-year nursing education and state authorisation. She was also President of the ICN from 1915 to 1922. Tscherning was succeeded

in 1924 by the American-educated Charlotte Munck. During her

Presidency, DNO increasingly delivered on its key issues, such as a three-year education and improved working conditions. Munck died 1932 and sadly without seeing the state authorization being passed in 1933.

125 years has passed, and 12 women has been President of DNO. The last in line Dorthe Boe Danbjørg has just been elected for her second term. The key issue from the past is still adapted to a modern society: profession, education, working conditions.

The anniversary is celebrated all over, in the DNO headquarter and subdivisions, and proudly assisted by the Museum when needed.

### *The Danish Museum of Nursing History 25 anniversary*

August 27 the Danish Museum of Nursing History turned 25 years old. The anniversary was celebrated as a traditional Danish birthday party with coffee and cake, and free access to the Museum. A beautiful day celebrated in glorious summer weather. The anniversary showed that Danish nurses still are proud to have a museum connecting past, present and future – and a base for professional assistance and activities. Many EAHN members might remember the International Nursing History Conference held at the museum in 2012.



Figure 1: The museum inviting to birthday party with delicious birthday cakes (Photo: The Danish Museum of Nursing History).

### Exhibition: A difficult beginning - premature birth in the hands of nursing

In 1965, the first neonatal ward in Denmark opened at Rigshospitalet offering new treatments and by that a need of specialized nursing. Over the years, there has been an increasing development in the way premature babies are cared for. For example, the parents were initially rare guests in the neonatal department. Today, there are rooms for the family, and it is even expected that parents take care of the baby themselves. In the exhibition opened 2024, you can see an old and a new incubator. The newest can be handled by the guests, and you can nurse a tiny baby doll corresponding to a three-month premature baby. Laerdal Medical has kindly provided the 500-gram babydoll for the incubator.



Figure 2: Visitors caring for the tiny baby (doll) in the exhibition's incubator for a premature baby (Photo: The Danish Museum of Nursing History).

### Exhibition: The history of resuscitation

In 2024, you can also see a mini exhibition about the history of resuscitation. Here you are informed of important milestones, and you can see an old and a new defibrillator. You can also give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by modern equipment and take part in an emergency transportation. Laerdal Medical has kindly provided dolls for CPR.

### Mini exhibition: A hundred years of holiday memories

Since 1924, members of the DNO have been able to spend their holidays in the organizations summer cabin in Løkken on the North Jutland coast. This year, the popular summer cabin celebrates its 100th anniversary – and it is marked both in DNO's Journal and as a mini exhibition at the museum.

### "The new Nurses" – A Danish Medical Tv-drama

In 2024, two new seasons of the Danish TV-drama "The New Nurses" have been filmed. The drama comprises by now seven seasons, and the Danish Museum of Nursing History has again lent large parts of its object collections to the studio. Furthermore, nurse historian Susanne Malchau Dietz has been serial researcher and nurse consultant. Shortly about the plot: It begins in 1952

where there is a severe shortage of nurses in Denmark. At Fredenslund Hospital, matron Margrethe launches a controversial experiment, in which, for the first time, male students are accepted into the nurse training program.

"The New Nurses" has proven a massive audience hit and a great success with international platforms and broadcasters. See:

<https://reinvent.dk/catalogue/the-new-nurses/>

The museum has a mini exhibition that tells the story of the first male nurses in Denmark, both those who started in 1951, and the fictional male students in the "The New Nurses."

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

by Karen Nolte

The German Association for Nursing History was able to successfully complete work on the manuscript for the textbook on nursing history in the past calendar year; the textbook will be published in German by Springer publishing house at the end of February. The textbook is based on the curriculum anchored in the Nursing Profession Act of 2020.



A workshop on the topic of current research and the future of nursing history research took place in Heidelberg from June 14 to 15, 2025.

Before the conference began, there was an opportunity to view the collection of the pediatric nursing school at the University of Heidelberg, which is archived at the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine. Karen Nolte presented selected artefacts from the collection.



Figure 1: Curved Spoon for Feeding Premature Babies, Collection of the Institute of History and Ethics of Medicine, photo: Karen Nolte



Figure 2: Industrially Produced Baby Food, Collection of the Institute of History and Ethics of Medicine, photo: Karen Nolte

Pierre Pfütsch from the Institute for the History of Medicine at the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart opened the conference's lecture program with his presentation on "The state and perspectives of German nursing history", in which he presented research questions, perspectives and findings of German nursing history research. Christoph Schwamm from the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine in Heidelberg followed with his lecture "No longer joyful but grumpy children's nurses' – new insights into the lines of discourse in the dispute over visiting rules and rooming-in".

The first evening, the GAHN discussed about the future work and perspectives of the professional association.

The morning of the second day was opened by Fruzsina Müller, who presented her ongoing research project at the Institute for History and Ethics at the Berlin Charité and gave a lecture on the topic "Combating Syphilis in Europe after 1945: Antibiotic Production, Education, Forced Treatment". Karen Nolte from the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine in Heidelberg gave a lecture on the history of material and care entitled "The incubator for premature babies – machine, care and motherliness".

At the closing of the conference, Jette Lange from the Institute for Nursing Science at the University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria, reflected on the topic "Then we will have more time for patients again" by historicizing this argumentative pattern in nursing since the 1950s.

The topic of next year's workshop in 2025 has not yet been determined and will be announced in spring 2025



## Ireland – New book on the history of the General Nursing Council for Ireland

by Gerard Fealy

Forthcoming in early 2025 and based on new archival research, this is the first book to comprehensively and critically examine the history of the General Nursing Council for Ireland.

### Book title

©*The nurse and the state: A history of the General Nursing Council for Ireland, 1920–1950*

### Author

Gerard Fealy PhD

### Subject classification

History; nursing; healthcare; health professions' regulation; women's history; public administration, modern Ireland



Figure: Group of Irish Nurses, 1946

### Outline of the book

Established in 1920 under an act of the Westminster Parliament, the General Nursing Council for Ireland was the first state body to regulate nursing in Ireland. As the most important milestone in the development of modern nursing, state regulation placed nursing on a professional footing, alongside its sister professions of midwifery and medicine. The establishment of the Council coincided with the final years of the Revolutionary Period in Ireland and was a significant office of public administration in the newly-independent Irish Free State. The Council developed the architecture needed to bring all nursing under one controlling authority and it was crucial in supporting health policy and planning following the abolition of the poor law system.

Set against the backdrop of the fledgling state's efforts to develop a modern health service for its people, the book examines the work of the Council and the challenges that it encountered in exercising its regulatory function. The book includes profiles of Margaret Rachel Huxley and Dr Sir Edward Coey Bigger, who each made a lasting contribution to public health and nursing in Ireland. It also examines the health policy decisions of Dr Noël Browne, the Minister for Health, in the late 1940s, which led to the ultimate dissolution of the Council in 1950.

With a Foreword by Dr Louise Kavanagh-McBride, President of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, the book addresses themes including health professions' regulation; public administration and health policy and planning in the Irish Free State; women's role and professional identity; and power brokerage in nursing. The book provides an authoritative source for those researching the history of nursing and healthcare in the twentieth century and those studying aspects of modern Irish history, including the history of public administration.

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

by Hava Golander & Nira Bartal

On July 11, 2024, in war time, the eleventh conference of the ISHN took place at Tel Aviv University Department of Nursing. This year's conference theme was *"Nursing - between the act of legislation and the battlefield."* About sixty people attended the academic event.

Following greetings by the ISHN Chair, Prof. Hava Golander, Prof. Michal Itzhaki (Tel Aviv University Department of Nursing) and Ms. Michal Yehudai Yadid (Nursing Division, Israel Ministry of Health) which updated the audience on wartime nursing activities since October 2023. She presented the on-the-ground initial efforts to direct a skilled emergency nursing force to areas of shortage and distress during the war. A complex maneuver, which required central management, had been acted upon immediate and comprehensive information and allocated resources. She also informed about casualties of the nursing staff members and their families, as well as on the deliberated emotional and social support which was provided for them.

In The first session – *"Between Nursing and Legislation in the Health Care System from a Historical Perspective"*, Prof. Eyal Katvan discussed the legal regulation of the field of midwives in Mandatory Palestine (1922–1948). "The Nursing Law: The unenacted law," was the subject of the lecture by Dr. Anat Gonen and Prof. Shifra Shvarts. The researchers described the factors that have prevented the enactment of the law so far and concluded that that the 'Nursing Law' is the legally appropriate way to anchor the professional, significant and central practice of nursing in Israel. Anat Gonen received recently, her PhD. from Ben Gurion University. Her dissertation dealt with this topic. Dr. Dorit Weiss talked about "The State committee to review the functioning of the health system, and planning of nursing manpower - recommendations versus reality". The committee's report, and recommendations led to the health reform in Israel and the enactment of the State Health Law. Yet, out of the 11,272 pages of that report, only 4 pages were dedicated to nursing workforce planning, and its recommendations have never been implemented.

The second session is dedicated traditionally to creativity and innovation awards in the field of nursing. This year, two certificates of appreciation were awarded to outstanding Prof. Nili Tabak and Dr. Nurit Wagner for their pioneering, continuous, and significant contribution to the promotion of professional values and the assimilation of professional ethics and law for nurses in Israel, both in theory and practice, on a national and international level.

The concluding session – *"Nurses in War: On the Frontline, Homefront, and Overseas"*, featured three presentations. Mr. Elad Koren (MPH) discussed the topic of American nurses who served as part of the US Army in various arenas during World War II. The second presentation by Lt. Col. Demi Zukin, Chief Nurse of the Medical Corps, IDF, focused on the Nursing Division in the IDF function and contribution at the southern frontline during the first 6 months of the October 7<sup>th</sup> War. The Homefront experience was presented by Dr. Anat Gonen, the head of the emergency team of Soroka Hospital. Her lecture (with Ms. Hagit Hadad) "Only Because of the Spirit' – the Nurses on the Home Front" was supported by a short video and was particularly illustrative and touching.

Our special project for the coming year is to complete and publish the book "100 years of Nursing in Israel: history, profession, and clinical practice". The edited book holds about 20 chapters documenting the unique development of nursing in Israel in relation to historical events, progress towards professionalization and advanced clinical specialization.

### *New Publications*

Three articles and a poster were published this year by members of the ISHN.

Dorit Weiss, "What can be learned from the experience of Israeli nurses absorbing masses of new immigrants during the mass Immigration of 1948-1953", *Korot, The Israel Journal of the History of Medicine and Science*, 2023-2024, 27, pp. 57–97 (Hebrew).

Ronen Segev, "The late Ottoman era and its legacy for nursing in Turkey", *Turkish Studies*, 25 (2), pp. 352–365. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683849.2023.2300935>

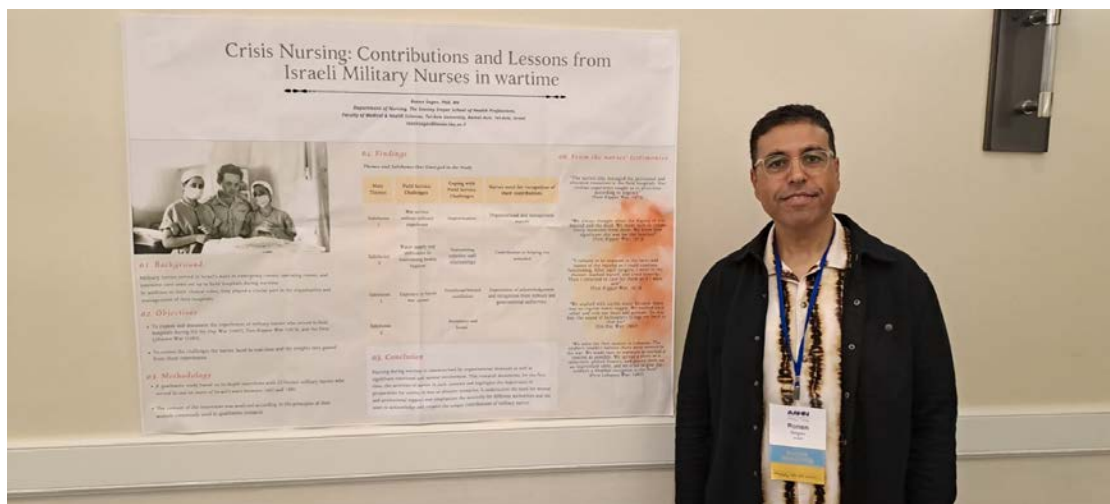


Nira Bartal, "Health Services in British Detention Camps" (a review of Dorit Weiss, *Mission in White: Health services for Immigrants in British Detention Camps*), *Zion, A Quarterly for research in Jewish History*, 89 (3), 2024, pp. 431–436 (Hebrew).

Ronen Segev, "Crisis Nursing: Contributions and Lessons from Israeli Military Nurses in Wartime." (a poster presented at the AAHN conference in Milwaukee, September 2024).

### *The Einhorn Prize*

The Tel Aviv Municipality Prize, 2023, for the Study of Medical Literature in Hebrew in memory of Dr. Moshe Einhorn has been awarded to Dr. Dorit Weiss for her book: *Mission in White: Health services for Immigrants in British Detention Camps*. Resling, Tel Aviv, 2022.



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

by *Giordano Cotichelli*

### *The Italian Nurses’ Association (CNAI) at the 54th Congress of the Italian Society for the History of Medicine*

A few months ago, the 54th Congress of the Italian Society for the History of Medicine was held from May 30 to June 1, 2024 in Turin. The event was reviewed by a prestigious scientific committee made up of various Italian clinicians and historians, under the direction of the doctor and historian Alessandro Bargoni, known for his numerous research contributions. A wide range of sessions were held during the three-day conference, covering a diverse spectrum of topics and participants. The faculty consisted of around eighty speakers and authors, and the main topics of discussion were: ethics, infectious

diseases and hygiene, paleopathology, politics and medicine, migration, biographies, medical sciences between the 18th and 19th centuries, and women in medicine.

Four presentations were devoted to the topic of nursing, with the following titles: *March 1848: The Ospedale Maggiore of Milan during the Glorious Five Days* by Stefania Rancati; *The Contribution of „Hospital Workers“ to the Creation of the National Health Service* by Giordano Cotichelli; *History of the Civil Hospital of Montemarciano during the Birth of the NHS* by Daniele Barchiesi and *Historical Research and the Nursing Profession: Historiography of an Identity*, edited by Silvia Borioni.



Stefania Rancati has devoted a significant portion of her academic career to the study of the history of nursing care, with a particular focus on its role in the wartime events of the Italian Risorgimento and the First World War. Rancati's historical perspective emphasises the pivotal role that these wars played in the development of the nursing profession.

Similarly, Giordano Cotichelli's presentation, though focusing on a different historical period, addressed key extracts from his research on the evolution of the Italian healthcare system in the second half of the 20th century. His work is closely aligned with the modernisation efforts and the pursuit of civil and labour rights, driven by nurses and healthcare workers collectively referred to as „hospital workers“. These struggles, which were characterised by protests and demands, occurred primarily during the 1960s and 1970s, a period of significant social change.

Daniele Barchiesi's research, which focused on the same chronological period but from a different angle, presented a case study on the evolution of a small local hospital in Montemarciano, a town in the province of Ancona in central Italy. The history of this modest healthcare facility provides a microcosm of the



broader evolution of healthcare and nursing care in Italy. Barchiesi's study demonstrates how these localised institutions reflected the broader challenges and progress of the Italian healthcare system during a critical era of transformation.

Ultimately, Silvia Borioni's research on nursing historiography was influenced by the previously published book by the same author, Cotichelli, which concentrated on the historical development of the nursing profession. Borioni contributed to the historiographical dimension of nursing through her own research, which included interviews with several prominent historians of Italian nursing. In the course of these interviews, Borioni was able to identify the passion, expertise and challenges faced by these historians in bringing to light an aspect of the discipline that is often overshadowed by clinical and organisational issues, rather than being fully integrated into the scientific research necessary to construct – and reconstruct – the professional, disciplinary and social identities of nurses.

The research presented at the congress was met with a favourable response from the audience and will be featured in the forthcoming proceedings book. Overall, the final assessment can be considered positive, particularly in terms of the quality of the research presented.

It is worth noting that the venue of the congress itself is worthy of brief mention. This is the former Convent of the Minims, located on the central Via Po in the city of Turin. This edifice symbolizes the endeavours of medical science, in particular, and of the scientific method, in general, to gain ground in early nineteenth-century societies, which were still dominated by monarchical absolutism. Furthermore, the building evokes the legacy of another former convent of the Minims, which resonates with the Franciscan Minorite movement in Italy. This religious order, which emerged during the medieval period, advocated for a reformed and progressive society, one that could be considered democratic and utopian in its aspirations.

The repercussions of these movements were severe and violent. However, historical analysis, utilising a range of sources, including testimonies, artefacts and relics, has enabled us to gain insight into these events and to indirectly bear witness to them within the context of a scientific meeting, which proved highly beneficial for healthcare professionals. Indeed, the insights gained were valuable for all professions.

## The Netherlands – Dutch Museum for the History of Nursing FNI

by Hugo Schalkwijk

### About us

The Dutch Museum for the History of Nursing FNI (FNI.nl) is part of the Dutch Nurse Association (V&VN). A 'historical college' of nurses, historians and heritage professionals advice on the museum's strategy. The goal of our museum is to collect, preserve and present the rich heritage of nurses in the Netherlands. Furthermore, as part of the Dutch Nurse Association, we form the centre of a growing knowledge network for the history of nursing in the Netherlands.

### From FNI to the Museum for Nursing

Over the past year, we have undergone a period of reflection and strategic planning for the future. As part of this process, we set key milestones, including a new website, a refreshed vision and strategy. Before unveiling our new website, we thought it was important to adopt a look and feel that aligns with our evolving role within the Dutch Nurse Association. Another significant decision we made was to consider a name change. While the Florence Nightingale Institute is a well-known brand, recent discussions about Nightingale's legacy, along with practical concerns—such as our limited collection of Nightingale artifacts and the fact that she never visited the Netherlands—led us to conclude that a new name is necessary. Starting next year, we will officially become the Museum for Nursing. This new name reflects our commitment to the updated ICOM definition of museums as inclusive community spaces.

### Key Milestones of 2024

Oral History Research Funding: Museum employee Mia Vrijens successfully secured funding to conduct research on the museum's collection of community nurses. Through oral history interviews, Vrijens is

adding a personal touch to historical objects, connecting individual stories to nursing artifacts. Vrijens' project will result in a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.



New Online Exhibition on Community Nursing: One of the highlights of this year is the launch of an online exhibition dedicated to community nurses. The exhibit explores how nurses' images evolved during the 20th century, particularly their rise to prominence in the 1960s and 1970s. This interactive display links personal stories to objects in the museum's collection, enriching the visitor experience.





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

by *Wolska-Lipiec & Małgorzata Marcysiak*

The Central Archives of Polish Nursing and the Museum of the History of Nursing and Midwifery, which has existed for six years, have already left their traces in the history of the profession.

It is becoming increasingly popular among nurses, midwives, students and other professions, not only medical ones.

The main historical science commission has 16 active members, 2 supporting members and 1 honorary member (advisor). The further digitization of the museum collections is continuously being pursued. The Main Historical Commission has acquired documents from the private collections of nurses. In 2024, the collections of the Museum of the History of Nursing and Midwifery were supplemented by the resources of the Virtual Museum of Nursing by developing new biographies of nurses. The biographies were updated on the basis of newly received documents.

On May 18, 2024, our museum once again participated in the cyclical event 'Night of Museums'. The organizer was the Main Historical Commission at the Main Board of the Polish Nursing Association under the patronage of the Warsaw District Chamber of Nurses and Midwives. Permanent and temporary exhibitions were presented.

The permanent exhibitions are dedicated to the Warsaw School of Nursing, which opened in Warsaw at 78 Koszykowa Street in 1921, and the history of midwifery. The exhibition includes documents and photographs of directors and graduates, interior views of the treatment room, sickroom and lecture hall, textbooks and the oldest magazine "Pielęgniarka Polska", nursing school brooches, nurses' uniforms and a gallery of Florence Nightingale medallists.

The Midwives' Hall presents an office, instruments, textbooks, teaching models and a gallery of distinguished midwives.



*Figure 1. Little Insurgent, Son of Nurse Jadwiga Modelska*

Temporary exhibitions were related to the history of nursing, the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising and the Battle of Monte Cassino, and painting.

The history of nursing was presented on display boards and showed its chronology.

The exhibition about the Warsaw Uprising showed the participation of nurses and medics in this important and tragic event for Poles.

Another exhibition presented Polish nurses in the Women's Auxiliary Sanitary Service of the 2nd Corps of the Polish Armed Forces under the command of General Władysław Anders.



Figure 2. Part of exhibition Polish nurses in the Women's Auxiliary Sanitary Service of the 2nd Corps of the Polish Armed Forces under the command of General Władysław Anders

The exhibition of paintings presented the works of a nurse and painter. Witold Woźniak (Winiak),

graduate of the Faculty of Psychiatric Nursing in Morawica, Faculty of Nursing in Lublin, teacher, co-founder and editor of the magazine "Pielęgniarstwo 2000", co-author of educational programs, author of numerous professional publications. He is an admirer of magical realism in Latin American medicine and the Bieszczady and Pieniny Mountains. He paints because, according to him, one picture is worth a thousand words.

This year's Night of Museums was, as always, very popular. The Museum of the History of Nursing and Obstetrics has been visited by over 300 guests.

The activities of the Historical Commission are of great importance for building and strengthening the professional identity of nurses.

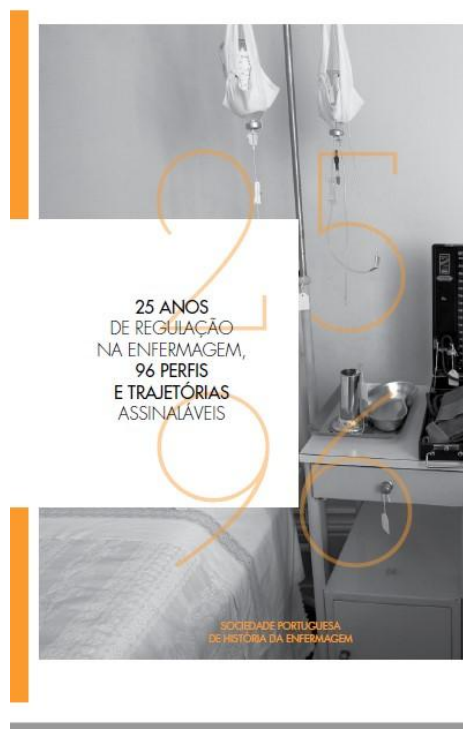


## Portugal – Portuguese Society for the History of Nursing

by Carlos Louzada Subtil

The year 2021 – during the COVID-19 pandemic – closed with the publication of the book '25 YEARS OF THE NURSING REGULATION, 96 PROFESSIONAL and notable careers', which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Regulation on the Professional Practice of Nursing (REPE) in Portugal. By commemorating the anniversary, the opportunity and the pretext was created to highlight reflective profiles and autobiographies as first-person testimonies, based on the assumption that history can be recorded from the account of significant individual experiences which, from a collective perspective, express *processus* and stages that are equally significant for the profession in the last quarter of the 20th century and the first decades of the 21st century. The book is illustrated with photographs taken at the Museological Nucleus of the Nursing School of Porto. (<http://museu.esenf.pt/>).

Over the three-year period 2022–2024, SPHE and its members have developed their activities in





collaboration with national academic and training centers for nurses (e.g. the Portuguese Catholic University, the nursing Coimbra and Porto Nursing Schools, Viseu, Leiria, Guarda and Viana do Castelo Higher Schools of Health) through seminars, conferences and courses on the history of health and nursing.

On May 12, 2023, SPHE participated in the celebrations of the International Nurses Day in the Armed Forces with the conference “S. João Deus, the Military Hospitals in the Modern Age and Nursing”.

The history of nursing should be known to the general public, that’s why we accepted the challenge from young director Cláudia Alves to collaborate with the creation of a 70-minute documentary for television and cinema about the participation of a group of high-society ladies who left for France as nurses for the Portuguese Red Cross during the First World War. Women also fought in this war and their task was to set up a hospital in Ambleteuse in northern France to help the wounded and sick of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps.

Annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN), held on September 28-30, 2023, in Pittsburgh, PA.

SPHE was also present at the ‘2nd International Congress on the History of Nursing Education’ and subscribed to The Statement from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) for Nursing History Education.

On 9-10 March 2023, the 6th International Meeting of Nursing Histories ‘Between Montemor-o-Novo and



Granada: St. João de Deus, the reformer of hospitals and patron of nurses’ was organized in the Portuguese city where João Cidade was born, a nurse who revolutionized the concept of the hospital in the 16th century and who is currently the patron of nursing in Spain and Portugal. He was canonized in 1690.

The meeting was held in the Municipal Library, which supported a comprehensive program that included a study visit to the Joanine sites and an exposition about the life and work of this nurse.



*Figure: Organizing Committee of the VI EIHE, representatives members of the Municipality and historian Aires Gameiro (first from left)*



Born in a country that did not grant women the same political and social rights as men, the nurses overcame prejudices and obstacles and even managed to open the doors of the hospital on April 9, 1918, the day the Battle of the Lys began, despite growing resistance in the Republic.

This argument, which refers to a significant moment in the development of the nursing profession in Portugal in the first half of the 20th century, served as an excuse to produce a 4-minute film to highlight the importance of photographs as documents providing a new insight into the past of nursing in different social and political contexts. The film was presented at the

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



by Marija Galić & Danijela Sladović

The activities of the UMST KCS “Sestrinstvo” were limited in 2024.

In 2024 in Serbia, a total of 27 continuing education programs were accredited.

We provided continuous education to the members of the Association by organizing 18 professional meetings, 7 online programs/e-tests and 2 courses. A total of 61 programs were held on various topics: 27 programs were held at the Clinical Center of Serbia in Belgrade and 34 professional meetings in other cities in Serbia, with a total of 5131 participants. A total of 80 online education programs were opened and 2210 participants took online tests.

This year, as in previous years, we published four issues of the magazine “Sestrinstvo” in which professional works of nurses from different fields were published. The magazine also reports on current events and information from the nursing profession here and around the world.

During the year, we also awarded two types of awards:

1. The Dusica-Spasic Prize was named after a nurse who died while caring for patients during the smallpox epidemic of 1972, which affected the whole of former Yugoslavia. The award is given to nurses who have spent their entire working life in continuous work with patients in health care work, in the intensive care unit, semi-intensive care, in shift work, with at least 10 years of work experience. Characterized by expertise and professional attitude at work, empathic and humane attitude towards the patient and family members, creativity at work, good interpersonal communication, ability for teamwork, respect for autonomy of human rights and human dignity. Two awards “Dusica Spasic” were granted, one- for a nurse employed in UKCS, and the other one is for the nurse who works in any other health care center in Serbia.

2. The Dobrila Pejovic Award – is named after our nurse who is the founder of our association, the first head nurse of the UKCS, a nurse who made an immeasurable contribution to the development and improvement of Nursing in the Republic of Serbia. The award is going to nurses for research to develop improvements and the quality of the nursing and midwifery profession. It is an award for outstanding work and for the professional and personal qualities of the winners, who must have a university education. This award, like the previous one, is given to a nurse from the UKCS and another at the level of the Republic of Serbia.

On May 12, International Nurses Day, we held a celebratory academic event during which we presented certificates of appreciation to outstanding nurses who had been selected by their colleagues at hospitals and institutes, among others.



From October 16–23, 2024, our association visited Italy and the spectacular hospital of St. Cosmas and Damian in Pescia. Hospital of St. Cosmas and Damian in Pescia, is located in the very center of the city and is the largest health institution in Tuscany, built in 1762, but it became a hospital only in 1781, by the decision of Grand Duke Pietro Leopold. During the 20th century, due to the great need of the population, till this day, this hospital is made up of several pavilions. This is still the main health center of Tuscany and we were very proud to be their guests and that we exchanged valuable experiences.

## Slovenia – Working Group for Preserving the History of Nursing and Midwifery of the Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia

by Marjeta Berkopec & Irena Keršič

At the beginning of the 20th century, a new female profession emerged in Slovenian healthcare: the protective nurse. Professionally trained to work in health and social care institutions, protective nurses were educated at the Ljubljana School for Protective Nurses from 1924 until 1947, graduating 263 nurses. The establishment of the school aimed to elevate the educational standards for nursing and care staff, addressing the previously low educational levels among Slovenian hospital staff, who often had only basic literacy. During that time, patient care in hospitals was primarily managed by members of the Caritative Orders.



Figure 1 During classes at the School for Protective Nurses (© Jože Ažman)

In 1923, the Institute for the Health Protection of Mothers and Children was founded in Ljubljana. This institute aimed to train professionals for social and health protection of children. The School for Nurses at the Institute for the Social-Hygienic Protection of Children in Ljubljana was established on August 18, 1923, by a decree from the Ministry of National Health. Regulations and a curriculum were granted by a subsequent decree on October 19, 1923.

The school began on January 3, 1924. Eligibility criteria included being between 19 and 30 years old, having good physical and mental health, secondary education or completion of lower secondary or bourgeois school, Yugoslav citizenship, oral and written proficiency in the language, and integrity.

The school offered a one-year program comprising theoretical and practical classes, primarily focusing on the socio-pediatric field while providing a foundation for work in other areas of social and hygienic protection of children (Dragaš, 1938). The training culminated in a diploma exam, covering both theoretical and practical components, which conferred the title of Protective Pediatric Nurse. The one-year program lasted until 1927, during which three generations of students were trained, resulting in 36 Protective Pediatric Nurses.

On March 3, 1927, a two-year education program was introduced, training nurses for both preventive and curative work. The entry requirements remained similar to the initial years, with a three-month probationary period to decide on final admission (Official Gazette, 1927). This two-year program educated four generations and graduated 55 Protective Pediatric Nurses.

In 1931, a law unified nursing schools in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. On December 1, 1931, the first generation of female students enrolled in the three-year program at the Ljubljana School for Protective Nurses. The school was open only to candidates who had completed four years of secondary or bourgeois school. After a three-month preparatory course and passing the exam, they officially became students of the school (Official Gazette, 1931).





Figure 2 The fourth generation of the School for Nurses, and the first generation of the two-year program (© Jože Ažman)

Initially, the first generation of female students received free school fees, boarding, work clothes, and a cash prize. After 1928, only impoverished students received free education, provided they had excellent or good grades; others had to pay tuition fees. The best students could compete for a scholarship from Her Majesty Queen Mary. Students attending school at state expense had to commit to working in desig-

nated social and hygiene institutions for twice the number of years they spent at school. Regardless of the scholarship, all students had to provide their own prescribed school uniform, sewn by the school (Dragaš, 1938).

The school faced space constraints throughout its history. From 1924 to 1932, enrollment occurred annually, but the three-year program could accommodate only two cohorts, approximately 40 students each. Thus, new pupils were admitted every third year.

The National School for Protective Nurses in Ljubljana continued during the war, changing its name twice. In both 1943 and 1944, the three-year program was advertised, with both graduating classes completing only two years of education due to the war. In 1945, two generations of female students enrolled—one on January 15 and the other on October 8. The first cohort graduated on April 11, 1947, and the second on September 6, 1947. The final graduate of the School of Protective Nursing in Ljubljana received diploma number 263 (Berkopec & Keršič, 2023).

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## Spain – Associació Febe d’Historia de la Infermeria de llengua catalana

by María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez



During the year 2024 the members of Febe have developed different research activities, from which we have selected a few for this newsletter:

Probably the most relevant was the celebration of the *XVIII National Congress and XIII International Congress of Nursing History*, held in Madrid on April 18, 19 and 20, entitled *Nursing care in the face of vulnerability and adversity in History* and organised by the Permanent Seminar of Nursing History. The Congress was well attended and very interesting papers were presented. Febe members signed some of them as:

– *Illustrating the history of the “Hijas de la Caridad de San Vicente de Paul” in the charitable welfare centres of the city of Lleida (1792-2012)*, presented by Lorena Tejero.

– *In search of the lost memory of the College of Nurses of Lleida*, presented by Miquel Àngel Caldero and Carme Torres.

– *Impact of the Spanish Civil War and post-war period on the nursing profession. Story by Carmen Noguera*, also by Miquel Àngel Caldero and Carme Torres.

– *Violence against women. The voice of nurses and female staff of the International Brigades of the International Hospital of Vic (April 1938-January 1939)*, presented by Cinta Sadurní.

– *Franco’s repression of nurses in Spain (1936-1959)*, presented by Helena Gómez, Rubén Mirón and María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez.

– *“Practicantes” (male nurses) during the influenza pandemic 1918–1920 in the province of Logroño*, by Rafael Velasco, María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez, Francisco Javier Iruzubieta

In addition to the communications, Anna Ramio and Carme Torres presented the lecture entitled *Nurses and the Spanish Civil War in Catalonia. Contributions to the process of professionalisation*, within the round table *Nurses’ contributions to war*. This is an interesting work that, through oral history, has delved into the professional growth acquired by the nurses of the Civil War in Catalonia, Spain, and their contribution to the process of nursing professionalisation in the 20th century.

The closing lecture of the congress was also given by a Febe researcher, María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez,

and was entitled: *Inequalities, poverty and illness: caring in adversity throughout history*, in which she reflected on the difficult socio-health reality suffered by the population in Spain between the wars and the mechanisms that were put in place to resolve it throughout the 20th century, in which nurses played a major role.

All these contributions will be collected in a book to be published in 2025.

There has also been participation in other congresses such as:

– Lorena Tejero's paper, *Historical perspectives on the care of the body and spirit through the correspondence and rules of "Hijas de la Caridad de San Vicente de Paul"* presented at the 50th Scientific Meeting of the Index Foundation. Body and spirit. Towards an integral care based on the person. Granada, 2024.

– The communication *Notions of child care. A comparative analysis between the 'Programa del nen sà'* and the care provided by Dr. Josep Roig i Raventós in 1923. at the XXII Congrès Internacional d'Història de la Medicina Catalana presented in Sabadell, also by Lorena Tejero.

– The communication *Academic origins of the practice of care. 'El manual de la enfermera' of las Hijas de la Caridad, 1940.* XVIII Meeting on History of Science and Technology by Lorena Tejero.

– Communication: *The Vic Military Clinic: the management function of the nurses of the International*

Health Service. presented at the XII Internacional Conference of History of Catalan Medicine, held in Sabadell, presented by Cinta Sadurní.

– In the international context, the study 'Poverty, malnutrition and disease in rural Spain in the first decades of the 20th century: the example of tuberculosis' was presented at the Workshop 'Tuberculosis: The white Death as a Social Disease, held in Alghero (Italy) by Josep Bernabeu, María Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez, María Tormo and Eva Trescastro.

Ana Ramió Jofre, Anna, and Torres Penella, Carme, have also published the paper Carme Noguera Falguera. *Infermera, filla i neta d'hospitalers d'otlot* in the journal Gimbernat.

One of the events that we congratulate is the recent reading of the Doctoral Thesis of Miquel Àngel Calderó, entitled 'Origin of the corporativism of practitioners, midwives and nurses in the province of Lleida' where the author reconstructs the memory of the College of nurses of Lleida, from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The thesis was supervised by Carme Torres and Montserrat Gea.

Finally, we would like to mention some dissemination actions, with the aim of bringing the results of our research to society. For example, the conference addressed to the population about the nurses of the International Brigades in the framework of the *Tertúlia Amics de la Història de l'Ateneu Barcelonès*. Or the talk *Infermeres de les Brigades Internacionals* at the Military Clinic of Vic.

## Spain – Qalat Chábir. Asociación Cultural para el Estudio de las Humanidades

by Antonio Claret García Martínez & Manuel Jesús García Martínez

### Presentation

Historical research is one of the great instruments we have to make visible the lives and works of great figures in history. Therefore, the nursing profession must develop strategies to make the most of its possibilities for the benefit of the profession.

Qalat Chábir. Cultural Association for the Study of the Humanities has been developing activities and publications on the history of Spanish nursing and its international projection, especially in the Hispanic world, since 1994. Among its projects is the recovery

and enhancement of the lives and works of important nursing professionals and midwives. Thus, Manuel Jesús García Martínez and Antonio Claret García Martínez, founders of Qalat Chábir. A.C., have been developing a line of research around an exceptional woman: Rosalía Robles Cerdán, a midwife born in San Fernando (Cádiz) in 1872 and settled in Seville since 1916. Last year, in 2023, the Junta de Andalucía, at the proposal of these researchers, decided to name a maternal and child hospital in Seville after this midwife, which signifies a great recognition for this



woman and the profession for which she fought so hard.

### Celebration Events for the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Rosalía Robles Cerdán.

On April 9, 2022, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of a great woman, Rosalía Robles Cerdán, midwife. Rosalía Robles carried out an enormous task in the defense and promotion of the midwifery profession, the pursuit of improving the quality of life of mothers and their children, and undertook a determined struggle for women's rights. Her concern for professional associationism led her to found the "Professional Midwives Association of Seville" (Colegio Oficial de Matronas de Sevilla y su Provincia) in 1930 and in 1929 the publication "La Matrona Hispalense," the official organ of the Association.

To be useful to the members of the Association, we highlight some of the activities already carried out and others in the process of celebration. To commemorate this event, various activities have been developed, among which we highlight the following:

- A series of conferences in Chiclana de la Frontera (Cádiz), where Rosalía Robles worked for more than 10 years as a midwife (between 1904 and 1915). In February 2023.
- A conference at the Professional Nursing Association of Seville (Colegio de Enfermería de Sevilla) in May 2022.
- A traveling exhibition. Its first venue was in Chiclana de la Frontera in April 2022. It then had a new venue in Seville in November 2022 and another in Seville, with panels displayed on the streets of the city in June 2023.
- A conference at the Ateneo de Sevilla on November 18, 2024.
- Development of a website dedicated to the life and work of Rosalía Robles Cerdán (in preparation).
- Publication of a biography about Rosalía Robles Cerdán.
- Publication of news in the press, radio, and television about the anniversary.

### Ideology of Rosalía Robles Cerdán (1872-1941)

Rosalía Robles Cerdán developed four major tasks throughout her life around the world of midwives and women, which can be reflected in the following scheme:

1. Fight for the midwifery profession.
2. Concern for the health and quality of life of mothers and children.

3. Advocacy for women's rights and equality.
4. Rosalía Robles: a great promoter.

### 1. Fight for the midwifery profession

Her powerful personality led her to commit to the midwives of her time, promoting active associationism that would lead her to found the "Professional Nursing Association of Midwives" of Seville and its Province" in 1930 and also the specialized publication "La Matrona Hispalense" (a year earlier), an authentic platform for her ideology for the development of midwives' training, advice for mothers and their children, and health promotion.

Thus, the "Official Midwives Association of Seville and its Province" was officially established on June 15, 1930, as recorded in the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held for this purpose, with Mrs. Rosalía Robles Cerdán appointed as president and Mrs. Luisa Cervera Colmena as vice president. This institution took over from another existing one, the "Association of Midwives of Seville and its Province", of which Mrs. Rosalía Robles was already president. The latter, in turn, is the heir to the Society of Midwives La Muger y la Higiene, a pioneer in Spain, whose regulations were approved by the Governor of Seville on September 17, 1906, with Mrs. Adelaida Romero Paradás as president.

### Ideology of the Official Midwives Association of Seville and its Province

The most important objectives of the Association of Midwives were:

- A determined commitment to the Union of the Collective (National Federation...).
- Fight against professional intrusion.
- Raising the professional and cultural level of midwives.
- Defense of women's rights: "fair and equal pay to that of men for the same work."
- Defense of a specific professional framework for midwives.
- Other advocacy areas: Mandatory registration. Provision of positions to better serve women with fewer resources. Social image of the profession.
- Fight to improve the quality of life of poor mothers and their children.

In the words of Rosalía Robles:

"[...] Fight against social prejudices, against vested interests, against anything that may oppose our claim, until we officially assert our rights, and we will end up placed at the level that we should occupy socially by justice; but all this can only be achieved by the

community, the Midwifery Union...". (Editorial of *La Matrona Hispalense*, no. 1. April 1929).

## 2. Concern for the Health and Quality of Life of Mothers and Children

A staunch defender of the rights of mothers and children, she promoted an tireless task of promoting principles and values in the 1920s, which she conveyed to the mothers she attended as a midwife-puericulturist, as well as to the group of professional midwives she worked with. She also widely promoted all of this at the national level through active participation in national midwifery congresses organized in those years in Madrid and Barcelona. As the Director of Personnel for the Municipal Institute of Maternity and Childcare in Seville, she focused on promoting proper nutrition and hygiene for children through the education of mothers.

Another achievement of the midwives in the 1920s, for which she also fought, was the approval by the Government of the Decree that established Mandatory Maternity Insurance, a long-desired aspiration of Doña Rosalía and her midwives for the benefit of working women and their newborn children.

## 3. Advocacy for Women's Rights and Equality

Thirdly, Rosalía Robles Cerdán actively fought for women's rights. In this advocacy line, Rosalía Robles published an article on feminism in issue 6 of *La Matrona Hispalense*, titled "Where is True Feminism?" by Elvira García y García, denouncing the difficulties faced by working women in obtaining decent paid work and women's rights. In this context, she promoted a series of demands for which she fought throughout her life:

- Fight for a decent salary for midwives and women in general ("equal pay for equal work").
- Improve working conditions for women.
- Elevate women's education.
- Transfer her advocacy for midwives to the general sphere of women.

All of this allowed her to have direct contact with midwives across Spain and a deep understanding of the profession's reality and women's situation, exchanging ideas with international cultural figures, such as the Peruvian educator Elvira García García, whom she invited to write in her publication.

## 4. Rosalía Robles: A Great Promoter

"Ideas and principles must circulate." Fourthly, Rosalía Robles organized specialized courses for her midwives, gave lectures for women, and promoted meetings with mothers to educate them about the care provided to their children. She was aware of the need for "dissemination", both at the scientific and popular levels, because she operated in both spheres: with renowned specialists and illiterate mothers. She knew that dissemination campaigns played a crucial role in the entire process of improving the care provided to mothers and their children. Therefore, she saw the foundation of the magazine "*La Matrona Hispalense*" in 1929 as essential, from where she would promote professional associationism and the training of Seville's midwives.

## Conclusions

The above lines serve to vindicate the figure of Midwife Rosalía Robles Cerdán as a faithful exponent of the working woman, of humble origins, who, through her efforts, was able to make her way in life and transmit to other women values that are inalienable but must be fought for to achieve and maintain. She did so throughout her life. All of this finds its best expression in the foundation of the "Official Midwives Association of Seville and its Province" in 1930 and the specialized magazine "*La Matrona Hispalense*" in 1929. Through these foundations, she was able to more decisively and effectively develop her life ideology and professional proposal.

Rosalía Robles Cerdán died on November 14, 1941, in Seville, and her remains rest in the Municipal Cemetery of San Fernando in the city of Seville. Her memory dignifies us all, and her example should endure through her work.

## Switzerland – Swiss Society for the History of Health and Nursing

by Sabine Braunschweig & Kristin Hammer

Unfortunately, we have not yet found any new board members for the Swiss Society for Nursing and Health History. We have therefore decided not to dissolve the organisation, but to continue on a small scale. We no longer organise events, but we send out the newsletter when required. We provide information about conferences, lectures, books, exhibitions, reviews and more. This year we have sent out two newsletters.

We would like to draw your attention to the special exhibition „verrückt normal“ („crazy normal“) on the history of psychiatry in Basel, including a section on psychiatric nursing. The exhibition is on show at the Basel Historical Museum and runs until the end of June 2025. Sabine Braunschweig wrote an article about the psychiatric nursing in the catalogue and she is giving tours through the museum.

Further information can be found at

<https://www.hmb.ch/aktuell/ausstellungen/verrueckt-normal/>

and Braunschweig, Sabine: Von der „Irrenwartung“ zur Psychiatriepflege, in: Historisches Museum Basel; Piller, Gudrun; Suter, Daniel (Hg.): *Verrückt normal – Geschichte der Psychiatrie in Basel*, Basel 2024, S. 59–68.



Figures: View of the exhibition „verrückt normal“ („crazy normal“) on the history of psychiatry in Basel, at the Basel Historical Museum until 29/6/2025.

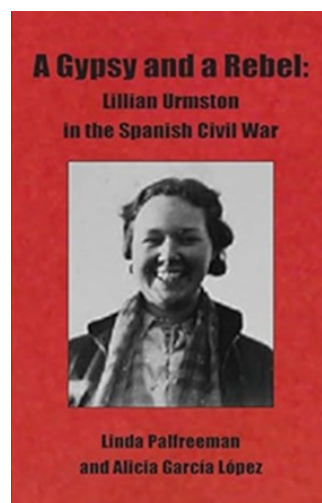


## United Kingdom –The UK Association for the History of Nursing (UKAHN)

by Alannah Tomkins (editor of the UKAHN Bulletin)

The annual research Colloquium for the UK Association for the History of Nursing took place at the University of Greenwich in London on June 28, 2024. Nine papers were presented on the day, by a mixture of home and international speakers, plus four poster presentations.

The first session, on the theme of 'Nursing in 20th Century Wartime', featured papers by Wendy Maddocks, Linda Palfreeman and Jane Brookes. Wendy's paper analysed the impact of foreign service on New Zealand's nurses during and after the First World War. Her database of over 500 female nurses, whose experience spanned service in Egypt, on hospital ships, and elsewhere, demonstrated conclusively that wartime nursing increased the women's likelihoods of suffering chronic illness, disability, or early death. Linda spoke about frontline nursing during the Spanish Civil War with a focus on Lilian Urmston (the subject of a recent biography by Linda and Alicia García López). Spanish experiences had implications for treatment and care during the Second World War, particularly in relation to innovations in blood transfusion. Jane's paper, about Jewish prisoner nurses in Nazi concentration camps, raised challenging issues around moral ambiguity for the women concerned. Jewish nurses were more likely to survive their time in a camp than their non-nursing peers, inhabiting a 'grey zone' of privilege.



Panel two was designed to host two papers about professional developments for nurses in the late 20th century. One speaker was unfortunately poorly on the day, but Jan-Thore Lockertsen gave a detailed paper about changes to the training of Norwegian surgical-theatre nurses. What started in Norway as a specialism which had to be learned on the job has evolved, such that aspiring theatre nurses now need a Masters qualification.

The posters, introduced before lunch, comprised displays about Thomas Lipton and his philanthropic work with nurses during the First World War, the parallels between nursing during the Second World War and during Covid, an exhibition about the history of nursing for children, and the RCN's award-winning project to make nurse biographies more visible on Wikipedia.

The third and fourth panels had a wide chronological range, reaching from the second half of the twentieth century to back as far as the 1750s. Individual nursing histories tapped into nurse biography in more depth with papers given by

Odette Best, Claire Chatterton, Judi Pettigrew and Gwawr Faulconbridge. Odette explored the life of Muriel Stanley, an Aboriginal nurse in Australia, via the methodologies of Aboriginal relationality and storying. These techniques can bring life and meaning to an otherwise racist historical record. Mary Stanley was the subject of Claire's paper: this Stanley name is well-known to historians of the Crimean War, but her life and work has been less well understood. Judi and Gwawr reflected on the work of psychiatric nurse and occupational therapist Thomas Costello. Motivated by the proverb "He who labours is tempted by one devil, he who is idle a thousand", Costello's working notes survive to shed light on his practice.

The day concluded with a focus on historic institutions. Erin Spinney considered the Haslar Naval Hospital in the second half of the eighteenth

century. Rules for nursing conduct were not necessarily followed to the letter, as the hospital prized the retention of experienced women (even if they sometimes misbehaved). Stuart Wildman, by contrast, shared his investigation of the Northern Workhouse Nursing Association in the second half of the nineteenth century. He concluded that the numbers of women involved were negligible, but that the influence of the Association lay in its reinforcement of the idea that the poor deserved good care.

The papers were given against the historic backdrop of the former Greenwich Naval College buildings: huge thanks are due to organiser Justin Stephens for such a fantastic day, and to Lola Gosling for running our fundraising bookstall. Next year the colloquium will take place at Keele University in Staffordshire on June 25, 2025.



## 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: <http://eahn.net/member-organisations/>)

**Austria:** Historical nursing research in Austria

**Belgium:** The Belgian Association for the History of Nursing

**Croatia:** Croatian Nursing History Society

**Denmark:** The Danish Museum of Nursing

**Finland:** Finnish Association for History of Nursing Science

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

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

**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)

**The Netherlands:** Historical College Florence Nightingale Institute

**The Netherlands:** Stichting Historisch Verpleegkundig Bezet (SHVB)

**Republic of North Macedonia:** Association of nurses, technicians, midwives and dental nurses "For Us" (ZMSTAS ZA NAS) from the Republic of North Macedonia

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

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

**Portugal:** Sociedade Portuguesa de História da Enfermagem

**Serbia:** Association of Medical Nurses-Technicians

**Slovenia:** Working Group for Preserving the History of Nursing and Midwifery of the Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia

**Spain:** Associació Febe d'Historia de la Infermeria de llengua catalana

**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 meets at least once per year.

EAHN Coordinating Committee elected officers

President Hugo Schalkwijk, The Netherlands

Vice President Maja Mrakovic, Serbia

Deputy President Secretary Dr Gerard Fealy, Ireland

Communications Officer Anna La Torre, Italy

Treasurer Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany

### EAHN Bulletin

The annually EAHN Bulletin is published on the EAHN web page. Editor of the Bulletin is Prof Dr Karen Nolte, Germany, <https://www.eahnursing.eu/contact/>

### European Journal for Nursing History and Ethics

<https://www.enhe.eu/enhe>

The journal is the organ of the EAHN and appears once a year. It is peer reviewed and open access. The editors-in-chief are Prof. Dr. Karen Nolte and Prof. Dr. Susanne Kreutzer, contact: [editors@enhe.eu](mailto:editors@enhe.eu)

### EAHN webpage

The EAHN webpage <https://www.eahnursing.eu/> is managed by web- master Anna LaTorre, Italy: <https://www.eahnursing.eu/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, <https://www.eahnursing.eu/contact/>. There are no fees for membership.

### EAHN meeting 2025

The next EAHN Coordinating Committee meeting will be held on February 21, 2025, 10 pm (CET) in Ljubljana/Slovenia, Address: Ob železnici 30 a, Ljubljana. Participation is possible online:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84150585597?pwd=UEIMQXUFEsWr7GUeYmDzMVSSX1mbzcQ.1>

Meeting-ID: 841 5058 5597

Code: 094813



*Figure: Christmas at the Ludolf-Krehl Clinic at the University of Heidelberg, 1930*