

Early Printed Books at the Kraków Museum of Pharmacy: a Selection

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The books selected for the overview represent several consecutive periods in European literature on medicines, from Greek and Roman antiquity to the iatrochemical period. The books are used in the following ways: (1) To illustrate lectures on the history of pharmacy (to show what the books look like, what their contents are, to give examples of what information on medicines and their uses they contain, etc.); (2) as source material for information on the collection of the Kraków Museum of Pharmacy (e.g. the maiolica pot with the inscription ELECTUARIUM MITHRIDATIS – to learn what mithridate was, where its name came from, how it was prepared, etc.), and (3) in research – for instance as reference texts in articles verifying some popular views on various aspects of the history of pharmacy (e.g. Z. Bela, *Did the Ancient Unguentarii Really Make Ointments?*)