



The Medical Collection of the Benedictine Library in Broumov

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The aim of my research project is the investigation and complex elaboration of the medical volumes, collected in the **Benedictine Monastery of Broumov**, a town, which is nowadays located in the northeast of Bohemia. The monastery was established in the **14th century**, nevertheless the present huge building of the monastery was built in Baroque style (according to the plans of the architects Martin Allio and later Cristoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer). The building complex was confiscated many times during the centuries, lately by the Nazis and Communists as well, and in 1950 the place became a concentration camp for nuns, monks, and other ecclesiastical office holders. Finally, the Benedictines recovered their ownership in 1990 and they also got back one part of their book collection.

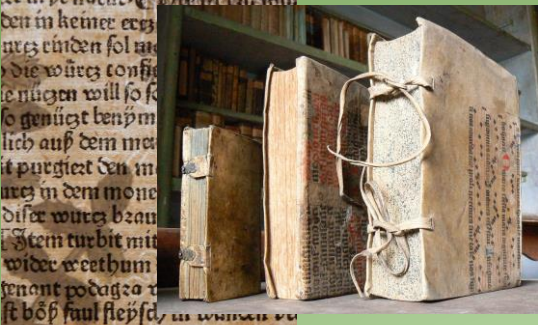


Among the volumes, there is a group (approximately 400 volumes), which contains **medical related books**. Nowadays, the oldest volumes of the collection are **incunabula form the 15th century**. There are also **five volumes from the 16th century**, but most of them were printed in the 18th century. Concerning the language of the medical works, they were written mostly in German and Latin, but the collection also contains books in Czech, French and Polish languages.



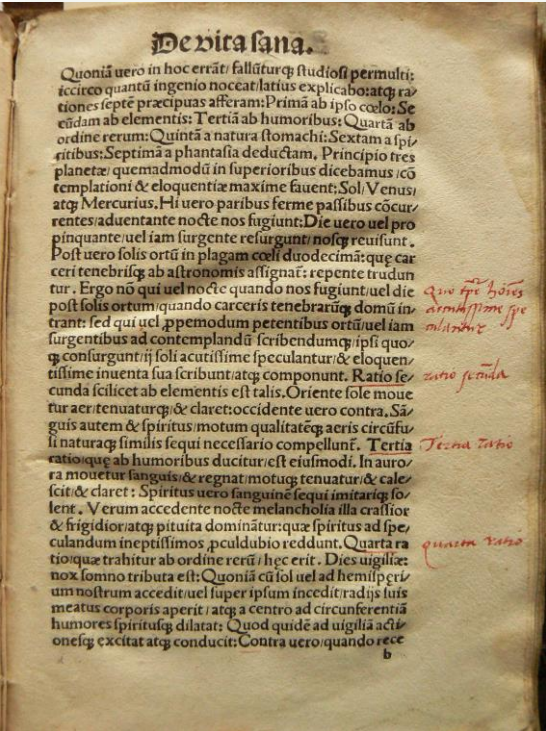
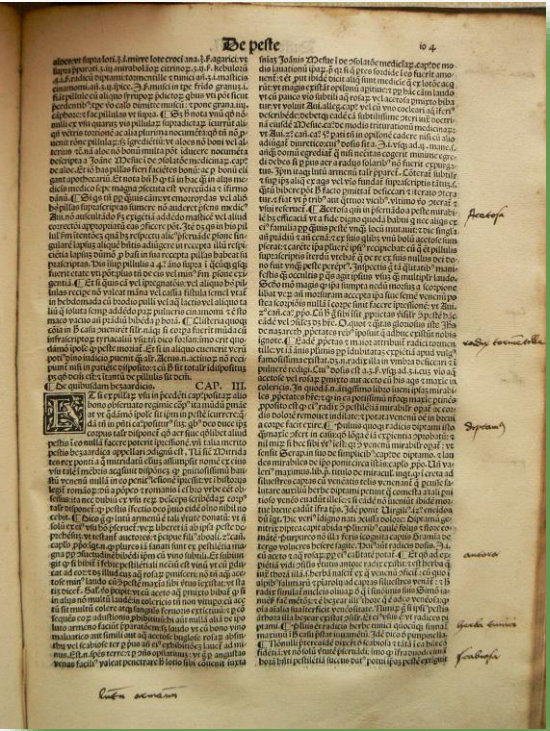
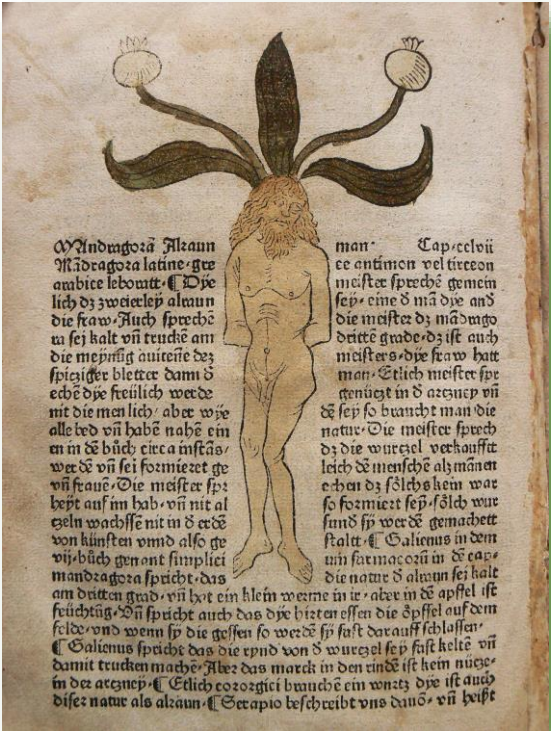
The **history of the library** could be followed from the 14th century. According to historical documents, a **grammar school** was established in the monastery around 1306 and this is the date since the collection of books has been started. However the lack of research, there are speculations concerning the number of the volumes in the original collection before the communists had overtaken the ownership. There were approximately **65 000 volumes** in the library, a prominent part of them is in the library of Hradec Králové, but **18 000 volumes** were returned to the monastery recently.





The aims of my research:

- prepare the **catalogue** of the volumes
- **identification** of every single work (colligatum; fragments)
- examination of the **provenance**, **possessor notes**, *ex libris* and *supralibros*
- examination of the **bindings** (focusing on the fragments of medieval manuscripts used for bookbinding)
- **reconstruction** of the original collection by the help of previous catalogues
- analysis of the **handwritten notes** and reconstruction of the **circle of readers**
- examination of the **medical illustrations** (focusing on the 15-16th cent.)
- examination of the **paper** (watermarks, paper trade)



Johannes von Cuba, Gart der Gesundheit
Augsburg; 1485 Aug. 22.
Hain 8949

Antonius Guainerius, Opera medica
[Venetia]; 1497 Febr. 14.
Hain 8099

Marsilius Ficinus, De triplici vita
Careggi; 1489 Sept. 16.
Hain 7063