

# Appearance & Disappearance:

What a Suffragette's Last Will & Testament Can Teach Us About Posthumous Harm  
Hope Elizabeth May (Department of Philosophy, Anthropology & Religion)

## I. Vocabulary:

1. Suffragette ("Women's Social & Political Union") vs. Suffragist
2. "Posthumous Harm" debate: "can the dead be harmed?"
3. Hunger Strike Medal (Medal for Valour)/Suffragette Medal
4. Value Bequest: A bequest upon death which directs property to promote a social good
5. Normative Ecology: The laws/norms/customs/values that are part of our culture which includes the "Family of Ends"
6. Family of Ends: The Realm of Value Bequests

### People:

1. Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)
2. John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
3. Richard Pankhurst (1834-1898)
4. Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928)
5. Nurse Catherine Pine (1864-1941)

II. Nurse Catherine Pine (1864-1941) was the Pankhurst's special nursing attendant — she had cared for Mrs. Pankhurst's son, Harry, who died in her nursing home in 1910. She ran the nursing home at 9 Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill, and it was here that many suffragettes were taken after hunger striking.

Suffragette Mary Richardson (1882-1961) reports on the care provided by Nurse Pine:

*After ten weeks of forcible feeding I was released, little better than a breathing corpse. I was taken to the nursing home—our own nursing home—in Pembridge Gardens which was run by two heroic nursing sisters, Sister Pine of Barts and her friend, Sister Townsend [sic]. In a double sense these women were heroic: they took us in when others refused us, and they knew that by doing so they would certainly lose the support of their wealthier patients. Here it was that with others I was brought up out of the abyss of depression into which I had fallen.*  
(Richardson 1953 ,85)

## This is the last Will and Testament

of me Catherine Emilie Pine

Should my sister Julia Elizabeth Hammond predecease me - all I leave to her is to go to my beloved niece Marjory Stanley Roper. My suffrage books and photographs pertaining to the "Votes for Women" Campaign to the Women's Social and Political Club: if they want these. My suffragette medal to be sent to the History Section of the British College of Nursing from Sister C. E. Pine, St. Bart's Hospital, London. All other money in P. O. Savings Bank and balance in my banking account to go to my niece Marjory Stanley Roper. This in gratitude for her love and sweet care bestowed upon my ever loved and adored sister.

## Suffrage Stories: The Mystery of Nurse Pine's Medal

While undertaking some research for a talk I gave a couple of weeks ago at the Royal College of Nursing I encountered an intriguing mystery. What happened to Nurse Pine's 'suffragette medal'.

### “The Self-Display Aspect of One’s Autonomy”

*To be alive means to be possessed by an urge toward self-display which answers the fact of one's own **appearingness**. Living things make their appearance like actors on a stage set for them.*

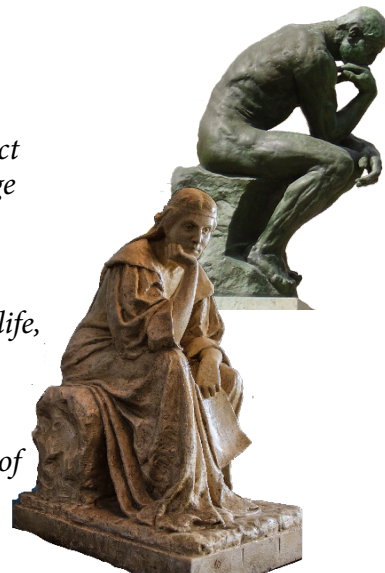
(Hannah Arendt, *Life of the Mind* (1978) p. 30)

*It is precisely this self-display, quite prominent already in the higher forms of animal life, that reaches its climax in the human species.*

(Hannah Arendt, *Life of the Mind* (1978) p. 30)

*Self-presentation is distinguished from self-display by the active and conscious choice of the image shown. Only **self-display** is capable of hypocrisy and pretense.*

(Hannah Arendt, *Life of the Mind* (1978) p. 36)



## “Value Requests & Self-Display”

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.