

Located within the Carmelite convent of the same name, the *spezieria* at Santa Maria della Scala in Rome is a historic building with a wealth of heritage known to but a few.

This book is the result of the first research project carried out at Santa Maria della Scala, and offers results on this *spezieria* and the mosaic of medicinal knowledge that was prepared and dispersed there through the centuries.

In 2014 the research project began with the first sampling of the medicinal substances and compounds conserved at the *spezieria*. Since then, numerous sampling campaigns have been conducted there to progressively characterize, in terms of their antiquity, geographical origins, users and applications, the remedies that were dispensed over centuries by the Carmelite friars.

The journey through the history of pharmaceutical science (intangible heritage) and its associated disciplines, such as the history of colours, aromas and spices was made possible through the hard and steady work of excellent researchers and professionals: historians, art historians, chemists, biologists, geologists, botanists, pharmacists, architects, designers, photographers and specialists from other professions. Coming from international academic institutions these scholars provided substance and content both to the pages of this volume, which are of the utmost scientific rigour, and to the future pages that will be written on the results of this project.

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Drugs, colors and aromatics

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Tradition and innovation in the *materia medica*
of Italian Baroque: studies from the *spezieria*
of Santa Maria della Scala, Rome

Edited by Ma. Luisa Vázquez de Ágredos Pascual, Giovanni Cavallo, Rita Pagiotti



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