

Maria MALYSHKO

**Regina Salomee Halpir Pilshtanova (1718—after 1763)
Was the First Female Doctor from
the Grand Duchy of Lithuania**

Her life is known from the memoirs “Echo on St. Podana of the Prosperity of a Friend and the Life of Mego Adventures ...”, which are now in the Krakow National Museum, and we know from the Belarusian translation of the works of Nikolai Khaustovich under the name “Maigot Life”.

Salome was born in 1718 in the territory of modern Belarus, in the Novogradok, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

At the age of fourteen, she was married to a German doctor, Jakub Halpir, and soon Salome left for Istanbul with him.

Here Salome and her husband settled well. Yakub was treated to know everything.

After a long illness, Salome had thoughts about leaving home, and after some time, together with her young daughter Constance, she went to Adrianople.

After Adrianople, Salome visited the cities of Bulgaria — Yambul, Tatars Pazardzhik, Filibe. In those days, this territory belonged to the Ottoman Empire. In Sofia, she entered the service of a doctor in the harem of Pasha Kyupru-Ulu.

Suddenly, Salome met her husband, who came here to be treated on mineral waters. He was accompanied by an Italian doctor, thanks to whom she learned to write prescriptions in Latin, and underwent a more or less systematic course of medical training. He handed over to Salome his books on medicinal herbs, a natural history scientific vocabulary describing diseases and medicines.

On the way to Russia, in Dubno (Ukraine), Salome got married a second time. Her chosen one was Jozef Pilshtyn — an officer whom she bought from Turkish captivity. At this time, Prince Mikhail Radziwill (Rybonka) arrived there. Pilshtyn entered the service of the great Lithuanian hetman, and when the prince decided to return to Nesvizh, he took his spouses with him, appointing Salome as court physician.

After a while, she planned to visit Petersburg with the aim of freeing familiar Turks from Russian captivity.

Salome liked the northern capital. Her medicinal abilities, as always, helped her to receive an appointment with Anna Ioannovna. Salome cured a girl who had been blind for a long time. The fame of miraculous healing quickly spread throughout St. Petersburg, and soon Rusetskaya was summoned to the palace. Salome was warmly received at the court and enjoyed the confidence of the

Russian Empress, who called her “My Light, Madam Doctor, Salomonida Efimovna” or “my friend” Poland and Silesia, Bulgaria and Moldova ... She visited, practicing medicine, in Lviv, Kamyanets-Podilsky, Bucharest, Iasi, Warsaw, Dubna, Khotyn. Over and over treated patients. After many years, our heroine again found herself in the city where her youth passed. She was already a mature woman, a knowledgeable doctor.

The treatment of patients was successful, including Turkish dignitaries, sisters of Sultan Aishe and Asm, his wife and concubine. After some time, Salome became the medicine of the Sultan’s harem. In her memoirs, she writes that she plans to publish a “medicine book”, in which she will set out her prescriptions and prescriptions for medicines, but her intentions have not come true.

The following medicines used by Salome are also indicated:

- Syropus violarum
- Balsam kopaiba
- Elixir proprietatis
- Aqua plantaginis
- Rad. tormentilla, rad. caramphilat, rad. Bisztorla
- Lignum aloes and others.

The legacy of Salome Pilshtanova is the wealth of our history of medicine.

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