

Addiction Treatment & Recovery among American Women: The Early History (1750-1975)

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Presentation Goals

1. Present a brief overview of the early history of addiction treatment and recovery among women in the United States
2. Honor the early women who opened doorways to treatment and recovery
3. Highlight key themes within this history that illuminate the current status of addicted and recovering women

Women, Alcohol & Colonial America

- Pervasive presence of drinking
- Stigma attached to public drunkenness
- Stigma attached to women and drinking increased in tandem the rise of alcohol problems between 1780-1830 and the spread of the American Temperance Movement

Native American Recovery Circles

- Delaware Prophets
- Wyoming Woman (1751)
- Abstinence-based Cultural & Religious Revitalization Movements

Washingtonian Revival

- "Rescue work" with female inebriates
- Martha Washington Society (1841)
- Daughters of Temperance
- Sisters of Samaria
- Lady Dashaway Association

Earliest "Reform" Biography

Confessions of a Female Inebriate (1842)

Written by "A Lady"
(Isaac Shepherd)

Women in the American Temperance Movement

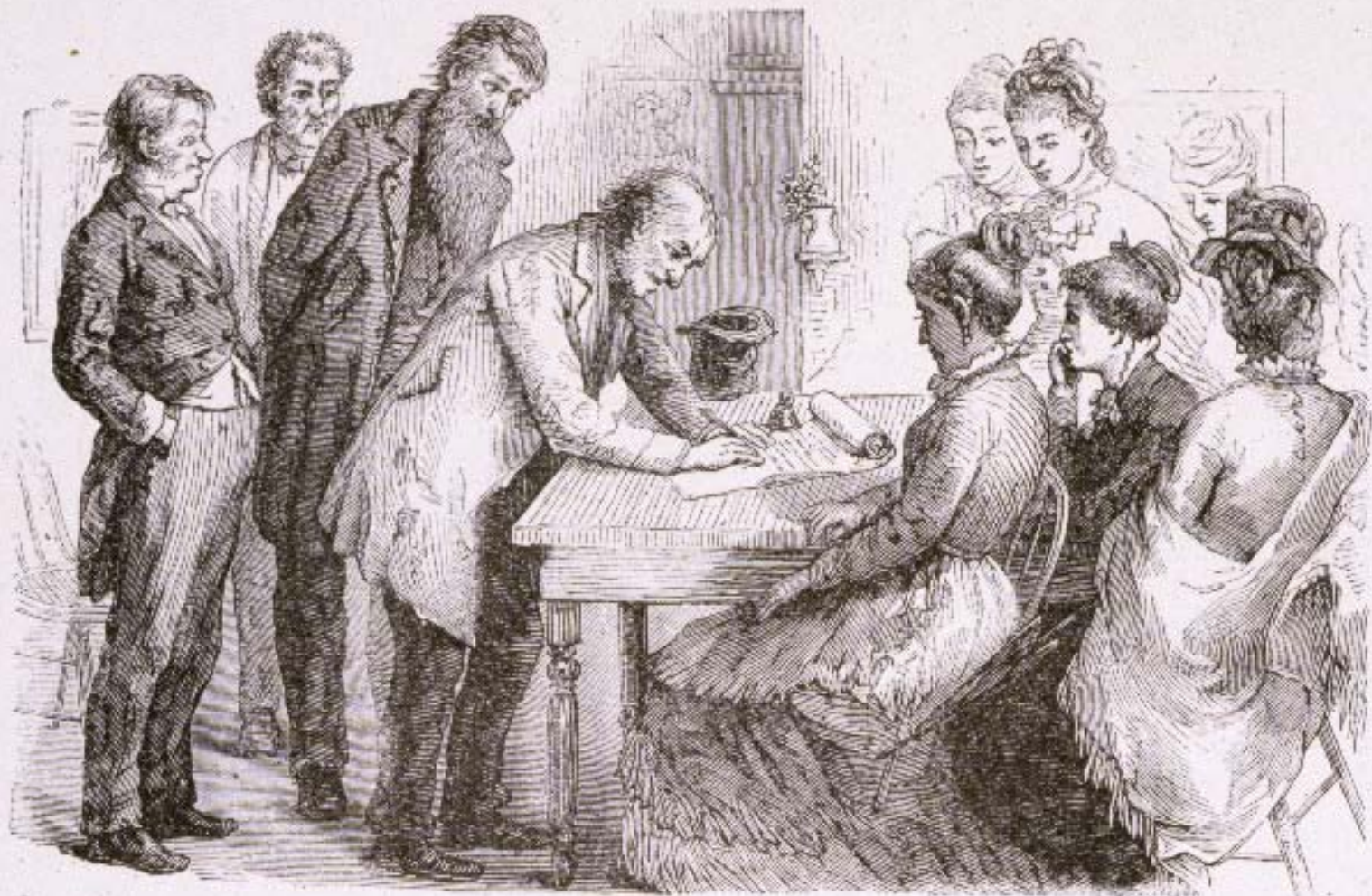
- Opportunity for political organization
- Linkage to abolition and suffrage movements
- Rescue work with addicted women; advocacy for special institutions for treatment of women



WOMEN'S

Women's Crusade, 1873

-Brown Brothers Photograph



SIGNING THE CRUSADE PLEDGE.



GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE WORLD'S W. C. T. U. (1897)

STANDING: MISS AGNES E. SLACK (SECRETARY), LADY HENRY SOMERSET (VICE-PRESIDENT AT LARGE)
SEATED: MISS ANNA A. GORDON (ASSISTANT SECRETARY), MISS FRANCES E. WILLARD (PRESIDENT), MRS. MARY
B. SANDERSON (TREASURER)





STARTING HER SON TOWARD A DRUNKARD'S GRAVE

19th Century Addiction Treatment

- Inebriate Homes
- Inebriate Asylums
- Private Addiction Cure Institutes
- Bottled/Boxed Home Cures
- Urban Missions and Rural Inebriate Colonies

Inebriate Homes

- Martha Washington Home (Chicago) (1869)
- New England Home for Intemperate Women (Boston)
- St. Savior's Sanatorium (St. Louis)
- Temple Home (New York City)



Inebriate Asylums

New York State Inebriate Asylum (1864)

--400 of first 4,000 applications were from women

--Majority of women seeking treatment did so for treatment of addiction to opium, morphine, chloral and chloroform



THE NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

Women Pioneers in Addiction Medicine

- Dr. Agnes Sparks

- Dr. Lucy Hall

 - first to link trauma to risk for addiction

 - early study finding that 1/3 of female inebriates had been battered by their husbands

Private Addiction Cure Institutes

- Keeley Institutes (1879)
 - Ladies Homes
 - Anonymous admissions
 - Extreme sequestration
- Gatlin Institutes
- Neal Institutes
- Oppenheimer Institutes



THE LAW MUST RECOGNIZE A LEADING FACT,
MEDICAL NOT PENAL TREATMENT
REFORMS THE DRUNKARD.



KEELEY LEAGUE NO. 1, DWIGHT, ILLINOIS, IN OPEN AIR SESSION.



Patent Medicine Cures

- Explosion of cures for the alcohol, tobacco and drug habits
- Targeting of women
- Exposés



COCAINE TOOTHACHE DROPS

Instantaneous Cure!

PRICE 15 CENTS.

Prepared by the

LLOYD MANUFACTURING CO.

219 HUDSON AVE., ALBANY, N. Y.

For sale by all Druggists.

(Registered March 1885.)

See other side.

BAYER PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

Send for samples
and Literature to



FARBENFABRIKEN OF
ELBERFELD CO.

40 STONE STREET.
NEW YORK.



An early label for the Vegetable Compound, left, enumerated female complaints. A later bottle listed only the ingredients, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College



"The Touch." An illustration from a nineteenth-century gynecological text.

Drunkards Saved Secretly

Any Lady May Do It at Home--Costs
Nothing To Try.



At last, drunk no more, no more! A treatment that is tasteless and odorless, safe, absolutely so; heartily endorsed by temperance workers; can be given secretly by any lady in tea, coffee or food; effective in its silent work;—the craving for liquor relieved in thousands of cases without the drinkers' knowledge, and against his will. Will you try such a remedy if you can prove its effect, free to you? Then send the coupon below for a free trial package, today.

FREE TRIAL COUPON.

Write your name and address on blank lines below and mail coupon today for free trial package of Golden Remedy.

Dr. J. W. Haines Co., 5424 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, O.
~~I am certainly willing to use the free trial package of your Golden Remedy which you say can be given secretly and easily at home. It must be indeed a "Golden Remedy." Send it to me quickly.~~

Name

Address

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MORPHINE!

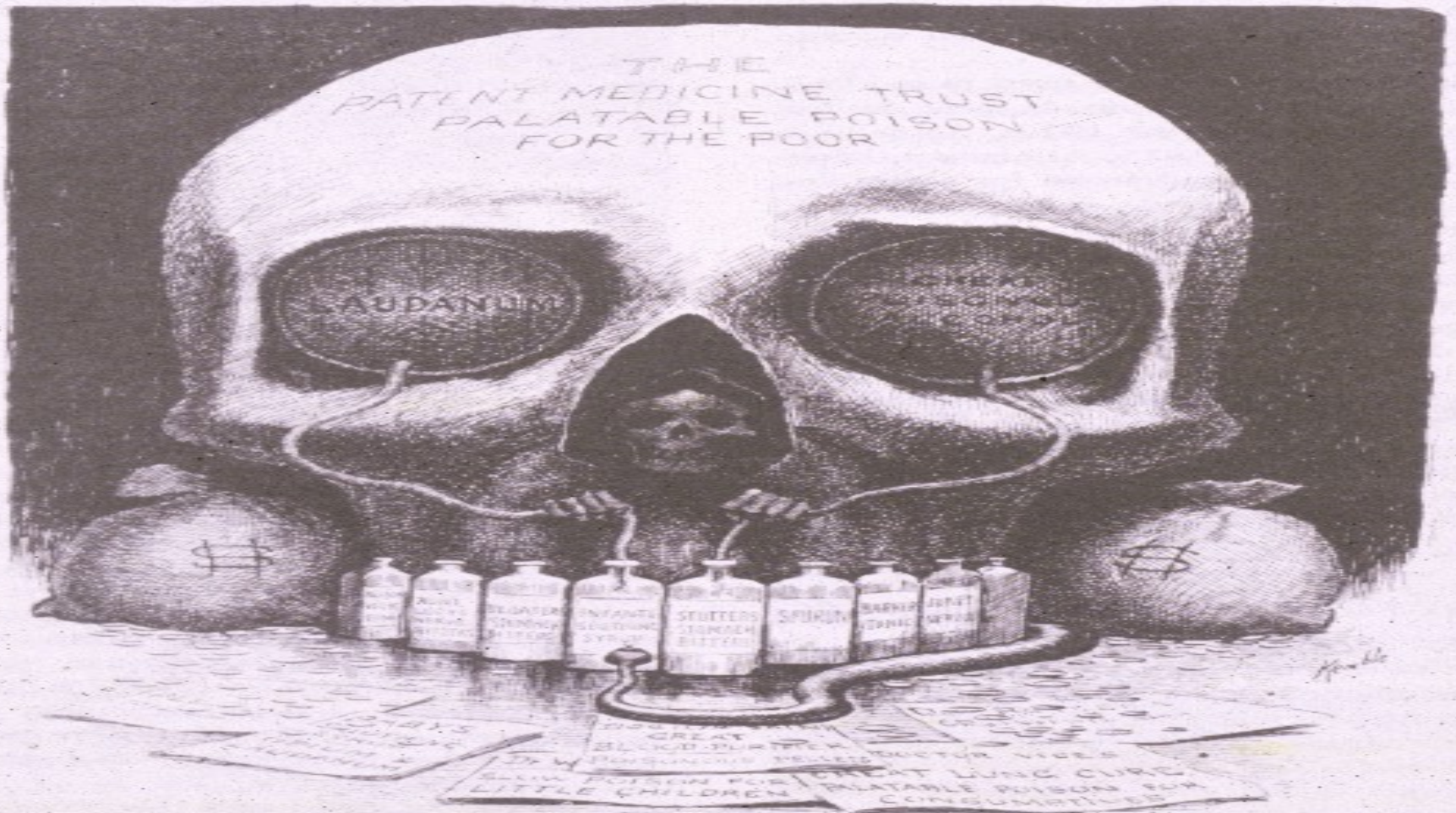
**EASY HOME CURE.
PAINLESS,
PERMANENT.**

We will send anyone addicted to OPIUM, MORPHINE, LAUDANUM, or any other drug habit, a Trial Treatment, Free of Charge, of the most remarkable remedy ever discovered. Containing Great Vital Principle heretofore unknown. Refractory Cases solicited. Confidential correspondence invited from all, especially Physicians.

A. G. OLIN CO.,
52 Dearborn Street.,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Collier's

THE NATIONAL WEEKLY



The Cure.

*What It
Contains.*

Richie Painless Cure	Morphin
St. Paul Association Cure	Morphin
Tri-Elixiria (Charles B. James)	Morphin
The Purdy Cure	Morphin
Maplewood Institute (J. L. Stephens)	Morphin
St. James Society Cure	Morphin
O. P. Coats Co. Cure	Morphin
Harris Institute Cure	Morphin
Morphina-Cure	Morphin
Opacura	Morphin
Prof. M. M. Waterman	Morphin
Drug Crave Crusade	Morphin
Denarco	Morphin
Dr. J. C. Hoffman Cure	Morphin
Dr. B. M. Woolley Cure	Morphin
Dr. J. Edward Allport System	Morphin

THE PRINCIPAL QUACK MORPHIN CURES.

Rescue Missions

- Jerry and Marie McAuley
- Water Street Mission in New York City (1872)
- Christian Home for Intemperate Women
- Salvation Army (Women as outreach workers)

WHISKEY 5
SOUR MASH



The Collapse of Addiction Treatment (1900-1920)

- Restigmatization, demedicalization, criminalization
 - Legal prohibition of alcohol
 - Aggressive control of opium, morphine and cocaine
- Transinstitutionalization
 - Inebriate penal colonies, back wards of aging state psychiatric hospitals, federal prisons





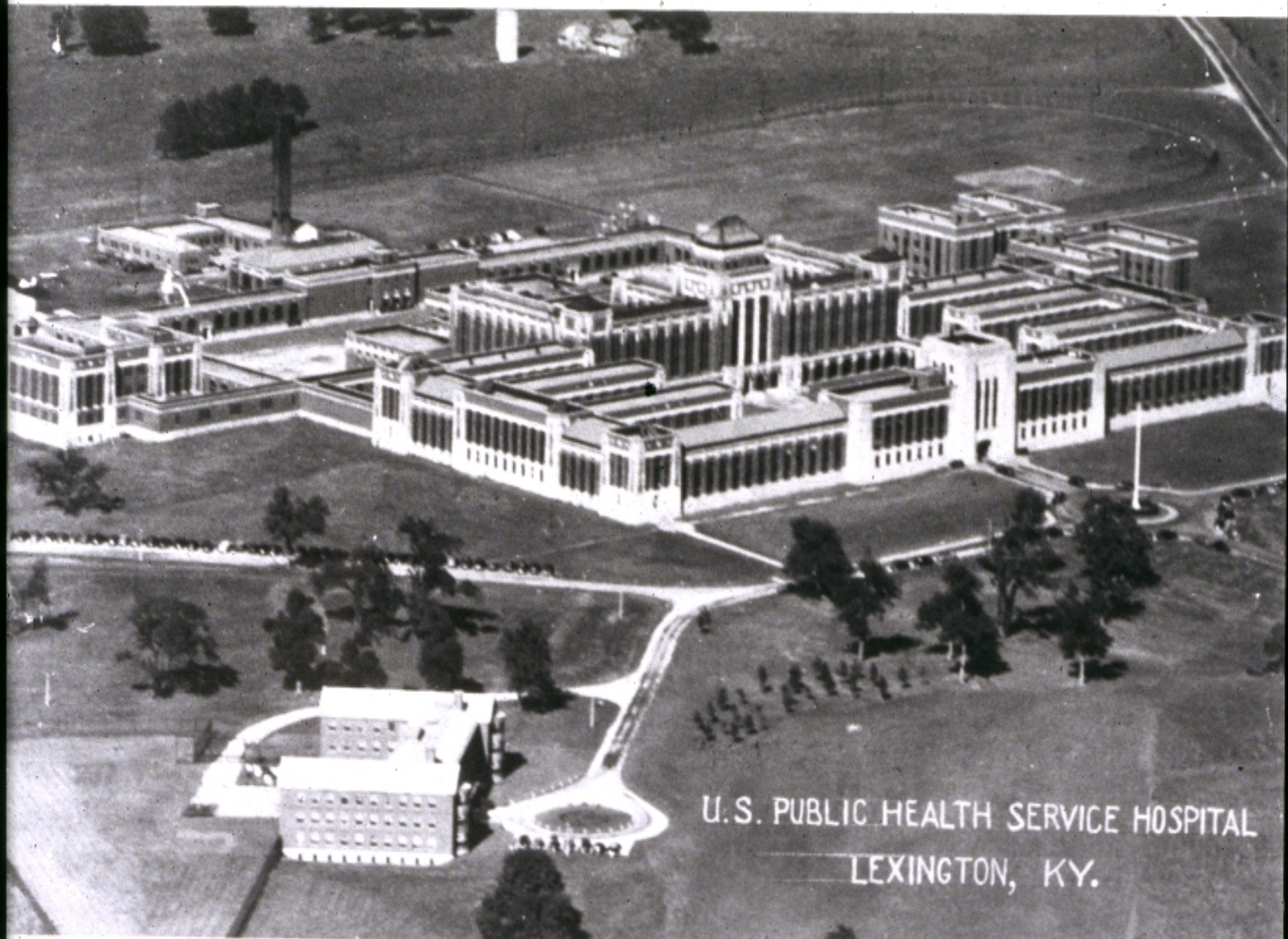
Addicted Women and Asylum Treatment

- Addicted women and the American Eugenics Movement
- Chemo- and electroconvulsive therapies
- Psychosurgery (into early 1970s)
- Drug Therapies: exotic & toxic/lethal withdrawal procedures; barbiturates, amphetamines, LSD

A Brief Experiment with Morphine Maintenance

- 44 communities operate morphine maintenance clinics (1919-1924)
- Majority of patients were women
- Forced to close under threat of legal indictment
- Women enter growing illicit drug culture





U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL
LEXINGTON, KY.

Modern Alcoholism Movement

- AA
- Yale Center of Studies on Alcohol
- Research Council on Problems of Alcohol
- National Committee for Education on Alcoholism



AA and Women

- Henrietta Seiberling
- Lois Wilson & Anne Smith
- Early female members
- Sister Ignatia
- Early Women's Groups (1940s)
- Al-Anon (Lois W. and Anne B. (1951)
- Theresa "Teddy" R. (Knickerbocker Hospital)



Marty Mann and NCEA

- Her vision
- Initial resistance
- Founded in 1944
- New "Kinetic Ideas"
- Laying the foundation for modern treatment
- The growth of NCEA, NCA, NCADD







High Watch Farm

Addiction, Women & the Popular Press

Images that define female addiction as a
problem of morality

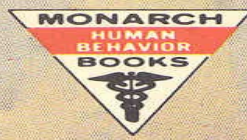
Highly sexualized images of addicted women

Treatment of Women in AA in Press

"Women Drunkards, Pitiful Creatures, Get
Helping Hand"

"AA: No Booze but Plenty of Babes"

MB503
MONARCH
BOOKS
35c



A Frank, Revealing Study Of
Women Degraded By Alcohol

TORMENTED WOMEN

Edward J.
McGoldrick, Jr.
with case histories

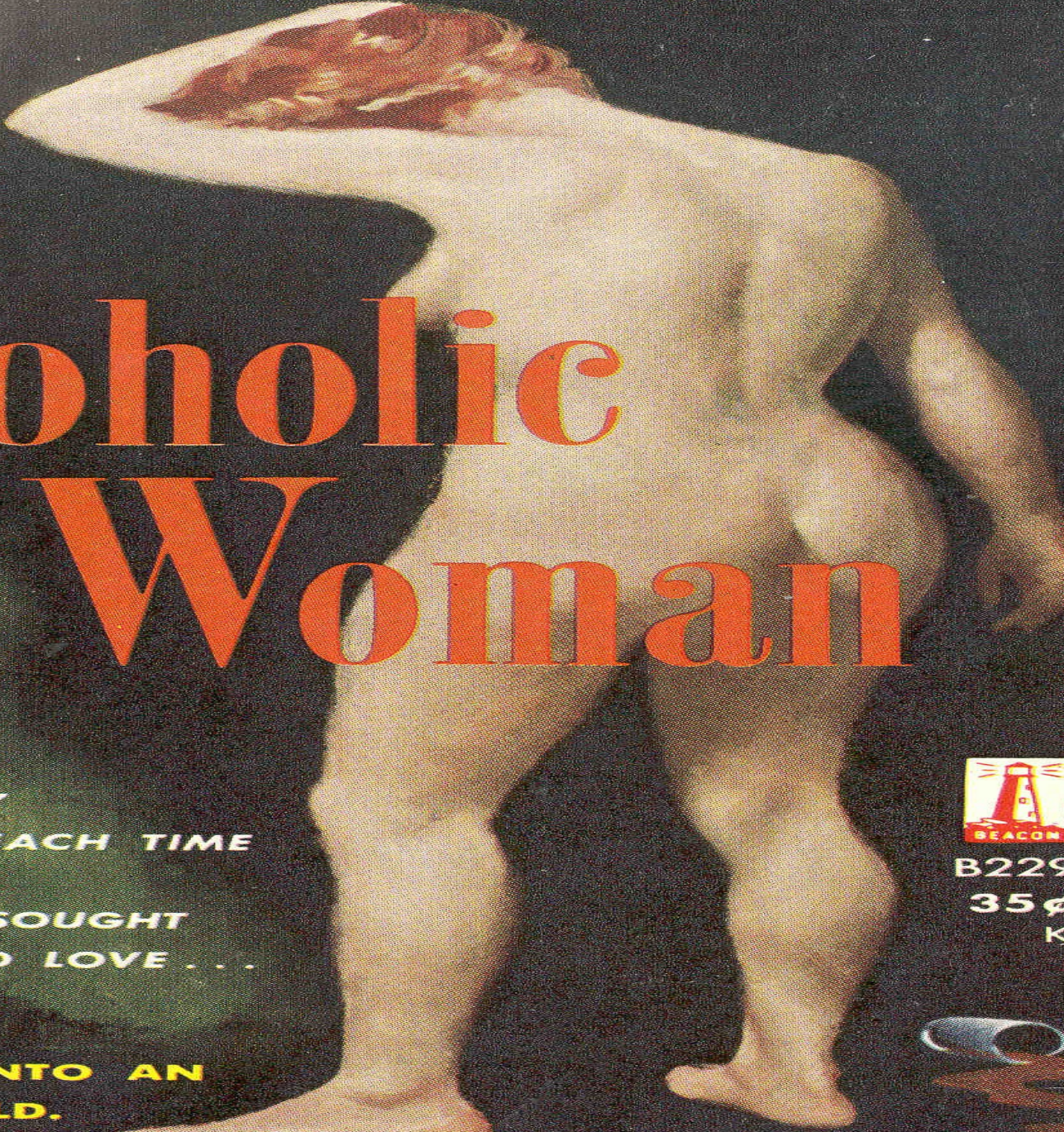


First Publication Anywhere

Foreword By
Dr. Vito Luongo

DRINK TURNED HER INTO A SEX-CRAZED ANIMAL!

Alcoholic Woman

A surreal illustration of a woman's body with a pig's head. The pig's head is positioned at the top left, facing right, with its snout pointing towards the center. The woman's torso and legs are visible, appearing to be in a state of distress or discomfort. The background is dark and textured.

Ruth M. Walsh

**YOU HAD TO PITY
THIS WOMAN . . . EACH TIME
SHE FELL INTO
THE BOTTLE, SHE SOUGHT
SOLACE IN SORDID LOVE . . .**

**A NOVEL WHICH
PROBES DEEPLY INTO AN
UNKNOWN WORLD.**



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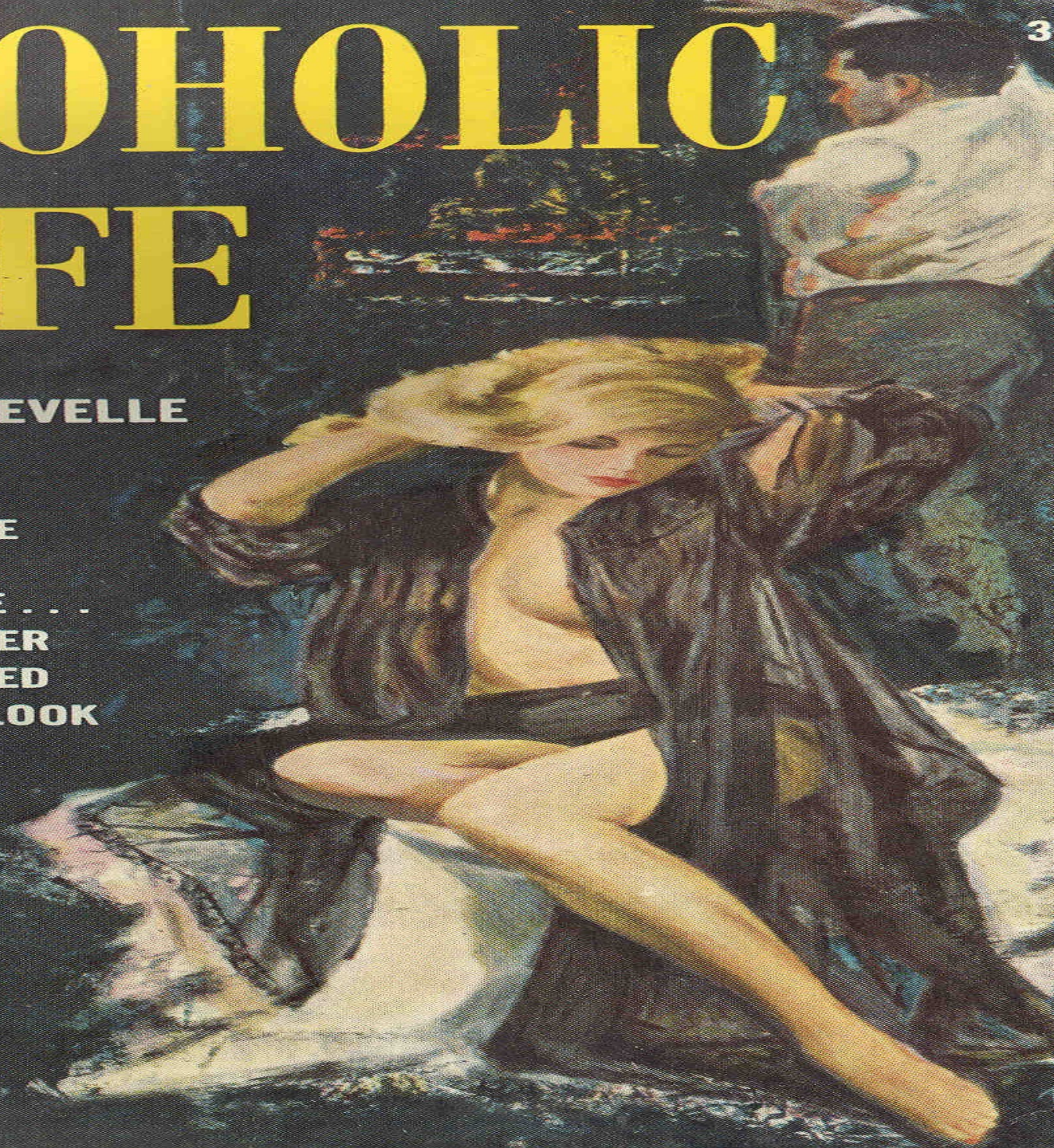
ALCOHOLIC WIFE

G. G. REVELLE

HOW SHOULD HE
HANDLE HIS
ALCOHOLIC WIFE . . .
BEAT HER? CATER
TO HER INFLAMED
DESIRES? OVERLOOK
HER DRUNKEN
INTIMACIES
WITH OTHER
MEN? DESERT
HER FOR HIS
SEDUCTIVE
MISTRESS?



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Advocacy Pioneers

- Marty Mann
- Lillian Roth
- Mercedes McCambridge



Beyond My Worth

THE INSPIRING NEW BOOK BY

Lillian Roth

author of ILL GIE TOMORROW



**THE
STORY OF
LILLIAN ROTH**

**IS NOW A
*GREAT MOTION PICTURE***



Women Pioneers in Addiction Medicine (1940-1965)

- Dr. Ruth Fox
- Dr. Vernelle Fox
- Dr. Marie Nyswander & Dr. Mary Jeanne Kreek



Laying the Early Groundwork for Gender Specific Addiction Treatment

- Dr. Jean Kirkpatrick
- First Lady Betty Ford
- Dr. LeClair Bissell, Dr. Sheila Blume, Dr. Edith Gromberg, Marian Sandmaier, Dr. Sharon Wilsnack; Dr. Linda Beckman, and Dr. Charlotte Kasl.



Dr. Jean Kirkpatrick



Continuing Themes

1. Exploitation of women via targeted promotion of psychoactive drugs
2. Blaming women for addiction of their sons and husbands
3. Invisibility and silence (The absence of faces and voices of recovering women)
4. "Adam's Rib" approach to research and treatment; Iatrogenic Insults (harm done in the name of help)

Continuing Themes

5. Women pioneers have made major contributions in addiction medicine, public policy advocacy, gender-specific recovery mutual aid societies & gender-specific treatment
6. Gender-based Tx & recovery support services exist as an appendage to the addiction treatment system, but have yet to be mainstreamed within that system

Closing

Summary: Early pioneers set the stage for the emergence of gender-specific understandings of 1) the etiological roots and patterns of addiction, 2) obstacles and approaches to addiction treatment and 3) pathways, styles and stages of long-term recovery. The time for those breakthroughs to be mainstreamed within every treatment program in the country is overdue.

Resources

White, W. (2002) Women, addiction, and recovery: A historical review. *Counselor* 3(4):52-54.

White, W. (2004). Women who made (and are making) a difference. *Counselor*, 5(5), 25-29.