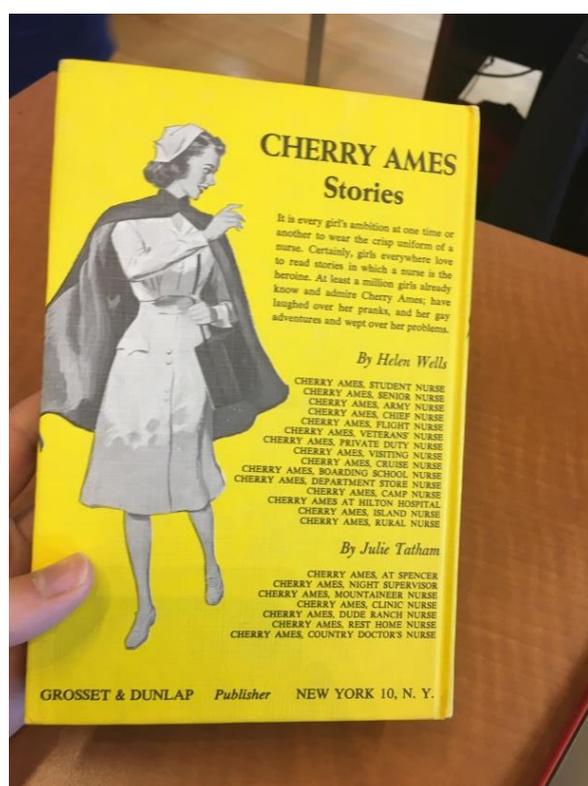
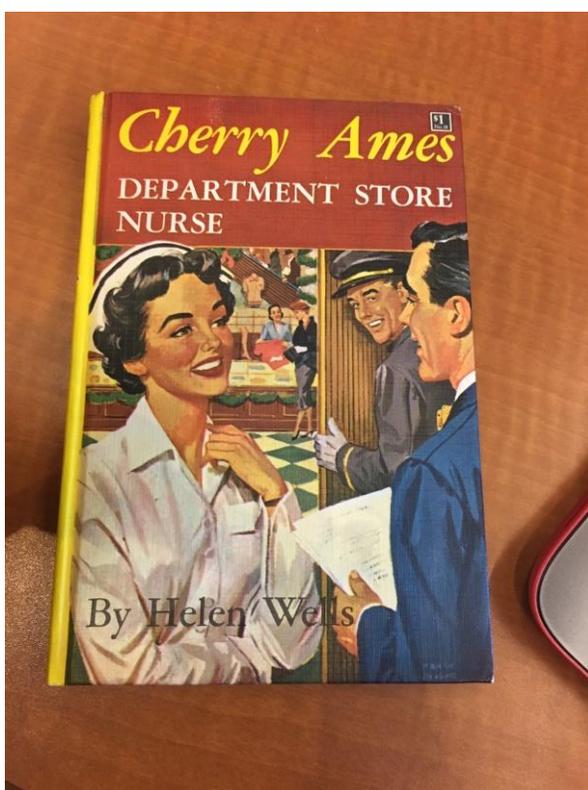


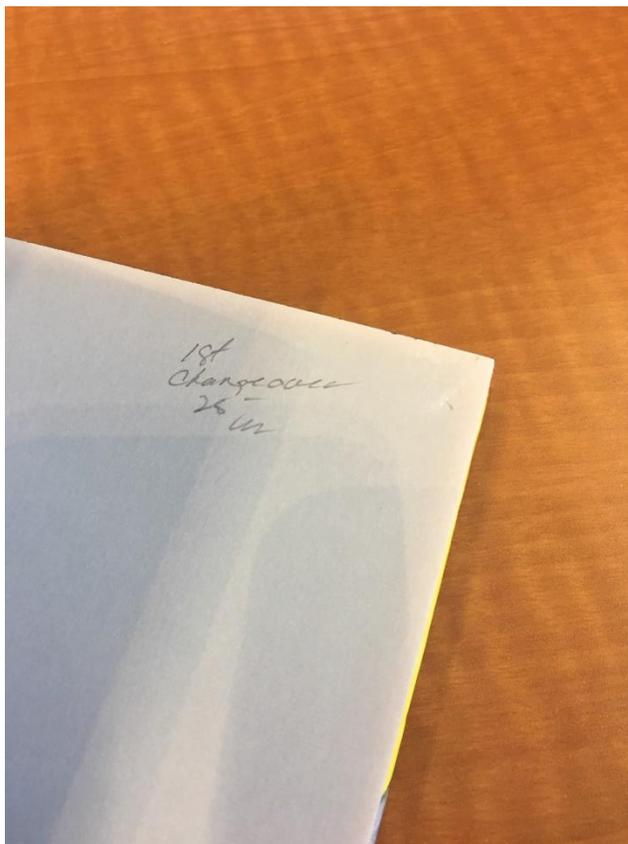
## The Nursing Adventures of *Cherry Ames*

A copy of *Cherry Ames: Department Store Nurse* by Helen Wells can be found in the Dolan Collection at UConn's School of Nursing. This book was published in 1956 by Grosset & Dunlap in the United States of America. It is the eighteenth book in a series of twenty-seven, all centering around a woman and her journey through nursing school and in her mystery adventures in various nursing settings. Of this series, Helen Wells wrote stories one through seven, and seventeen through twenty seven. Julie Tatham wrote volumes eight through sixteen.



This particular book is in very good shape, with only some wear showing on the sharp cover corners. The bright yellow back cover and spine, as well as the busy illustration on the front cover catches the potential reader's eye. While this book has something written in the

upper right hand corner when first opened, it is difficult to read. It is also difficult to know what this particular novel's history was before coming to the Dolan collection at UConn's School of Nursing.



While *Cherry Ames: Department Store Nurse* appears to have only been published in 1956 (Slatalla, 2006), many different vendors selling these hardcover copies for about seven dollars. Among these vendors are: Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and eBay. The series itself was in publication from 1943-1968 (Finlay, 2010).

*Historical Significance*

Early on in the series, Cherry Ames becomes a symbol of dedication to nursing, selflessness, patriotism, and sacrifice by joining WWII as an Army nurse (Finlay, 2010). A watered-down version of WWII was presented in these books, but Cherry Ames' passion about helping her country as a nurse was relentless and aimed at drawing young women readers into military nursing.

After being a nurse in WWII, Cherry Ames moves on to working as a nurse in the civilian world. Women after the Second World War were still interested in working, and Cherry Ames represented that sentiment (Finlay, 2010). In a time when women were seen as little more than housewives, characters like Cherry Ames provided an aspiration of being an independent, career-driven woman who could travel instead of marrying (Finlay, 2010).

The Cherry Ames novels, along with a few other notorious nursing career novels, paved the way for the many other pieces of literature written during and after WWII in order to empower women into nursing (Philips, 1999).

#### *Cherry Ames Today*

The *Cherry Ames* stories depicted instances of nurse subservience to doctors, as when Cherry Ames would stand and offer her seat whenever a doctor would walk into the room (Hott, 1977). Minority nurses were also rarely, if ever, mentioned in Cherry Ames' stories (Hott, 1977). While some of the material and situations in *Cherry Ames* may appear outdated, much of what she stood for is still valued today (Richter, 1974). *Cherry Ames*' bravery, intelligence, and dedication continues to teach her female readers that anything is possible (Slatalla, 2006).

Helen Wells' publisher told her in 1966 that young women were no longer interested in becoming nurses, and so the series ended. Despite the publisher's prediction, *Cherry Ames* has

been translated into many languages in order to accommodate the eleven countries in which they are now sold, and many young girls today continue to read about her adventures (Hott, 1977).

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