

# The Collection of Pharmaceutical Objects of the University of Vienna

CHRISTA KLETTER

## Abstract

*The University of Vienna's pharmaceutical collections derive from a range of historic sources, and range in date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

Until the 1970s, the collection consisted of objects formerly used in the research laboratories and educational pharmacy of the Department of Pharmacognosy. In 1977 it was greatly enlarged with the addition of instruments and pharmaceutical utensils, pharmacopoeias, books and journals from the former Imperial Pharmacy. The majority of these objects date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though some



Fig. 1 - Distillator

pharmaceutical jars and pharmacopoeias date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Imperial Pharmacy was finally closed in 1991 and all articles of historic interest were incorporated into our collection. Some of the artefacts - such as the huge plant presses or the impressive distilling apparatus for the large-scale production of medicinal liquors – are extremely rare. A related collection, also of items from the Imperial Pharmacy, is kept in Vienna's Technical Museum (Technisches Museum Wien).

Other institutions also contributed to our collection. In 1978 the governmental drug research laboratory donated several instruments and devices, and in 1993 various utensils of daily pharmaceutical practice belonging to the pharmacy of the General Hospital in Vienna came into our possession. Further interesting artefacts have been donated by private individuals.

The collection of pharmaceutical objects is displayed in an exhibition hall located in the Department of Pharmacognosy.

## Contact

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Christa Kletter  
University of Vienna  
Department of Pharmacognosy  
Address: Althanstrasse 14, 1090 Wien, Austria  
E-mail: [christa.kletter@univie.ac.at](mailto:christa.kletter@univie.ac.at)

[http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/pharmaziehistorische\\_sammlung.html](http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/pharmaziehistorische_sammlung.html)

[http://www.univie.ac.at/pharmakognosie/dep\\_histcoll\\_objects\\_de.html](http://www.univie.ac.at/pharmakognosie/dep_histcoll_objects_de.html)



Fig. 2 - Apothecary Jar