

# DYNAMIS

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## Sumario

Luis García Ballester y Pedro Laín Entralgo, *in memoriam*

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# DYNAMIS

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#### Abstract

Most of the information about medical science in al-Andalus is associated  
with its leading figures and their work in the capital cities of the time:  
Cordoba, Seville, Granada, and the Taifal cities. This study presents the  
medicine of the Levantine or Šarqī al-Andalus region (10th-14th centuries).  
To this end, we have gathered reports on physicians that worked in the  
different Levantine capitals and have investigated key data in the biographical  
dictionaries, sources that have been little-used to study medical practice.  
We especially studied the *Takmila* by Ibn al-Abbār from Valencia.

The diseases *ẓudām* and *baraş* (leprosy) in treatises of Islamic Law (Malikī Doctrine) (Spanish)

MARÍA ARCAS CAMPOY .....

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Summary

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Abstract

Two diseases that appear in the legal treatises, *ẓudām* and *baraş*, are semantically ambiguous and present difficulties when it comes to establishing their meaning. However, comparison of lexicographical and medical sources with modern bilingual and monolingual Arabic dictionaries bring us closer to the real meanings of the terms within the spacial and temporal contexts of the Malikī legal treatises. In these treatises, they appear as *vitia redhibitoria* in certain types of contract and also as diseases subject to regulations for the prevention of infection.

An example of medical practice in al-Andalus: Treatise XIX of the *Kitāb al-tarşif* of Abū-L-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī (c. 936-1013) (Spanish)

LUISA MARÍA ARVIDE CAMBRA .....

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Abstract

This article reports a study of Treatise XIX from Abū-L-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī's *Kitāb al-tarşif*, according to the Arabic manuscript no. 5772 in the Paris National Library. A translation is provided. Folios 89v and 90r, which include chapter 8 of part II of the treatise, are reproduced from the manuscript.

Therapeutic use of aromatic substances in al-Andalus (Spanish)

LUISA FERNANDA AGUIRRE DE CÁRCER .....

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Summary

1.—Aromatic substances in Antiquity. 2.—Aromatic substances in the Arabal-Andalus world and debt to the Orient. 3.—Aromatic substances in Ibn Māsawayh. 4.—Some observations. 4.1.—On the Andalusí origin of some substances. 4.2.—On the sources cited. 4.2.1.—Oriental sources. 4.2.2.—Occidental sources. 5.—Some omissions: Simple substances not preserved in G-II-9; Simple substances not commented on by Ibn Wāfid; Simple substances not cited by Ibn Wāfid. 6.—Some conclusions. 7.—Glossary.

Abstract

Aromatic substances were used for therapeutic purposes in the ancient Arabic world, as they were in other contemporary and earlier cultures. By the Tenth Century, the Oriental Islamic culture had developed a solid corpus on aromatic substances that were selected for that purpose. This paper is an introduction to the knowledge of these substances that had been attained in al-Andalus in the Eleventh Century (considered the «Golden Age» of Andalusian pharmacology), based on the comparative study of the *Kitāb yawāhir al-ṭīb al-mufrada*, by Ibn Māsawayh, and the *Kitāb al-adwiya al-mufrada*, by Ibn Wāfid.

An *alherce* (magical recipe) contained in the *Misceláneo de Salomón (Spanish)*  
JOAQUINA ALBARRACÍN NAVARRO..... 133

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Arab text. 3.—Translation. 4.— Comments

Abstract

We offer the Arabic text and a translation with comments of an *alherce* contained in a manuscript entitled *Miscelaneo de Salomón*, which was found in Ocaña, Toledo. This book belonged to an *Alfaqú* of the area, who used it to provide spiritual and physical support to the *Mudejars* with whom he lived. The *alherce* presented here contains invocations and spells and was used for medical and various other purposes.

Arab surgery and cancer: definitions and treatments (*Spanish*)  
ELOÍSA LLAVERO RUIZ ..... 141

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1.—Introduction. 2.—Definitions. 2.1.—Linguistic aspects. 2.2.—Pathologic aspects. 3.—Treatments. 3.1.—General cancer treatments. 3.2.—Individualised treatments. 4.—Conclusions.

Abstract

The present paper presents the study of a set of cancers collected by medieval doctors, especially Arabic surgeons, in order to identify their knowledge about carcinoma, how they defined the disease and, most importantly, what type of treatment they applied. The paper is organised in three sections: in section 1, we focus on the terminology used to refer to carcinoma. In section 2, we offer a description of the symptoms specific to each type of cancer. Finally, in section 3, we describe the surgical and pharmacological treatments, followed by diet-related remedies. We analysed texts by al-Zahrāwī, Ibn Sīnā, Ibn al-Quff and al-Šafra.

Medicine *versus* surgery: the treatment of eye diseases in the works of Abulcasis and Avenzoar (*Spanish*)  
CARMEN PEÑA; FERNANDO GIRÓN IRUESTE ..... 163

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Abulcasis and Avenzoar. 3.—Diseases of the eye and related structures. 4.—Comments.

## Abstract

Although they start from generically distinct positions —from the standpoint of a surgeon in the case of Abulcasis (11th Century), and from that of a physician in the case of Abenzoar (12th Century)— we attempt to show that the latter made an important, documented and unsuspected contribution to the surgical therapy of diseases of the eye. Naturally, Abenzoar discusses the surgical approach after first recommending other pharmacological and dietary remedies. To this end, we studied the chapters dedicated to the diseases of the eye in *Kitāb al-taṣrīf li man 'ayiza an al-ta'rif: The Book of the arrangement [of medical science] for those who are unaware of it* by Abulcasis, and in *Kitāb al-taysīr fi l-mudāwāt wa-l-tadbīr. The Book of the Simplification of Medication and Diet* by Abenzoar. In support of our hypothesis, we make some observations on the introduction and use of the cataract removal technique in al-Andalus.

The historiography of Arabic Medicine and the challenges of the XXI century (*Spanish*)

ROSA KUHNE BRABANT .....

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## Abstract

This is a critical review of the work and methods of past and present Western historians of Arabic medicine. It points out traditional errors, prejudices and limitations, and proposes to modernize the way we approach this field of research. Up to now, many Western scholars have deemed that Arabic medicine could be understood by knowing the important theoretical treatises (even in unreliable translations) and by reading the frequently outdated secondary literature. Modern research must turn to the texts that reflect the actual medical practices, focus on social aspects of medicine or the interaction of learned and folkloric medicine, and must even try to find out the truth about the questionable statements we read in our textbooks. The field urgently needs interdisciplinary and international cooperation and wider diffusion of the recent bibliography.

The sources cited in the agronomic work of al-Ṭignarī (*Spanish*)

EXPIRACIÓN GARCÍA SÁNCHEZ .....

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## Summary

1.—The author and his work. 2.—The sources. 2.1.—Explicit. 2.2.—Anonymous. 2.3.—Others. 3.—Final considerations.

## Abstract

Al-Ṭignarī (11th and 12th centuries) is one of the most outstanding representatives of the al-Andalus agronomic school. His treatise, *Kitāb Zuhrāt al-bustān wa-nuzhat al-adhān*, follows a dualist method in which rational theory is accompanied by tried and tested practical experience. Thus, it does not merely provide a long list of sources in a display of sheer erudition, but rather the majority of those quoted can nearly always be identified. The study undertaken for this paper showed that the highest percentage by far of these sources were drawn from the Greco-Byzantine tradition, followed by those from the Arab tradition, represented by *al-Filāḥa al-Nabaṭiyya (Nabathean Agriculture)*.

Doves in Andalusi agriculture (*Spanish*)  
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 3.1.—Sources of Ibn Wāfid. 3.2.—Sources of Ibn al-ʿAwwām. 4.—Conclusions.

Abstract

The present study explored the subject of doves, which were an object of interest for Andalusian agronomists. In particular, we investigated the treatises of Ibn Wāfid and Ibn al-ʿAwwām, in which only zootechnical data are preserved. We analysed the sources cited by these agronomists in their writings on these birds, which were as much of classic origin as drawn from Arab-Islamic Culture. Finally, we conclude that the Andalusian geponics contributed a great variety of information without precedence in earlier agronomic Literature.

Notes on the Arab legacy to Western astronomy in the 15th century/  
 IXH (*Spanish*)  
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Summary

1.—General issues. 2.—Chronology of astronomic activity inherited from the Arabs by the West during the 15th century/IXH.

Abstract

The main difficulty to study Arabic science —especially Astronomy— in al-Andalus during the 15th century is the small number of available sources. Our aims were to review a short list of useful Arabic sources and to present scattered data on the Arabic legacy to 15th century astronomy in western countries, particularly in the Magreb and Spain.

Studies on the development of mathematics in al-Andalus: the current  
 situation (*Spanish*)  
 JUAN MARTOS QUESADA ..... 269

Summary

1.—Characteristics of the science of Mathematics in medieval Islam.  
 2.—Development of Mathematics in Muslim Spain. 3.—The Maslama School in al-Andalus. 4.—Study of Hispano-Muslim mathematical science; current situation.

Abstract

First, we present the characteristics and the place of mathematics in medieval Islamic science, underlining the main contributions of its evolution. Second, we briefly review the development and chronological evolution of mathematics and the medieval Muslim scientists in al-Andalus who devoted themselves to this science, recording the main achievements and noting the different stages of this evolution. Third, we study the figure of «Maslama el Madrileño [from Madrid]» and the importance of his scientific and

didactic works in the qualitative advances achieved in the field of Mathematics and Astronomy, the basis for the so-called mathematical revolution in al-Andalus in the 11th century. And, last but not least, we focus on the present-day state of the question and give an account of the main bibliographical references to mathematical science in Muslim Spain from the beginning of the 20th century to date.

## ARTICLES

Cristóbal de Vega (1510-1573), Physician to Prince Don Carlos (1545-1568) (*Spanish*)

JUSTO HERNÁNDEZ.....

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### Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Nomination of Doctor Vega as Court physician. 3.—The diet of the young prince. 4.—The quartan fevers of Don Carlos. 5.—The head injury suffered by Don Carlos. 6.—The last years of Cristóbal de Vega's professional activity. 7.—Confinement and death of Don Carlos. The twilight of Cristóbal de Vega's life.

### Abstract

This paper presents biographical aspects concerning the always-delicate health of Prince Don Carlos (1545-1568), first-born son of the King Felipe II of Spain (1527-1598). The main conditions and circumstances of his pathobiography were drawn from interesting data offered by one of his royal doctors, the former professor of the University of Alcalá, Cristóbal de Vega (1510-1573), throughout his significant medical career. In particular, the report on the quartan fevers suffered by Don Carlos in Doctor Vega's *Commentaria in librum Aphorismorum* (1568), provides considerable and previously unknown clinical data on the disease.

His Majesty's Distillers: Distillation and Chemical Medicine in the Court of Phillip II (*Spanish*)

MAR REY BUENO; MARÍA ESTHER ALEGRE PÉREZ.....

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### Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Alchemy, distillation and quintessences. 3.—European influences in Philippine distillation. 4.—Francisco Holbeque, «simplist» and royal distiller. The Aranjuez distillery (1564). 5.—The search for the quintessence: origins of the Madrid distillery (1579). 6.—The Escorial distillation laboratory (1568). 7.—Apogee of the royal distillery. 8.—Remedies produced at the royal distilleries. 9.—Consolidation of apothecaries as distillers.

### Abstract

The present work studies the appearance and development of Paracelsian Practices in the Spanish Court through a linked series of events that took place between 1564 and 1602. These were: the creation of Philippine distillation laboratories, the ordinance of the protophysician Francisco de Valles regarding distilled waters; the concession of a patent to Diego de

Santiago for the invention of a steam distillery; the publication of the last treatise by Francisco de Valles, dedicated to weights, measures, and distilled waters; the appearance of a distiller on the founding staff of the Royal Apothecary, in charge of preparing all the distilled waters and chemical medicines; and the creation of a new post within the Court health organigram, that of Distiller Major.

Pedro Gutiérrez Bueno (1745-1822), textbooks and a new public for chemistry in the last third of the 18th century (*Spanish*)  
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Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Training of an apothecary in the second half of the 18th century. 3.—Pedro Gutiérrez Bueno and chemistry text books. 4.—Theoretical chemistry, experimental physics and a new public for chemistry. 5.—Conclusions.

Abstract

This paper is a part of a general research project on the role that chemistry played in the transition of *materia medica* to experimental pharmacology during 19th century Spain. Within this general framework, the paper deals with the main characteristics of Spanish textbooks aimed at pharmaceutical and medical students. In a former study, published in this journal, we outlined the institutional context in which these books were read, written and published. Some of these issues are developed in the present paper through analysis of the «Curso de química» written by Pedro Gutiérrez Bueno. New light is shed on the public for chemistry during late XVIII century Spain and their role in shaping the contents and organisation of chemistry textbooks.

The National Pharmacopoeia and the therapeutic *status* of flora in Mexican biomedicine (*Spanish*)  
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Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Modern pharmacopoeia and its beginnings in independent Mexico. 3.—The mission of Mexican *materia medica*. 4.—Progressive exclusion of clinical evidence. 5.—Denaturalisation of the pharmacopoeia: transformation of a profile and a setting. 6.—Extrapharmacopoeias, prescriptions and physicians. 7.—An instrument that can be recovered from a clinical perspective.

Abstract

The paper analyses the transformation of the Mexican pharmacopoeia, focusing on the presence of medicinal plants. Reflecting diverse processes, editions of the pharmacopoeia show a progressive modification in its content and profile. A text written to shape a Mexican *materia medica*, recognising empirical knowledge by the inclusion of popularly used resources and involving clinicians as authors and recipients, was transformed into a mainly industrial publication with no clinical references. The origin and implications of this process are explored.

## Prize Dynamis 1999

Medical pluralism revealed by private correspondence in XVIII century  
Catalonia (*Spanish*)

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## Summary

1.—The history of medicine from a patient's point of view. 2.—The historical-medical context in XVIII century Catalonia. 3.—The *medical culture* of a Catalan family of the XVIII century.

## Abstract

This work constitutes an approach to the complex world of medical pluralism during the modern age. First, there is a review of the recent historiography concerned with recovering all the possible medical resources that existed and were offered to the patient. The complexity of this medical world are then described, noting the persistence of some elements throughout the late medieval and early modern period. Within the theoretical framework and historical setting established, the work concludes by showing the complexity and permanent interrelationship in the care options, from the point of view of private correspondence of the Veciana family at the end of the XVIII century.

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