



REMEDIES FOR THE PLAGUE IN A WORK BY THE RENAISSANCE DOCTOR FERNANDO ALVAREZ ABARCA

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BIOGRAPHY

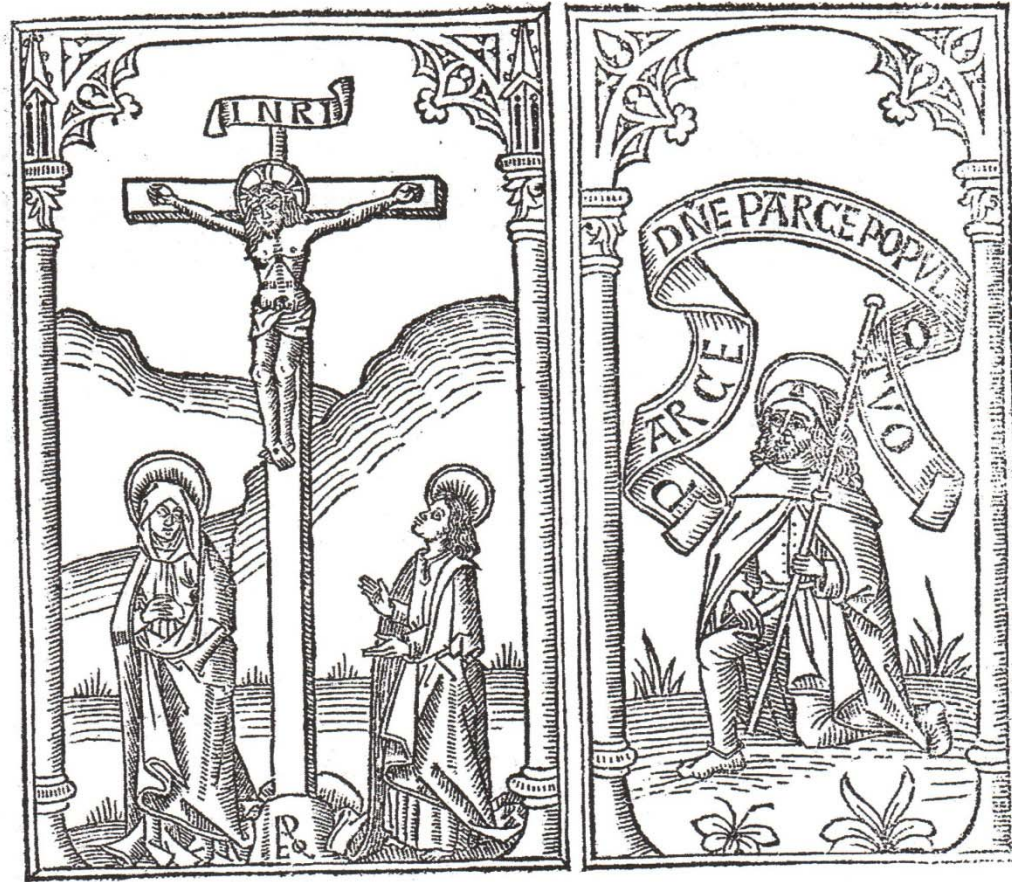
- Belonged to a family of Doctors in Salamanca.
- Known as the third doctor of the Queen.
- Named as Fernando Álvarez of the Queen.
- Professor in Salamanca University's School of Medicine.
- Served as Protomedico to the Royal Family Catholic Kings(1497-1516)



WORK

“*PRECEPTS AGAINST THE PLAGUE*”

- Rare exemplaires with gothic lettering
- Edition *Princeps*.
 - Salamanca, Juan Gysser (1500-1507)
 - Folio size.
 - Woodcuts on the cover:
“Crucifixion of Christ with Virgin Mary
and Saint John / Saint Roch pilgrim:
Pardon us Lord, pardon your people”



Regimiêto contra la peste. Fecho
por el insigne doctor Fernand alua-
rez: medico de sus altezas. Cathe-
dratico ò prima en medicina en esta
uniuersidad de Salamanca.



WORK

“PRECEPTS AGAINST THE PLAGUE”

- **Preserved:**
 - **Castilla-La Mancha-Toledo Library**
 - **National Library Lisbon**
 - **National Library Paris**
- **Woodcut on the colophon:**
“Saint Sebastian, protector from the plague”.

encima caliente z la conaja: z mas rezio es miel con mostaza molida z es muy prouado tomar higos passos cozidos z otro tanto d miel todo majado añadan a diez higos dos yemas de buenos z dos onças de olio de lirio z otro tanto de yfopo humedo.

Es bueno los palominos pelado lo bagoz pollos z puesto por alli enel lugar de dōde se torna pñostico si los palominos o pollos se mueren que es mala señal: los causticos alaban algunos z en casos desesperados suelē aprouechar: en los otros las mas vezes augmētan la enfermedad.

La camara este regada cō vinagre z agua: aya en la camara mēbri llos: duraznos: peras: melones z agua rosada: z tenga puesta sobre la cama vn liengo mojado en agua ocho partes vinagre vna parte bolarmenico media pre: z si el agua fuere rosada sera mejor.

Es bueno a los sanos traer jacintos: esmeraldas: agua rosada z vinagre: vn pañizuelo mojado lauar las manos cō ello.

Los ajos son buenos para preseruar los sanos que los tienen acostumbrados.

Acostumbra tomar de mañana onça z media de almiuar d azedo de cidras o de limones con otro tanto de agua de escaniosa cozida con la escaniosa es marauillosa a chicos z a grandes en preseruacion z cura dela enfermedad.

En todo me remitto al fisico que estouiere presente: al qual conuiene moderar segun la edad complexion z costumbre del subjecto q se la encomendare.

¶ finis.





WORK



- **Second edition. Sevilla, Jacobo Cromberger (1516-1520) In quarto.**
- **Preserved:**
 - **National Library Madrid**
 - **Historical Library Complutense University Madrid.**
- **Woodcut in the cover:**
 - **“Martyridom of Saint Sebastian”**



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TREATMENTS FOR THE PLAGUE

“PREVENTIVE REMEDIES”

1. Style of life
2. Hygienic Remedies
3. Sustances with antidotal powers
4. Amulets: Emeralds, Hyacints
5. Simple medicinal products :
Garlic, Armenian bole
6. Medicines: Dietary pills, Theriaca



CURATIVE REMEDIES

1. Enemas/ Prurging/ Bleeding

2. Simple medicinal products:

- Unicorn,
- Pearl,
- Amber,
- Salpeter

3. Medicines:

- 4 Cordial flowers
- Water of the Queen's Doctor
- Powder of the Queen's Doctor



EPILOGUE

- This Doctor has the authority
- Ironically he said:
“Died having tried such remedies few have returned to this century to complain”



CONCLUSIONS

“Recommendations to fight off the Plague”

1. To follow the traditional Hippocratic diet.
2. The use of precious stones as amulet
3. Utilizing vegetable based medicines over those which are animal and mineral based as preventive and curative remedies.



CONCLUSIONS

“Recommendations to fight off the Plague”

4. Use of easily prepared medicines: waters, decoction and juices
5. He attributes great therapeutical value to Theriaca, although not as a preventiv remedy
6. His “Powder of the Queen’s Doctor” was considered a infallible medicine.



Thank you very much.