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*The epidemiologist Alice Stewart.
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Alice Stewart: Day Conference

Friends House, London, 3 March 2003

About fifty people participated in a day-long conference celebrating the life and work of epidemiologist Alice Stewart on 3 March 2004, at Friends House, London. Organised by the Centre for the History of Medicine of the University of Birmingham Medical School and sponsored by the Society for Social Medicine, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the conference included presentations from family, friends, colleagues and historians of medicine.

Alice Stewart died in 2002 at the age of 96. In a career which spanned six decades, she is best known for her work on the Oxford Childhood Cancer Survey, which included path-breaking studies of X-rays and cancer, and for her research on the effects of radiation exposure experienced by nuclear plant workers, notably at the Hanford Nuclear Reactor in Oregon.

In the morning, Professor Margaret Whitehead, chair of the Society for Social Medicine, and Robert Arnott, Director of the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Birmingham Medical School, welcomed participants to the session. Ms Bronwen Naish, a niece of Alice Stewart, who represented the family at the conference and shared memories of her aunt's physical and mental vigour. Recalling a particular family outing in Wales, Naish was alarmed when told by her aunt that she was 'parting from her soul', Naish was relieved to discover it was only the bottom of her shoe which had become dislodged. Stewart's keen sense of observation would serve her well throughout her long career.

The day's academic papers commenced with a contribution from Dr Ruth Watts (University of Birmingham) who spoke about Stewart's childhood, education and early

career. In particular, she emphasized the challenges facing woman in science in the first half of the 20th century. Watts argued that an early and sustained commitment to education and a well-to-do family that was able to support her was crucial to Stewart's success in a male-dominated profession. Dr John Bithell (University of Oxford) discussed Stewart's epidemiological work on cancer and radiation between 1956 and the 1980s, including a discussion of some factors which may have influenced the strength of the data, and thus their reception by fellow epidemiologists. Dr Klarissa Nienhuys followed with a discussion of findings from major animal studies which had sought to settle the question of a causal link between low level radiation and cancer. She discussed how the animal data diverged from Stewart's findings, and suggested that animal models such as mice do not provide for clear comparisons with humans.

After lunch, Sarah Dry (University of Cambridge) spoke about the reception of Stewart's 1956 publication in *The Lancet*, which was the first research to suggest a link between prenatal X-rays and cancer in the unborn child. Dry argued that while the results generated lasting controversy within epidemiological circles, fears over man-made radiation and atomic fallout helped generate a fast consensus in the medical community not to use prenatal X-rays. The result was that a dramatic reduction in the use of prenatal X-rays occurred even while epidemiologists debated the link between X-rays and cancer.

Dr Gerald Draper (University of Oxford), shared memories and research on the history of social medicine at Oxford. Using departmental correspondence, he noted the meager funding (at one point office furniture was sold to pay staff salaries) and variety of research carried out in the department. Though Stewart is best known for her work on radiation, she was interested in the etiology of cancers generally, and did

research on infectious disease and cancer, as well as sibling order and cancer. Draper also shared Stewart's quip about having the misfortune of falling between two chairs. Though she headed the social medicine unit at Oxford between 1950 and 1974, she remained a reader, while her predecessor, John Ryle, and her successor, Martin Vesey, were both named chairs.



Professor Tom Sorahan (University of Birmingham), invoked 'negative muzzle velocity' to describe Stewart's skill for noticing the hidden, often contrary aspects of a problem (the phrase refers to the recoil of a rifle, an event seldom noticed when all eyes are on the bullet's target). Stewart's ability to imagine an array of contributory, often countervailing factors helped her to identify the role played by antibiotics in increasing leukemia rates. By curing children with pneumonia who might otherwise have died, Stewart posited, antibiotics allowed a population to survive long enough to develop leukemia.

The day concluded with a session led by Lesley Hall (The Wellcome Library) who gave a brief presentation outlining the Alice Stewart Archive which has been acquired by the Wellcome Library. One of the library's larger collections of private papers, it consists of 100-120 boxes of archival material and includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, published papers, and evidence given by Stewart at various trials. A filmed interview with Stewart is also included in the

archive, the video having been screened in its entirety on the day. The library is seeking funds for the extensive indexing which is required. It will be at least one year before it becomes available for research.

Sarah Dry
University of Cambridge

SSHIV CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Mediating Biomedicine: Engaging, Resisting, Negotiating

**CHSTM, University of Manchester,
10-11 September 2004**

Like contemporary specialists in science communication, historians of medicine and science have largely rejected simple "top-down" models of interactions between everyday people and biomedical experts. Instead, they focus on the complexity and diversity of motives, interests, and understandings that have characterized past as well as present encounters centred on biomedical knowledge.

This workshop will bring together historians exploring those dynamic relationships between educators and audiences, experts and laypeople, professionals and patients.

Programme

- 'How LIFE looked at medicine: Magazine photography and the American public's image of medical progress.' *Prof. Bert Hansen (Baruch College, City University of New York)*
- 'Contesting the control and investigation of foot and mouth disease in Britain, 1951-1952.' *Dr. Abigail Woods (University of Manchester)*
- 'Negotiating the transplantable heart in Britain.' *Ayesha Nathoo (University of Cambridge)*

- ‘The sexual politics of evolution: Popular debate in the UK of the 1990s.’ *Dr. Angela Cassidy (University of Manchester)*
- ‘The “Great American Medicine Show” revisited.’ *Prof. Nancy Tomes (Stony Brook University, New York)*
- ‘Catching sight, creating space, controlling gaze: The introduction of the pictorial public health poster in Germany and Britain.’ *Prof. Roger Cooter (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, UCL) and Dr. Claudia Stein (History, University of Warwick)*
- ‘Personal narrative and health education narrative: Towards a richer account of communication hierarchies in public health campaigns.’ *Dr. Tim Boon (Science Museum, London)*
- ‘The health educator and public health in post-war Britain.’ *Dr. Kelly Loughlin (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)*
- ‘Buying trust: Physicians, patients and penicillin in the last third of the 20th century.’ *Dr. Robert Bud (Science Museum, London)*
- ‘Captain Chemo and Mr. Wiggly: Mediating cancer treatments for children.’ *Dr. Emm Barnes (University of Manchester)*
- ‘Screening cancer: Health education movies and cancer control in mid-twentieth century America.’ *Dr. David Cantor (U.S. National Library of Medicine)*

For more details and a registration form, please consult the conference website:

<http://www.chstm.man.ac.uk/events/mediating-biomedicine.htm>

Or contact

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SSHM CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Healthy Towns, Healthy Cities: public health in British cities, 1844-2004

**London School of Hygiene and
 Tropical Medicine, 12 November 2004**

The inspiration for this conference was the observation by a public health academic that the historical community had failed to mark the 150th anniversary of the Health of Towns Association. Formed in 1844 in the wake of Chadwick’s seminal *Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population* the Association was a key advocate of environmental public health interventions in Victorian Britain. A commemoration of its foundation therefore offers the opportunity to reflect on the town as a focus of public health initiatives in the sanitarian era. It also provides the chance to bring historical perspectives to bear on the present, now that the city is enjoying a revived role in promoting the ‘new public health’ at the turn of the millennium.



The aim of the conference is first to look back on the classic phase of urban sanitary reform which followed the mid-century Public Health Acts. We are interested in work which reappraises the role of Edwin Chadwick as progenitor of reform, as well as studies of pioneer Medical Officers of Health and their efforts to drive down mortality rates in their cities. Moving into the first half of the twentieth century, we want to consider both the zenith of municipal medicine and the implications for health of the town planning movement. Although the National

Health Service initially lessened the community health responsibilities of city authorities, it is arguable that this trend began to be reversed at the end of the twentieth century. We therefore wish to conclude the day with an appraisal of the 'Healthy Cities' initiative, begun in 1986 to implement the goals of the World Health Organisation's 'Health For All 2000' programme.

The conference is sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.



Programme

Session 1: *Early Victorian sanitary reform*

- 'Health of Towns Association as a Social Movement.' *Christopher Hamlin (Notre Dame)*
- 'Health of Towns, Inns of Court: The Judiciary and Public Health.' *James Hanley (Winnipeg)*

Session 2: *The Victorian Medical Officer of Health and the health of towns.*

- 'Sir Henry Littlejohn and the evolution of Scottish public health administration.' *Paul Laxton (Liverpool) & Richard Rodger (Leicester)*
- 'The Metropolitan Medical Officers and the nineteenth century mortality decline.' *Bill Luckin (Bolton)*

Session 3: *The 20th century: a. The zenith of municipal medicine b. Health and town planning*

- Film: 'One man's story.' Introduced by *Michael Clark (Wellcome Library)*
- 'The Zenith of Municipal Medicine - How Did County Boroughs Respond to the Opportunity Afforded by the 1929 Local Government Act?' *John Stewart, Rebecca Taylor (Oxford Brookes), Martin Powell (Bath)*
- 'Planning and Health: a view from the 1940s' incorporating film clips). *Tim Boon (Science Museum)*

Session 4: *The 20th century: c. The last days of the MOH d. The WHO Healthy Cities initiative*

- 'Where to for public health in the 1960s? One MOH's strategy: Donaldson on Teesside.' *David Smith (University of Aberdeen), Susan McLaurin (Independent scholar)*
- 'From Healthy Towns to Healthy Cities.' *John Ashton (Regional Director of Public Health, North West)*

Discussion, closing comments: *John Welshman (Lancaster)*

Registration

The registration fee is £10.00 and includes refreshments and lunch. Concessions are available for students and unwaged.

For further details please contact:

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Registration forms are also available on the website:

<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/history/healthoftowns.html>

**The Healing Communities:
Contextualising and
Conceptualising Medicine**

**The 5th Annual Medical Humanities
Conference**

UCL, London, 14-15 Sept 2004

Jointly organised by Dr Deborah Kirklin, Professor Hal Cook, Professor Michael Worton, and Professor John Aiken, this conference will explore the possibilities and challenges of a vision of medical humanities founded on the model of interdisciplinarity: a model that works to ensure that the joint academic endeavour, whether through research or teaching, is enriching and creative for both medical and humanities scholars. Through keynote and plenary addresses, interactive workshops, special interest and interdisciplinary groups, the conference aims to create an international critical mass of leading scholars who can interact and network with each other both within discipline groups and across disciplinary borders.

Keynote speakers include Professor Arthur Kleinman and Professor Rafael Campo, with plenary speakers including Professor John Warner, Professor David Rosner and Professor David Rothman. Details of other plenary and workshops leaders will be available shortly.

For more information, please consult the conference website:

[http://www.pcps.ucl.ac.uk/cmh/
conference_2004.html](http://www.pcps.ucl.ac.uk/cmh/conference_2004.html)

Or contact:

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**Sex Education of the Young in
the Twentieth Century:
A Cultural History**

**University of Durham, 16-17 April
2005**

This international conference aims to bring together researchers from a range of fields such as the history of medicine, the history of education and the history of sexuality as well as from sociology, to discuss the cultural history of sex education within a comparative perspective.

Sex education will be treated in the broadest sense to incorporate all aspects of the formal and informal transmission of sexual knowledge and awareness to children and adolescents. It will, therefore, not only address officially-sanctioned and regulated sex education delivered within the school system, but also sex education obtained within the private sphere of the family, and from peer groups and the media.

More specifically, the conference will approach the history of sex education from three different directions:

The Social Politics of Sex Education

The archives of the central and local State document the discourses surrounding the provision and regulation of sex education, and there is a range of literature produced by pedagogic discourses on the 'appropriate' content and conveyance of sexual knowledge.

The social politics of sex education have generated a cluster of key questions as to who should deliver sex education (e.g. doctors, clerics, teachers, parents, peer group), as to where sex education should take place, as to how much anatomical and biological detail of reproduction should be conveyed, and as to what kind of sexual

ethics should be taught? Many of these issues circle around the classic dichotomy between public and private; between the rights of parents to educate their children themselves and the public task of the State to preserve and control the health of its citizenry.

The Content of Sex Education

The different forms of textual and illustrative material employed for sex education allows for a broad range of questions to be asked on the making of the sexed body and gender. Sex education materials provide an historical record of how heterosexual activities were constructed and of the degree to which concepts of the body and sexuality, transmitted to the young, were gendered. Accordingly, a number of papers will focus on the content of the various forms of sexual 'enlightenment'.

Experiencing Sex Education

By exploiting the evidence from sources such as sex surveys, questionnaires, and oral history, we would also seek to scrutinise what children and adolescents knew about sexuality and the sexed body, from where they got their knowledge, and how they perceived and experienced the different agencies and 'knowledges' involved in sex education.

It is the intention of the conveners to publish a selection of the contributions in an edited volume, in accordance with the usual criteria of editorial balance and refereeing.

Papers for the conference should not exceed 8,000 words, including notes, and need to be submitted electronically for pre-circulation to conference participants by 14th March 2005.

We now invite abstracts not exceeding 500 words by 20th August 2004. The abstracts should identify the theme, give a (provisional) title and should give a clear indication of the questions to be addressed in

the paper, the sources on which it will be based, and the type of findings it will advance.

Abstracts should also include name, affiliation, email and postal addresses, and telephone number.

Decisions regarding acceptance will be communicated later in August.

Further details of the conference will be available in due course on the website at

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/events/sexeducation.htm>

Please send your abstracts, preferably by e-mail, by 20 August 2004 to the following address:

Dr Lutz Sauerteig
email: l.d.sauerteig@durham.ac.uk
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Wolfson Research Institute
Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease
University Boulevard
Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH
United Kingdom

SSHIV CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hybrids and Partnerships: Comparing the Histories of Indigenous Medicine in Southern Africa and South Asia

**Osler McGovern Centre, Oxford,
15-16 Sept 2005**

Cross-fertilisation of knowledge and practice between southern and eastern Africa and South Asia has for centuries linked the geographic, economic and cultural region around the Indian Ocean. Bringing together new researchers and established scholars, this conference, jointly organised by the Wellcome Units for History of Medicine at the Universities of Oxford and Manchester, will explore the dynamics of this association through the medium of medicine. We will examine historical interactions among healers

and bodies of healing knowledge in Africa and South Asia to achieve a greater understanding of situations in which medicines blend, practices hybridise and practitioners form partnerships across diversity and division. We will also examine cases where the reverse happens, where boundaries are affirmed or created, leading to plural and/or hierarchical systems marked by rivalry and the dominance or suppression of healers and healing knowledge.

The historical links between Africa and Asia have long been recognized. From antiquity this has included the spread of humoral medicine from the Mediterranean to South Asia and eastern and southern Africa. The long-term evolution of Swahili medicine as an Asian/African hybrid; the Tantric and alchemical traditions of India, which had interacted with Tibetan traditions; the spread of Portuguese Catholic ideas about the body and healing from the coasts to the hinterlands of southern Africa and South Asia and the diaspora of African ngoma healing in the Old and New Worlds are the result of similar migrations. Today, significant exchanges take place between Africa and South Asia in the realm of pharmaceutical development, production and marketing, as well as in the education and migration of practitioners, in both biomedicine and indigenous medicine. Concerning more recent trends, we must also pay attention to nationalism, development plans and national health care programmes, which have often determined the nature of patronage for particular traditions, as well as the essentialisation of some traditions as 'alternatives'.

The conference will focus on the ways that local knowledge travels, both geographically and epistemologically. We will attempt to uncover the globalising aspects of indigenous medical systems and their ability to absorb and transform other healing traditions, other sciences, other practitioners and other bodies of expertise, even those of Western science and medicine. This will

usefully displace biomedicine from its centrality in our accounts, encouraging a shift of perspective towards histories that put other forms of healing practice centre stage. We hope this will lead to ways of telling history through dramas of illness and recovery, disease and death that are meaningful in other cultures and societies.

The conference will focus attention on types of indigenous medicine and on geographical areas previously underrepresented in the literature on medicine and healing, while not neglecting lesser-known partnerships and hybrids between so-called modern and traditional forms of Asian, African and Western healing. This is the third in a series of ground-breaking conferences on indigenous healing to be held in Oxford. The Wellcome Trust has played a pivotal role in promoting studies of Western and indigenous medicine and their interactions in Africa and South Asia. Previous conferences sponsored by the Trust and the Journal of Southern African Studies have helped to develop this emerging field of research.

Themes

- Formal and informal economies, trends in development and democratisation and their effects on the emergence of new forms of indigenous healing and their relationships with other forms of healing
- Humoral medicine, Swahili medicine, Portuguese Catholic medicine - early influences on indigenous forms of medicine in Africa and Asia
- Healing and 'locality': globalisation of indigenous healing expertise vs localisation of 'global' forms of scientific, alternative and 'exotic' medicine
- Alternative forms of history, healers' histories, African and Asian patients' narratives
- Making and unmaking medical territories and boundaries
- South Asian and African Medical Diasporas
- Medical Pluralisms

- Issues of Gender and Childbirth
- Ritual, Religion, Medicine and Sorcery: Blurred Boundaries, Deadly Rivalries
- Urban/ Rural Practice
- Music and Medicine
- Colonialism and Independence
- The Evolving Nature of Indigenous Medicine
- Patents and Prescriptions, Rands and Rupees
- Healing and Hybrid Identities: National, International and Personal
- Healers and Markets: Informal and Formal, Local, National and International
- Alternative Medical Tourism

For further details see the conference website:

<http://www.wuhmo.ox.ac.uk/events/index.htm>

Or contact:

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- Peter Elmer and Ole Peter Grell (eds), *Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500-1800: A Source Book*. RRP: £15.99, **Discount price: £12.79**. Please quote discount code: D042.
- Deborah Brunton (ed.), **Medicine Transformed: Health, Disease and Society in Europe, 1800-1930**. RRP: £17.99, **Discount price: £14.39**. Please quote discount code: D045.
- Deborah Brunton (ed.), *Health, Disease and Society in Europe, 1800-1930: A Source Book*. RRP: £15.99, **Discount price: £12.79**. Please quote discount code: D045.
- Susan Broomhall, *Women's Medical Work in Early Modern France*. RRP: £49.99, **Discount price: £32.49**. Please quote discount code: D041.

Flyers with information on these books and order forms are available (in pdf format) on the SSHM website, at:

<http://www.sshm.org/benefits.html>

Alternatively you can telephone Manchester University Press at +44-(0)161-274 3346. Please quote the relevant discount code.

SSHM BOOKS

Discounts for SSHM members

History of Medicine at Manchester University Press

We are pleased to inform our readers of a special offer agreed with Manchester University Press. A number of recent books in the history of medicine are now available to SSHM members at significantly reduced prices.

- Peter Elmer (ed.), *The Healing Arts: Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500-1800*. RRP: £17.99, **Discount price: £14.39**. Please quote discount code: D042.

SSHM MORE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Please visit our website to find out more about all the other benefits available to SSHM members, including conference bursaries for student members and discounts on books published in the Society's series with Routledge, other Taylor & Francis titles, and in the Ashgate History of Medicine in Context series:

<http://www.sshm.org/>



ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

Call for Submissions

The Society for the Social History of Medicine invites submissions to its 2004 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition.

Rules

1. Prize

One prize will be awarded for the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine in this competition. The winner will be awarded £500.00. The winning entry may also be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*, subject to the usual editorial procedures, including double blind refereeing.

2. Eligible Candidates

Students, under-graduate or postgraduate, part-time or full-time.

All candidates must join the Society for the Social History of Medicine. A membership form is available on the SSHM's website <http://www.ssham.org>. Alternatively, please contact the Membership Secretary of the SSHM.

The essay competition is for registered students only. Essays can only be accepted from students who have a current undergraduate or postgraduate registration **as of the deadline for submission of entries.**

Candidates who are uncertain as to whether they are eligible to enter the competition should contact the Membership Secretary before preparing their entry.

3. Essays must be

- Unpublished
- Written in English

- 5000-8000 words in length (including footnotes).
- In conformity with the bibliographic conventions of *Social History of Medicine*, available at <http://www.ssham.org>.

NOTE: The same essay cannot be submitted more than once, and entries from previous years will not be accepted.

4. Assessment Panel

The panel will consist of the Chair of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Society's Representative on the Editorial Board, and the Editors of *Social History of Medicine*, with the assistance of other members of the editorial board.

5. To enter

Please complete the form on the back of this issue of the *Gazette* and send it with 4 copies of the essay to:

**Dr. Lesley Diack
Research Fellow
School of Pharmacy
Schoolhill
Aberdeen
AB10 1FR
United Kingdom.**

The deadline for mailing entries is 31 December 2004. All entries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date; a decision will be made by 31 March 2005, and the announcement of the prizewinners will be made at the AGM of the Society.

NOTES

The Editors of *Social History of Medicine* reserve the right to consider any of the entries for publication, subject to normal refereeing procedures.

Members of the Executive Committee of the SSHM or the Editorial Board of *Social*

History of Medicine may not enter either competition, even if otherwise eligible.

The prize will not be awarded if the Assessment Panel considers that none of the essays reaches an acceptable standard.

Membership Secretary
David Cantor, Division of Cancer Prevention
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North, Suite 2025, 6130 Executive Boulevard,
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Email: competition@sshm.org

Disclaimer

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SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2004 ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

I have read the rules for the SSHM's 2003 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. I agree to abide by these rules.

I declare that I am eligible to enter this competition according to the terms of rule 2.

Signature.....

Full Name.....

Date.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Email.....

Please visit the SSHM Website at <http://www.sshm.org>