



## **WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY - APRIL 10, 2025**

*Let's celebrate together the 270th anniversary of Hahnemann's birth  
and the invaluable legacy he left*

**April 10, 1755 - April 10, 2025**

## ***Following in Hahnemann's footsteps in Paris***

Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, was born on April 10, 1755 in the small town of Meissen, Saxony, famous for its porcelain. Gifted for languages and the sciences, he showed an early thirst for knowledge. His inquisitive mind led him to study medicine in Leipzig and Vienna, graduating in Erlangen in 1779.

He briefly practiced as a physician, but dissatisfied with the medical treatments of the day (bloodletting, purging, etc.), he turned to translating scientific works to earn a living for himself and his large family.

It was while translating William Cullen's *Materia Medica* that he tested cinchona bark on himself. He then noticed that it caused symptoms similar to those of the malaria it was supposed to treat, which led him to formulate his fundamental principle: *Similia similibus curentur* (like cures like). The foundations of a new medical approach, which he named "Homeopathy", are set out in the *Organon of the Art of Healing*, the founding work of this new medicine.

His innovative spirit earned him the hostility of doctors and pharmacists, who set up numerous pitfalls for him. To escape the cabals to which he was subjected, he found refuge in Köthen in 1821, where, under the protection of Duke Ferdinand of Anhalt-Köthen, he was finally able to practice freely.

But his story didn't end there. At the age of 80, and having been widowed for several years, Hahnemann received a young Parisian woman by the name of Mélanie d'Hervilly. A painter, poet and woman of spirit, she had read *The Organon of the Art of Healing* and wished to consult the author to help cure her ailments. Their meeting took place in Köthen, Germany, on the evening of October 8, 1834. They kept up a regular correspondence and, aged just 34, she fell in love with this "valiant widower", who soon responded to her wishes. Their marriage was celebrated in Köthen on January 18, 1835.



*Portrait of Samuel Hahnemann by Mélanie in 1834.*



*Engraved portrait of Mélanie d'Hervilly*

Six months later they decided to move to Paris. On the night of 7 June 1835, he left Köthen with his young wife in a saloon car with the curtains drawn. Samuel and Melanie Hahnemann arrived in Paris on 21 June 1835.



*Melanie and Samuel Hahnemann's journey from Köthen to Paris*

They moved temporarily into a small flat owned by Mélanie at 26, rue des Saints Pères, in the 6th arrondissement. Located between boulevard Saint-Germain and the left bank of the Seine, near the Carrousel bridge, this street is at the heart of the fine arts district of Saint-Germain des Prés.



*26, rue des Saints Pères, 6th arrondissement*





*Commemorative plaque affixed in 1955 to mark the bicentenary of Hahnemann's birth*

Opposite was the Hôpital de la Charité, founded in 1613 and demolished in 1935 to make way - ironically - for the Paris Faculty of Medicine.



*7, rue Madame (now 57-61)*

Around 15 July 1835, just three weeks after their arrival, the couple moved to 7, rue Madame (6th arrondissement), opposite the Jardin du Luxembourg, on the same street as Mélanie's parents. Due to a new numbering system established in the mid-19th century, this building is now numbered 57-61 rue Madame.

Hahnemann resumed his medical practice in a large flat on the 1st floor. François Guizot (1787-1874), King Louis-Philippe's minister, granted him permission to practise in August 1836. Thanks to Mélanie's Parisian connections in the aristocracy and in literary and artistic circles, he quickly built up a prosperous clientele.

The following year, on 1 July 1837, they moved to 1, rue de Milan, in the 9th arrondissement, on the right bank of the Seine, at the corner of rue de Clichy. The rue de Milan, perpendicular to the rue de Clichy and the rue d'Amsterdam, was close to the district known as La Nouvelle Athènes. They lived in a beautiful mansion that they rented, with a garden planted with trees, a caretaker's cottage and outbuildings. The property was demolished at the end of the 19th century and replaced by a large building at 1-3, rue de Milan.



*Hahnemann's last home at 1, rue de Milan*

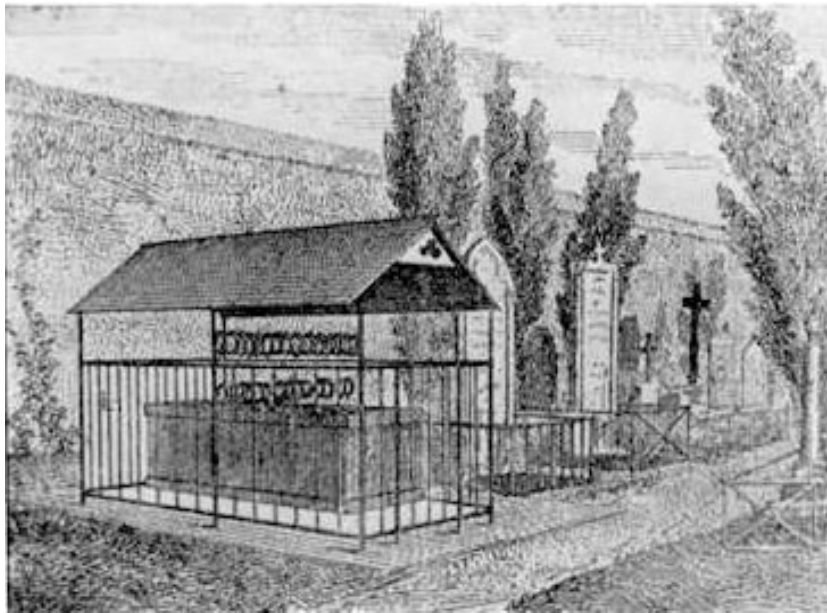
Samuel Hahnemann consulted at this address until his death. He died of a lung ailment on 2 July 1843 at 5 a.m., aged 88.



*Hahnemann on his deathbed, 2 July 1843*

He is buried in the Lethière plot in the Montmartre cemetery (18th arrondissement), 20 avenue Rachel.

It is not known how long Mélanie lived in the rue de Milan after her husband's death. However, at the time of her trial for practising medicine illegally in 1847, Mélanie lived at 48 rue de Clichy, close to their previous address. Thereafter, until her own death on 27 May 1878, she lived at 104, rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré (8th arrondissement), near the Élysée Palace. She is buried next to her husband in the Montmartre cemetery.



*Former tomb of Samuel and Mélanie Hahnemann in Montmartre cemetery*

In 1898, the Société Française d'Homéopathie (SFH) obtained permission for the remains of Samuel Hahnemann and his second wife, Mélanie d'Hervilly, to be transferred from Montmartre cemetery to Père-Lachaise cemetery. This choice was the result of a decision taken at the homeopathic congress in London. An International Committee for the Tomb was set up and began a fund-raising campaign for its construction, to which wealthy American homeopaths in particular contributed.

On 24 May 1898, the public exhumation of the bodies of Hahnemann and his wife took place in the presence of the civil authorities, the Société Française d'Homéopathie and the International Committee. Dr. L.-Vincent Simon, President of the Société Française d'Homéopathie (SFH), addressed a prestigious audience:

*"(...) Hail, Hahnemann! We bow our heads before your venerated remains, to which, more fortunate than our predecessors, we can pay the honours that are your due. Full of faith in the future, we invite the doctors who will be attending the 1900 congress to meet us in front of your mausoleum. Your tomb will seem more beautiful to them, illuminated by the dawn of the next century, which will certainly see the triumph of doctrine".*



In 1900, in the Père-Lachaise cemetery, chemin du Dragon, grave no. 26, 19th division, a monument was erected over the graves of the founder of homeopathy and his last wife. It was inaugurated the same year at the International Congress of Homeopathy in Paris. The bronze bust of Samuel Hahnemann, sculpted in 1837, is the work of David d'Angers. Beneath his name is the motto "*Non inutilis vixi*" (I have not lived in vain), which he wished to be inscribed on his tombstone.



*Samuel and Mélanie Hahnemann's actual grave in Père Lachaise cemetery*

According to Samuel's last wishes, an inscription in Latin is engraved on the Icelandic porphyry, which reads as follows:

*"Here, in our sepulchre, ashes will be joined to ashes, bones to bones, just as love united us alive."*

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The Paris Institute of Homeopathic Medicine was located at 93 rue de la Harpe, in the 5th arrondissement. It was opened in October 1839 by Dr. Croserio, with Dr. Jahr teaching *Materia Medica Pura* in German, Dr. Mure pharmacology and mnemonics, and Dr. Croserio running the homeopathic clinic.

*Thanks to Dr. Olivier Rabanes for his research into Hahnemann's life in Paris, which directly inspired this document.*