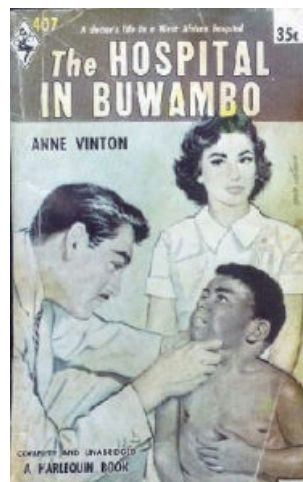


*This month, I was privileged to be the launch author blogging on behalf of all of Medical Romance at the eHarlequin website. Here is the article giving you a taste of the marriage of Medical Romance between Mills and Boon and Harlequin publishers.*

We are thrilled to have our very own blog and hope that you will all stop by regularly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to see what we're up to. We are a diverse group of writers and include authors from Great Britain, Australia, and the United States. For those who may not be familiar with Medical Romance at Harlequin, we'd like to give you a thumbnail history on our wonderful genre.

According to Sheila Hodgson, Senior Editor of Medical Romance®: "Mills and Boon published Doctor/Nurse stories since its earliest days as part of the general list. However Medicals first appeared in the UK as a series (Doctor/Nurse series) in 1975."

And recently, the June-September installment of Simply Books, the Harlequin Diamond Club publication, said the wife of Richard Bonnycastle, the former Canadian fur trader turned paperback publisher, along with the first acquiring editor for Harlequin Books, Ruth Palmour, discovered a surprise in the local public library. There was "a large assortment of decent well-written medical romances published by a long-established London firm, Mills & Boon. In May, 1957 Ruth wrote to them, asking if Harlequin might acquire Canadian reprint rights 'for light romances dealing with doctors and nurses'. John Boon quickly consented, and before the year was out Harlequin had published its first Mills & Boon novel, *The Hospital in Buwambo* by Anne Vinton." Here's the cover!



From that moment on both companies bought titles from each other. Isn't it wonderful to know that the first Doctor/Nurse stories helped start the relationship between two fantastic publishers – Harlequin, Mills & Boon?

There's a well known story that in the 1960s, medical romance author Ivy Ferrari was as famous as The Beatles; her daughter Lillie wrote a fan letter to George Harrison and received a reply from his mother asking, "Are you by any chance related to a writer called Ivy Ferrari, who writes doctor-and-nurse romances?"

Sheila Hodgson went on to say: "Medicals was launched at HRS in North America in March 2001 as Harlequin Medical Romance and has been offered on eHarlequin since 2002. Medical titles have appeared in the North American retail market at various opportunistic points over the last 10 years, in Presents Extra, Reader's Choice, and various incremental and key account programmes."

Though we are not available on the shelf in book stores, each month four Medical Romances are available here at eHarlequin under Medical Romance, and a nice list of back log books is also available in case you've missed one! We've come a long way since Anne Vinton and Ivy Ferrari wrote Doctor/Nurse stories! If you haven't tried a Medical Romance® lately, be sure check us out!

Now that we've shared our history with you, we'd love to hear how you first discovered medical romance. And if you haven't read one yet – what are you waiting for?