

Kent's Lost Treasure Corrections from his personal repertory

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– Synthesis Treasure Edition

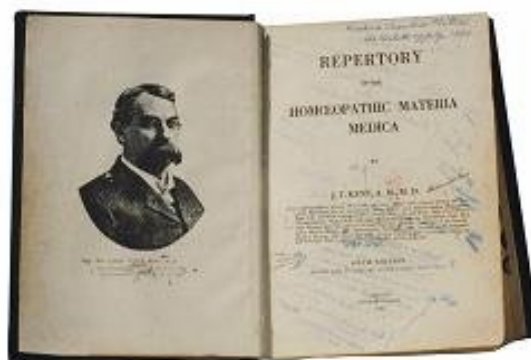
Dr. Currim notices errors

Early in 1972, Dr. Ahmed Currim noticed something odd – Kent's Repertory, already in its third American edition, still had many printing mistakes. Dr. Currim was surprised that Kent had not rectified these errors.

After some investigation, he discovered that Kent had died on June 6, 1916, before the third edition was printed. He never had the chance to correct these errors.

Dr. Currim then began his search for the second edition of the repertory. He contacted Roger Ehrhart – the last of the Ehrhart family who owned the famous Homeopathic Pharmacy of Ehrhart and Karl, and who published the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth American editions of Kent's Repertory. But even Roger did not have any information about the location of this second edition of Kent's own personal copy of his repertory.

His first clue to the existence of Kent's own personal repertory was an article in the January-February 1963 AIH Journal by Dr. K.C. Mittal. Here Dr. Currim learned that this repertory was in the possession of Dr. Schmidt of Geneva, Switzerland.



Dr. Mittal's copy with Kent's corrections

In June, 1972 Ahmed Currim went to Geneva, and there he spoke to Pierre Schmidt about this paper and the errors in Kent's Repertory.

A mysterious story

Pierre Schmidt told Dr. Currim that Dr. Mittal had come to Geneva and worked diligently with Kent's own personal copy of the second edition of the repertory. Dr. Mittal carefully copied every correction from this original Kent into his own copy.

In addition, Schmidt related that Dr. Mittal copied every correction from the two chapters Mind and Generalities into Schmidt's own copy of an Indian edition of the book. Indeed, Schmidt's book now contains very neatly copied corrections in a very symmetrical handwriting.

This is probably identical to a facsimile of one such page printed in the so-called Kent's Final General Repertory. It is noteworthy that the handwriting on this facsimile is completely different from Kent's signature, and that the same hand also appears in the preface of the book. It seems most likely that the handwriting on this facsimile also belongs to Dr. Mittal.

Pierre Schmidt said that after carefully doing this work, Dr Mittal had run away from Switzerland and taken the 'Treasure' (Kent's personal repertory) with him – as well as his own 'copy', in which he had made all the corrections.

This copy made by Mittal would be as good as the original. When below we speak about the 'copy', we mean Dr. Mittal's copy.

Later Ahmed Currim learned from Mme. Dora Schmidt-Nagel (wife of Dr. Pierre Schmidt) how her husband had acquired the 'Treasure'.

Dr. Eugene Alonzo Austin, beloved student of Kent, had passed on the Treasure to Pierre Schmidt during his 1939 trip to the USA to learn homeopathy with one of Kent's best students. Plans had already been made at that point to incorporate the corrections into a future edition, but this was never done.

Unfortunately, all further editions of the repertory still lacked these corrections.

The Search for the Treasure

In 1973 Ahmed Currim wound up his university duties in the USA to start the study of medicine at the University of Brussels.

Inspired by Kent's publications, he was driven to homeopathy, with a hope he could perhaps put to use his knowledge of mathematics and computers. During these years as a medical student, he had regular contact with Mme. Schmidt-Nagel.

In 1978, Ahmed Currim travelled to India and took with him a letter from Mrs. Schmidt-Nagel addressed to Dr. Mittal. It was, however, very difficult to find Dr. Mittal because he rarely stayed in one place very long. But after travelling back and forth across India, Dr. Currim finally located Dr. Mittal and presented him with the letter from Mme. Schmidt.



Corrections from Kent's original copied into the book of Dr. Mittal.

That event opened all the doors. Dr. Mittal openly admitted that he had taken the Treasure from the house of Pierre Schmidt. After a long conversation, it was agreed that both would join forces so that Kent's corrections would become available to the world.

However, Dr. Currim was shown neither the Treasure nor Dr. Mittal's copy.

Dr. Mittal explained that he had been pursued by Dr. Schmidt, who had called for the services of Interpol to retrieve the Treasure. He said that he had been constantly harassed and threatened, and that he was fleeing from these people.

However the Treasure was never found, and in fact Mittal had cut up the Treasure into bits (imagine this !!!). Some of those bits he currently carried on his person, and some were hidden in another town, along with his own copy – a town that Mittal would reveal at a later date.

During this visit to India, Ahmid Currim also met with Dr. D.H. Chand at his home in Delhi. There he saw the Indian edition that belonged to Dr. Pierre Schmidt – the same edition that is mentioned in the introduction to this article where the corrections were added in Mind and Generals only.

Dr. Chand also showed Dr. Currim several hundred bits of the Treasure, as well as a few whole pages.

Second Visit: Finding the Treasure

In 1980 Ahmid Currim once again travelled again to India, having kept in sporadic contact with Dr. Mittal. And again it was difficult to locate Dr. Mittal.

But eventually he did, and travelled with him to a small village, Rampur, where he said he had hidden his copy of the repertory together with the remains of the Treasure.

At a house in Rampur the head of the family and Dr. Mittal conferred privately. They then told Dr. Currim that he would have to return another time – the books were hidden in a small wooden hut in the fields, and the required 20 km motorcycle trip was not possible at this time.

In vain, Dr. Currim explained that he had limited time and that he had come so far from the United States. After much persuasion, they finally asked him to return in 7 days.

Dr. Currim was very discouraged when he returned to Bombay. Despite his discouragement he vowed to try once more before returning to the U.S.

He left Bombay and met Dr. Mittal in Delhi and then journeyed together to Rampur. This time Dr. Mittal asked the man to produce his books.

After a lot of argument, a large bundle wrapped in a large dirty cloth was produced and the contents were dumped on the ground. Among them was Dr. Mittal's copy of the repertory, another Indian edition of the repertory, a copy of the First Edition of Kent's Repertory published in 1899, and two volumes of Lectures on Materia Medica – given by Kent and typed by his students.



Kent's personal repertory cut to pieces.

Dr. Mittal told Ahmed Currim that he should take all material with him to the U.S. In addition he entrusted him with thousands of pieces of the Treasure that had been cut up. At the stopover in Frankfurt, Dr. Currim phoned Mme. Schmidt to tell her the joyful news – the Treasure was recovered!

Meticulous detective work

Since 1980 Dr. Currim has reviewed the material entrusted to him by Dr. Mittal.

There are several thousand pieces of the Treasure that were cut up. Ahmed Currim spent several hundred hours identifying several hundreds of these pieces to see where they fit in the Third, and later American Editions.

Next he compared them with Dr. Mittal's copy. He found that Mittal's copy had the exact same corrections found on these several hundred bits.

In addition, there were 44 almost complete pages of the original Treasure, easily identifiable as being from the Chapter of Extremities. The handwriting of Dr. J.T. Kent on these pages is also easily recognized – clearly quite different from the hand that appears on the facsimile page of the 1980 Indian Edition. That handwriting seems to be that of Dr. Mittal (slides from facsimile and Mittal's copy are shown).

The information in the bits of the Treasure duplicates exactly the data in the 44 almost complete pages of the MKR (Mittal's copy). This leads to the conclusion that Dr. Mittal's copy of the repertory is a true and correct version of the Treasure (Dr. Kent's personal copy of the Second Revised Edition).

The identifying and comparison work was also aided by the Homeopathic computer program RADAR. Dr. Currim finally succeeded in identifying each bit of the Treasure.



Kent's personal repertory cut to

Conclusion

As was previously mentioned, in 1980 a revision of Kent's repertory was published in India under a new title – "Kent's Final General Repertory" instead of the original title, "Repertory of the Homeopathic Materia Medica".

This book was "Revised, Corrected, Augmented and Edited" by Dr. Pierre Schmidt and Dr. Diwan Harish Chand. According to both the history described above and careful examination of this book, it is clear that Dr. Mittal's copy was not used for this new edition, but rather the source was a copy from a Mr. Shindoo.

In the past, Mr. Shindoo had visited Dr. Mittal for a few days. He had hurriedly copied the corrections from the Mittal copy into his own repertory. Dr. D.H. Chand had then purchased this copy.

A comparison of several pages of the Mittal copy with the newly titled repertory shows errors in this 'Final General Repertory'. It is probable that many other inaccuracies crept up in such transcribing, done under such hurried conditions by Mr. Shindoo.

In addition, the Mittal copy contained not only the corrections from the Treasure, but also remedies that Dr. Mittal added from Kent's own copy of Hering's Guiding Symptoms.

Unfortunately Dr. Mittal did not stay in contact with Dr. Currim. Dr. Currim eventually did all the work himself, in cooperation with Archibel and Dr. Frederik Schroyens, and with additional help from the German Hahnemannian International Institute for Homeopathic Documentation.

To summarise, we can say that finally it is now possible to bring you the corrections of Kent repertory. These corrections are inserted into 'The Treasure Edition' of the Synthesis Repertory – the edition that follows after Synthesis 9.1. It includes all of Kent's corrections and additions, plus many other sources.

The history of our homeopathic literature can sometimes be a detective story. The original Treasure of Kent's personal repertory is transported to Pierre Schmidt in Switzerland, where it is stolen and brought to India where it gets cut to pieces. It ends up in a dirty cloth, hidden for years in a small cabin. Finally, in the hand of the dogged, and tireless ex-mathematician, Ahmed Currim, the information is made available to the world.

Our grateful thanks to Dr. Ahmed Nooruddin Currim, M.D., Ph.D., Norwalk, Connecticut for finding this Treasure.

11,398 additions and corrections have been inserted into the 'Synthesis Treasure Edition', as noted by Kent in his personal copies of the different editions of his Repertory, including 333 handwritten additions from his copy of "Guiding Symptoms" by Hering.

In the new computer version of "Synthesis, The Treasure Edition", available with RADAR 10, these additions and corrections are abbreviated as follows:
"k1b1", "k1b2", "k1a1" and "k9".