

6th Historic teaser: The 7th decade of MWIA: MWIA Celebrates Diamond (60years) Jubilee (1979-1988)

MWIA grew in number and became more influential during this decade. Dr Robyn Hewland for example represented MWIA at the centenary of the international council of women in 1988 in Washington DC (USA).

The young forum was established in 1982 which is now known as the special interest group for young doctors and medical students. Dr Shelley Ross became the Chair of the Young Forum in 1984 after the MWIA Congress in Vancouver, years later she became MWIA president and later Secretary-General. **During the decade, two member national associations celebrated their silver (25 years) jubilee Finland and Thailand.** The MWIA historical records were deposited for the first time in the archives of the Women's Medical College, Pennsylvania.

The first regional conference in the Near East & Africa region took place in Jerusalem, Israel.

The Indian Medical Women's association donated a golden jubilee scholarship to its young members for an outstanding clinical research while the Japanese Medical Women's Association awarded research grants to six young doctors. A primary healthcare project was established in Nigeria in 1981 to cater for mothers and children.

This decade also witnessed the award of the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1983 to Dr Barbara McClintock** for her discovery of "jumping genes".

Publications of the Decade:

- Women Physicians of the World published in 1980
- The MWIA Public Relations and Publicity Committee published a newsletter for the first time.

Membership Development

39 national medical associations were affiliated with MWIA by 1988 with individual members from 26 countries. There was no communication from Sri Lanka in 1982 and Vietnam in 1984 while some others ceased to exist as Spain in 1982 and Iran in 1970.

MWIA Meetings

1980: 17th MWIA Diamond Jubilee Congress, Birmingham, UK. *Medical priorities in developing, progressing and established countries*

1982: 18th MWIA Congress, Manila, Philippines. *Humane management in medicine*

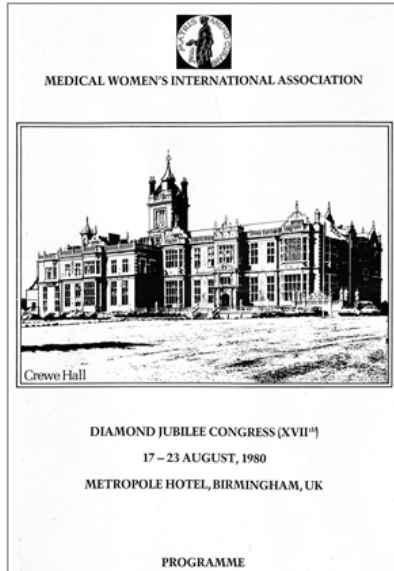
1984: 19th MWIA Congress, Vancouver, Canada. *Men and women: biological and behavioral differences*

1987: 20th MWIA Congress, Sorrento, Italy. *Adolescence: medical and psychological aspects*



At the 20th Congress in 1987 in Sorrento, Italy a postmark was specially designed.

The presidents of the decade were Beryl D. Corner, United Kingdom 1976-1980; Joan M. Redshaw, Australia 1980-1982; Trinidad A. Gomez, Philippines 1982-1984; Beverly Tamboline, Canada 1984-1987 and Fernanda de Beneditti-Venturini, Italy 1987-1989.



Proceedings of the Diamond Jubilee Congress in Birmingham, UK



20th MWIA Congress Sorrento, Italy, 1987



18th MWIA congress in the Philippines, 1982

Sources

Ward, Dorothy, They cure in a motherly spirit. History of the Medical Women's International Association, Glasgow, Fledging Press, 2010

Photos: Courtesy of the Italian Medical Women's Association and Dr. Sigrun Muthmann-Hellwig.