MEDICINES, APOTHECARIES, AND SOCIETY, IN LATIN COUNTRIES

by Olivier Lafont
President of the International Society for History of Pharmacy
MEDICINES ARE NOT GOODS LIKE OTHERS. THEY HAVE AN AMBIGUOUS BEHAVIOUR AND CAN BE THE BEST OR THE WORSE.
THIS AMBIGUOUS NATURE

IS EXPRESSED BY

THE AMBIGUOUS SIGNIFICATION

OF THE GREEK WORD

φαρμακον

MEDICINE

POISON
IN LATIN COUNTRIES, THIS SPECIFICITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIGHLY PERCEIVED BY THE SOCIETY.
AMBIVALENCE OF THIS PRODUCT
WHICH CAN BE EITHER
BENEFICIAL FOR HEALTH,
WHEN IT IS USED CAREFULLY,
OR CAN KILL WHEN THE DOSES
ARE TOO HIGH,
LEADED AUTHORITIES
TO ELABORATE REGULATIONS
IN ORDER TO CONTROL BOTH
THE PREPARATION AND
THE DISTRIBUTION OF
DRUGS AND MEDICINES
THESE MEDICINES HAD TO BE PRESCRIBED BY PHYSICIANS
PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF PREPARING AND DISTRIBUTING MEDICINES WERE CALLED APOTHECARIES
From the Greek word αποθηκη = Place where goods were kept, warehouse.

It gave in Latin *apothecarius*
Word meaning, since the 6th century: monk, in charge of the health of members of a religious community.

It gave in French, *apotheicaire*,
In German, *apothekeker*,
and in English, *apotheecary*. 
APPEARANCE
OF
IN
LATIN COUNTRIES
Apothecary’s shop
The appearance of apothecaries was linked with the appearance of Universities
13th century

PARIS

BOLOGNA

OXFORD

MONTPELLIER

TOULOUSE
University of Bologna
DOCTORS of MEDICINE, ACCESSING TO A UNIVERSITY POSITION, FELT THAT THEY COULD NOT WORK ANY MORE WITH THEIR HANDS
THEY THEN LEFT TO SURGEONS

THE ACTIVITY OF CUTTING BODIES
AND

TO APOTHECARIES

THE ACTIVITY OF

PREPARING AND

DISTRIBUTING

MEDICINES
AS SOON AS APOTHECARIES APPEARED THEY WERE SUBMITTED TO REGULATIONS
THE CONSTITUTIONS

OF

MELFI
Frederick II Hohenstaufen

(1194-1250)

Holy German Emperor & King of Sicily
Grandson of Frederick Barbarossa
Emperor of the Holy German Roman Empire

(1122(5)-1190)
Grandson of

Roger II

Norman King of Sicily

(1095-1154)
Frederick II succeeded in convincing Sultan Al-Khamil of Egypt to let him become pacifically King of Jerusalem.
Admirer of Augustus, Frederick II, with the help of his chancellor Pier della Vigna redacted a code of laws named « liber augustalis »
Enacted in 1231 in the Castle of MELFI
THIS LIBER AUGUSTALIS IS CONSIDERED AS THE FIRST COLLECTION OF REGULATIONS DEALING WITH MEDICINES MAKING AND APOTHECARIES
These Regulations concerned only his Italian states.
But not his German states
« In every territory of our kingdom subject to our jurisdiction, we desire that two circumspect and trustworthy men should be appointed and be held by a corporal oath, and their names should be sent to our court, and under their verification medical lozenges, broths, and other medicines may be made legally. Once they have been made, they may be sold. »

*Title XLVII, (24), Constitutions of Melfi, 1231*
Original Latin text : electuaria et syrupi.

English translation by James M. Powell: Lozenges and broths.

Correct translation: Electuaries and syrups.
« We also desire that those making medicines should be obliged by an oath sworn corporeally that they will make them faithfully according to the arts and the conditions of men in the presence of sworn witnesses. If they act contrary, they should be condemned by sentence to the confiscation of all their goods. but if those appointed, to whose trust the aforesaid matters have been commited, are proved to have commited frauds in the office granted to them, we order that they should be put to death. »
IN 1241, the *NOVAE CONSTITUTIONES REGNI SICILIAE* WERE PUBLISHED. SOME TITLES DEALT WITH PHARMACY
« The confectionnarii will prepare medicines at their own expense, under the control of Physicians, according to what we ordered and they will be allowed to keep drugs, only after they have taken an oath, and they will have to prepare their medicines faithfully and without any fraud. »

*Liber III, titulus XLVI*

*Confectionnarii* =

People in charge of preparing [medicines]

But the word *apothecarii* was not used in the Latin text
« The stationarius will receive money for his drugs, according to the following rules: He will receive three tarens per ounce. for composed medicines and for the simples that cannot be kept in stores more than one year after the day they have been bought. He will receive six tarens per ounce for medicines that can be kept more than one year. »
RESTRICTION OF THE NUMBER OF PLACES WHERE MEDICINES COULD BE SELLED:

« Similar stations will not be situated everywhere, but only in some towns of the Kingdom. »
CONNIVANCE BETWEEN PHYSICIANS AND APOTHECARIES WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN:
« That he (the physician) must not have any partnership with Confectionnarii (apothecaries). »
PRACTICE OF PHARMACY WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FOR PHYSICIANS:

« That he could not agree to cure a patient, including the preparation of medicines for a price already determined, and that he could not have a store of his own. »
COMMUNITIES OF APOTHECARIIES

IN

LATIN COUNTRIES
SINCE THE XIII\textsuperscript{th} CENTURY

COMMUNITIES OF

APOTHECARIES WERE SET UP.
THEY WERE CALLED:

GUILDS

COMMUNAUTÉS

ARTI

CORPORACIÓN

CORPORAÇÃO
THEY RECEIVED STATUTES
MORE OR LESS INSPIRED BY
THE CONSTITUTIONS OF MELFI
REGULATING THE PREPARATION
AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES
HOW TO BECOME A MASTER:
YEARS OF APPRENTICESHIP
YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE
SHOP OF AN ESTABLISHED MASTER
Liber de Arte Distillandi

J. Brunschwig

1500
EXAMINATION:

KNOWLEDGE OF LATIN

READING ACT
HERBS ACT
MASTERPIECE

SOLEMN OATH

JURY:
DOCTORS OF MEDICINE,
APOTHECARIES
ORGANISATION OF THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY:

ELECTION OF GUARDS

ASSEMBLIES

REPARTITION OF TAXES
INSPECTION
OF APOTHECARIES’ SHOPS:

2 DOCTORS OF MEDICINE

GUARDS OF THE COMMUNITY

SOMETIMES A POLICE OFFICER
CODE OF ETHICS

TO PRACTICE THE TRUE PRICE

TO AVOID « QUI PRO QUO »

TO HAVE NO CONNIVANCE WITH PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBING MEDICINES
DEFINITION OF A MONOPOLY

APOTHECARIES WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE ALLOWED TO PREPARE AND TO DISTRIBUTE MEDICINES

GROCERS AND DOCTORS OF MEDICINE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SELL MEDICINES
REFERENCE PHARMACOPOEIAS:

ANTIDOTARIUM NICOLAE
RICETTARIO

FIorentino

First printed

1498

For

Florence
LA PHARMACOPEE
DE M. LAVR. JOUBERT,
Professeur en Medecine, Docteur Royal, & Change-
clier en l'Université de
Montpellier.

Ensemble les Annotations de Jean Paul
Zangmaisterus Conseiller de
l'Université mises
au marge.
Le tout mis de nouveau en Francois.

A L Y O N,
Pour Amoïne de Hazy, l'an 1578.
Avec Privilege du Roy.

PHARMACOPOEIA
By
LAURENT
JOUBERT

First published
In Latin
In 1578

For
Montpellier
ECONOMICAL THEORIES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THESE REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEDICINES
MERCANTILISM

DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE XVI\textsuperscript{TH} CENTURY AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE XVIII\textsuperscript{TH} CENTURY THE DOMINANT ECONOMICAL IDEOLOGY IN EUROPE WAS MERCANTILISM
PRINCIPLES OF MERCANTILISM:

THE PROSPERITY OF A NATION IS DEPENDING UPON ITS SUPPLY OF CAPITAL.

THE GLOBAL VOLUME OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS UNCHANGEABLE.
CAPITAL = BULLION GOLD, SILVER, TRADE VOLUME HELD BY THE STATE.

BULLIONISM
STATE HAS TO PLAY A PROTECTIONIST ROLE IN ECONOMY IN ORDER TO INCREASE ITS TRADE BALANCE
THIS ECONOMICAL THEORY DID NOT INTERFERE MUCH WITH THE TRADE OF MEDICINES. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS STILL TO PROMOTE SECURITY IN THE PREPARATION AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES. THE MONOPOLY OF THE COMMUNITIES OF APOTHECARIES WAS CONSIDERED AS THE GOOD WAY TO DO SO.
END

Of

COMMUNITIES PERIOD
A NEW WAY OF THINKING:

« ECONOMIC LIBERALISM »

APPEARED DURING

THE SECOND HALF OF

The XVIII\textsuperscript{th} CENTURY
Bernard de MANDEVILLE (1670-1733)
Dutch philosopher

The Fable of the Bees
Or
Private Vices, Publick Benefits

(1714)
PHYSIOCRATIC SCHOOL

François QUESNAY
Doctor of medicine
(1694-1774)

Economic table
1758
Vincent de GOURNAY
(1712-1759)
« Let do and let pass ! »
« The world goes on by itself. »
Let men do
And let merchandises pass.
Adam SMITH
(1723-1790)
Scottish Philosopher

An inquiry into the nature and the causes of the wealth of nations 1776
XVIII$^{\text{th}}$ century economic liberalism:

INTENDED TO ELIMINATE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION ON ECONOMY

CONSIDERED THAT STATE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE MARKET

CONSIDERED THAT GUILDS WERE AN OBSTACLE TO ECONOMY
WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE IDEAS FOR MEDICINES?
A CONFLICT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THESE TWO CONTRADICTORY LEANINGS:

NO INTERVENTION OF STATE ON MEDICINES TRADE

NECESSITY TO CONTROL THE PREPARATION AND THE DISPENSATION OF MEDICINES, FOR SECURITY REASONS
EXAMPLE OF FRANCE
Anne Robert
Jacques TURGOT
1727-1781
Minister of Finance
Member of the
Physiocratic school

Reflections on the
Formation and
Distribution of wealth
(1776)
1776

Turgot decided the suppression of guilds.

But three professions had to be excluded:

Publishers and book sellers

Goldsmiths

Apothecaries
« We do not intend to include in these measures the professions of Pharmacy, Goldsmith’s trade, Printing and book selling »
NEW REGULATIONS

ORGANIZING THE PRACTICE

OF PHARMACY

APPEARED ON APRIL 22nd 1777
Louis XVI
DÉCLARATION
DU ROI,

PORTANT Règlements pour les Professions de la Pharmacie & de l’Épicerie à Paris.

Donnée à Versailles le 24 Avril 1777.

Régisté en Parlement le 13 Mai 1777.

OUI, par la grâce de Dieu, Roi de France & de Navarre; À tous ceux qui ces présentes Lettres verront,
SALUT. Par l’article III de notre État du mois d’Août dernier, Nous nous sommes réservé de nous expliquer particulièrement sur ce qui concerne la Pharmacie; Nous avons considéré qu’étant une des branches de la Médecine, elle exigeait des études & des connaissances approfondies; & qu’il serait utile d’encourager une classe de nos Sujets à s’en occuper uniquement, pour pouvoir à porter cette science au degré de perfection dont elle est susceptible dans les différentes parties qu’elle embrasse & qu’elle réunit: Nous avons également porté notre attention sur ce qui pouvait interêter le Commerce de l’Épicerie; Nous avons eu pour but de prévenir le danger qui peut réuler du débit medicinal des compositions chymiques, galéniques ou pharmaceutiques, entrantes au corps humain, confiées à des Marchands qui ont été jusqu’alors autorisés à en faire commerce, même être obligés d’en connaître les propriétés. L’emploi des Poisons étant en usage dans quelques Arts, & la vente en étant commune entre l’Épicerie & la Pharmacie, Nous avons jugé nécessaire d’ordonner de nouveau l’exécution de nos Ordonnances sur cet objet, & de fixer entre ces deux Professions des limites qui nous ont paru devoir prévenir toutes contredic- tions, & opérer la sûreté dans le débit des médicaments dont la composition ne peut être trop attentivement exécutée & surveillée. À ces
APOTHECARIES BECAME MASTERS OF PHARMACY

A COLLEGE OF PHARMACY WAS CREATED

PUBLIC LECTURES WERE ORGANIZED
QUALIFIED MASTERS OF PHARMACY WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE ALLOWED TO PREPARE AND SELL MEDICINES

GROCERS AND MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES WERE NOT

MASTERS OF PHARMACY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PRACTICE GROCERY TRADE
SECURITY REASONS
PREVAILED OVER
FREE ENTERPRISE REASONS,
IT WAS CONFORM
TO THE OPINION OF THE SOCIETY:
« MEDICINES ARE NOT GOODS LIKE OTHERS »
HESITATIONS DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION PERIOD
A NEW ATTEMPT

WAS MADE BY

ECONOMICAL LIBERALISM SUPPORTERS
SINCE APRIL 1ST 1791, IT WILL BE FREE FOR ANYONE TO DO ANY TRADE OR TO PRACTICE ANY PROFESSION, ART OR CRAFT THAT HE WILL WISH TO DO, BUT HE WILL HAVE TO PAY TRADING DUES BEFORE.

Decree of baron d’Allarde
Law of March 2nd 1791
MEDICINES WERE INCLUDED IN THE AREA OF THIS LAW

BUT

14 DAYS LATER IT BECAME A MATTER OF URGENCY TO RESTORE THE PREVIOUS LAWS CONCERNING PHARMACY
LAW CONCERNING THE PRACTICE
OF PHARMACY
& SALE & DISTRIBUTION
OF DRUGS & MEDICINES
APRIL 17th 1791
From a decree of April 14th 1791
LOI

Relative à l'exercice de la Pharmacie, & à la vente, & distribution des Drogues & Médicaments.

LOUIS, par la grâce de Dieu & par la Loi constitutionnelle de l'État, ROI DES FRANÇOIS :
A tous présens & à venir; Salut. L'Assemblée Nationale a décrété, & Nous voulons &ordonnons ce qui suit :

DÉCRET DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE,
du 14 Avril 1791.

L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE, après avoir entendu son Comité de Salubrité, sur un abus qui s'introduit
The « Assemblée Nationale », according to the suggestion of its Committee of Healthiness on abuses that occurred in the practice of Pharmacy, and considering the object and the usefulness of this profession, orders that Laws, Statutes and Rules existing before last March 2\textsuperscript{nd} concerning Pharmacy practice and education for preparation, sale, distribution of drugs and medicines will be implemented as they were before.
CONFIRMATION

DURING THE CONSULATE

(1799-1804)
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

FIRST CONSUL
A NEW LAW

WAS INSPIRED BY

ANTOINE DE FOURCROY
N° 270

LOI DU 21 GERMINAL AN-XI
APRIL 11TH 1803
ORGANIZED PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY

AND

CONFIRMED THE MONOPOLY OF QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS
Merci de votre attention
Thank you for your attention
Viele Danke
Grazie
Gracias