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THE ROYAL PROTOMEDICATO TRIBUNAL IN THE HISPANIC MONARCHY, 1593-1808

(Guest Editors María Luz López Terrada and Álvar Martínez Vidal)

The Royal Protomedicato Tribunal in the Hispanic Monarchy, 1593-1808.

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MARÍA LUZ LÓPEZ TERRADA; ALVAR MARTÍNEZ VIDAL

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Historical studies of the Protomedicato Tribunal and health professions and occupations during the Spanish Monarchy in the 16th to 18th centuries (*Spanish*)

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Abstract

We present a bibliography comprising 253 references available to the present time on works dealing directly or indirectly with the Royal *Protomedicato*. A wide range of criteria were used to search the most commonly used bibliographic sources and to apply indirect methods, in view of the dispersion of relevant studies, and the lack of bibliographies for Spanish historical-medical works from certain decades. We offer a general analysis of the literature, and sketch out the major historiographical problems faced in studies of this institution, ie, the scarcity of sources, the predominance of legislative sources, the changes in geographical areas under the authority of the Castilian *Protomedicato* and differences between protophysicians and the *Protomedicato*.

The Protomedicato Tribunal in the Central Administration of the Spanish Crown (*Spanish*)

MARÍA SOLEDAD CAMPOS DÍEZ

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Abstract

The *Protomedicato* was born, developed, and declined in the central administration of the Castilian Kingdom during the historic period known as the Modern Age (15th-19th centuries).

The main objective of this study was to produce a conceptual analysis of this royal institution, a high collegiate court of technical character whose aim was to control all health-related professions in Castile; it had an independent jurisdiction and was not subordinate to the Royal Council (*Consejo Real*), although it was sometimes influenced by this council. We studied the legislative and everyday life and evolution of this court through different stages in its long life span.

The *Protomedicato*, considered not as an isolated institution but within the bureaucracy of modern administration, is analyzed in the context of its sometimes strained relationship with other national, regional and local institutions of the Kingdom, the University, the Church and the Professional Associations.

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Abstract

This article tries to reconstruct the composition of the Board of Royal Physicians during the reign of Charles II (1665-1700) and the first part of the reign of Philip V (1700-1724), a crucial period in the introduction of modern science and medicine in the Spanish Kingdoms. Their personal records, to be found in the *Archivo General de Palacio* in Madrid, have been exhaustively consulted. Some of these royal physicians formed part of the Castilian *Tribunal del Protomedicato*, by means of which the Board of Royal Physicians was selected, promoted and controlled. The *Protomedicato* was an important battlefield in the conflict between traditional and modern medicine, in which Italian physicians played a decisive role.

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Abstract

We reviewed the bibliography on the history of midwives, and examined municipal and legislative sources, to investigate the relationship between midwives and the *Protomedicato* in Castile during the 16th to 18th centuries. Our thesis is that the *Protomedicato* exerted little control over the professional activity of midwives or over improvements made in the *The Art of Attending Childbirths*. Instead, it appears to have played a greater role in the professional and scientific consolidation of surgeons, by recognizing their authority in obstetric matters.

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Abstract

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Abstract

Different approaches to the study of the Royal Protomedicato have not been entirely successful in defining its roles and connections with other organizations that controlled the practice of health professions during the Enlightenment. The loss of manuscript sources relating to the institution has been an almost insurmountable obstacle. In this study we examine the difficult relationships

between the Protomedicato and the elite members of the Corps of Military Surgeons who made possible the implementation of a new model of training in surgery in Spain. The establishment of teaching imparted by the new colleges of surgery, together with the restrictions on access to the profession, drove a wedge into the traditional forms of control previously exerted by physicians through the Royal Protomedicato. These changes led to reforms in the tribunal.

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The Navarran Protomedicato Tribunal: Itinerary of research (Spanish)

JULIO SÁNCHEZ ÁLVAREZ; PEDRO GIL SOTRES

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In this paper we report the methodology used to study the *Protomedicato* in

Navarre. We considered the particular situation of the Kingdom of Navarre from the 16th to the 19th centuries, when it maintained its statutes as an independent kingdom, and studied the *Protomedicato* by examining the documentary archives of other administrative and political institutions of the kingdom. Noteworthy among these institutions is the Brotherhood of Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries of Pamplona, which influenced the evolution of the *Protomedicato*.

Protophysicians and the Protomedicato Tribunal in Catalonia (*Spanish*)

JOSEP DANÓN

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Abstract

The creation of the *Protomedicato* of Castile by the Catholic Monarchs meant the persistence, in Catalonia, of the royal protophysicians of the ancient Crown of Aragon. The new institution gradually came to depend on the *Protomedicato*, and was completely assimilated during the xviii century. Some well-defined periods are analyzed, ie, the persistence of direct royal appointments, a close relationship between the protophysicians and the College of Medical Doctors, and a clear influence of the Academy of Medicine during the last period of the 18th Century.

The Royal Protomedicato in Spanish Naples (*Italian*)

DAVID GENTILCORE

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Abstract

Rather than having any established bureaucracy or magistracy of its own, the Royal Neapolitan Protomedicato was based around the person who was its pro tempore head - the protomedico. The position was very prestigious, involving the Kingdom's most powerful physicians, but the office itself made little impact on public health. In fact, the Protomedicato's functions were primarily fiscal: the collecting of duties and fines from non-graduate medical practitioners and the inspections of apothecaries shops, carried out by tax renters on behalf of the state.

The New Model of the Royal Protomedicato Tribunal in Spanish America: Transformations in Response to the *Leyes de Indias* and the subsequent legislative body (*Spanish*)

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In this article we examine the modifications in the American *Protomedicato*, instituted in 1570, that were brought about by the *Leyes de Indias* and other provisions. The changes produced an institution that was analogous but not identical to the Castilian *Protomedicato*. Three features central to the American institution were its greater centralization of professional control as a result of the fusion of the posts of the *Protomedicato* and the Chair of Prima, the early loss of its «supreme court-like» character as a result of admitting appeals brought before judicial and political powers, and its territorial diversification,

which led to a profusion of subdelegated Tribunals that eventually attained autonomy or independence in most capitals. The efficacy of these submodels can be assessed only after further detailed study.

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Abstract

One of the most interesting events of the transformation of science in Spain toward the end of the xvii century was the foundation of the Royal Chemistry Laboratory. This institution, brilliantly promoted by the physician Dionisio de Cardona, was condemned to failure from the very beginning, due to the opposition of the *Protomedicato* and the royal apothecaries in the service of King Charles II. The period studied here, between 1693 and 1700, comprises two different phases: an initial stage (1693-1697) characterized by the struggle between *novatores* and traditionalists, which ended in triumph for the latter; and a second stage (1697-1700) completely separate from the initial measures, in which the influence of alchemy was marked. This stage can be considered compatible with the series of spells and superstitions that characterized the court of Charles II.

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Abstract

The history of the rabies in Mexico is a versatile topic because it provides a chance to study different aspects of the history of Mexican science and medicine. This article reconstructs the sequence of events related to rabies vaccination in Mexico. History is also used as a model to study scientific transfer and scientific imperialism, the use of science by politicians in order to validate their governments, and the impact of French medicine on Mexican medicine. In 1888 the physician Eduardo Liceaga, an important political figure, brought the rabies vaccine to Mexico. President Porfirio Díaz supported

Liceaga because he assumed that the vaccine was synonymous with modernity, and hence a sign of good government. We also analyze the reasons why there was no Pasteur Institute in Mexico, even though the conditions that allowed its creation in other countries also existed. Two points are of particular interest: 1) Despite its importance, this topic has not formally been studied in the context of the history of Mexican medicine, and 2) A considerable part of the present research is based on original, unpublished manuscripts in French and Mexican archives.

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Abstract

We studied the development of chemistry research in Granada from 1900 to 1975. Initially we obtained quantitative data on publication output during three arbitrarily-defined subperiods (1900-1936, 1937-1955, and 1956-1975). The most important lines of chemistry research at university and national research council (CSIC) centers in Granada are described, and some considerations on the characteristics of these publications are provided. Scientific research slowly became consolidated during the 1930s. The Civil War led to substantial changes, and during the postwar years the influence of the CSIC led to the predominance of studies on silicates and clays (mineralogy, reactivity, applications) until well into the 1960s. After 1965 research lines became more diversified, with increasing numbers of studies in biochemistry, physiology and analytical chemistry.

Private Habits and Public Interest. Breast-feeding in Popular Medical Literature.
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Abstract

From the latter decades of the 19th century onward, the style of life of the lower classes was threatened by increasing standardization that bourgeois culture introduced in industrial societies. One way in which the patterns of private and public behavior were influenced was by the transmission of new values through different communication channels available at that time. Feeding and hygiene became fundamental subjects in a pattern of cultural change that was favored by politicians and supported by influential institutions and social groups, which moreover played the role of mediator in class conflicts. Breast-feeding was one of the main subjects of popular hygiene and health literature at the end of the century, and represented an attempt not only to palliate infant mortality, but to mold women's behavior and consolidate a certain type of family within a context that required stability, thrift, and work to cope with the dangers of poverty and the rootlessness that were faced by the masses of workers arriving in the industrialized city.

Health and Citizenship in Contemporary Belgium (French)

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Abstract

We summarize the relations between the development of health policies and the definition of citizenship in Belgium during the 19th and 20th centuries. In the limited scope of the present article we describe the main developments and offer a plausible introduction to subsequent studies. We aim to show that thanks to the scientific study of the changes that took place during two centuries, we can understand the reasons why there are currently so many contradictions in health policy. It is hoped that our findings will help us to better understand the present and prepare for the future.

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Illness and Death in the Catalonian Army During the Nine Years' War, 1689-1697 (Spanish)

ANTONIO ESPINO LÓPEZ

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Summary

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Abstract

On the basis of material from previously under-used sources, we offer one of the first studies undertaken in Spain of military history and the history of medicine, with particular emphasis on hospital care. Our main contribution lies in the data about diseases suffered by campaign troops, and about the

principal characteristics of hospitalization, on the Catalonian Front during the Nine Years' War (1689-1697). This war is considered the largest armed conflict to have taken place in the Iberian Peninsula during the reign of Charles II (1665-1700).

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