

Mystery about Manuscripts of Hahnemann's Posthumous Writings- the Unique Treasure

Tamboli Chirag and Parmar Devang

Anand Homoeopathic Medical College and Research Institute, Anand, Gujarat, India

Correspondence should be addressed to Tamboli Chirag, drchiragtamboli@gmail.com

Publication Date: 15 February 2014

Article Link: <http://medical.cloud-journals.com/index.php/IJAAYUSH/article/view/Med-125>



Copyright © 2014 Tamboli Chirag and Parmar Devang. This is an open access article distributed under the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Abstract Posthumous writings of Hahnemann have always been remained as a center of discussion from standpoint of critics as well as its own unique significance. But hardly, we are aware of with what difficulties they finally came to print and got published. This article is just an effort in that direction to unfold the endless hard work and struggle carried by stalwarts for many long years in the betterment of Homeopathic fraternity.

Keywords *54 Volumes of Hahnemann's Sick Registers; Four Large Hand Written Symptomatic Registers; Letters of Hahnemann's Correspondence & 6th Edition of Organon*

1. Introduction

Good monuments are valuable and effective as symbols of remembrance to the work of unusual men, to extraordinary deeds and great thoughts. They also act as stimulating rallying standards for the followers and friends of such men and their ideas, and they encourage those who stand on one side to make themselves acquainted with what is embodied in the monuments. More valuable, more effective than the most artistic monuments are the works which the men leave behind them and knowledge of their deeds and ideas. They should not be kept limited to one spot like the monuments, but they may and should reach everywhere, where understanding for the cause exists. Hahnemann's works were widely spread in his own times (Figure 1). At the same time, they remained for the most part amongst the ranks of the physicians and those cultured people who, from their own desire, were interested in medicine. Yet not a few writings of Hahnemann are adapted in style and contents for propagation amongst the largest sections of the community. They are really popular in the best sense of the word, so that it would be highly commendable to bring a suitable selection of them again before the public. What was until recently packed up and almost forgotten in a "cubic meter chest", has now become accessible (Adler & Adler, 2006). Besides other Hahnemann relics, Dr. Haehl now possesses Hahnemann's sick registers-fifty-four volumes in all, thirty-eight of them in German and sixteen in French. In the small artistic handwriting of Hahnemann, there were several case reports of patients which also include their medicinal remedies prescribed. Then four large hand-written symptomatic registers came to existence which are also correspondence of Hahnemann with relatives, friends,

patients and authorities-having more than 37 Kilograms of weight and finally came up with an accurate copy of the 6th Edition of the "Organon", comparing exactly with the original, which is in the possession of Professor Boericke of San Francisco. This copy was once produced under Madame Melanie Hahnemann's supervision and agrees in every detail with Hahnemann's own improved and enlarged text of the 5th Edition. The whole of these literary remains is extraordinarily valuable for an exhaustive knowledge of the Master's personality and theories. These enabled us to obtain a clear and lifelike impression of his character in all its peculiarities. From this evidence many new details have been established for the first time, and a clear, bright light has been shed over the whole of this unique personality. Important study of the histories of patients which were well written partly with great detail and very accurately and concisely helped in observation of disease as well as for a clear perception of individual diagnosis. Only to the professional man who can critically pursue these reports will be able to appreciate (Adler, 2005; Haehl R., 1989 & Handley Rime, 1997).

It is a source of homoeopathic medicinal knowledge promising rich yield of treasure for many long years. The same applies to the repertories which will never have their equal in accuracy and conscientiousness of tabulation.

At the same time we had listen to different stories where Madame Melanie Hahnemann had refused either to publish herself or to allow other homoeopaths to publish for unknown reasons. She had persisted in this attitude in spite of frequent announcements and promises and in spite of the fact that she was continually emphasizing the value of her husband's work for the whole of humanity.

2. After Death of Hahnemann

To understand this we need to move back to that time when actually things started to get happen, soon after the death of Hahnemann. This was the time when their colleagues, French Homoeopathic physicians, started opposing her medical practice and asked her to seize it. Madame Melanie was not to be deterred. She continued to practice. But she tried to shield herself more thoroughly in the sight of the authorities and the courts. Then she made repeated attempts to persuade Dr. C. Von Bönninghausen to settle in Paris, so that he might practice homoeopathy together with her, had been made in vain. Constantine Hering of Philadelphia had also been invited to settle down in Paris without success. Thus she was left to herself for a considerable time. For even her endeavors to be considered as a colleague of the Association of French Homoeopathic physicians and to be asked to their meetings had been frustrated. Then the sorely injured woman, piqued in her pride and in her presumptuous professional dignity, complained most bitterly to her friend, Bönninghausen. The feud between her and the homoeopathic physicians even became publicly know. The result was an almost complete isolation.



Figure 1: Christian Friedrich Samuel



Figure 2: C.F. Von Bönninghausen Hahnemann

3. Bönninghausen's Efforts

By the time Bönninghausen (Figure 2) had repeatedly written to her asking for manuscripts of her late husband, as, for example, in December, 1855, when he had begged for a volume of the patients' reports. Melanie Hahnemann refused his request because she has fear that the police might seize it at the frontier on its return journey, so that it would only return damaged and torn. On the 12th of January, 1856, Bönninghausen repeated his request extending it to the two last volumes of the sick reports with the guarantee of returning them as such without any damage. A friend of his, he said, would bring the books from Paris. With the same project he gain applied to Madame Melanie in April 1856. Then she made another proposal which was that she would copy some parts, as nobody else knew the new terms last employed by Hahnemann for the process of "dynamization". When she had not fulfilled her promises in May 1856 she excused herself by referring to her removal, but she companset by promising to send the "translations", as she also wanted to publish the cases concerned in Paris (Bönninghausen, 1908).

Bönninghausen again urged Madame Hahnemann when he visited Munster to publish abroad the posthumous medical writings and other literary remains of Hahnemann for the good of science and the public. As all her attempts had failed to persuade a foreign homoeopathic physician of repute to settle down in Paris in order to join with her in medical practice, she made another way to do it which is the possibility of marriage of her adopted daughter with Bönninghausen's son Karl Von Bönninghausen. Finally when the union of her adopted daughter with Bönninghausen's son became one of her aspirations, she agreed spontaneously for the publication of the 6th Edition of the "Organon". Not only this, she also desired to send Bönninghausen some new and particularly valuable medicinal preparations of her late husband. Until that time she had kept these to herself (for 13 years) and she still desired them to be kept secret until Bönninghausen had tested them himself. Bönninghausen relied so implicitly on her given promise that he made a report of it to the homoeopathic physicians of the Rhineland and Westphalia at their ninth annual meeting. But it was soon evident that Madame Melanie would not keep her promise. Nothing more was heard of the publication of the new "Organon". Of the promised preparations of Hahnemann, Bönninghausen did not receive a single sample and only a few disconnected extracts from the sick registers had reached him, so that he became the object of ridicule before his more intimate friends and also publicly. When a short announcement was made in "La Press" of June 29th, 1856, that: Madame Hahnemann, widow of the celebrated discoverer of homoeopathy, departed from here yesterday after her return from Germany, where she had interviews with the famous Bönninghausen, father of "pure" homoeopathy, concerning the publication of Hahnemann's posthumous writings, the time for which, as decreed by his will, has now arrived (Bönninghausen, 2004).

Madame Hahnemann did not apologize for not keeping her promises. Rather than, she attacked Bönninghausen with remarkable fierceness and even coarseness as he had mentioned publicly their conversations. This was the method employed by Madame Melanie to extricate her from the promises made to her friend. The promised likewise were not forthcoming. She also wrote back: "I can only send you the new remedies when I go to Versailles where they are. I shall be going there in a few days' time". This excuse was repeated in three further letters within a fortnight. The little trouble that had arisen between Madame Hahnemann and Bönninghausen because of his communications to the Medical Association of Rhineland and Westphalia had no effect on the proposed marriage. In July, 1857, the ceremony took place. The young couple lived with the mother in her house. In conjunction with her son-in-law the latter now carried on the practice of homoeopathy most zealously. (Bönninghausen, 2004).

4. Lutze & Süss Hahnemann

Then a second incident once more brought Madame Hahnemann's name into public notice in 1865, namely the unwarranted publication of a 6th Edition of the "Organon" by Dr. Lutze, of Köthen (Figure 3), and simultaneously the announcement of an "improved and enlarged" 6th Edition of the book by Hahnemann's grandson, Dr. L. Süss-Hahnemann. In this case, danger was threatening her treasure so carefully guarded. She must therefore act swiftly and with all determination (Hahnemann CFS, 1988).

In communications to the publishers of the Süss and Lutze editions in Leipzig she warned them gravely of the consequence of further illegal action, defending with great emphasis her rights of possession of that edition of her husband's chief work, which was completed by the deceased himself and assuring them of an early publication of the same by herself, that she again failed to put her promises into action, from which alone originated the delay in publishing the "Codex of Human Health".

5. American Homeopathic Physicians

An American homoeopathic physician, who had entered into communication with her about the posthumous writings, therefore characterized her quite rightly in polite terms as an *"energetically acquisitive business woman"*. Madame Melanie possessed enough foresight in her sixties to understand the significance of the 6th Edition of the "Organon", but at the same time realized the publication would not be a financial success (Hahnemann CFS, 1988). Consequently she delayed the publication again, probably in the expectation of being offered higher prices and in the hope that, owing to the scarcity amongst booksellers of the fundamental work of homoeopathy (a scarcity which was bound to make itself felt more and more), the value of the last edition, revised by the Master himself, would increase in value. She was obviously unable to understand that she was losing more and more in respect and reputation. She acted with regard to the other posthumous works of her husband as she had with the 6th Edition of the "Organon". All attempts of Hahnemann's daughter and grandson to recover the books lent had succumbed to the stubbornness of their new possessor. On the contrary, she tried to utilize the whole of the posthumous writings to her own advantage. She was continually offering them for sale to English and American homoeopathic physicians. On the other hand they also made strenuous efforts and the most extensive offers to obtain possession of the writings. In 1865 she entered into negotiations with the faculty of the Hahnemann College in Philadelphia, whose teaching staff included at that time Constantine Hering, Lippe and Rau. An agreement was not reached as Madame Hahnemann had asked for an extraordinary sum. Afterward she agreed to negotiate with the American physician, Dr. C. Dunham, of New York, who suggested that the purchase money for Hahnemann's posthumous writings should be obtained by a subscription list. But unfortunately, he died during negotiations. In the year 1877 Madame Melanie entered into further negotiations with Dr. Bayes, of London, who initially had made enquiries from her on behalf of the London School of Homoeopathy, particularly for acquiring the 6th Edition of the "Organon" and the Sick Registers. In the response, Madame Melanie detailed the "manuscripts of Hahnemann" still extant which she treasured like jewels which includes the 6th Edition of the "Organon", the Sick Registers, the correspondence and the Repertories. She expressly stated that it was entirely a matter of "original manuscripts", which she would deliver as such. Then she quoted the jealousy and persecution on the part of Hahnemann's followers as the reason why these writings had not yet been published. She asserted that her husband had repeatedly required of her a solemn oath that all copies of his works should be made under her supervision, so that no malicious and deceptive alterations of the text could take place. As to the publication of the works she was to wait until the rancor of his contemporaries had subsided.

Most probably we have to deal again in these pronouncements merely with the idea of her own importance, and a haggling trick on the part of Madame Hahnemann, who desired in this way to justify her previous actions and at the same time to procure for herself the highest possible price. Subservient to the same purpose was probably her statement that her possessions had been destroyed in the war of 1870 and 1871, when she lost her fortune. Thus she arrived at the proportion that such a sum should be paid at once to her, as would replace the income from her practice, which she had been obliged by necessity to take up again. She suggests that the sum itself might be raised by subscriptions in accordance with Dunham's plan. Then the 6th Edition of the "Organon" could be handed over to the printer "in a few months". At times she repeatedly emphasized as her "most hearty desire" to publish the "Organon", "which contains so many treasures for humanity". Dr. Bayes then asked for a dispatch of Hahnemann's posthumous writings. But the widow extremely cautious and business like as she was refused this request, as a "chest one meter cubed" would be necessary for the dispatch and, in any case, the English physician would not be able to read Hahnemann's fine German handwriting. Of course he could willingly see the treasure whenever he came to Paris. These negotiations with Bayes likewise led to no result. From letters to Dr. T.P. Wilson and Dr. Campbell, of Cincinnati, published by these gentlemen in the homoeopathic journal "Cincinnati Medical Advance", has revealed that Madame Hahnemann had originally wanted her husband's posthumous writings to go to the homoeopaths of North America and she had also demanded 50,000 dollars for the same. The attempts at sale, as it now appear, were baulked, and frustrated so long as she was still alive because of enormity of the sum demanded. Then her death broke off the negotiations as she died on 27th May, 1878.

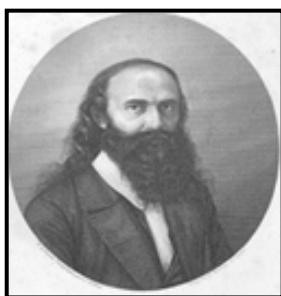


Figure 3: Arthur Lutze



Figure 4: Dr. Richard Haehl

6. Frau & Karl von Bönninghausen (Daughter & Son in Law of Hahnemann)

Her adopted daughter, Frau von Bönninghausen, resumed the negotiations interrupted by her mother's death in 1878, with the homoeopathic physicians of America. Seeing quite clearly that she could not obtain the sum hitherto demanded she agreed to reduce the price and brought down to the half making it 25,000 dollars. Great as was the enthusiasm of the Americans, particularly to acquire the 6th Edition of the "Organon", these negotiations were resulted into broke down on account of the extravagance of the sum demanded. In 1880 homoeopathic physicians of North America undertook to make a last effort to acquire Hahnemann's writings. Dr. H.N. Guernsey of Philadelphia visited Frau von Bönninghausen during a tour in Europe. After a thorough perusal of the Hahnemann manuscripts in her possession, he made a report to his professional colleagues at a special meeting held in Constantine Hering's house at Philadelphia. Frau von Bönninghausen had finally fixed the lowest price at 10,000 dollars, but she also stipulated that she should take a share of any profits accruing from the publication of the works and then followed an appeal for the procuring of necessary funds. It seems, however, that the success hoped for did not materialize. From that time onwards the negotiations were dropped until Dr. Haehl took up again in 1897. Frau von Bönninghausen told him

that she still had undisputed possession of all the books and manuscripts. After correspondence a visit to Darup, the home of the Bönninghausen family, ensued in 1900. Frau von Bönninghausen had died shortly before, and, as there were no children of the marriage, she had to appoint her husband Karl von Bönninghausen as sole heir to the Hahnemann legacy.

7. Haehl & Boericke Succeed

Unfortunately, a second visit to Darup and negotiation by word of mouth, undertaken by Dr. Haehl (Figure 4) in 1906 with Professor Dr. William Boericke of San Francisco, remained fruitless.

Only in the early part of 1920, that is, after twenty-three years of written and oral negotiations, was a successful attempt at last made to make terms with Karl von Bönninghausen's heirs. The result was the acquisition by Dr. Haehl of the whole of Hahnemann's posthumous manuscripts. The joy and satisfaction of being able to obtain these treasures has only increased after years and years of waiting and longing. Of their intellectual value the posthumous treasures have lost nothing. Haehl used one of the two copies for his edition of the 6th edition published by Willmar Schwabe in 1921. Both copies have been considered lost ever since. They are not with Haehl's collection which the German industrialist Robert Bosch senator (1861–1942) had bought off him still during his lifetime. The original which Boericke used as the basis for his American translation of the *Organon* eventually found its way into the library of the University of California in 1971 and is still maintained well there. Josef M. Schmidt's text-critical 1992 publication of the *Organon's* 6th Edition is based on this still existent original manuscript which has shown only a few gaps when compared to one of the copies those were available to Haehl for his edition.

However valuable and effective are the monuments and writings of the dead master, most valuable and most effective is the propagation of his teachings and ideas by the work of his successors and followers and by the combined zealous work of those who have realized the intransient truths and beneficence of Hahnemann's reforms.

8. The Robert Bosch Institute

This treasure is kept preserved in Stuttgart unparalleled. Almost all Hahnemann's Case Books form the time of 1801, around 5000 letters of correspondence with relatives, friends & followers, as well as manuscript copies of Repertories are to be found there (Robert, 2008).

References

Adler Ubiratan C. and Adler Maristela Schiabel. *Hahnemann's Experiments with 50 Millesimal Potencies: A Further Review of his Casebooks*. In: Homeopathy. 2006. 95.

Adler Ubiratan. *LM or Q-Potencies: Retrospection of its use during 15 Years in Brazil*. In: Homeopathic Links. 2005. 18.

Bönninghausen C.F. Von. *The Lesser Writings*. B Jain Publishers, New Delhi, India. 1908

Bönninghausen C.F. Von. *A Systematic Alphabetical Repertory of Homeopathic Remedies*. B Jain Publishers, New Delhi, India. 2004

Haehl R. Samuel Hahnemann. His Life and Work. English transl. by Wheeler and Grundy. B Jain, Reprint 1989.

Handley Rime. In Search of the Later Hahnemann. Beaconsfield Publisher. 1997

Hahnemann CFS. Organon Der Heilkunst: Aude Sapere. 6. Aufl., hrsg. u. mit Vorw. vers. von Richard Haehl, Leipzig, Schwuabe, 1921, Heidelberg, Haug, 1988.

Jutte Robert. The LM Potencies in Homoeopathy: from their Beginnings to the Present Day. 2008