

## L.08

### WALL CALENDARS PUBLISHED BY THE CRACOW MUSEUM OF PHARMACY

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The calendars serve an educational purpose: visually attractive, they present a variety of issues concerning the history of pharmacy, thus popularising this field of the history of science. One of the calendars concerned the famous herbal by Elizabeth Blackwell (1737). The copperplate engravings reproduced in the calendar show plants (together with descriptions of their medicinal properties) such as the marshmallow (*Althaea officinalis*), wake robin (*Arum*), and white dittany (*Dictamnus albus*). Another calendar shows twelve objects on display in the Cracow Museum of Pharmacy, each with a short historical text. The objects include (among others) devices for gilding pills, Józef Chelmoński's painting Apothecary, and a 17th c original portion of theriac. The most recent calendar (for the year 2010) concerns a famous codex of Dioscorides' treatise *Peri hylēs iatrikēs* (512 AD), preserved in the collection of the National Library in Vienna. Twelve chosen monographs from the codex, all of them beautifully illustrated, preceded by a historical introduction, discuss the medicinal properties (the discussions are translated from Greek into English) of such plants as the sarsaparilla (*Smilax aspera*), Chinese lantern (*Physalis alkekengi*), nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*), and colocynth (*Citrullus colocynthis*).