

Future BSHM Events

In Sickness and in Health: Exploring History of Medicine Collections

Wednesday 12th September 2018, 1.30pm – 5 pm

@ The Wellcome Collection 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE

A workshop / symposium to explore the potential of a diverse range of archives and museum collections as tools for enquiry and study in the history of medicine.

This is a unique event organised jointly by: The British Society for the History of Medicine, London Museums of Health and Medicine and The

Health Archives and Records Group. The symposium as aimed at medical historians, archivists, museum curators and others interested in the history of medicine.

The workshop will include:

- Mini-presentations on a range of museum and archival collections with speakers from the Royal College of Physicians, Kew Gardens, Lothian Health archives, the Science Museum and the Royal College of GPs; covering topics ranging from oral history collections, genetic history archives, women in medicine, plant material collections and a unique general practice archive.
- A networking refreshment break with some online demonstrations of digitised collections.
- A panel/audience discussion of topics related to the use of history of medicine collections for historical study.

The workshop is now fully booked

Future BSHM Events (Continued)

BSHM Congress Bristol Sept 2019

The next Congress will be held at the M Shed in Bristol, from Wednesday 11th September to Saturday, 14th September 2019.

Call for Abstracts January 2019

The themes for the Bristol Congress are:

- History of Medicine at Sea
- History of Medicine in the West of England
- History of Health Care Education
- History of Mental Illness and Mental Disability
- Other topics



New BSHM Officers **New Honorary Secretary** **BSHM**

Michael Davidson has been appointed acting Honorary Secretary of BSHM taking over from Sean Hughes.

Mike graduated in Dentistry and Medicine from London University and was Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in Taunton and Somerset. In 2015 he obtained the Diploma in History of Medicine and Pharmacy from the Society of Apothecaries. He delivered the 2016 Osler Lecture at the Apothecaries.



Mike's areas of interest are the history of facial trauma management, British Voluntary Hospitals and the Scottish medical diaspora. He is currently reading for an M.Litt. in Scottish Heritage at Aberdeen University on a distance learning programme.

BSHM REPORTS AND NEWS

2018 Poynter lecture

On June 11th the BSHM joined the Royal College of Physicians Garden Fellows for a joint event of lectures and garden tours at the RCP in Regents Park.

David Watkinson discussed plants used in anaesthesia including opium, curare and cocaine and Tony Cartwright delivered a comprehensive history of British pharmacopoeias over the past 400 years, beginning with the RCPs *Pharmacopeia Londinensis* published in 1618. During the tea interval the RCP's Garden Fellows gave conducted tours of the medicinal plant gardens which extend around the College buildings in St Andrews Place. Jane Knowles has incorporated most of the plants of the *Pharmacopeia Londinensis* into the gardens and the RCP has produced a book of contemporary illustrations.

<http://bshh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/The-Illustrated-College-Herbal.pdf>

Simon Chaplin (Director of Culture and Society at the Wellcome Trust) delivered the 18th Poynter Lecture "The Doctor as the Collector". Simon focused on medical practitioners as collectors and curators in London in the latter part of the eighteenth century, He included reference to the Hunters and other anatomists but also to physician-botanists such as Hans Sloane and John Fothergill. A recording of this lecture will shortly be placed on the BSHM website.

Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference – Liverpool July 2018

The BSHM convened a roundtable at the SSHM Conference on 11th July. The subject was "***Dialogue between social historians and clinical historians: is there a problem?***" The Liverpool roundtable was a follow up to the panel discussion in Edinburgh and included two social historians: Linda Bryder (Auckland) and Gayle Davis (Edinburgh), and two clinical historians: Martin Edwards (London) and Mike Davidson (Taunton). The chair was Chris Derrett (BSHM President).

It is apparent that some social historians consider that people working in healthcare with an interest in medical history are relative amateurs, who tend to concentrate on 'the good and the great of medicine' with little regard for historical context and historiography. Clinical historians, on the other hand, sometimes feel that their clinical training and experience gives them special insight into the relevance of the history of medicine.

The panel identified areas where historians and clinicians might collaborate in organising educational activities, co-researching, and co-publishing. We hope this will be the beginning of a constructive dialogue.

De Partu welcomes all BSHM members who are interested in the history of childbirth

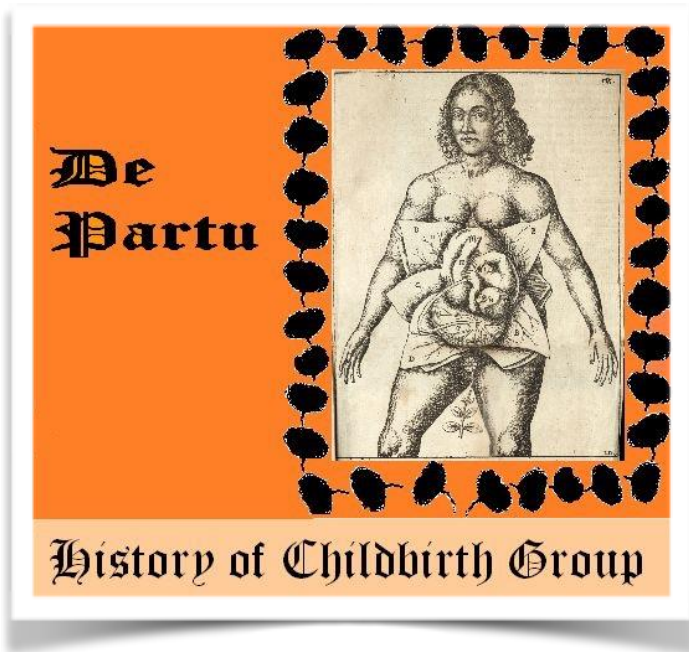


Image from The Midwives Book (1671), the first English midwifery text written by a midwife, Jane Sharp.

Source: The John Rylands University Library, Manchester.

NB. Border, Rose of Jericho (*Anastatica hierochuntica*), used since ancient and medieval times as a herbal medicine and charm to hasten childbirth, prevent pain and provide the woman with protection from harm.

De Partu is an independent history of midwifery and childbirth research group with a small international following. The name of the group comes from the Latin for “concerning birth”.

To see our aims and activities please visit: <https://departu.org.uk/>

Join our Facebook group ‘De Partu History of Childbirth Network’
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/309845616071600/>

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