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What did a nobleman in the first half of the 19th century know about medicine? An attempt to reconstruct the collection of medical books in the catalogue of Jozef Esterházy's noble library at Čeklís Manor (Bernolákovo) from 1816[1]

Abstract: In this study, we analysed part of the historical library catalogue from 1816, which was preserved as a list of books belonging to the younger relative and namesake of the library's founder, Jozef Esterházy (1791–1847) in the Čeklís manor (now Bernolákovo, Slovakia). The catalogue was titled *Catalogus librorum qui Cseklészii in superioris et inferioris illustrissimi domini Iosephi de comitibus Eszterházy bibliotheca 1816 continentur*. We focus on the group of books devoted to medical topics and provide a brief content analysis of the publications we were able to identify. Our goal is also to consider how these books came to be in J. Esterházy's library. In conclusion, based on the principle of *pars pro toto*, we will summarise the findings we were able to uncover about J. Esterházy's library through our analysis of a selected portion of the catalog.

Keywords: Jozef Esterházy (1791–1847) – library – library catalogue – human medicine – veterinary medicine– language of books

Słowa kluczowe: József Esterházy (1791–1847) – biblioteka – katalog biblioteczny – medycyna – weterynaria – język publikacji

1 The present article is the result of research within the framework of the project APVV-22-0130 Noble Libraries of the 18th and 19th centuries in western and central Slovakia.

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Noble libraries underwent a significant transformation in the 19th century. Although they continued to serve the purpose of representing the noble family and preserving the family heritage[2], under the influence of the Enlightenment, industrialization, and the rise of the printing press, they gradually opened up to modern trends and a more secular conception of education. In addition to traditional theological, historical, and legal literature, their collections increasingly included fiction, travelogues, works on the natural sciences, encyclopedias, and Enlightenment literature that responded to the scientific and technological advances of the 19th century. Similar trends can also be observed in the book collection represented by the manuscript catalogue *Cathalogus Librorum Qui Cseklészii in superiori et inferiori llustrissimi Domini Iosephi E Comitibus Eszterházy Bibliotheca 1816 continentur*[3] (hereinafter referred to as the catalog), and which was owned by the Hungarian nobleman Jozef Esterházy (1791–1847).

The catalogue is bound in book form and contains 408 hand-numbered pages, approximately one hundred of which are blank and were intended for new acquisitions. Today, this catalogue is housed at the University Library in Bratislava. For the sake of organization and clarity, J. Esterházy's book collection required classification into smaller thematic groups. As the catalogue shows, the entire collection was thematically divided into sections: theology, law, medicine, philosophy, mathematics, philology, history, and maps. Based on the principle of *pars pro toto*, in the following lines we will focus on the smallest group of literature listed in the catalogue – books devoted to medicine. The following information could be gleaned from the catalogue regarding these books: *Nota* (note), *Numerus Forulorum* (cabinet or shelf number), *Numerus Librorum* (book number), *Medici Authores et Titulus Librorum* (medical authors and book titles), *Edicio* (issue), *Tomi et Partes* (volumes and sections), *Volumina* (volumes), *Formatum* (format). Even such a small collection of books is highly revealing. Not only can it shed light on the interests, reading habits, and language preferences of its owners, but it also says a great deal about the era in which it was assembled.

The library catalogue analysed here provides an overview of the book collection of the Hungarian nobleman J. Esterházy (1791–1847). Jozef Esterházy was a younger and more distant relative of the founder of the family library at Čeklís (Cseklész) Castle – Jozef Esterházy the Elder (1682–1748). The

2 K. Jarosławska. *Rękopisy rodu von Schönaich, Gałęzi Carolath-Beuthen, w zbiorach Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Warszawie*, "Roczniki Biblioteczne" 2022, vol. 66, pp. 213–225.

3 University Library in Bratislava, sign. Ms 953, Cathalogus Librorum qui Cseklészii in superiori et inferiori Illustrissimi Domini Iosephi E Comitibus Eszterházy Bibliotheca 1816 continentur.

family's origins are linked to Žitný ostrov (Csallóköz), but over the course of several centuries, the Esterházys acquired estates that, in addition to the territory of present-day Slovakia, were located in Hungary, Serbia, Austria, Romania, and Slovenia. The family was almost always close to the royal court and boasted prominent members who held high positions in the country's administration or in the church. They were landowners, fought in the battles against the Turks, yet were also pious and generously supported the construction of religious and secular buildings, schools, and the like[4].

The Esterházy Family's Historical Library (also known as the Bibliotheca Esterhazyana) is one of the most significant and extensive aristocratic book collections in Central Europe. Several researchers have studied it[5] and discovered, that it was built up over more than four centuries and reflects the immense cultural breadth, erudition and patronage of this prominent Hungarian family. The foundations of the library were laid in the early modern period by Palatine Mikuláš Esterházy (1582–1645) and his son, Prince Pavol I Esterházy (1635–1713), who were among the most passionate book collectors of their time. The collection of Count Jozef Esterházy (1682–1748) at Čeklís (Cseklész) Manor constituted a significant private collection. According to a surviving historical catalogue from 1749, this library was meticulously organised by subject. It served as an important intellectual centre where books were lent to scholars (such as Matej Bel), through which the family linked the local and wider cultural spheres[6].

In 1815, died the founder of the so-called Bernolákovo (Čeklís / Cseklész) branch of the Frankish line of the Esterházy family, František Esterházy (1758–1815), who had the family mansion in Bernolákovo rebuilt in the Baroque style and built a large library in it. Jozef Esterházy, although he was

4 J.M. Perschy, *Die Fürsten Esterházy. Magnaten, Diplomaten & Mäzene*. *Ausstellung der Republik Österreich, des Landes Burgenland und der Freistadt Eisenstadt im Schloss Esterházy*, Eisenstadt 1995, p. 19.

5 K.A. Dmitrijeva, N.N. Subkov et al., *Knyigi iz sobraniya knyazej Esterhazy v moskovskikh bibliotekakh – Bücher aus der Sammlung der Fürsten Esterházy in Moskauer Bibliotheken*, Moscow – Rudomino 2007, 320 pp; I. Monok and E. Zvara, *Esterhasiana Bibliotheca*, Budapest 2020, 579 pp; T. Gabriel, *Die fürstlich Esterházysche Bibliothek – Zeugnis einer bewegten Vergangenheit*, [in:] *Forscher – Gestalter – Vermittler. Festschrift Gerald Schlag*, eds. W. Gürtler and G.J. Winkler, Eisenstadt 2001, pp. 119–130; *Die Familie Esterházy im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert*, eds. W. Gürtler and R. Kropf, Eisenstadt 2009, 480 pp.; S. Körner*, Il Magnifico. Fürst Nikolaus II. Esterházy 1765–1833*, Eisenstadt 2011, 149 pp; L. Lichnerová and M. Špániová, *Personal passion as a formative element of a noble residence and library: The case of the manor house in Cseklész*. "Hungarian Studies" 2026, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 1–17.

6 S. Körner, *Bibliotheca Esterházyana*, [in:] *Modrá krv, tlačiarenská čerň. Šľachtické knižnice 1500–1700,* ed. K. Komorová, Martin 2005–2007, pp. 105, 114.

only 25 years old, took over the library as the eldest son, and on this occasion the inventory of the library and other partial inventories (e.g. inventory of the carriage house from 1816–1817)[7] were probably drawn up[8]. All that is known about the career of Jozef Esterházy the Younger is that he served as an imperial and royal chamberlain and managed his own estates. He was married twice and had no children[9].

The collection of medical books owned by J. Esterházy consisted of only 21 (or 20) volumes. The oldest book in the collection is *Meletii Philosophi Opus de Natura, et Structura Hominis* (Venice, 1552), a treatise on the nature and structure of the human body. This is a late antique or Byzantine work, likely from the 8th or 9th century, by the monk Meletius, which is a synthesis of ancient medical knowledge (especially that of Galen and Hippocrates) and Christian anthropology. It is significant for the history of both medicine and philosophy. The interpreter and translator of Meletius's work into Latin was Petrus Nicolaus Corcyraeus (1500–1568), a Renaissance scholar and physician known for his critical commentaries on classical ancient medical and anatomical texts. The Venetian edition from 1552 is among the most famous historical editions of this work; its printer was Joannes Gryphius (1544–1576, active in Venice and briefly in Padua), a relative of the renowned Lyon printer Sébastien Gryphius (1495–1556).

Among the 16th-century prints was also an interesting convolute containing the work of the Czech humanist physician Vavrinec Špan of Španov (1530/31–1575). Attached to the print *D. Laurentii Span a Spanovo Liber de Homine* (Prague 1560) was an edition (*In eodem Libello*) by the prominent Hungarian physician Tobias Cober (c. 1570–1625), titled *Tobiae Coberi Tragediae, et Comedia Nova*. In addition to researching the transmission of typhus, Coberius also devoted himself to poetry and drama. He wrote several multi-act plays inspired by Virgil's *Aeneid*, as well as plays that reflected on Turkish expansion in Europe. All were published in the last decade of the 16th century[10],

7 D. Pongrácz, *Kone a kočiare ako špecifický typ reprezentácie uhorskej aristokracie na príklade Esterházyovcov. A lovag és hintók mint a magyaországi fouri reprezentáció spacifikus típusa az Esterházyak példáján,* [in:] *Mladšia frankóovská línia Esterházyovcov = Az Esterházyak fraknói ifjabb ága*, ed. G. Strešňák, Senec 2017, pp. 290–309.

8 R. Ragač, *Az Esterházyak cseklészi hitbizományi könyvtárának újonnan fellelt része, in Az Esterházyak fraknói ifjabb ága – Mladšia frankóovská línia Esterházyovcov*, ed. G. Strešňák, Senec 2017, pp. 446–453.

9 M. Špániová and L. Lichnerová. *Šľachtické knižnice členov rodu Esterházy v kaštieli Čeklís (Bernolákovo),* [in:] *Knižnice v minulosti. Dejiny knižníc na území Slovenska*, eds. V. Mažgútová and J. Švec, Žilina 2024, p. 50.

10 B. Kreuz, P. Aigner, Ch. Harrauer, *Bibliographie zum Nachleben des antiken Mythos*, Wien 2012, p. 133.

however, we were unable to identify which ones are included in the volume under analysis. The final work in the convolute (*Item*) is *Hermani Epigramata*, a collection of epigrams by the poet and playwright Friedrich Hermann Flayder (1596–1640). This prominent German humanist is the author of two books of epigrams: *Epigrammatum libellus* (1627) and *Sal Musarum* (1631)[11]. It is also unknown whether both books or just one are part of the bundle. The publication dates of the individual prints in the convolute suggest that the individual volumes were likely bound into the convolute sometime in the first half of the 17th century and were only later placed among books on medical topics. The first of the bound prints – *Liber de Homine*, which deals with Renaissance anthropology, natural science, and medicine, reflecting the intellectual currents of the time, which, under the influence of Paracelsus (1493–1541), were beginning to turn away from medieval superstitions toward systematic medicine and treatment[12], was apparently the deciding factor in classifying it as a medical book.

The last book from the 16th century was the Venetian edition of the most famous work by Pietro Andrea Giorgio Mattioli (1501–1577), a native of Siena, Italy – one of the figures whose work in the fields of Renaissance botany and pharmacy profoundly influenced future generations – *Pedavius Dioscoridis Anazarbei de Medica Materia Libri 6, seu Herbarium cum Comentariis Petri Andreae Mattioli* from 1563, known as Mattioli's Herbarium. This is a comprehensive work based on the translation and supplementation of the five-volume encyclopedia *De materia medica by Pedanius Dioscorides Anazarbus* (40–90 AD). Dioscorides was a prominent Greek physician, pharmacist (pharmacologist), botanist, and writer. He was one of the best surgeons in the Roman army, which allowed him to travel throughout the Roman Empire. During his travels, he collected herbs, which he later described in his encyclopedia. The work contained around 500 plant species and was used for more than 1500 years. It became a fundamental historical source on medicine in ancient Rome.

Publications from the mid-16th century, when medicine still overlapped with philosophy and theology, seem somewhat curious in the modern book collection of a 19th-century nobleman. These editions reflected the contemporary view of humanity, according to which the human body was created in

11 M. Riley, *The Epigrams of Friedrich Hermann Flayder (1596–1640),* [online] https://www.academia.edu/129658881/The_Epigrams_of_Friedrich_Hermann_Flayder_1596_1640_ [access 11.06.2026].

12 R. Horák, *Demografické krize na konci 17. a v průběhu 18. století v Kutné Hoře,* "Historická demografie" 2011, vol. 35/1, p. 85.

the image of God and, accordingly, had to be viewed as such when choosing a course of treatment[13]. We assume that these were more likely period prestige editions than books intended for practical use, and that they entered the library long before J. Esterházy became its owner.

The 17th century is represented solely by *Mathiae Tilingii Rhabarbarologia, seu Curiosa Rhabarbari Disquisitio*, published in Frankfurt in 1679, which is a comprehensive medical and botanical treatise. Its author is the German physician Matthias Tiling (1634–1685), and it serves as a detailed encyclopedic guide to knowledge about rhubarb, which was highly valued in traditional and early modern medicine. The answer to the question of why J. Esterházy's collection of medical books contained only one work from the 17th century is not entirely straightforward, but it can be assumed that there were originally more such books in the collection; this was, however, the result of a natural evolution involving the donation, relocation, and storage of books, as well as losses, inheritance, and perhaps even the sale of books.

The largest number of books (11 titles) were from the 18th century, which was a pivotal period in the development of science. The Age of Enlightenment emphasized rationality, education, and systematic research. From the first third of the 18th century, a key medical textbook is *Conspectus Medicinae theoretico practicae Tabulis 116 omnes primarios Morbos Methodo Stahliana tractandos exhibens Authore Ioanne Iunker*, which, as indicated by its title, was written by the German physician and chemist Johann Juncker (1679–1759) in 1718. The text is divided into 116 tables and is based on the clinical system of the German chemist, physician, and philosopher Georg Ernst Stahl (1659–1734), who defined disease not merely as a mechanical failure of the body, but as a reaction of the rational soul (anima) striving for self-regulation and defense against harmful agents[14]. Two books date from the second half of the century: *300 Hilfsmittel zur rechten Zeit Viehseuche in Böheim erweisenen Beispielen bestättiget für Horn, Schaaf, Pferd, und Feder-Vieh Baron von Tam Vieharznei* was published in Vienna in 1764. Its author, Franz Joseph von Tam (*1730), an imperial commissioner and inspector, conceived it as a compendium dedicated to veterinary medicine, documenting 300 veterinary remedies for farm and domestic animals (cattle, sheep, horses, poultry) collected during the mandated investigation of an epidemic among farm animals in Bohemia in 1762 and 1763. The lists of medicines are written in German,

13 L. Storchová, *Řád přírody, řád společnosti. Adaptace melanchthonismu v českých zemích v polovině 16. století*, Praha 2021, pp. 327–336.

14 K. Hufbauer, *The Formation of the German Chemical Community 1720–1795*, University of California Press 1982, pp. 176–177.

Latin, and Czech. The second publication is a two-volume work dealing with the course of diseases, treatment methods, and natural pharmacology, *Schwaben Abhandlung von der Arzeney-Gelehrheit, und Naturkunde*, which was published in Nördlingen in 1769 and was authored by Dr. Georg Leonhard Huth (1705–1761) and the botanist, zoologist, and physician Johann David Schöpff (1752–1800).

Several other books date from the last third of the 18th century, such as *L.B. Störk Orvosi Tanitás, (melyet Antal), Magyarra forditotta Rácz Sámuel*, which was published in 1778 in Buda and is the first Hungarian translation of an important German medical text written by Anton von Störck (Antal Störk, 1731–1803), court physician to Empress Maria Theresa, a pharmacologist, and rector of the University of Vienna. The translator of this work, Sámuel Rácz (1744–1807), a Hungarian physician, clinical practitioner, and university professor, later served as rector of the Royal University in Buda[15]. It was likely a more luxurious edition, as this book is the only one among all the medical books in the catalogue to bear the notation *bisso comp*. (abbreviation of *bisso compactus* or *bisso compactura*). In 18th – and 19th-century bookbinding, this term was commonly used to describe a book binding made of fine, smooth white or colored book cloth.

The work published in Vienna in 1781 – *Des Herrn Johann Gottlob Wollstein Anmerkungen über die Viehseuchen in Oestereich*, deals with the issue of cattle plague in Austria. Its author, Johann Gottlieb Wollstein (1738–1820), was a professor of veterinary medicine in Vienna and is considered a pioneer of veterinary medicine in German-speaking countries. The 1784 Viennese edition is associated with the first Hungarian university professor of veterinary medicine, Sándor Tolnay (1748–1818), who translated Wolstein's aforementioned work *Anmerkungen über die Viehseuchen in Oesterreich* into Hungarian.[16] The work is listed in the catalogue under two different titles: *A Marha Vészélről való Kőnyv* and *A Marha Dőgről való Jedgyzés*. These are not two different books, but two different titles for the same groundbreaking work dealing with cattle plague. The first title of the book – *A marha-veszélről való könyv* – was a frequently used alternative title in the literature of the time. However, based on the catalogue entry, we cannot determine whether there were two such books in the library or whether this is merely an errone-

15 *Rácz Samuel*, [online] https://www.arcanum.com/hu/online-kiadvanyok/Lexikonok-magyar-eletrajzi-lexikon-7428D/r-775E4/racz-samuel-77603/ [access 11.06.2026].

16 *Tolnay Sándor*, [online] https://www.arcanum.com/hu/online-kiadvanyok/Lexikonok-magyar-irok-elete-es-munkai-szinnyei-jozsef-7891B/t-AF349/tolnay-sandor-B0D84/[access 11.06.2026].

ous duplicate entry. A notable item in the catalogue is a work by the eminent Austrian physician and botanist Professor Joseph Jacob von Plenck (1738–1807), who also served at the Military Surgical Academy in Imperial Vienna. The work, titled *Elementa Medicinae et Chirurgiae Forensis* and covering the fields of forensic medicine and surgery, was first published in Vienna in 1781 and later saw several expanded editions. The title listed as *Oeuvres de Monsieur Tissot* (The Works of Monsieur Tissot), which was to be published in Lausanne in 1788, refers to a collection of collected works (according to the catalog, 16 volumes) by the exceptionally famous Swiss Enlightenment physician Samuel August Tissot (1728–1797). These multi-volume French editions were published in the 1770s and 1780s (e.g., in Vienna, Lausanne, and Paris) and contained key medical essays that had a profound influence on all of Europe, including Hungary.[17] Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland's (1762–1836) book *Die Kunst das menschliche Leben zu verlängern* (The Art of Prolonging Human Life), published in 1797 in Vienna, dealt with healthy lifestyles and prevention and had already garnered a huge response in present-day Slovakia at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries[18]. In 1841, more than twenty years after the death of his first wife, Marie Leopoldine von Metternich (1797–1820), the 50-year-old Esterházy remarried a Russian noblewoman, Elena Nikolaevna Bezobrazova of St. Petersburg (1800–1891, Ilona Esterházy), the daughter of Major General Nikolai Aleksejevič Bezobrazov[19]. She likely brought with her or acquired the book *Abhandlung über die Entbindungskunst von Herrn von Mohrenheim*, published in St. Petersburg in 1791. This treatise on the "art" of childbirth by the Austrian surgeon and obstetrician – later personal physician to Catherine II. – Joseph Jakob Freiherr von Mohrenheim (c. 1759–1799), is one of the most magnificent, important, and monumental standard works on obstetrics from the late 18th century, containing 46 engraved diagrams with explanations. However, Jozef Esterházy had no children with either Jelena Bezobrazova or his first wife.

Dating from the very beginning of the 19th century, specifically 1801, is the Komárno (Komárom) edition of the work *Versuch über die Blattern-Impfung von Johann Seth der Komorner Gespanschaft Physicus* – an essay promoting smallpox vaccination. It was written by Johann Seth (also

17 B. Ricziová and O. Vaneková, *S. A. D. Tissot: Avis au Peuple sur sa santé – J. Procopius: Správa pro lid obecný (1788). Paratexty v preklade diela*, [in:] *Studia Bibliographica Posoniensia*, ed. M. Ambrúžová Poriezová, Bratislava 2019, pp. 99–114.

18 K. Pekařová and B. Ricziová, *Katechizmus zdravia a jeho stredoeurópske cesty*, [in:] *Opera Romanica 16: Knihy v proměnách času*, ed. J. Radimská, České Budějovice 2015, pp. 200–221.

19 M. Špániová, L. Lichnerová, *Šľachtické knižnice*..., p. 50.

Ján Šuch, 1768–1810), the district physician of the Hungarian Komárno (Komárom) County[20].

Carl Hoffmann's (ca. 1760–1830) veterinary and equine handbook, *Die Kunst, die Lebens – und Dienstdauer der Pferde zu verlängern, nach den Vorschriften der besten Lehrer* (The Art of Prolonging the Life and Working Life of Horses, according to the Instructions of the Best Teachers), was published in Coburg and Leipzig in 1803. In the book, Hoffmann did not formulate his own theories, but rather compiled and synthesized the best contemporary knowledge from leading experts and teachers of veterinary medicine. At the turn of 19th century, horses were a key means of transportation, agriculture, and military service, the culture of horse breeding was also directly connected to the representation of the nobility[21], so it can be assumed that German veterinary manuals of this type were commonly found in the libraries of the nobility and bourgeoisie in present-day Slovakia, and that educated landowners and horse owners ordered specialized literature on animal husbandry and estate management directly from German countries. Another work, *Essai sur les Appareils et sur les Bandages propres aux Quadrupedes par Cl. Bourgelat*, published in Paris in 1819, was also dedicated to horses and their health. Its author is Claude Bourgelat (1712–1779), the founder of modern scientific veterinary medicine. It discusses fixation devices and bandages suitable for quadrupeds and is considered the very first systematic handbook of veterinary orthopedics and bandaging techniques. Until then, fractures and limb injuries in horses and cattle were treated unprofessionally, often by drastic cauterization or even by putting the animal down. The first edition was published in 1770 in Paris; J. Esterházy thus owned a later edition.

Apparently, one of the female members of Jozef Esterházy's family also owned the book of *L'ami des femmes, ou lettres d'un médecin, concernant l'influence de l'habillement des femmes sur leurs mœurs et leur santé; et la nécessité de l'usage habituel des bains en gardant leur costume actuel; suivies d'un appendix contenant des recettes cosmétiques et curatives.* It was written by the renowned Parisian physician Philibert-Joseph Marie de Saint-Ursin (1763–1818), who also served as General Inspector of Military Health. The copy in the library of J. Esterházy was the second expanded edition of this highly successful book, published in Paris in 1805. (The first edition dates from 1804). French educational and medical literature for women was a sta-

20 B. Ricziová, O. Vaneková, *Informácie o vakcinácii v Schediusovom časopise Zeitschrift von und für Ungern,* [in:] *Studia Bibliographica Posoniensia*, ed. M. Ambrúžová Poriezová, Bratislava 2021, pp. 206–207.

21 D. Pongrácz, *Kone a kočiare ako špecifický typ reprezentácie*..., p. 290.

ple of the libraries of the Hungarian high aristocracy in the early 19th century, e.g. at the Apponyi family's estate in Oponice (Appony), the Zay family's estate in Uhrovec (Zayugróc), or in the palace libraries in Bratislava (Pozsony). The Hungarian nobility spoke fluent French, and these Parisian medical manuals served as the main source of information for educated women on hygiene, personal care and the medicine of the time[22]. A revolutionary method for treating skin diseases – the internal or external use of graphite – was proposed in the monograph *Der Graphit als neu entdektes, Heilmittel gegen die Flechten von C.A. Weinhold* (Graphite as a Newly Discovered Remedy for Lichen), by the eccentric and, in his time, famous German surgeon, anatomist, and physician Karl August Weinhold (1782–1829). Jozef Esterházy owned its second Meissen edition from 1812 (the work was first published in Leipzig in 1808). Typhoid epidemics in the early 19th century repeatedly ravaged the Slovak counties and struck its territory in several waves, particularly in 1805, 1809, and after 1812, following the passage of Napoleonic and Russian troops[23]. Dr. Ignaz Rudolf Bischoff Edler von Altenstern (1784–1850), who was ennobled for his exceptional contributions to the fight against epidemics and the reform of military healthcare, is the author of *Beobachtungen über den Typhus und die Nervenfieber, nebst ihrer Behandlung*. Published in 1814 in Prague, where the author served as a professor of theoretical and practical medicine at the university, the work contains specific case histories and disease progression (Krankengeschichten), as well as guidelines for rational treatment involving the maintenance of clean air, diet, and gentle supportive measures, thereby significantly reducing mortality from typhus.

The collection of books on medicine includes works from the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Slovak affiliation of the author or (also) the Slovak provenance can be identified only in Johann Seth's Komárno-printed work *Versuch über die Blattern-Impfung*. The books were stored in the first, second, and fifth cabinets (or shelves). The third and fourth cabinets (shelves) were empty. As was customary, each entry in the catalogue was listed according to the title page, that is, in the language in which the book was actually published[24]. The languages of these books were Latin, Hungarian, German, and French. The following table shows the linguistic composition of the collection by century:

22 K. Pekařová, *Vybrané aspekty výchovy k zdraviu a starostlivosti o zdravie na školách v minulosti (do roku 1918),* "Historicko-pedagogické fórum" 2016, vol. 1, pp. 3–14.

23 Šoltés P., *Sociálne dopady cholerových epidémií v Uhorsku v 19. storočí,* "Historický časopis" 2024, vol., 3, p. 427.

24 M. Ambrúžová Poriezová and P. Križanová*, Knižnica Michala Zorkóczyho – budovanie a osudy knižnej zbierky na prelome 18. a 19. storočia*, [in:] *Studia Bibliographica Posoniensia*, ed. M. Ambrúžová Poriezová, Bratislava 2021, p. 88.

Table 1. Distribution of medical publications by language and century

Language/Century	16th century	17th century	18th century	19th century	In total
Latin	3	1	2	–	6
German	–	–	5	4	9
Hungarian	–	–	3	–	3
French	–	–	1	2	3
In total	3	1	11	6	21

It is more than likely that some of the books recorded in the 1816 catalogue were inherited by Jozef Esterházy the Younger or acquired from older family book collections[25]. These were apparently mainly 16th-century books (However, when comparing the 1749 catalogue of the library in Čeklís, compiled after the death of Jozef Esterházy the Elder (1682–1748), it turned out that none of the analysed books were part of this older catalogue)[26]. The hypothesis is rather that these are books that his father František Esterházy acquired (this also applies, for example, to books dedicated to horse care). Others books from the 1816 catalogue were acquired specifically through purchase and perhaps also as gifts; in the case of two books, it can be assumed that they belonged to one of female relatives, however, the available evidence does not allow for a clear assignment of the books (considered to be so-called women's reading) to the mother of Jozef Esterházy. Conversely, many books from the last third of the 18th and early 19th centuries represented in the library also present the latest findings in human or veterinary medicine. We assume that the occurrence of books with medical and related topics in the libraries of noble families from the territory of present-day Slovakia (e.g. Pálffy, Apponyi, Andrássy) was not entirely exceptional, e.g. the catalogue of the Andrássy family *Catalogus Derer in der Hoch-Gräftlich Leopold Andrasischen Bibliothek zü Bethlier (...)* lists medical works published before 1800. However, this segment of literature recorded in period catalogues has so far been on the fringes of scientific interest[27]. Based on an analysis of this section of J. Esterházy's library

25 A. Škovierová, *Slovaciká v katalógu Šľachtickej knižnice Jozefa Esterházyho v Kaštieli Čeklís (Bernolákovo) z roku 1816*, [in:] *Šľachtické knižnice* 18. a 19. storočia na západnom a strednom Slovensku, ed. M. Špániová, pp. 66–86.

26 OSZK Kézirattár, Fol. Lat. 4*: Catalogus Librorum qui in Bibliotheca Comitis Josephi Eszterházy, in Cseklesz prope Posonium reperiuntur confectus mense Aprili 1749 per Samuelem Székely de Doba Locumtenentem ex Ejusdem Comitis legatione*; *Catalogue of the Cseklész-Esterházy Library (1749)*, [in:] *Magyarországi magánkönyvtárak, V, 1643–1750*, eds. L. Czeglédi, T. Kruppa, I. Monok, Budapest 2010, pp. 115–145.

27 M. Molnár, K. Bányászová, *Šľachtická knižnica Andrássyovcov v Betliarskom kaštieli*, "Kniha" 2024, vol. 1, pp. 55–56.

catalog, it can be concluded that his library had a multicultural character and was characterized by the linguistic diversity typical of libraries in the Central European region. In the libraries of noble families (e.g., also in the territory of present-day Slovakia), literature in multiple languages was commonly found. Alongside Latin, which was gradually declining, French and German dominated. The book collections reflected the cosmopolitan outlook of the nobility and their interest in European intellectual currents[28]. The division of the catalogue into groups is also reflected in the fact that academic disciplines had not yet been fully differentiated; consequently, works dealing not only with human medicine but also with veterinary medicine and (natural) remedies were included in the medical literature group. It can also be assumed that the books on veterinary medicine reflected the personal interest of J. Esterházy, who managed his estates and apparently also owned farm animals. Jozef Esterházy's library embodied the fundamental characteristics of aristocratic libraries at the turn of the 19th century.

Appendix:

List of books catalogued under the "Medicine" section

Numerus forulorum	Numerus	Authores et titulus librorum	Editio	Tomi et Partes	Volumina	Formatum
I.	1.	Pedavii Dioscoridis Anazarbei de Medica Materia Libri 6, seu Herbarium cum Comentariis Petri Andreae Mathiali	Venetiis 1563	1	1	Fol.
	2.	Conspectus Medicinae theoretico practicae Tabulis 116 omnes primarios Morbos Methodo Stahliana tractandos exhibens Authore Ioanne Iunker	Hallae 1718	1	1	4
	3.	Josephi Iacobi Plenk Elementa Medicinae, et Chyrurgiae	Viennae 1781	1	1	8
	4.	L.B. Störk Orvosi Tanitás,* (melyet Antal), Magyarra forditotta Rácz Sámuel	Budán 1778	1	1	8

28 L. Lichnerová, M. Špániová, *Štruktúra a akvizičné vplyvy šľachtickej knižnice Jozefa Esterházyho (1682 – 1748) v kaštieli Čeklís (Bernolákovo),* "Historický časopis" 2025, vol. 1, p. 89.

Numerus forulorum	Numerus	Authores et titulus librorum	Editio	Tomi et Partes	Volumina	Formatum
	5.	300 Hilfsmittel zur rechten Zeit Viehseuche in Böheim erweisenen Beispielen bestättiget für Horn, Schaaf, Pferd, und Feder-Vieh Baron von Tam Vieharznei	Wienn 1764	1	1	8
	6.	Meletii Philosophi Opus de Natura, et Structura Hominis	Venetiis 1552	1	1	4
	7.	Mathiae Tilingii Rhabarbarologia, seu Curiosa Rhabarbari Disquisitio	Francofurti 1679	1	1	4
	8.	Schwaben Abhandlung von der Arzeney-Gelehrheit, und Naturkunde	Nördlingen 1769	4	2	8
	9.	D. Laurentii Span a Spanovo Liber de Homine. In eodem Libello Tobiae Coberi Tragediae, et Comedia Nova. Item Hermani Epigramata.	Pragae 1560	1	1	8
	10.	Des Herrn Johann Gottlob Wollstein Anmerkungen über die Viehseuchen in Orstereich	Wienn 1781	1	1	8
	11.	A Marha Dőgről való Jedgyzés Tolnay Sándor	Bécsben 1784	1	1	8
	12.	Ejusdem: A Marha Vészélröl való Könyv	Bécsben 1784	1	1	8
	13.	Oeuvres de Monsieur Tissot	Lausanne 1788	16	16	8
	14.	Hufeland. Die Kunst das menschliche Leben zu verlängern	Wienn 1797	1	1	8
II.	15.	Versuch über die Blattern-Impfung von Johann Seth der Komorner Gespanschaft Physicus	Comorn 1801	1	1	8
	16.	Der Graphit als neu entdektes, Heilmittel gegen die Flechten von C. A. Weinhold	Meissen 1812	1	1	8
	17.	Essai sur les Appareils et sur les Bandages propres aux Quadrupedes par Cl. Bourgelat	Paris 1819	1	1	4

Numerus forulorum	Numerus	Authores et titulus librorum	Editio	Tomi et Partes	Volumina	Formatum
	18.	Des Ignatz Bischoff Betrachtungen über den Typhus, und die Nervenfieber	Prag 1814	1	1	8
	19.	P. I. Marie de Saint Ursin l´Ami des Femmes, ou Lettres d´un Medecin	Paris 1805	1	1	8
	20.	Hoffmann. Kunst die Lebens und Dienstdauer deren Pferde zu verlängern	Koburg, Leipzig 1803	1	1	8
III.						
IV.						
V.	21.	Abhandlung über die Entbindungskunst von Herrn von Mohrenheim	Petersburg 1791	2	1	Fol. Mit 46 KupferTafeln und deren Erklärung

* Note in the catalog: bisso comp.

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