

NOTE E BIBLIOGRAFIA

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12. Questa dottrina vanta oggi buoni risultati anche nel campo del trattamento delle malattie neoplastiche, per quanto non sembra se ne sia avvantaggiato il suo ideatore che, dopo lunghe sofferenze, dovette soccombere alla natura maligna del male che lo colpì nel pieno del suo apostolato.

La corrispondenza va inviata a R. A. Bernabeo, Via P.P. Molinelli 11, 40100 Bologna.

Articoli/Articles

THE LINKS BETWEEN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF PADUA
AND THE HELLENIC MEDICAL WORLD

S. MARKETOS, J. LASCARATOS, A. DIAMANDOPOULOS
Dept. of History of Medicine
Athens University Medical School
Athens, Greece

SUMMARY

Between the 15th and 19th centuries the University of Padua attracted a great number of Greek students, who wanted to study medicine. They came not only from Venetian dominions (where the percentage reaches 97% of the students in Italian Universities) but also from Turkish-occupied territories of Greece. It is also characteristic that several Professors of the School of Medicine and Philosophy of this famous University were Greeks. They were the following ten: Giovanni Cottunio, Niccolò Calliachi, Giorgio Calafatti, Tomaso Catani, Simone Stratigo, Giovanni Zografo, Pietro Zografo, Marco Carburi, Pietro Antonio Bondioli, and Angelo Dalla Decima. It is also interesting that most physicians who distinguished themselves as leading personalities in the political and scientific life of Europe had studied at the University of Padua. Five names stand out from among the multitude: Alessandro Mavrocordato (politician and diplomat), Giovanni Capodistria (First Governor of Greece), Lazzaro de Mordo (philosopher-physician), Giacomo Pilarino and Emmanuel Timoni (the two discoverers of the smallpox inoculation with pus extracted from a patient suffering from a slight attack of the disease).

It is concluded that the close traditional relations between Greece and the Medical School of the University of Padua were at their strongest during the period from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

The present study comprises part of a series of articles^{1, 2} which prove the existence of close scientific relations between Greece and Italy in the medical sphere for many generations.

Parole chiave/Key words: Padua University - Medical School - Hellenic Medicine

It is indeed true that all the Universities of Italy developed close relations with the Greek medical world, because most Greek physicians studied or did their postgraduate studies there. This is particularly the case with regard to the celebrated University of Padua (fig. 1) throughout the years of Venetian occupation (1405-1798), but chiefly during the 17th and 18th centuries.

During this period, Padua provided the main and most hospitable centre for Greek students from both the Venetian and the Turkish-occupied territories of our country. The University was noted for its protectiveness towards foreigners.

Students were attracted by the ancient ambience and the universal recognition of the University, and also by the fact that the professorial posts were held by the best scholars in the world.

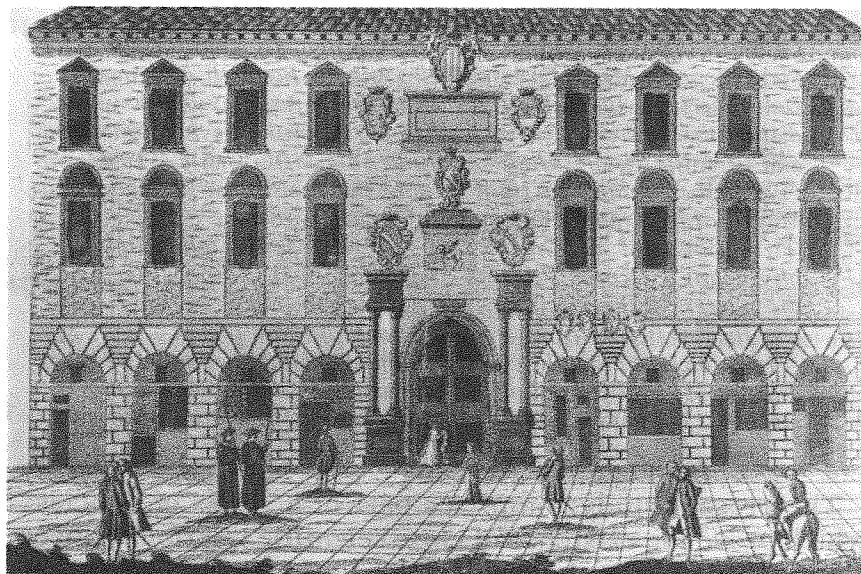


Fig. 1 - The old building of the University of Padua.

The University also provided freedom and autonomy of its student organizations (the well-known *Natione Ultramarina* as it regarded Greeks), and also the religious freedom for its students, the well known *Patavina Libertas*³.

Naturally, the political situation and the occupation of an important part of Greek territory (Crete, the Ionian Islands, Peloponnese) by Venice played a decisive role for the majority of prospective Greek students of medicine in choosing the University of Padua for their studies. The University was especially preferred by the Greeks from Venetian protectorates who were, *ipse iure*, subjects of Serenissima. It follows that the scholarly relations and the cultural communications of the two places were broader and as a result many established Greek scholars were appointed by the Venetian Senate as professors of the University of Padua^{3, 4, 5, 6, 7}.

The result of these close political and educational ties was the appointment in the two basic schools of the University, the *Università degli Artisti* (fig. 2) and the *Università degli Juristi*

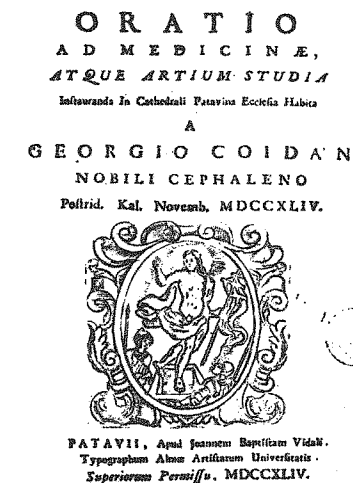


Fig. 2 - Title page of the inaugural oration of a greek student with the emblem of the *Università degli Artisti*.

or *dei Leggisti*, of thirteen Greek Professors, ten of whom belonged to the School of Medicine and Philosophy (Artisti).

Further many graduates of the University, such as Rocco Pilarino, Niccolò Piccolo, Stamatello Pilarino and Giorgio Theriano served as Professors of the Ionian Academy, while Costantino Vardalako was appointed Professor of the Accademy of Bucearest and Giorgio Coressio Professor of the University of Pisa. Concurrently the graduates of the University of Padua became the cultural and political leaders of the subjugated Greek people.

His work is confined to the presentation of only the most important of these physicians.

A. Greek Professors of the School of Medicine and Philosophy (Università degli Artisti)

1. Giovanni Cottunio

Giovanni Cottunio (1572-1657) was from Veroia in Macedonia, a town renowned for its artistic tradition in the visual arts, and he studied philosophy and theology at the college of Santo Atanassio of Rome where he later taught for four years⁷. He received the doctoral laurel of philosophy and medicine at the University of Padua in 1615, under the guidance of the excellent and famous neoaristotelian professor Cesare Cremonini. He also taught various courses at the University of Bologna (Philosophy, Rhetoric, Aristotelian works, etc.). In 1632 he was appointed Professor of the first Extraordinary (*straordinaria*) Chair of Philosophy at the University of Padua and five years later he was elected full Professor and continued teaching in this chair until his death. He is famous for his founding of the famous *Collegio Cottuniano* (1653), which remains extant, with the purpose of providing scholarships for students of the University of Padua⁷.

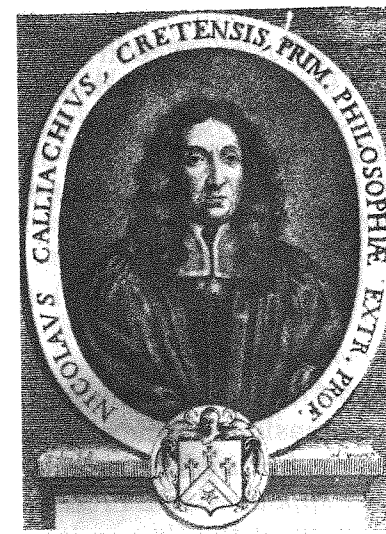


Fig. 3 - Professor Niccolò Calliachi.

2. Niccolò Calliachi

Niccolò Calliachi (1644-1707) (fig. 3) from Candaka, Crete, also studied at the College of Santo Atanassio in Rome and following this served as director of the newly-instituted School of Flagini in Venice. Concurrently, he studied at the School of Medicine and Philosophy at the University of Padua (1665-1671) and at the Law School. In 1677 he was elected Professor of Logic at the University of Padua and in 1681 he undertook the Extraordinary Chair of Philosophy. Five years later he was appointed to the Chair of Ancient Greek and Latin Philology, a position which he held until his death.

3. Giorgio Calafatti

Giorgio Calafatti (1655-1716 or 1718) who was born in Zante (Zacinthos), initially studied philosophy and Logic at the Flag-

gini School and following this enrolled in the School of Medicine and Philosophy of the University of Padua, from where he obtained his diploma in 1674. At a very young age, he became director of the *Collegio Cottuniano* (1673-1704) and thereafter was appointed Professor of Practical and Theoretical Medicine at the University of Padua (1679-1718).

4. Tomaso Catani

Tomaso Catani (1660-1725) was born in Corfu and studied at the College of Santo Atanasio in Rome and at the *Collegio Cottuniano*. He later took on the directorship of the School of Flagini. In 1686 the Senate appointed him Professor of the Extraordinary chair of Philosophy at the University of Padua (*Lettura di Filosofia Straordinaria in secondo luogo*). While he was still a professor of the University of Padua he took his degree in Medicine and Philosophy and by decision of the Venetian Senate was elected professor of the College of Medicine and Philosophy of Padua. From this Chair, which was abolished in 1692, he was transferred to the First Extraordinary Chair of Philosophy of the same University⁸.

5. Count Simeone or Simone Stratigo.

Simone Stratigo (1773-1824) was considered the most imposing and many-faceted figure among the Greek professors who taught at Padua. Simone Stratigo was born at Zara, Dalmatia, where, after the fall of Crete, Venice provided a permanent home for his family. At a very young age Stratigo was sent by his father to Padua where he enrolled first at the *Collegio Cottuniano* and later at the *Collegio Palaeocapa* with the intention of studying medicine. During the first steps of his career he taught at the *Collegio Cottuniano* (1758-1760) and following this undertook further studies in the naval arts, for which Venice had a demand.

At the University of Padua he was appointed in 1757 to teach Theoretical Medicine (*Medicina Teorica Straordinaria*), after favourable judgement by the Venetian Senate which, during its introductory preface, noted that he was a man *with visible talent, natural gifts and virtuous ethics, competent and active, having studied tirelessly*. Following this he visited other cities of Europe and on his return undertook the Chair of Mathematics and Naval Theory (1764), at Padua.

Further, Stratigo served as dean of the University for a number of years. His scientific and literary work, which starts with his inaugural oration to the School of Medicine and Philosophy in 1752, contains, apart from medical texts, numerous works dedicated to naval science, hydraulics and architecture. This established him as an avant-garde and many faceted scientific personality³.

6. Giovanni Zografo

Giovanni Zografo was born in Corfu to a family of Cretan descent. He received his diploma at the University of Padua in 1765. As soon as he received his doctoral degree from the *Collegio Veneto Artista* he was appointed Professor of Surgery. According to the historian of the University of Padua, Giovanni Fabris, Zografo was a member of the Academy of the Ricovrati and was considered *a surgeon of great worth*^{3, 9, 10, 11}.

7. Pietro Zografo

Pietro Zografo (1756-1815), son of the former, enrolled in the University of Padua in 1764. Later at the same University he taught midwifery (1785). He attained great fame for his scientific ability, his surgical dexterity and his humanistic feelings and beliefs^{3, 10, 11}.

8. Count Marco Carburi

Count Marco Carburi (1731-1808) served as Professor of Chemistry at the University of Padua from 1760 onwards^{1, 10, 11}.

9. Pietro Antonio Bondioli

Pietro Bondioli (1765-1808) (fig. 4) was born in Corfu. After general studies there, he was sent to the *Collegio Greco* and following this, studied at the School of Medicine and Philosophy at Padua where he wrote his thesis in 1789. While there he became attached to the leading educational circles of the age. He was a personal friend of Ugo Foscolo and close to Professors Aglietti and Schiassi, while Cesarotti (the celebrated Professor

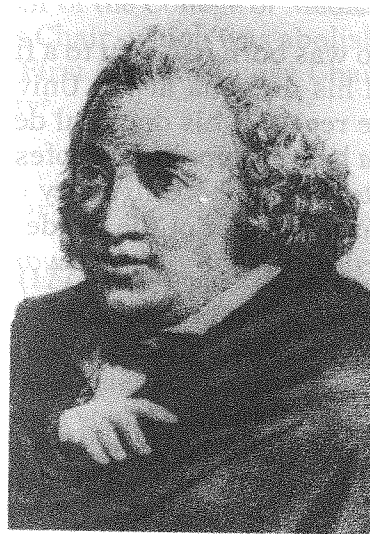


Fig. 4 - Professor Pietro Antonio Bondioli.

of the University of Padua) called him *suo figlio primogenito*^{11, 12}. After his studies he practised medicine in Venice, in Constantinople, in Corfu and in Paris where he was distinguished in the service of the army of Napoleon. In a Napoleonic document he is numbered among the *thirty celebrated physicians*. In 1802 he was appointed Professor of the *Materia Medica* and later Professor of Therapeutics at the University of Bologna and in 1806, Professor of the Medical Clinic (*Medicina Clinica*) at the University of Padua where he taught for two years until his death. In 1803, he was elected as one of the forty-member Italian Academy^{10, 11, 12}.

10. Count Angelo Dalla Decima

Last in the chronological series but most important and richest in his medical oeuvre is Count Angelo Dalla Decima, (1752- 1825), who held the University of Padua's Chairs: *Materia Medica* (1786), *Natural History* (1813) and *General Pathology* (1817) and repeatedly served as Dean. Angelo dalla Decima was born in Argostoli, Cephalonia and learned his first letters in Split (Dalmatia), where his father was director of the Lazaretto. From there he was sent at the age of 12 to Padua where he studied at the famous *Collegio dei Somaschi S. Croce*, which constituted the School of the Monastical Order. In 1775 he took his degree from the School of Medicine and Philosophy at the University of Padua and following this served at the hospitals of Bologna, Pavia, Florence, Rome, Naples and Venice where he practised as a physician. He had a particular talent for the natural sciences and mathematics. He was also a member of the Academies of Padua, Naples, Mantua, Florence and Split. Amongst his medical writings is the *Istituzioni di Patologia Generale* which was published in Venice in 5 volumes (1819) and was considered valuable because it disputed medical theory as laid down by John Brown.

His great scientific contribution to the City was recognized with great honours, the highest of these being the placing of two memorial plaques in the Piazza Prato della Valle near the statues of Galileo, Ariosto, Canova, Tasso and other leading Italian spiritual figures^{10, 11}.

B. Distinguished Greek Graduates

From among the great numbers of Greek graduates of the University of Padua the following stand apart:

1. Alessandro Mavrocordato

Alessandro Mavrocordato (1641-1709), the famous and distinguished politician-diplomat, is the author of a thesis concerning the circulation of the blood which completes the well-known study by William Harvey^{1, 13}.

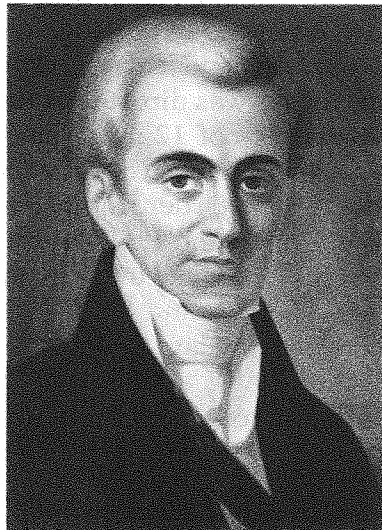


Fig. 5 - Count Giovanni Capodistria, First Governor of Greece.

2. Count Giovanni Capodistria

Scion of one of the most ancient and aristocratic families of Corfu, Count Giovanni Capodistria (1776-1831) (fig. 5) was sent to Italy by his family after his general studies on the island. He studied at the University of Padua.

The records of enrollment at the University make mention of him for the years 1795-1797. His doctoral degree was awarded by the same University. Around 1797, he returned to Corfu where he practised surgery successfully for many years. In 1802, together with other eminent Corfiot physicians, he founded the *Collegio Medico Nazionale* of which he was elected secretary. This scientific society constituted the first such body on Greek soil.

In 1808 his political career began with his appointment to the Ministry of External Affairs to Russia. The regulation of the Swiss question was one of his most applauded diplomatic successes. His greatest influence on European politics and diplomacy was felt during the years he served as Minister of External Affairs to Russia (1815-1822). Far ahead of his time, in 1818, he attempted at Aachen to dissolve the Holy Alliance and the Fivefold Alliance while trying to include in these smaller European countries. His aim was to create a pan-European cooperation of countries which would secure justice in their relations and a peaceful solution of their differences (a forerunner of the EEC). In 1827 Capodistria was chosen by the National Assembly of Troezen as Governor of Greece for an eight-year term. Although he tried hard for social, economic, political and cultural reformation of the country and the stabilization of the newly-established Greek State, he was assassinated by his political opponents in 1831¹⁴.

3. Lazzaro de Mordo

The physician and philosopher Lazzaro de Mordo (Eleazar Mordoch, 1744-1823) was born on Corfu, where he followed his general studies. He studied medicine at the University of Padua and was subsequently established on Corfu where he practis-

ed medicine with great success. Without a doubt, he was the most successful physician of the age in the Ionian Islands. He was a founding member of the *Collegio Medico Nazionale* of Corfu, a member of the first Ionian Academy and of many European academies and societies, and chief Rabbi of the Corfu synagogue. It should be especially noted that he was the first physician who suggested the introduction of inoculation of the population against smallpox to the *Collegio Medico* and he served as a member of the first committee of inoculation. He practised medicine based on the tenets presented in the works of the *Corpus Hippocraticum*, but also according to the neo-hippocratic physicians, chiefly Thomas Sydenham and Hermann Boerhaave. For this reason he is considered the main representative of the neo-hippocratic movement in The Ionian Islands¹⁵.

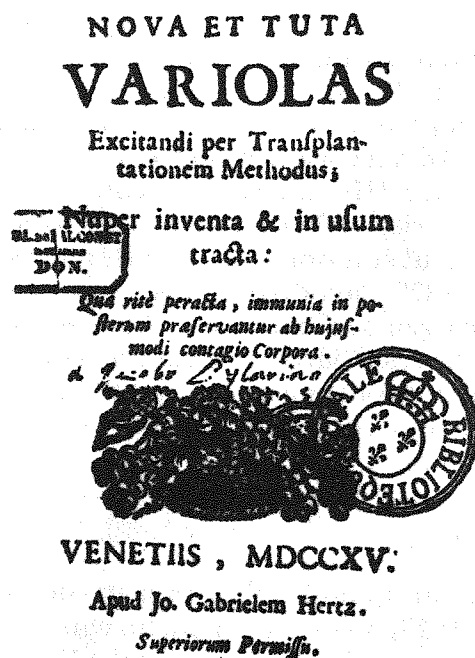


Fig. 6 - Title page of the Pilarino's Study concerning inoculation.

4. Giacomo Pilarino

Giacomo Pilarino (1659-1718) was born in Lixouri, Cephalonia and completed his general studies in Venice. After his studies at the Medical School of the University of Padua he practised medicine in many countries of Europe and the East. He wrote several medical works among which a special place is held by the study entitled: *Nova et tuta variolas excitandi per transplantationem Methodus; nuper inventa et in usum tracta* etc. (fig. 6). It was published in Venice in 1715 and enlarges on his conclusions from the practice of inoculation against smallpox, a method which was in major use as an empirical one for the people. From this method Pilarino was inspired to develop his own technique of inoculation which helped mankind cope with the scourge of smallpox and prepared the way for the great discovery of vaccination by E. Jenner^{5, 6}.

5. Emmanuel Timoni

Almost concurrently with Giacomo Pilarino he practised preventive inoculation with pus from the pustules of smallpox patients. Emmanuel Timoni (1660-1720), son of a prominent family of Chios¹⁷, was most probably born in Constantinople. He was appointed Doctor of Medicine and Philosophy at the University of Padua in 1682. In 1703 presented his thesis and was made a Doctor of the University of Oxford and in the same year became a member of its Royal Society¹⁷. As a member of this Society he presented a study regarding inoculation, which was written in epistolary form from Constantinople to the physician and philosopher John Woodward¹⁶ (1713).

Conclusions

The conclusions drawn from the study of the lives and the activities of Greek Professors of the School of Medicine and Philosophy of the University of Padua, as well as those of various notable physicians who were graduates of the University, provide us with a greater understanding of the enormous influence that the University of Padua exerted on the medical education of Greeks during the period considered.

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Correspondence should be addressed to S. Marketos, Director Department of History of Medicine, National University of Athens, 20 Patr. Ioakeim St., 10657 Athens-Greece.

Articoli/Articles

LA NATURA DELLA DONNA
LA CONCEZIONE DELL'UTERO
NELLA TRADIZIONE POPOLARE

PATRIZIA RITAROSSÌ

Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale
Sezione Storia della Medicina, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

SUMMARY

THE FEMALE NATURE

The occidental culture has always underlined a particular interpretation of the sexual difference; according to this, the woman belongs to materiality and, in the same time, to the magic world. This conception of the woman like a powerful creature and the consequent fear of the uterus, the organ holder of the femininity, was very spread in the educated and popular traditions and goes on until today within the folklore. The Madre is called the uterus, that popular idea considers a self-moving being (the ancient medicine based the concept of hysteria on this, too), a formless animal with many limbs; so, in this way, moving and sending out branches, it can cause illness in the female organism, that is the result of this free movement in the vital spaces.

Fin dall'antichità la cultura occidentale ha evidenziato un sistema interpretativo relativo alla dicotomia maschile-femminile, in base al quale la donna appartiene, come strumento essenziale alla riproduzione del genere umano, al mondo della materia, ma, nel contempo, per il suo legame con la ciclicità, tende ad

Parole chiave/Key words: Uterus - Women's illness