

FOREWORD FOR EDITION 8¹

More additions, more corrections and more streamlining are the ingredients of this new version of Synthesis as you may well expect. Nevertheless, I need to emphasize three conceptual innovations as the highlights of Edition 8.

First of all, this edition resolves the increasing quality-quantity controversy. Synthesis has always been most careful to guarantee the highest possible quality of information. The number of homeopaths requesting to have as much new information available as soon as possible steadily grew over the last years. It almost appeared that we had to create two repertories. One with carefully checked and entered information and one with quickly entered, often hypothetical information.

There has been an increasing divergence of opinion about which information needs to enter the repertory and which not. It has become impossible for me to satisfy all parties, maybe even one party!

The solution has been to propose **confidence levels** for each remedy.

For more than six months I have corresponded and talked intensively with dozens of leading homeopaths regarding one question: "Why do you have confidence (or not) in the presence of a remedy in a given rubric?" The replies fell into some ten categories that I will report in detail later. The main idea out of this brainstorming was that any homeopath wants to use a repertory which reflects his or her definition of confidence.

Hence Synthesis 8 has become the repertory where everybody can define the quality and the quantity he or she wishes.

The first step, which is fully implemented, is the possibility to select or deselect a number of authors according to your opinion. Synthesis integrates information from 655 sources, but you can "view" Synthesis as if it were a virgin Kent. This is of course visible in the software only ².

There is some evidence of this approach in the printed edition. After much reflection, we decided to print all information: this printed edition corresponds to the view "Full Synthesis". There are two views which subtract more recent and potentially hypothetical

¹ Synthesis 8 was released as a software version on March 6, 2001. It is the basis of the Veterinary Synthesis, which added veterinary information and some corrections to Synthesis 8. Therefore the first software version of the Veterinary Synthesis was called 8.1V. The same corrections have been included in this printed version of (the "human") Synthesis 8, which consequently is called version 8.1.

More information as well as the previous forewords are available at www.archibel.com/synthesis.

² Synthesis software comes with ten different views ranging from "Kent-only" to "Full Synthesis". It takes only one mouse click to change from one view to another.

information from this Full Synthesis. The "Millennium View" still leaves 638 sources but the "Quantum View", being the more conservative one, only considers 436 sources.

In this edition **hypothetical information** ³ has been put between square brackets, allowing the reader to pinpoint remedies which still await further confirmation ⁴. This has been done for all sources not contained in the Millennium View ⁵. The custom of adding "hypothetical information" to the repertory was already begun by Boenninghausen in his *Taschenbuch*, and this seems to be a most appropriate moment in time to take up that habit again.

Further steps to develop confidence levels are in progress for Radar 8, so that anyone may have the repertory with the information he likes at the click of a mouse. There may be other evidence of this approach in a future printed edition.

With Synthesis 8, the authority to create the repertory is handed over to the individual. It is much less the editor who decides what goes in and what not, it is much more the individual practitioner who decides which information to use or not.

The *second* highlight of Synthesis 8 concerns another discrepancy.

Although repertories are based on the *Materia Medica*, they gradually started to lead their own lives. To study a remedy, they often yield interesting extra information. But, notwithstanding the use of degrees in the repertory, to know what is really clinically important in a remedy, one had to read the *Materia Medica*. Even worse: some clinically well-known information was still not integrated in the repertories.

To bridge this gap we have added a vast amount of **clinically confirmed information** to Synthesis 8.

*The *Desktop Guide* of Roger Morrison (mrr1) has been integrated with his kind permission. The 16.500 additions made in Synthesis represent the whole book. ⁶

*On the kind suggestion of Farokh Master, more than 4.200 symptoms were drawn from *Clinical Bedside Tips* (mtf11) which represent his clinical experience. ⁷

Margaret Tyler's *Drug Pictures* (tl1) has been a major clinical textbook of a whole generation, including myself: more than 9.000 symptoms are integrated. ⁸

Some 500 clinical additions from *Jacques Lamothe*, the esteemed French homeopathic pediatrician

³ Information can be considered hypothetical if it is not derived from classical provings, and / or from repeated clinical experience.

⁴ Some examples can be seen on page 1 in "Absentmindedness"

⁵ In the List of authors these sources are followed by an asterisk.

⁶ "... I have invested some seven years in preparing this text and to the best of my ability, all of the best-documented keynotes and characteristics are included." (ibid. page xi)

⁷ "The purpose of writing this book is sharing the vast experiences which I gathered during my undergraduate, post graduate and private practice" (ibid. page 1)

⁸ "... her genius enabled her to give a pattern to each drug which can be readily equated with the patient's symptoms..." (Dr. J. D. Kenyon in his foreword to the second edition)

These are but the most striking additions which make Synthesis 8 the first Repertory containing an accurate update of clinically confirmed information.

The *third* innovation is related to the computer version only.

You will be able to **download "logfiles"** ⁹ from our website ¹⁰, which will correct and update your Synthesis in specific areas. Homeopaths will be able as well to submit their own work by means of this resource. The goal of this free service is to allow everybody to update his or her Synthesis as and when they wish.

This adaptability contrasts with the previous situation where a version remained as such for three or four years. Adding the information you want is just another way to individualize your Synthesis.

As a consequence, it is even more important than before to inform us about your work and to send us a copy so we can consider integrating it in the source Synthesis.

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As we have created a tool whereby everybody can define the information he or she wants, we finally felt confident to include many more additions of many more remedies. Overall 133.000 new remedy references were introduced and 392.000 new author references ¹¹. This means that the amount of new information, compared to Synthesis 7, is almost equal to the information contained in the original Kent's Repertory!

Many **new provings** have been integrated:

7.000 symptoms of the 42 provings of *David Riley* (USA), among others: AMP, ATP, baryta oxalsuccinata, fumaricum acidum, funiculus umbilicalis, geranium robertianum, L-cysteinum, manganum phosphoricum, natrium pyruvicum, oxalis acetosella, riboflavinum, veronica officinalis.

The provings of *Phou Souk-Aloun* (F): brucella melitensis, calamus aromaticus, cyclosporinum, diazepam, GABA, interferon, propanololum.

The full pictures of the following remedies proved by *Jeremy Sherr* (UK): adamas, androctonos, brassica, chocolate, germanium metallicum, haliaetetus leucocephalus, hydrogen, iridium metallicum, neon, plutonium nitricum.

All remedies available from *Misha Norland* (UK): agathis Australis, AIDS, Arizona lava, falcon peregrinus, galla quercina ruber, positronium.

⁹ A logfile automatically records all changes any user makes when editing his software Synthesis.

¹⁰ Look at www.archibel.com/synthesis, then go to the download section

¹¹ For comparison: from Sythesis 6 to 7 there were 29.000 new remedy references and 49.000 new author references.

**Nancy Herrick's Animal Mind provings* (USA): lac equinum; lac delphinum, lac leoninum, lac loxodonto Africana, lac lupinum, limen bredowii californica, maiasaura lapidea, sanguis soricis.

Lou Klein's (CAN) provings of carboneum dioxydum, coriandrum sativum, helodrilus caliginosus and loxosceles reclusa.

The new material of *Peter Friedrich* (D): hamamelis, natrium silicatum, podophyllum and symphytum.

The provings by *Nuala Eising* (IRL): granitum, ignis alcoholis, limestone, succinum, white marble.

Todd Rowe's (USA) new remedies: carnegia gigantea, heloderma suspectum and urolophus halleri.

Tree provings by *Sue Balance* (NZ): salix alba; *Teresa Bernard* (USA): sambucus nigra; *Hans Den Hartog* (NL): populus tremuloides; *Steve Olsen* (USA): abies canadensis, angelicae sinensis, arbutus menziesii, borrago officinalis, pinus contorta, pseudotsuga menziesii, taxus baccata; *Ann Vevarcke* (B): alnus rubra.

Bird provings by *Elisabeth Schulz* (D): columba palumbus, falcon cherrug and vultur gryphus; *Jonathan Shore* (USA): ara macao and buteo jamaicensis.

Further provings by *Greg Bedayn* (USA): corvus corax; *Annette Bond* (UK): tungsten; *Clayton Collyer* (UK): lavendula; *Reinhard Flick* (AU): conchiolinum; *Jacqueline Houghton and Elisabeth Hallahan* (UK): lac humanum.; *Marco Riefer* (CH): monilia; *Friedrich Ritzer* (D): placenta; *Janet Snowdon* (UK): dreaming potency; *Penny Sterling* (UK): salix fragilis; *Jürgen Wachsmuth* (D): olibanum sacrum; etc.

We have also added some dream provings and some information derived from the group analysis of remedy symptoms by Jan Scholten (NL). Symptoms were taken from the two books of Jan. This is an example of information which awaits confirmation and which was put between square brackets as mentioned earlier.

The amount of new information is impressive: an additional 209 new remedies are described (version 8 compared to version 7), which brings the number of remedies for which you will find information in Synthesis to 2.277.

The **catalogue** of remedies offers 4.200 remedy abbreviations with 1.723 synonyms in Latin. The author catalogues gives bibliographical information about 3.031 references. I am happy to say that several homeopathic and governmental institutions are using the Synthesis Remedy Catalogue increasingly as their reference. I emphasize that it is freely available ¹² at your convenience. If you have some remarks though, then please give us the necessary feedback!

¹² These catalogues can be downloaded for free from our website www.archibel.com/synthesis at the section "Downloads"

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Although this increase in quantity may catch your attention, I would like to explain how we are faithful to our primary dedication to quality.

Even though 133.000 remedy additions were made, this corresponds to 392.000 author additions. Many remedies are added with more than one author or are confirmed by another author additions. This indicates that almost three times more effort has been put in confirming information than in adding new information.

This can be illustrated very well by looking at the increase of additions referring to **classical authors**. Largely thanks to the work of Marc Brunson (B) and his team and to Pierre Salaün (F), this is the evolution of these additions between Synthesis 7 and 8:

<u>Author</u>	<u>Sy7</u>	<u>Sy8</u>
Hahnemann (h*)	464	29.066
Boger-Boenninghausen (bg2)	28.093	136.089
Allen T.F. (a1)	16.419	109.646
Hering (hr1)	1.701	59.964

Hence, classical information is definitely better represented in Synthesis 8.

In Synthesis 8 we have also started to prepare for the **link between the repertory and the Materia Medica**. This is only visible in the software: at certain rubrics, some remedies contain the exact text from the Materia Medica which legitimates the appearance of this remedy in that rubric. There are some 3.450 Materia Medica notes like this and most of them were inserted while checking the sources. In the next stage a direct link from Materia Medica to Repertory and vice-versa will be available. This will bring the precision of the Materia Medica into the Repertory.

The number of **annotated corrections**, most often compared to Kent, has been increased from 260 (Sy7) to 620. They are indicated in this printed version as (non: ars.a1) ¹³.

A lot of streamlining has been done on the **alternating symptoms**: always the localization is put first instead of the sensation. Sensations at one localization are mentioned as subrubrics of that localization. ¹⁴ The presence of a referring rubric at the other side of the alternation

¹³ In the computer version the author "xxx" (to be deleted) is used.

¹⁴ E.g.: "alternating with – pain in stomach" became "alternating with – stomach – pain in".

has been verified and completed when needed.

Symptoms with "**accompanied by**" have been checked for consistency according to the repertory structure just the same way as the alternations. The symptoms have been simplified as much as possible, however maintaining the original idea that two concomitants can be found at either side of the symptom.

When more than two concomitants are linked in a relevant way, the symptom has been split only in two parts, instead of into three parts as before in Synthesis 7.

This Synthesis is the first one which is completely **sorted by computer**. The insertion of new symptoms by different collaborators induced a lot of errors in the set order of symptoms of the repertory. We decided to create a program to sort the symptoms in "Kentian order" with the ingenious help of Peter Vint (D). As a test on the chapter mouth showed that this program made some 30 corrections to the manually sorted chapter, we decided to use it all through the repertory, even if this may induce some errors in this first version.

Definitely much more errors are corrected than introduced and most of all: the final job to check the sorting order, which took about three weeks full time by hand for one person, now takes three hours for the computer.

While creating this program we have streamlined some of the rules for sorting and it may be useful to draw your attention to a few changes:

At level 2 the general rubric (such as in vertigo, chill, fever, perspiration), sides (in chill, perspiration) and times (in vertigo, stool, expectoration, chill, fever, perspiration, generals) precede all other qualifications (modalities, localizations and descriptions). The latter group of three is mixed in one alphabet, which is only the case at level 2.

All modalities are sorted alphabetically. This includes "agg", "amel" and "alternating with".

"Before", "during" and "after" are sorted alphabetically when they express modalities (after eating) and not really a set time of the clock (after midnight).

Localizations have a capital at all levels and are sorted alphabetically which makes it easier to search for the section you want. Before, in some chapters localizations were sorted in a given anatomical order, in other chapters there was a mixture of alphabetical and anatomical sorting.

The only exception is the chapter *Extremities* because of its vastness. There are still two groups: the regions (e.g.: Paralyzed parts) and tissues (e.g.: tendons) in one alphabetical order, followed by the precise anatomical localizations (Upper limbs, Upper arms, etc. until Toes) in anatomical order.

After the sorting all symptoms have been read three times by my collaborators to minimize errors. If you find a symptom "out of order" nevertheless, we'll be glad to hear it from you.

This **printed edition** brings some new solutions to the wish to have a lot of information in a lightweight book.

The abbreviated remedies are not followed by a dot any more.

Maximum one author is indicated to support a remedy (in version 7 two authors). As a rule it is the oldest source which is mentioned. If no author annotates a remedy, this remedy comes from Kent's repertory. The sign "*" indicates if there are more authors. If a Kent remedy is supported by another author, you will see "k*" as a reference. For any of the additional references, you can ask the software users, you can contact your local representative or you can contact us ¹⁵.

If a level of a symptom has no remedies and is followed by a sublevel, this sublevel is graphically promoted to the level above ¹⁶. The separation is still indicated with the sign "|".

The foreword, the catalogues of remedy and author abbreviations and the *"Blueprint for a New Repertory"* are all printed in a separate volume.

As a result this largely expanded version 8 of Synthesis could be printed in a volume of 1.912 pages ¹⁷. We also printed a small size version of the same to offer maximum portability.

Altogether a lot of work and even more ideas went into this version 8.

About 150 homeopaths have been contributing over the past 43 months. I thank each one of them for helping me to make the Repertory as a tool more thriving and alive than ever.

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Gent, 19 February 2001

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¹⁶ At page 1, look at the rubrics "Absentminded - forenoon - 11-16 h", "Absentminded - epileptic attack - before", etc.

¹⁷ The repertory part of version 7 took 1.717 pages.