

## Our History

Scott E. Walker and Dan Marcuzzi

The cover photograph, showing the door into the pharmacy in the facade of the *Ospedale Civile* (civil hospital) in Venice, Italy, was taken in July 1999 by one of the authors (D.M.).

Construction of the facade was started in 1487, by Pietro Lombardo and Giovanni Buora, and was completed in 1495. The building was originally known as the *Scuola Grande di San Marco* and was one of several such *scuole grandi* (great schools) in Venice. It is located in the *Campo dei Santi Giovanni e Paolo* (piazza or square of Saints John and Paul) in Castello, 1 of 6 *sestieri* (neighbourhoods) in Venice. Adjacent to the hospital is the relatively famous *Basilica dei Ss. Giovanni e Paolo*, just one of many rather impressive churches in Venice. The building was converted into a hospital early in the 20th century. The pharmacy was operational until the early 1990s, and, although the hospital itself is still open, surgery is no longer performed there.

The *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* has a much shorter history than the door to the pharmacy shown on the cover. Our first issue was published in March/April 1948, under the title *Bulletin of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists*. The first editor was P.C. Stata, who provided all of the content for the first issue, including the first editorial,<sup>1</sup> which dealt with the purpose of the publication, and articles on isopropyl alcohol in hospitals<sup>2</sup> and curare.<sup>3</sup> The name of the Journal has changed twice. After the first change, to *The Hospital Pharmacist*, the title was changed again in 1969 (volume 21) to the current title, *The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*. In the early years, the journal office was located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and some Associate Editors from that time (Betty Riddell, Orest Buchko, Murray Brown, and Bruce Schnell) have remarked that “work on the journal was a condition of employment at University Hospital!”<sup>4</sup>

In 1982, the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* was relocated to the Society’s national office in Toronto. The retiring editorial staff members were honoured at a special dinner held on Tuesday, October 5, 1982, during



the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society in Regina, Saskatchewan.<sup>4</sup> The retiring editor, Jack Summers, was presented with a bound copy of his editorials and was “instructed to read one each day as a reminder of the nonsense he had written during his 20 years as editor.”<sup>4</sup>

After the move to Toronto, the Journal underwent substantial reorganization under the editorial direction of B. Jane Gillespie.<sup>5</sup> In 1983, citing an insufficient number of articles acceptable for publication, Jane Gillespie announced that the Journal would be reduced to 4 issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter), but that it would return to 6 issues in 1985.<sup>6</sup> The 1985 volume contained 181 pages, not including ads, similar to the number of pages in the 6-issue volumes published in 1981 and 1982. Sue Tremblay became Editor in December 1985, announcing in her first editorial her intention to increase journal copy and advertising.<sup>7</sup> By 1988 the number of printed pages had increased to 341, excluding ads. Since then, the page count has dropped below 300 only once, in 1989.

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Unfortunately, the growth in advertising that supported the expansion of the Journal in the mid-1980s and guaranteed the solvency of the Society through to the early 1990s is a thing of the past, and ad revenues have been in steady decline since 1996. This trend is a direct result of a shift away from direct-to-pharmacist product-specific advertising and a movement toward sponsorship of educational events, symposia, and continuing education programs by the pharmaceutical industry. For *CJHP* this means less revenue to support the page count that we have enjoyed for the past 15 years. Therefore, while the editorial staff have pledged their support to increase revenue through other means, it is with regret that we acknowledge the decision made by Council at this year's Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to reduce the Journal to 4 issues for volume 54 in the year 2001. This follows on a previous decision to reduce the number of issues in the current volume to 5. Nonetheless, the Editorial Board remains committed to publishing high-quality material in *CJHP*, to promoting the sharing of information among pharmacists, and to assisting pharmacists in their diverse practices, as they forge partnerships and reach out to help patients.

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*Directly above the door in the façade, the inscription reads "FARMACIA", a relatively modern addition to the original facade. In the mantle above the door the*

*inscription reads "COMMODITATIDECORIETMONVM". As with many epigraphical texts, this Latin inscription has been abbreviated by the omission of one or more letters from each word.<sup>8</sup> The Journal's editorial staff, after some effort, was unable to translate this inscription. If you are able to provide the correct English version, we are interested in hearing from you. Please contact the Editorial Office, through the CSHP Head Office.*

## References

1. Statia PC. Editorial. *Bull Soc Hosp Pharm* 1948;1:1.
2. Statia PC. Isopropyl alcohol in hospitals. *Bull Soc Hosp Pharm* 1948; 1:3-8.
3. Statia PC. Curare. *Bull Soc Hosp Pharm* 1948;1:8-12.
4. Summers JL. Annual meeting 1982. A special report. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 1982;35:149-50.
5. A tribute to Susan Tremblay (editor 1985–1992). *Can J Hosp Pharm* 1992;45:210.
6. Gillespie JB. The time has come [editorial]. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 1983;36:9.
7. Tremblay S. Sailing the high seas [editorial]. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 1985;38:154.
8. Elliott T. Abbreviations in Latin inscriptions. Available at: <http://asgale.classics.unc.edu/abbrev/latin> (accessed 14 Sept 2000).

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