

Marilyn Hirsekorn

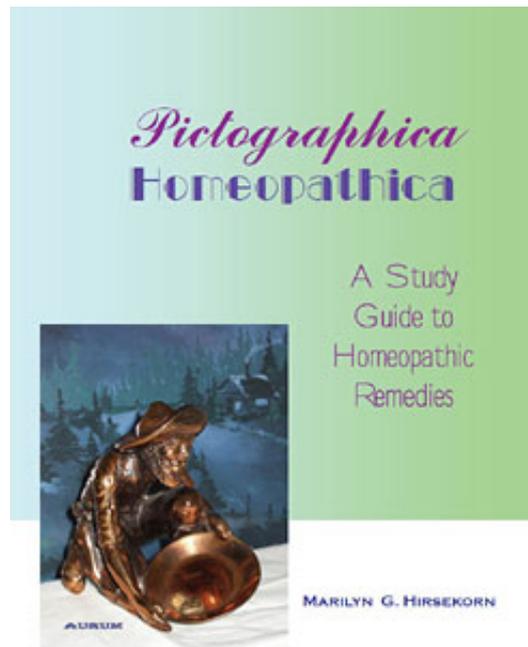
Pictographica Homeopathica - Imperfect copy

Reading excerpt

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of [Marilyn Hirsekorn](#)

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Pictographica Homeopathica

Foreword

This collection of pictographs actually began as scribble art while I was deeply involved in studying homeopathic remedies as a student of the Vancouver Homeopathic Academy.

At that time, I was stuck in the quagmire of chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia. I first sought help from a naturopath, then from a Grand Master of Qi Gong, and finally from a Homeopath. As I regained my health and energy, I took evening classes offered by an enthusiastic student of homeopathy. With curiosity welling up within me, I later enrolled at the Vancouver Homeopathic Academy. At times, I found the volume of studying and of memorizing remedies an overwhelming challenge. A scintillating spark of inspiration soon materialized.

During the first year of studies, Murray Feldman assigned a project of drawing one of the five remedies that had just been taught; this included *Apis*. My creative abilities were, however, still stifled by fibromyalgia, and the assignment seemed like an insurmountable task. During a December 2000 Caribbean cruise, I presented this art dilemma to Betty Steinhilpert, from Anchorage, Alaska. This artistic and flamboyant octogenarian then piped up, "What about doing a bee with a broken heart?"

So it was ***Apis*** on which the first drawings were based. A colourful page of doodle-art soon emerged. Betty's little suggestion broke my brain fog barrier and allowed the creation of sets of stick people drawings representing different remedies. Several years after graduating....

What started out as a 4th year Academy project took on an exhilarating life of its own, as the penciled scribble-art emerged from the depths of pages of remedy notes. The pictographs were the first items to be undertaken, then the remedy introductory pages and finally the mnemonic pages. Once I saw the coloured introductory pages emerge as an additional memorizing aid, my enthusiasm was ignited.

With only minor updating, ***Apis*** has been left as intact, as close to its original pictograph state, as possible.

Stick people were chosen in order to express different aspects of a remedy. These simplistic stick people, with no clothing, hair styles or other distractions, enabled traits of the remedies to be easily understood. A caption has been included under each pictograph for clarity, to aid with my recollection. Numerous pictographs per page suited my learning needs and helped me stay focused. For me, single, larger remedy pictures with everything incorporated into one image, was confusing. I felt that adding more individualized details, as well as labelling would clarify the message.

The quandary of how to pictorially present a particular pose was solved by modeling that particular action in front of a full-length mirror to better understand the stick person configuration. This was time consuming and occasionally fraught with intense laughter, but these little details helped to better "live the remedy". We can all use learning aids, and even a little chuckle can anchor a thought.

Hopefully, some of the little pictographs will elicit a grin and help jog the memory cells into better retention, inspire or develop a unique drawing format in the reader.

This guide seeks to represent each remedy through several senses in order to optimize mental integration of the many remedy dimensions. A page of words can become a blur, so add a picture, some colour, a mnemonic, a poem, humour, etc, and the remedy becomes more alive as different parts of the brain are stimulated to aid retention.

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Relying on the Internet, especially for pictures, can have its shortcomings, even when the material comes from a reputable source such as a university or department of agriculture. Understandably, inaccuracies can easily become incorporated into the work. Experts knowledgeable in the fields of botany and reptiles were extensively consulted to decrease the chance of errors.

Classification and photographs for the plant kingdom were reviewed by Nancy Turner. Very quickly she spotted the incorrectly labelled Internet specimen of *Lycopodium clavatum*. Botany books readily confirmed the difference between the botanically correct *Lycopodium clavatum* and the impostor.

The staff at the Rainforest Reptile Refuge in Surrey, B.C., clarified a puzzling part of the snake classification system, identifying another impostor (again from the Internet). The look-a-like milk snake was posing as *Elaps corallinus*, the coral snake. They do look very similar, but the staff spotted the difference even from a black and white photo. These knowledgeable people introduced me to their milk snake to learn the differences between the harmless milk snake and the poisonous coral snake - face to face! "Red touching black, friendly Jack (milk snake); red touching yellow, poisonous fellow (coral snake)." This colourful maxim will always stick in my mind.

The mnemonic pages have been a useful tool in recalling some remedy keynotes. For example, *Jlrsenicum album* provides Anxious, Restless, Chilly, Burning pains. This kind of quick symptom recall has proved most valuable.

An interesting observation was made as the printing phase of this Study Guide approached. The Mineral Kingdom section presented the least complexities, the fewest revisions, and the least amount of handling. This section of the book presented itself in much the same manner as a person requiring a mineral remedy-structured, few issues, straightforward, organized, predictable, and linear.

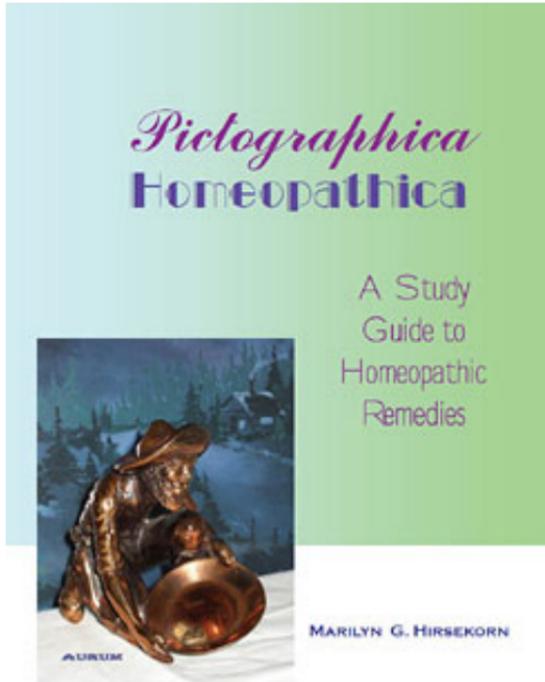
The Plant Kingdom section was truly the most complex, with the most changes, the most intensive work and continually undergoing revisions (adapting like a plant). In the Animal Kingdom, attaining the snake photographs was elusive. They were difficult to locate. There was seductiveness, a luring charm about the whole process of attaining the striking photographs.

Section by section, this Study Guide came alive homoeopathically. The process of creating this book took on the characteristics of the respective kingdom being addressed.

Pictographica Homeopathica is an accumulation of visual aids, a tool to help retain the massive amounts of remedy information that a student has to ingest and integrate while studying materia medica. Pictures, colour, humour, pictographs, themes, keynotes and doctrine of signatures all add to the arsenal of knowledge and aid in retention and recall.

It is my wish that students using this guide will benefit from the isolated dramas, depicted by the stick people drawings.

This Second Printing, the first Revised Edition, includes updating and changes in Phosporus and Thuja remedies to enhance the understanding of these remedies. Minor additions to the Symptom Index were made as well.



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