

Homoeopathy

Homoeopathy – a Medical Approach and Its History

A travelling exhibition by the
Institute for the History of Medicine
of the Robert Bosch Foundation
Stuttgart, Germany

INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITORS

This exhibition consists of panels with text and pictures that are fixed to a flexible display system. The themes of the individual chapters are clearly and imaginatively presented and take the visitor on an intensive journey through the history of homoeopathy.

KEY THEMES OF THE EXHIBITION ARE:



What is Homoeopathy?



The Old School of Medicine



Samuel Hahnemann and the Beginnings of Homoeopathy



Dissemination and Development



Homoeopathy Worldwide



Homoeopathy Today



THE CONTENT OF THE EXHIBITION

03 SAMUEL HAHNEMANN AND THE BEGINNINGS OF HOMOEOPATHY

Samuel Hahnemann: Life and Work [1]

1793 Born 1793 (April 10) in Mendheim (Germany), the son of physician Johann Christian Gottfried Hahnemann and his wife Johanna Christiana von Spall

1797-1797 medical studies in Leipzig

1799 Lumber studies in Vienna and first work experience

1799 doctorate in Erlangen/Gemring

1799 first practice in Herzberg near Halle/Gahe

1792 marriage to Henriette Klitzsch in Dessau

1793-1795 public health officer in Gommern near Magdeburg

1795-1796 relocation to Dresden and opening of practice work in Gommern and Gommern in Dresden municipal hospital, growing identification with orthodox medicine and temporary withdrawal from practice; translation of French and English medical and pharmaceutical writings into scientific publications

1799-1796 relocation to Leipzig, then to Silesien near Leipzig; comparison of scientific research; translation of the German physician Wilhelm Cullen's Materia Medica and self-experiments with cinchona bark

1792 relocation to Götting, then Georgienhof, treatment of the future P. A. Klodding, Secretary to the Chancellery of Hanover

1795-1796 relocation to the German cities of Düsseldorf, Göttingen, Frankfurt, Weidenhofen, Braunshweig

1796 Hahnemann obtains the central idea of the homoeopathic principle: similar remedies cure like diseases by like

1796-1805 residence in Kitzingerhau, Altona, Hamburg, Meitz, Meiningen, Göttingen, Schölkau

1805-1811 medical practice in Torgau

1807 publication Organon der rationellen Heilkunde (Elements of the Healing Art [2])

1810-1821 research in Leipzig, habilitation and teaching (1814) formation of a circle of disciples with his students

1820 the Leipzig apothecaries use Hahnemann for dispensing his own medicines (1821) Princes of Pflügge of Ehrenberg seeks homoeopathic treatment from Hahnemann

1821 relocation to Gießen, opening of a practice with the right to dispense his own medicines [3]

1822 Hahnemann's appointment as court councillor by Duke Frederick of Gießen

1820 20th anniversary of Hahnemann's doctorate; foundation of the Verein zur Beförderung und Ausübung der homoeopathischen Heilkunst (Society for the promotion and development of homoeopathic medicine); moving relocation to the homoeopathic hospital in Leipzig

1820 Henriette Hahnemann dies

1828 Hahnemann travels to Paris; painter Maximilian Hellreich-Gelker who is 81 years his junior; relocation to Paris and opening of first homoeopathic practice which becomes famous all over Europe [4]

1842 Hahnemann dies and is buried in the cemetery of Montmartre

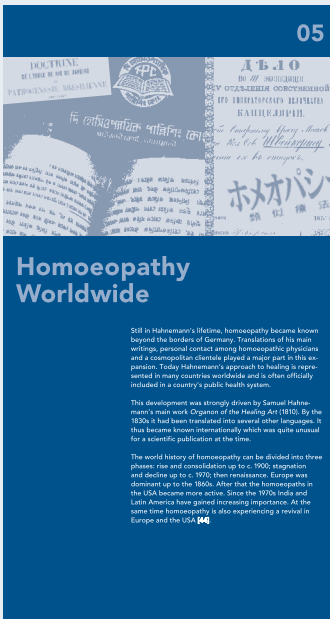
Panel from chapter 3

The exhibition illustrates the characteristic features of homoeopathic medicine and explains its therapeutic principles and its holistic view of disease processes. It introduces the similarity rule which is central to homoeopathy as well as the production of homoeopathic medicines from animal preparations, mineral and plant substances.

The journey through history begins with the situation leading up to the first beginnings of homoeopathy. When the physician Samuel Hahnemann developed homoeopathy in the late 18th century, medicine was still far away from its present-day standard of knowledge. Without much insight into the causes of disease physicians harried their patients with bloodletting, enemas and vast amounts of (often harmful) medicaments.

Compared to the medical practices of his time Hahnemann's approach was revolutionary in that he postulated the exact observation of the patient and the disease picture, the meticulous study of drug effects and, above all, the precise and very low dosage of remedies to avoid any undesired side-effects.

Famous patients from the aristocracy and the art world promoted the dissemination of homoeopathy as their social standing greatly enhanced its public image.



Panel from chapter 5

During the cholera epidemic of the 1830s physicians had the first opportunity to publicly prove the efficacy of the new healing method. Their therapeutic successes which were striking compared to the failures of conventional treatment contributed immensely to the popularity of homoeopathy.

In the face of much resistance and hostility from the orthodox medical fraternity, homoeopathy spread in the first half of the 19th century, first in Germany and then worldwide. With their idealism and financial support a number of wealthy sponsors and patrons made it possible to set up homoeopathic hospitals. In the late 19th century the first few factories developed out of the small homoeopathic manufactures and soon dominated the homoeopathic pharmaceutical market. The 200-year history of homoeopathy also includes the Nazi time when many homoeopaths hoped for the fulfilment of their long-harboured dreams of public recognition.

The exhibition follows the worldwide development of homoeopathy in detail paying particular attention to the diverse ways in which it evolved in the various European countries up to its present-day boom that also extends to Central and Eastern Europe. The success of the North American homoeopaths and how it was received worldwide was an important influence right up to the early 20th century. Nowadays it is the renaissance of homoeopathy in South America that excites much interest. Special attention is given to Brazil where homoeopathy is recognized as part of the 'integrative national health system'. The development in Asia is demonstrated by the example of recent innovative streams, such as in Japan, and the situation in India where homoeopathy is holding a strong position being fully included in the national health care provision. India boasts the widest dissemination and the best institutional recognition of homoeopathy worldwide.

The historical review closes with a look at the situation of homoeopathy today. Since the 1980s homoeopathy has experienced a considerable global upsurge. In the course of its 200-year history various regional schools of homoeopathy have emerged. The efficacy of the high potencies has remained controversial until today. The exhibition therefore also gives an account of the current research into this question and the outcomes of the research into health care provision. Special indication areas for homoeopathy and patient needs are described in conclusion.

FAQs CONCERNING THE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

Question 1 How much space is needed for the exhibition?

Answer The exhibition occupies an area of c. 40–100 square meters. The flexible display stands allow for various set-ups and can easily be adjusted to the space in question. The panels need to be accessible from both sides.

Question 2 What costs are involved?

Answer The Robert Bosch Foundation and the Indian Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan pay for the exhibition and, by prior arrangement, also bear the expenses for openings and other exhibition-related events. Information material for the exhibition can be ordered from Max Mueller Bhavan in Delhi. It is free of charge up to a certain number (cf. question 3). The exhibition comes with 'nail to nail' insurance.

Question 3 Is there any information material?

Answer There are: a flyer for exhibition visitors; a poster; an exhibition banner; a short guide with the main texts. These materials can be ordered from the Goethe-Institut in Delhi (max. number of flyers: 1100; max. number of posters: 50; exhibition banners are delivered with the exhibition)

Question 4 Who can answer my questions?

Answer The contact person for booking the exhibition and for the technical procedure is: Mrs Anita Singh, Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Phone: +91-(0)11-23329506-134, e-mail: singh.anita@delhi.goethe.org

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Question 5 How many components does the exhibition consist of once it is set up?

Answer There are 10 display stands (2.22 × 0.80 m) that are grouped and to which 10 exhibition panels (1.20 × 0.65 m) can be attached. The whole system can be arranged in a line, but also in other formations such as a z-shape or an open rectangle. It is important that the panels can be seen from both sides. The height of the uniform display stands is adjustable between 2.22 and 2.27 m to make up for uneven ground surfaces.

Question 6 How long does it take to set up the exhibition?

Answer The exhibition can be set up in one to three hours depending on technical skill.

Question 7 Which tools are needed for setting up the exhibition?

Answer A screw driver (best electrical) is needed to open the chests. The tools needed for installing the exhibition are contained in the chests (1 slotted and 1 cross-tip screwdriver, 1 Allen key, 1 flat spanner (17 mm) to adjust the height.

Question 8 How much space is needed for storage?

Answer For the exhibition a storage space of c. 2.30 m (length), 0.55 m (height) and 1.00 m (width) is needed.

Question 9 How is the exhibition supplied?

Answer The exhibition arrives in three wooden chests, 1 chest for the 10 panels (1.33 m long, 0.77 m wide, 0.15 m high), 2 chests for the display stands (2.30 m long, 0.90 m wide, 0.37 m high).

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Question 10 Are there any installation instructions?

Answer Because the installation is so simple, no instructions are supplied, but the following points need to be considered:

1. The bottom height has to be set with a flat spanner using the adjusting nuts provided. The feet must not be turned!
2. To insert the picture panels into the frames one only needs to loosen the two screws in the top rail of the frame.

Question 11 Size and weight of the individual components?

Answer

number	length	width	height	content	weight
1 chest	1.35 m	0.77 m	0.15 m	10 panels	70 kg
2 chests	2.30 m	0.90 m	0.37 m	5 display stands each	140 kg each

350 kg total weight

Question 12 How are the components packed up for transport?

Answer They are packed into three wooden chests.

Question 13 What vehicle is needed to transport them?

Answer A van is sufficient.

Question 14 What is needed for loading and unloading?

Answer Because of the weight of the chests four strong people are necessary for loading and unloading.

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