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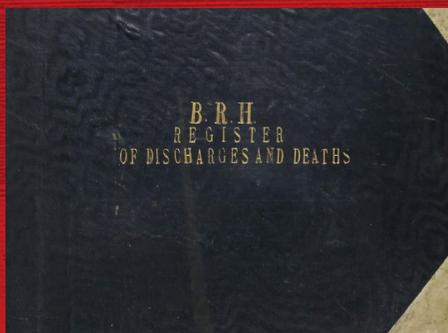


RECORDS FROM BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL, 1559-1932

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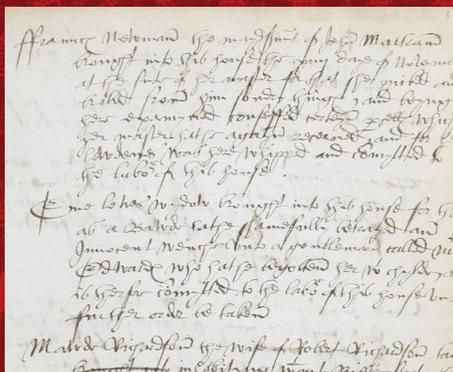
## Mental health care...

Bethlem Royal Hospital is a psychiatric facility in London. It was established as a general hospital in 1247, before becoming an asylum for the mentally ill sometime in the 14th century. Often referred to colloquially as 'Bedlam'—and generally accepted to be the origin of the very same noun—past incarnations of the institution were infamous for their questionable diagnosis of mental illness and poor treatment of patients.



This collection was curated in association with Findmypast and the Museum of the Mind.

British Online Archives' primary source collection, *Records from Bethlem Royal Hospital, 1559-1932*, contains four centuries worth of records from Bethlem. The records are diverse in both form and subject matter. They include: voluntary and criminal admission registers; discharge and death registers; male and female patient casebooks; minutes of the Court of Governors; and staff salary books.



The collection contains over 130,000 unique images.

All handwritten items have been fully transcribed.

Scholars and students alike will find that, together, the records provide a unique insight into the evolution of so-called lunacy laws, from an early reliance on control of the mentally ill through coercion and restraint to the later emergence of doctrines of self-discipline and moral management.

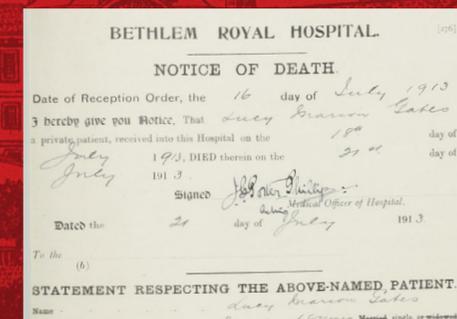
## ... throughout the ages.



According to Professor Myko Clelland, historian at Findmypast, the collection "provides extraordinary levels of detail about patients of the Bethlem Royal Hospital dating as far back as the 17th century, providing real insight into what life was like in this infamous institution."



The hospital's archives are deposited at the Bethlem Museum of the Mind.



These archives also comprise material from other British psychiatric institutions such as Warlingham Park Hospital.

## Over 4 million records covering 1000 years of world history: from politics & warfare, to slavery & revolution.

