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"Afflictions of the mind and medical scholasticism in the Bibliotheca Amploniana"

This project aims at exploring how medical scholasticism approached the functioning of the mind and its alterations during the time when medicine became part of the university and started to promote a successful discourse on health and disease, one that became increasingly dominant in Europe from the mid 13th century onwards [McVaugh, 1993; Jacquart, 1997; O'Boyle, 1998; French, 2001; García Ballester, 2002].

In this period no medical treatises were addressed specifically to the afflictions of the mind, with two important exceptions: a number of works devoted to a particular ailment – lovesickness [Jacquart, 1984; Jacquart, Thomasset, 1985; McVaugh, 1985; McVaugh, Giralt, 2011; Wack, 1990]- and a general work on mental diseases -*De parte operativa*, composed by the Montpellier medical master, Arnald of Vilanova in the first decade of the 14th century (c. 1305-1308) [Salmón, in press]. However, it would be misleading to think of the *De parte operativa* as a monograph on mental disturbances.

Medieval Galenism did not view the afflictions of the mind as a subject that deserved – for theoretical, practical or social reasons- independent studies of the sort that fevers, gout, bladder stones, eye diseases or the plague received [Salmón, 2006]. This fact does not imply that the medical masters of the medieval universities were uninterested in the functioning of the mind and in its alterations within the wider frame of a humoral conception of the body [Siraisi, 1981; Horden, Hsu, 2013]. In fact, a complex and rich tradition of Arabic and Greek texts available in Latin translation posed interesting problems to be solved at the medical schools in order to build up a morphological, physiological and pathological rationale for the functioning of the brain and activities such as motion and sensitivity.

Historians have pointed out these tensions but have often focused their research more on the analysis of the transmission and reception of the ancient and Arabic sources [Laharie, 1991; Fritz, 1992; Jacquart, 1997] than on the development of original thought on the topic at the medical schools [McVaugh, 2005]. However, I think that it is worth approaching it by means of a rich source for studying this aspect of the medieval body in health and disease, one still almost unexplored: the extant commentaries produced in the 13th and 14th centuries on several components of the medical syllabus by the medical masters of various Studia.

Different sections of Avicenna's Canon, the so-called Articella collection and individual works by Galen, namely *De interioribus* and *De morbo et accidenti*, were objects of extensive commentary –the university genre by excellence- in the medical classroom. Their analysis will help to better understand the conceptual and practical interests of medieval medicine as it approached the alterations of the mind.

The project will focus on three components of the Articella: Hippocrates' Aphorisms and Prognostics and Galen's *Tegni*. The Amplonian collection houses various commentaries (list below) on these treatises, some anonymous and others attributed to particular medical masters of the main medical teaching centres (Montpellier, Bologna, Paris and Siena) that are especially relevant for this research.

The analysis of the extant commentaries selected would allow reflection on the various narratives that entered into dialogue in the construction of a medical scholastic framework for the afflictions of the mind, a dialogue that was built not only on the medical and philosophical

traditions but on the narratives of patients whose fragmentary voices were taken on within a scheme provided by a well developed Galenism and the logical apparatus of medieval Aristotelian thought.

The project will develop some of my previous research on the topic (Salmón, 2006, 2011) and help to contextualise the contents of Arnau de Vilanova's *De parte operativa* whose critical edition is now completed and will be published in the *Arnaldi de Villanova Opera Medica Omnia* series (Salmón; McVaugh in preparation AVOMO, vol. VII.2)