



HONEY-SUGAR PHARMACY IN MEDIEVAL SERBIAN MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS

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In the 10th century the Arabs discovered the way to extract sugar from sugar cane and afterward they passed that knowledge to Europe, when people in the Mediterranean began growing sugar cane and producing sugar. In that period, sugar was used for making many medical preparations. The fact that sugar and honey were used in Serbian Medieval medical practice can be proved by reviewing the most important manuscripts of that time: Chilandar Medical Codex and Hodoch Collection. Both manuscripts were written under the influence of medical schools of Salerno and Montpellier. Chilandar Medical Codex originates from the period between 13th and 16th century. It was written in the Serbian monastery Chilandar, on the Mount Athos in Greece, in the old Slavonic language containing several groups of text. In the group of texts on the simple medicines there are monographs of sugar and honey. This group of texts is mainly the revised translation of *Circa Instans* by Matheus Platearius, published in Venice in 1497.

In the group of texts regarding compound medicines there is a monograph of syrups (juleps). They are called „djulaps“ which originates from Arabic julab and Persian gulab. This group of texts represents the translation of *Antidotarium* by Nicolaus Praepositus, printed in Lion in 1512 and 1528. Hodoch Collection originates from the end of the 14th century. Sugar and honey can be found in many prescriptions described in the part that is dedicated to pharmacotherapy. This collection is revised and expanded translation of *Practica brevis* by Ioanes Platearius, edition prior to the famous Venetian edition in 1497.

These manuscripts are the evidence that Serbian medieval medico-pharmacy were mainly under Western and Byzantine influences as well as the Arabian influence was also present through sugar-honey pharmacy, even though the Arabs were never physically present on the Serbian territory.