

Loss is Part of the Field.

One Response? A Will to Play in the Field of Value

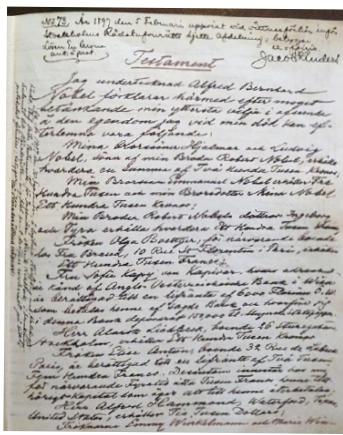
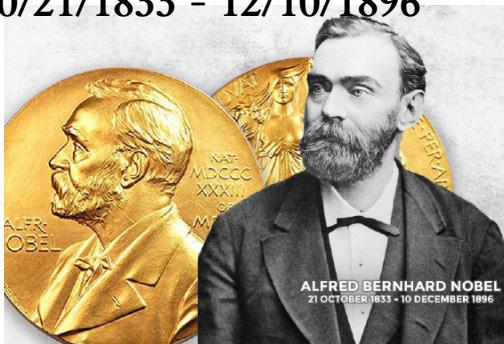
Hope Elizabeth May (Extra Credit pre-Thanksgiving talk on 11/26/25 for philosophy students)

Recall the 2d habit, “begin with the end in mind”. The ultimate end is your death (a certainty), and, if you are intentional, can include the promotion of specific values for which you want to be remembered (tombstone question). Estate Law (the law of wills and trusts), allows you to control the way that you exit from the stage of life. Upon exit, you can direct your property, your “stuff”, to the promotion of a value or a “cause” (such as “helping single mothers attend college”). Your name can be publicly associated with a value during your life and after you exit the stage of life. We tend to think of ‘wills’ as directing property to specific people (family). However, we can also direct property to causes. Lots of people have done this, an activity which I refer to as “**playing in the field of value**.” Thus a Will that leaves stuff to a “cause” is a Will of someone who is deciding/intending/choosing to Play in the Field of Value.

Exhibit A: The Will of Alfred Nobel: (Philanthropy)

Alfred Nobel

10/21/1833 - 12/10/1896



“All of my remaining realisable assets are to be disbursed as follows:

the capital, converted to safe securities by my executors, is to constitute a fund, the interest on which is to be distributed annually as prizes to those who, during the preceding year, **have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind**.

The interest is to be divided into five equal parts and distributed as follows:

- 1) one part to the person who made the most important discovery or invention in the field of **physics**;
- 2) one part to the person who made the most important **chemical discovery** or improvement;
- 3) one part to the person who made the most important discovery within the domain of **physiology or medicine**;
- 4) one part to the person who, in the field of **literature** produced the most outstanding work in an idealistic direction;
- 5) and one part to the person who has done the most or best to advance **fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses**.

Some relevant philosophy:

“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.”

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

“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.

(All quotes from Hannah Arendt, *Life of the Mind* (1978) (p. 30, p. 36)

Hannah Arendt
(1906-1975)



Relevant b/c: _____

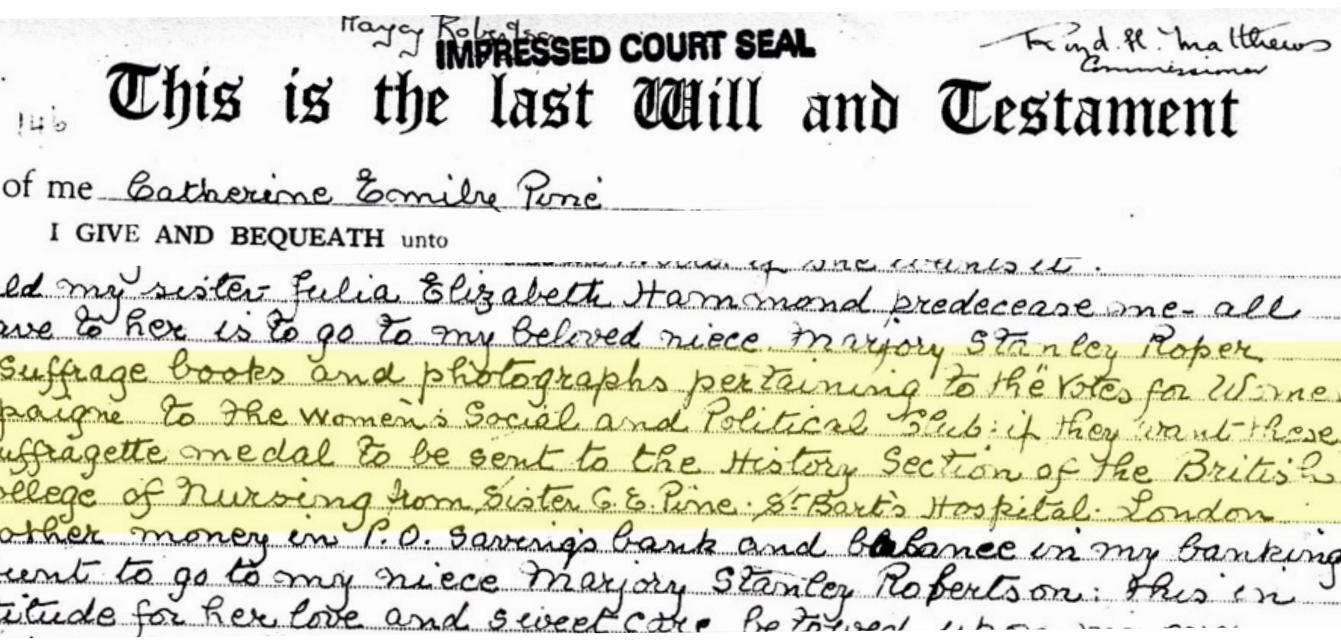
Exhibit B: The Will of Nurse Catherine Emily Pine

Nurse Catherine Emily Pine (1864-1941) ran the nursing home at 9 Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill, and it was here that many suffragettes were taken and cared for 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)



Should my sister Julia Elizabeth Hammond predecease me— all I leave to her is to go to my beloved niece Marjory Stanley Roberts. My suffrage books and photographs pertaining to the Votes for Women Campaign to the Women's Social and Political Club: if they won't have my suffragette medal to be sent to the History Section of the British College of Nursing from Sister G. 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 Roberts: this in gratitude for her love and sweet care. No friends left.

Although the medal was delivered to the "History Section of the British College of Nursing" as directed, Nurse Pine's "suffragette medal" went missing as discovered in 2016 by UK historian Elizabeth Crawford (google "Suffrage Stories: The Mystery of Nurse Pine's Medal" to learn more)

Suffrage Stories: The Mystery of Nurse Pine's Medal

see also:

nursepinemedal.com

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'.

Some relevant bits & philosophy: