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Lindsay Society News - The 2026 Annual Conference; President's Lecture; British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show; 31st Lilian Lindsay Memorial Lecture

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Letter – Reply to paper “Leaving Wimpole Street (or how to pack up a museum in 30 weeks)”

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Editorial

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Oral health promotion in China during the early to mid-20th Century: Examining the dental public health messages in the posters printed by the Nationalists, Communists, and Christians

Gabriel Tse Feng Chong

Abstract: Public health education campaigns in China started in the 1910s where printed posters that covered different themes, including oral health, were hung up in public spaces. The aims of this paper are to: (i) examine the oral health promotion and education messages of the posters printed by the Nationalists (Kuo Ming Tang), Communists (Chinese Communist Party), and Christian societies in China from the 1910s to 1960s; (ii) locate these dental public health messages within the context of the history of dentistry in China; and (iii) compare Traditional Chinese Medicine/Dentistry with Western Dentistry. Three publicly available online repositories of Chinese posters were researched: the ‘Chinese Christian Posters’, ‘Chinese Public Health Posters’, and ‘Chineseposters.net’; and a total of six dental public health posters were identified. The common theme in all posters was the promotion of daily toothbrushing. The nomenclature used in posters printed in different eras hint at the evolution of the training of dental professionals in China, from dentists to stomatologists. Finally, the posters also contained some ‘modern’ dental public health concepts: (i) oral health is part of overall health, (ii) collaboration with nonhealthcare professionals to improve oral health, and (iii) that edentulism is not an inevitable consequence of ageing.

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Every poster tells a story: a review of dental posters held in the British Dental Association Museum Collection

A. Damien Walmsley and Rachel Bairsto

Abstract: The poster collection held by the British Dental Association Museum constitutes a valuable resource for the study of dental health education. Posters have historically played, and continue to play, a central role in public health campaigns. However, detailed documentation regarding their design processes is often unavailable, and the absence of production dates on many examples presents a particular challenge for researchers. Despite these limitations, the collection offers significant insight into the development of dental health messaging. The diversity of design approaches and visual imagery not only reflects changes in communication strategies but also reveals broader shifts in cultural and societal attitudes towards dental health over time. The history of dental posters demonstrates considerable creativity and includes numerous examples of effective public health communication. Moreover, the collection highlights the contributions of prominent graphic designers and artists whose work has played a notable role in shaping the visual landscape of dental health promotion.

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Alfred Fennings and his teething powder

Andrew I Spielman and Theodore Croll

Abstract: Alfred Fennings (1815/1816–1900) was a nineteenth-century British pharmacist and entrepreneur whose patent medicines were widely marketed in Britain and later in North America and Canada. Although he described himself as both apothecary and physician, archival records suggest that he was neither formally registered with the Society of Apothecaries nor listed in the Medical Register. After operating a pharmacy in Hammersmith, London, Fennings relocated in 1850 to West Cowes on the Isle of Wight, where he operated the Fennings' Chemical Company. From there he promoted a variety of proprietary remedies, including the widely advertised Fennings Children's Cooling Powders. Promotional booklets such as Fennings' Every Mother's Book (1856) and Fennings' Everybody's Doctor (circa 1870–1879) claimed to treat numerous childhood and infectious diseases. Following his death in 1900, the products continued to be sold in Britain and North America. Chemical analysis in 1909 revealed that Fennings' Cooling Powders contained approximately 70% potassium chlorate and 30% licorice, raising significant toxicological concerns for infants.

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Adolphus Dubois and the legacy of Nicholas Dubois de Chemant

Helen Nield

Abstract: A look at the life of Adolphus Dubois, elder son of the famous dentist and perfector of the one-piece porcelain denture Nicholas Dubois de Chemant. His life is explored through the lens of a letter written by him to a fellow dentist in 1857. The article sets him against the background of dentistry as he saw it change in London from an unregulated and largely uneducated disparate group of practitioners through to the beginnings of more formal education opportunities and professionalisation. This article is adapted from a talk given by the author to the Lindsay Society Conference in 2024.

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History of the College of General Dentistry: Inception

Nairn H. F. Wilson and Michael Horton

Abstract: This paper provides an account of the inception of the College, intended Royal College of General Dentistry, dating from the creation of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners in 1992 to the first meeting of the Shadow Board of the College in 2017.

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Brief Lives - John Baird MP LDS RFPS Glasgow (1906-1965)

Paul Hellyer

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Papers from other places

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Recent additions to the BDA Library

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