



THE BRAZILIAN NATURE IN FRIAR JOÃO DE JESUS MARIA'S PHARMACOPOEIAS

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Abstract

Throughout the eighteenth century the pharmaceutical literature begins a new chapter in the history of pharmacy and, in a broader sense, on the Portuguese medical history. The continual printing of pharmacy books along XVIII century, which would culminate in publication of the first official pharmacopoeia of Portuguese Empire in 1796, highlight the efforts of physicians and apothecaries – further by the Crown - to regulate, modernize and adapt the discipline to the scientific methods that were in progress during the period. Among the authors of the period, be noteworthy the monk-pharmacist and pharmacy manager of the Santo Tirso Monastery, Friar de Jesus Maria (1716-1795), which published in 1772 the book *Pharmacopea Dogmatica Medicochimica, e Teórico-pratica*. In later years of his life he also wrote *Historia Pharmaceutica das Plantas Exóticas*, work which would provide an addition to previous pharmacopoeia and despite all royal and ecclesiastical necessary licenses, was never printed.

This paper has the intention to present the pharmacopoeia of the monk-apothecary, highlighting the importance given to the plants with therapeutic potential, especially from Brazil. Influenced by the Linnaean classification and the ideals of illustration of Domenico Vandelli, the pharmacopeias of Friar Jesus Maria are marked by a particular interest to colonial flora. In this context, the author argued that the knowledge and rational use of these would provide the development of therapeutic practices and the addition of new and profitable commercial sources. Therefore, these pages provide us to notice a unique perspective, where the traditional use of plants made by indigenous converge with the European scholarly knowledge, having as a background the tension between Galenism and chemical pharmacy in the context of Pombal reform.