

PHARMACY-FOUNDATIONS IN KOSZEG (HUNGARY)

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Our present study consists of two parts. We are examining the foundation of two old pharmacies in Kőszeg and their changes up to now.

I.

The town of Kőszeg was mentioned as '*Castrum Kwszug*' in old certificates, and it was considered to be a 'royal town'. These were the determinant factors in the development of our town (1). The exact date recorded for the establishment of the first pharmacy is not known. According to the research of Ferenc Szigetváry, it already existed verifiably before 1645.

Then the pharmacy's owner was the *Herpius*-family, and subsequently it was owned by the *Küttel*-family for about three hundred years(2).



Figure 1. The worktable of the pharmacy of Herpius 17.century

The "Society of Jesus" has settled in the town since 1677; and it has maintained a monastery and a college. In 1743, the rector of Jesuit, priest Pál Sztankay applied to the municipal council for the establishment of the pharmacy (3).

Figure 2. presents the page that was written on 8 February 1743. It describes the application of the Jesuits in detail.

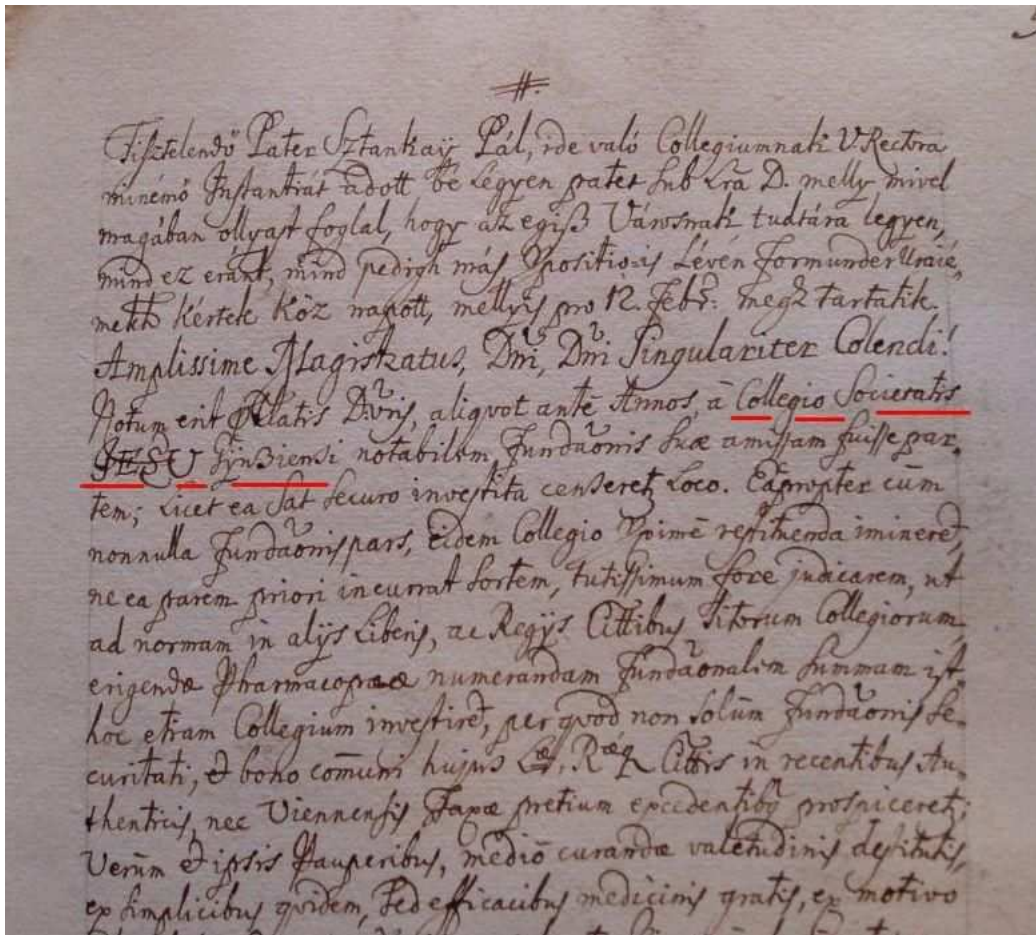


Figure 2. The application of the Jesuits. The page of Protocol 1743

They pledged themselves to:

- always serve good, cheap and fresh remedies
- keep the prices of Taxa of Vienna
- supply the poor with gratis medicine.

It is very interesting how the town decided to create the new pharmacy.

Because one pharmacy already existed in the town, they therefore convened a town meeting, which was held four days later. The inhabitants collected in the square in front of the town hall.



Figure 3. The Town Hall of Kőszeg



Figure 4. The Archives of Kőszeg, the Heroes' Tower and the Town Hall

After due deliberation, they decided that the second pharmacy would serve the public interest and sanitation or public health. Moreover, the town granted a tax exemption to the Jesuits, because supplying the poor would be more valuable than the tax.

After that, in the same day (12 February 1743), the mayor of the town permitted the Jesuits the establishment of the pharmacy in their monastery. We have viewed a fascinating example a local democratic decision.

II.

In the second part of this study, let us observe the changes during the past three-hundred years.

The town is situated about one hundred kilometres from Vienna at the former west border of Hungary. Kőszeg is a little historical town. The members of the inhabitants shows the *Chart 1*.

Chart 1.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Members of the Inhabitants</i>
1743	3.200
1900	7.930
1979	11.260
2009	11.714

About the changes in brief:

In 1743 – two pharmacies served: one civilian and one ecclesiastic.

After the dissolution of the Jesuits, the ecclesiastic pharmacy becomes a civilian ownership and it moves out of the monastery (1777). Henceforth two civilian pharmacies served in the town to second half of 20. century.

In 1945, the Socialism-Communism era begins.

In 1950 the change of ownership – all the pharmacies were 'nationalised' in Hungary without compensation!

The merger happened in 1983 – instead of two one, there became one megalopharmacy.

In 1989 – the Political Change happened in Hungary.

In 1993 – a new private pharmacy is established – the second.

In 1996 – the privatisation.

In 2004 – the EU-accession.

In 2006 – the liberalisation, which is almost a deregulation

In 2008 – one of two pharmacies stays its location, but with a new owner – the former owner pharmacist leaves it and founds a new pharmacy – the third.

Also in 2008 – one of the pharmacies moves to a new location close to the surgery (physicians' office)

In this year, 2009 – a new owner appears – they want to build a new clinic with a new pharmacy – the fourth.

Now, just in August 2009, the town held a referendum on the new clinic location – but just on its location, not on its existence!

In summary:

in a little historical town like Kőszeg, two pharmacies served always the needs of the patients, providing them with 'pharma services' at high quality level.

More establishment of pharmacy didn't serve and did never serve the public health, and the number of the pharmacies, it seems to be separate from the real development of the town.

(1) Bakay, Kornel: Castrum Kwszug. Kőszeg, 1996.

(2) Szigetváry, Ferenc: Különböző tulajdonviszonyú patikák kialakulása Vas megyében a XVI-XVIII. században. II. Polgári patikák. In: Savaria Vas megyei Múzeumok Értesítője 13-14. kötet, 1979-1980.

(3) Protocollum Ann. 1743. 50. pp. Vas megyei Levéltár Kőszegi Fiókleveletára, Kőszeg./Archives of Kőszeg.