



PHARMACISTS' LIFESTYLE IN POZNAN (POLAND) IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY

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Background: Little is known about pharmacists' standing in a Polish society in old centuries. The paper objective was to examine the archival records of lawsuits filed in defense of pharmacists or against pharmacists from the 16th to the 18th centuries in Poland. These records shed a new light on pharmacists' manners, their professional ethics, and a position in an old society.

Methods: The records of lawsuits concerning of pharmacists were analyzed and compared by use of qualitative historical methods.

Results: More than twenty lawsuits of Polish pharmacists were examined. The oldest lawsuits were recorded in municipal registers. From the mid-16th century, the described lawsuits were recorded in court registers. The majority of lawsuits were filed in municipal courts but the one was filed in a royal court and another was filed in a bishop's court.

Conclusions: The pharmacists' complaints were a new social phenomenon and a result of the development of pharmaceutical guilds and increasing commercialization of pharmacies during the discussed centuries. Pharmacist protected their profits and privileges. One of the important reasons of these complaints was a quarrel with neighbors or subordinates. Pharmacists seldom were charged with a crime.