

Pharmaceutical Culture in Italy inferred from the Texts of a Pharmacy in Piacenza between XVIII and XIX Centuries (Part 1)

Riva, E.¹; Corvi, A.²

¹Belluno, Italy,
riva@farmaciariva.it

²Accademia Italiana di Storia della
Farmacia, Via Nova, 15, I-29100,
Piacenza, Italy,
premfarmaciaacorvi@libero.it

Antonio Corvi was the founder of the Corvi's dynasty since 1685; his grandson, Antonio Corvi (1748–1796), was an apothecary in Piacenza where he established in 1768 his activity in the same building where it is still today in the centre of the town. He also started to collect all the most scientific and up-to-date works about pharmacy, by this laying the foundations of a really enlightened science.

In his will made in the presence of the notary – his cousin bearing the same name – we can find an outstanding list of texts about pharmacy in the XVIII century that represents a sort of guideline in order to sketch the evolution of the pharmaceutical science in that period. A science that takes into account the latest discoveries about chemistry in the XVIII century (Lavoisier, Boerhaave, Morveau, Baumé and the *Annales de Chimie* from 1789 to 1813), the pharmaceutical knowledge both national and international (*Antidotario Bolognese*, *Farmacopea Senese*, *Antidotarium Mediolanense*, *Pharmacopée Universelle* by Lemery, *Pharmacopoea Regia* by Charas) and natural sciences (Bonnet, Spallanzani, Linnaeus, Morandi).

Such pharmaceutical heritage was handed down through eight generations of chemists and gave rise to that rich library that today identifies Antonio Corvi's pharmacy in Piacenza.