Mag. Pharm. Adolf Vomáčka
A Pharmacy Textbook Writer

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40th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy
Berlin, September 14-17, 2011
PhMr. Adolf Vomáčka

- Born in Jindřichův Hradec (Neuhaus), 18 November 1856.
- Died in Podolí (a district of Prague), 9 November 1919.

- Pharmacy education at the University of Vienna.
- 16 July 1879 – *Pharmaciae magister* diploma.
PhMr. Adolf Vomáčka

In developing capitalistic environment of the 19th century, he dedicated his work to

- an effort of a modern conception of pharmacy practice,
- enhancement of production and augmentation of competitiveness of pharmacy-made OTC-preparations,
- the commercial aspect of pharmacy operation.

These topics are present both in Vomáčka's writing activities and his other work in the pharmaceutical field.
Vomáčka’s Non-writing Activities

• From 1882 Vomáčka's Business Company dealt with the sale of pharmaceutical and additional materials (labels, packaging, tools, books, medical material, etc.).

• He invented production and administrative tools and aids (starch capsules closing machine, Obduktor).

• 1882-1897 – editor of Rundschau für die Interessen der Pharmacie, Chemie und der verwandten Fächer.

• 1882 – 1st editor of Časopis českého lékárnicntva.
Vomáčka’s Writing Activities

• He wrote several guides for pharmaceutical practice. They can be divided into 2 groups:
  1) publications concerning the pharmacy-made OTC-preparations
  2) publications concerning the legal and commercial aspects of operating a pharmacy

• He is author to:
  *Unsere Handverkaufsartikel, Neue Ideen I., II., Taschenbuch bestbewährter Vorschriften für die gangbarsten Handverkaufsartikel der Apotheken und Drogenhandlungen.*
  *Oesterreichische Apotheker- und einschlägige Sanität-Gesetze, Die Geschäftspraxis der Apothekers und seine Nebengeschäfte, Handbuch der Receptur.*
Unsere Handsverkaufsartikel. Aus der Praxis für die Praxis

- **Our OTC-articles**
- **1883** (Litoměřice /Leitmeritz/, self-publishing).

- Recommends to pharmacists how to promote pharmacy also by using elegant labels, bottles, packaging.
- Prescriptions for OTC-medicines, cosmetic and hygienic preparations in alphabetical order, with illustrations of labels and technological instructions.

- Sequels *Neue Ideen I.* (*New Ideas*, 1885), *Neue Ideen II.* (1886)
Taschenbuch bestbewährter Vorschriften für die gangbarsten Handverkaufsartikel der Apotheken und Drogenhandlungen

- Guide of Approved Prescriptions for the Common OTC-preparations...
- 1890, 1897, 1904 (A. Hartleben's Verlag, Vienna, Leipzig, Pest).
- Prescriptions for the most common OTC-preparations in alphabetical order.
- The author emphasizes the need for a good visual aspect, appearance and qualities of the preparations (label, packaging, colour, taste and aroma) for repeated favour of the customers.
- Importance of exact work and the quality of used drugs.
Oesterreichische Apotheker- und einschlägige andere Gesetze

- Austrian Pharmacy and Other Relevant Regulations
- 1885 (Litoměřice), 1890 and 1897 (A. Hartleben’s Verlag, Vienna, Leipzig, Pest).
- Collection of regulations for pharmacy practice meant to facilitate understanding and usage of them in daily practice.
- Development of legislation in Austrian Monarchy.
- Thematic chapters (pharmacy, pharmacopoeias and prices, taxes, military pharmacy, education, etc.).
Geschäftspraxis der Apothekers und seine Nebengeschäfte

- Business Practice for Pharmacists...
- 1887 (Prague, self-publishing).
- Step-by-step instructions, how to found and run a pharmacy.
- The author advises pharmacists to be a businessmen, with help of medicines prepared by the ethical way, lege artis pharmaceuticae.
- Includes the illustrated catalog of Vomáčka’s Business Company.
Handbuch der Receptur

- **Handbook of Dispensing**
- **1883**, Verlag von Moritz Perles, (Vienna).

- An inventory book of human and veterinary medicines (location in the pharmacy, pharmacopoeial names, German, Czech and demotic synonyms, solubility, dosage, instructions for compounding).

- At present it is useful as a source for the historical research (especially for identification of drugs and preparations).
Conclusion

- PhMr. Adolf Vomáčka was an outstanding personality of (not-only) Austro-Hungarian pharmacy of the 19th and 20th century.

- His numerous activities were filled by his endless efforts in securing the prosperity of pharmacies – by fully using the potential of OTC-preparations combined with preserving high professional and ethical level of pharmaceutical practice.
Acknowledgement

Czech Pharmaceutical Museum in Kuks, department of Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové