



The National Museum for the History of Pharmacy in Thessaloniki, Greece

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The Greek National Museum for the History of Pharmacy has been recently inaugurated in Thessaloniki, Greece. The institution is documenting on the art of healing in the broader region from the Neolithic to the early 20th century, and forms an independent foundation operated by the local Association of Pharmacists.

The Exhibition.

The ground floor is reconstructing a late 19th century pharmacy. In the upper floor, documentary posters are commenting on the history of pharmaceutical science and practice in Thessaloniki, while a series of valuable drugs is thoroughly visualized as to the evolution of uses and galenic forms through the millennia.

The Collections.

The collections are encompassing laboratory instrumentation, mortars, jars, and glassware; medical products, prescriptions and handwritten labels; prints and publicity pamphlets, postcards and photographs; archive documents on Greek pharmacies and apothecaries; information on old study curricula; dispensaries and rare books; as well as a rather complete Greek *materia medica* presentation.

The Educational Programmes.

Kindergarten – in Collaboration with the Institution *Merimna Paidiou*

The programme is aimed at acquainting pre-school children with basic laboratory methodologies. The historical dimension is focusing on the interpretation of easy-to-handle experimental procedures, such as infusion and extraction, and on the reproduction of past age fragrances, still familiar and treasured. The perfumes and ointments are prepared by means of simplified techniques from flowers, fruit seeds or oils found in the everyday environment.

Primary School – in Collaboration with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The programme is aimed at acquainting primary school pupils with laboratory methodologies of past ages. The historical dimension is focusing on the interpretation of basic physicochemical concepts and experimental procedures, such as extraction, distillation or sublimation, and on the reproduction of various traditional galenic forms. The perfumes, ointments, plasters, powders or pills are prepared by means of standardised pre-industrial methods from natural ingredients purchased or collected by the pupils.

Secondary School – in Collaboration with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The programme is aimed at acquainting secondary school students with advanced laboratory methodologies of past ages. The historical dimension is focusing on the scientific elucidation of complex physicochemical concepts and experimental procedures according to their chronological evolution, and on the exact reproduction of ancient galenic forms. The preparation is following genuine ancient and Mediaeval recipes, while the natural ingredients used are mostly collected by the students.

