

## L.05

### THE CIRCULATION OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL RECIPES IN ANTIQUITY AS A KIND OF FOLKLORE

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In this presentation I offer a theoretical reflection on the nature of the circulation of the pharmacological knowledge in antiquity. The amass of the pharmaceutical recipes transmitted to us in the ancient literature permits us to state that anyone, not only a physician or a "pharmacopoles" (a drug-seller), could intervene in the process of creating medicines. For instance, Galen cites recipes invented by a philosopher or by a grammarian or even by a certain charlatan Chariton. Besides, every recipe was destined to continuous changes, since we are talking about the time many centuries ago before the introducing of a patent system for medicines: one or several ingredients always could be changed by someone who assumed that these changes would improve the original version of a remedy. In fact, the concept of the "original version" dissolves in its many variants and sometimes only the name of a medicine could still bear some traces of its metamorphoses. The comparison of this system with the folklore in the broader sense bears heuristic value: for example, it could shade light on the classificatory principles of the collectors of this kind of folklore, i. e. of the ancient natural scientists.