

Vilma GUDIENE

Comparative Analysis of the Contents of Jesuit Pharmacies Books Collections, in 18th Century

Introduction: The Society of Jesus was founded in September 1540. The Jesuits main activities included missionary, education, and health affairs. By 1556 the Society of Jesus had 46 colleges, and 200 years later — 669. The Jesuits also established pharmacies near their colleges and most of them owned libraries with various medical books.

The aim of study: The purpose of this work is to compare book collections owned by several Jesuits pharmacies and to evaluate which medical books were the most common.

Materials: In this work, the inventory of the Jesuit Pharmacy in Vilnius (dating from 1773 to 1774) was investigated. This document listed 405 pharmacy books and this data was compared with: 1) a collection of 43 books from the Jesuit Pharmacy in Uherské Hradiště (Czech) in 1774; 2) a list of 75 books from Cordoba (Argentina) pharmacy in 1767; 3) a list from Jesuit Pharmacy in Santiago (Chile) dating back to 1767.

Results: Each book collection owned by Jesuit pharmacies is unique. There is no trace of evidence that any common guidelines or specific instructions were given for Jesuit pharmacies which books are required to buy. Books of classics authors Hippocrates, Galen, Oribasius represented a small portion of the libraries' collection. More often pharmacies purchased works by Renaissance and Enlightenment authors. Each pharmacy had several Pharmacist's Basic Book — Pharmacopoeias. The most frequently mentioned were Pharmacopoeia Augustana, Moysis Charas Pharmacopea and Schroeder's Pharmacopoeia. In smaller libraries, such as Uherské Hradiště, there were one or two surgery and/or anatomy books. Meanwhile, the larger libraries in Santiago, Cordoba, and Vilnius contained more of these books. 18 anatomy and surgery treatises were owned by Jesuits' Pharmacy in Vilnius. Pharmacies also had chemistry and iatrochemistry treatises. The most frequently owned books: work of Oswald Crollius (1560—1608) *Basilica Chymica*, and work of physician and chemist Nicolas Lemery (1767—1832). All pharmacies owned medical practice books. It might be that pharmacists were also involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. For example, they all had books written by Daniel Sennert (1572—1637), including *Medicina practica*. Also, all pharmacies owned the famous botanical work „Commentaries“ on the *Materia Medica* of Dioscorides written by Italian author Andrea Mattioli (1500—1577).

Conclusion: Most Jesuit pharmacies had their own libraries that served their daily work and education. Pharmacy books collections included pharmacopoeias, manuals on drug manufacturing, medicine, chemistry anatomy and surgery. Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French authors dominated in the collections of South American Jesuit pharmacies, but German authors represented a significant proportion books, as in Jesuit pharmacies of Europe.

Referencis:

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Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
vilma.gudiene@lsmuni.lt