THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY IN ITALY

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The idea of writing a history of the Italian pharmacy and its pharmacists was first mooted by G. Battista Capello, a Venetian herbalist and author of the *Lessico Farmaceutico* (the Pharmaceutical Lexicon) a book of prescriptions, printed in numerous editions, that made its debut in 1729.
During the XVIII century this kind of practical medical treatises had a really large circulation. The “Lessico Farmaceutico Chimico” was a text characterized by a popular style, and contained as well a full and detailed description of every drug used in pharmacy.

CAPELLO G.B., Lessico Farmaceutico Chimico, A. Graziosi, Venezia, 1769.
The Venetian edition of 1759 contained a preface telling the well-documented story of the Venetian pharmacy, from its origins.

... seven pages full of contents, followed by a lot of bibliographical references.
G.B. Capello begins his essay with the first steps of Venetians Apothecaries, when they organize themselves with a code of ethics.
G.B. Capello then recognizes the city of Salerno the merit of having first organized an art teaching medical and pharmaceutical issues.
... he also reiterates that the early teaching of art comes from Paris, when in 1303, Pietro d’Abano founded the University of Padua, transferring knowledge acquired in Paris

“Studia” e “Universitas”
However, the true founder of the discipline was the physician Alfonso Corradi (1833-1892). He wrote an important work on the first Italian pharmacopoeias.
This new study was motivated by the release of the first pharmacopoeia of the Kingdom of Italy and the desire to know the pharmaceutical experience.

Farmacopea ufficiale del Regno d’Italia, Roma, 1892, pp 443 +VI.

Remember that while in Europe each State had its Official Pharmacopoeia, in Italy there was a very complex situation.
In Italy, there was a very curious phenomenon: every State or little state had its Official Pharmacopoeia.
Another very curious phenomenon was the proliferation of the so-called Private Pharmacopoeia, mostly published by pharmacists with the aim of recovering and extending the Galenic tradition.
In the early 20th century, a pharmacologist at the University of Genoa named Alberico Benedicenti published a monumental work in two volumes entitled “Patients, doctors and pharmacists, history of remedies through the ages”. The importance of this work is confirmed by the award given by the Academy of France.
In 1934 Carlo Pedrazzini, professor at the University of Pavia, published this great work «in folio», with 592 pages and many illustrations, entitled “Historical and artistic Italian Pharmacy”.
It is a big book “in folio” with seven chapters that deal with various topics: ethics, literature, art, instruments, legislation.
In 1934 Giulio Conci, pharmacist in Trento and Bolzano, published a work entitled “History of pharmacy”. It is perhaps the first work written with the aim of introducing the teaching of the history of Pharmacy at Italian universities.

G. Conci, «Pagine di Storia della Farmacia», Milano 1934, pp.351
After the Second World War, the pharmacists themselves took over the baton, and Conci’s work has been continued by his disciples Antonio Vitolo and Cristoforo Masino.
Antonio Vitolo brought a significant contribution to the study of the history of pharmacy with a large number of essays on the methodology of study and analysis of pharmaceutical stores.
Cristoforo Masino went down in history with his memorable «Voci di Spezieria», with a long series of books about Italian pharmacists and pharmacies.
In 1983, they founded the magazine **Atti e Memorie A.I.S.F.** which reports on the activities of the Academy and which is celebrating its 30\textsuperscript{th} birthday this year.
The teaching of the history of Pharmacy has never been taken into consideration in Italian universities. However, a tertiary education programme at the University of Ferrara was launched in 2008. The current teaching course has around 200 students. You can read the details of the project in the poster dedicated to the teaching of the history of pharmacy in Italy.

POSTER
L’HISTOIRE DE LA PHARMACIE: RECHERCHE ET ENSEIGNEMENT – FERRARE (ITALIE)

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