

Morowe powietrze w XVI wieku w Polsce i przeciwdziałanie jemu, zalecane przez Marcina Ruffusa z Wąlcza, cyrulika i medyka łomżyńskiego

The plague in 16th century Poland and the methods of counteracting it recommended by Marcin Ruffus of Wąlcz, a surgeon and medic in the Łomża region

SUMMARY

Marcin z Wąlcza (Marcin of Wąlcz), was a surgeon and medic active in the region of Łomża, who assumed the name of Ruffus from the name of “Ruffus’ pills” popular early in the 16th century in treating the bubonic plague. In a voluminous treatise published in the Krakow printing house of Wojciech Kobyliński in 1588, the medic quoted ways of preventing and treating the bubonic plague. Ruffus must have written his work in Łomża, where he gained experience during the 1575 outbreak of the plague. The methods of diagnosing and later treating the illness that he quotes confirm his knowledge of the medical and pharmaceutical profession. The treatise was written in Polish, in stylised Gothic script. The weights and measures used in the prescriptions recommended were based on the Nuremberg system.

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