

Selected reasons of death Dance of Death in Poland



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The Dance of Death from the pharmaceutic-historical point of view in relation to England, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland have been treated by prof. Jozef Haefileger from Basel in June 1936 at a meeting of members of the Society for History of the Pharmacy (Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Pharmacie). In response their Polish counterparts were mentioned in 1937 by Henryk Szancer in an article concerning the pharmaceutical motifs in the dances of death, which was placed in "The Pharmaceutical News" 1937, R 64, page 437. A supplement to the above is the selection of effigies known in Polish Territories.



XVII c., Cracow, Church of the Bernardyr

The pharmacist in the Dance of Death has been shown already on paintings in the XV century and his lasted until the XVIII century. Then appeared the motif of a pharmacist as the assistant of the death. The skeleton appears aside the pharmacists who brings help to the people. Finally, the death itself becomes a pharmacist realizing its death-blowing medicines.

- Szlachetne dziedzictwo czy przeklęty spadek. Tradycje sarmackie w sztuce i kulturze, Poznań 2004
- Obrazy śmierci w sztuce polskiej XIX i XX wieku. Katalog wystawy w Muzeum Narodowym w Krakowie, Kraków 2000
- J. Majewski, Niektóre aspekty motywu śmierci i tańca śmierci, związane z medycyną i farmacją, [w:] Pamiętnik VIII Sympozjum Historii Farmacji, Poznań 1999