

Athens, October 30, 2015

Dear Dr. Alicia Grant,

Prof. Crhistina Filli told me about your interest in my work on the beginning of vaccination and so I would like to inform you that the first scientific application of the vaccination as a preventive method for diseases was applied by the Greek Physicians Emmanuel Timonis (1669-1720) from Chios island and Jacob Pylarinos (1659-1718) from Kefallonia island, who had studied medicine at the Universities of Italy. The results of their scientific application of the vaccination were published in the English well known journal (Fig.1) *«PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS»*, vol. 29, 1714-1716, pg. 72-82, titled (Fig. 2) **«An account or History of the Procuring the SMALL POX by Incision or Inoculation; as it has for some time been practiced at Constantinople. Being the Extract of a Letter from Emanuel Timonius, Oxon. & Patav. M.D.SR.S. dated at Constantinople, December, 1713. Communicated to the Royal Society by John Woodward, M.D. Profes. Md. Gresh. And S.R.S.»**, and pg. 393-399 titled (Fig. 3) **«Nova et tuta Variolas excitandi per Transolantationem Methodus, nuper inventa et in usum tracta: Per Jacobum Pylarinum, Venetum M.D. et Peripublicae Venetae apud Smyrnenses nuper Consulem»**.

After its publication in the journal *«Philosophical Transactions»* and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's (Fig. 4) contribution of diffusion of the vaccination against smallpox, whose children had been vaccinated by Dr. Timonis in Constantinople, that method of vaccination was applied in Europe with good results.

It is interesting to remark that Timonius and Pylarinus' works were published during a Smallpox epidemic by Dr. Zabriel Boylston in Boston 1721 (Fig. 5a –5b).

In the significant French Encyclopédie of Diderot and D' Alembert, (Fig. 6) which started publishing in 1751, under the entry **«inoculation»** (vol. 8, p. 755 and on) both Timonis and Pylarinos are mentioned. Also Adamantios Corais in the French edition William Black's History of Medicine (*Esquisse d' un Histoire de la Medicine...*, Paris 1798, pp. 361 and on) (Fig. 7) considers them as the introducers of inoculation, as also, they are mentioned in the book of J.M. Moreau, *Traite Historique et Pratique de la Vaccine*, Paris 1801, p.102.

In addition it is further mentioned, in the book of Leslie T. Morton and Robert J. Moore, *A Chronology of Medicine and Related Sciences*, Ashgate, reprinted in 1998, pg. 67 and 68 (Fig. 8) characteristically emphasized: **«1714. Inoculation against smallpox, as practised in Constantinople, described by Emanuele Timoni»** and **«1715. Giacomo Pylarino, 1659-1718, is accredited with the “medical” discovery of variolation, in his *Nova et tuta variolas excitandi per tranplantationem methodus* he described its practise in Constantinople»**.

Also in the book of Jeremy M. Norman (ed.), *Morton's Medical Bibliography*, fifth edition, Scolar Press, England, 1991, p. 838, (Fig 9a-9b) stressed that Pylarinos is thought as the first immunologist: **«He is accredited with the “medical” discovery of variolation and thus is the first immunologist»**.

It is pointed out that Timonis and Pylarinos' method of vaccination (variolation) of 1714 for smallpox's protection after a few decades, in 1798, was **modified** by Dr. Edward Jenner (Fig. 10). He took the liquid for vaccination of children not from smallpox infected men's vesicle, as the introducers of vaccination Timonis and Pylarinos applied, but from cow-pox's vesicles and his method had better results.

However the first scientific application of the vaccination as a protection method against diseases belongs to the Greek physicians Emanuel Timonis and Jacob Pylarinos, who is considered as the first immunologist.

Having provided you with the above references I strongly feel that the Greek doctors Timonis and Pylarinos should be mentioned as the introducers of the scientific practice of vaccination for the protection from infectious diseases.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Dem. Karaberopoulos, PhD
President of the Hellenic Society
on the History of Pediatrics

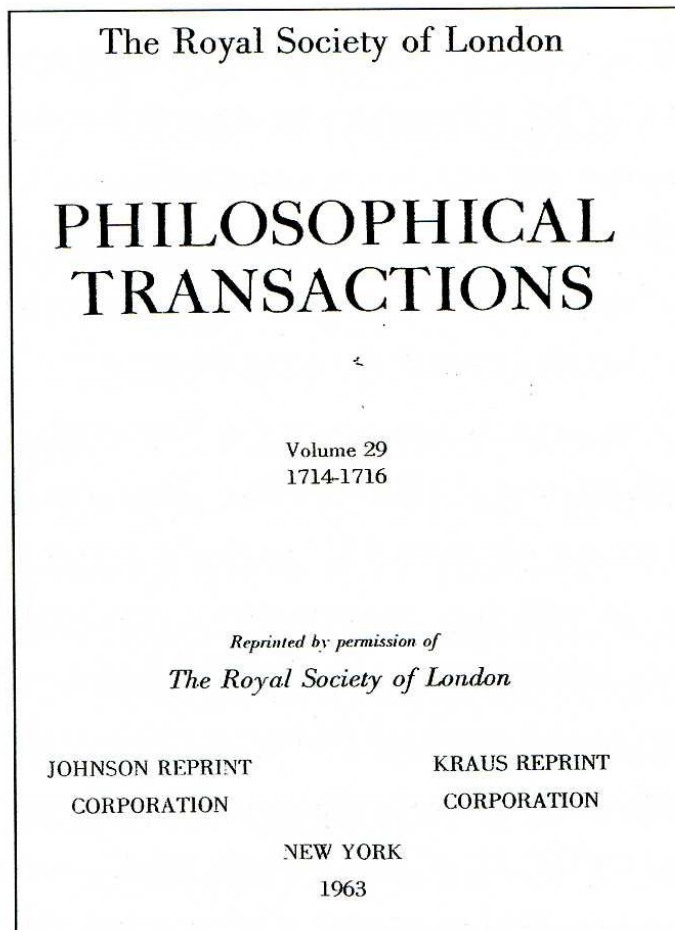


Fig. 1

V. *An Account, or Efflory, of the Procuring the SMALL POX by Incision, or Inoculation; as it has for some time been practis'd at Constantinople.*

Being the *Extrakt* of a Letter from Emanuel Timonius, Oxon. & Patav. M. D. S. R. S. dated at Constantinople, December, 1713.

Communicated to the Royal Society by John Woodward, M. D. Profcf. Med. Greff. and S. R. S.

THE Writer of this ingenious Discourse observes, in the first place, that the *Circassians, Georgians*, and other *Asiatics*, have introduc'd this Practice of procuring the *Small-Pox* by a sort of Inoculation, for about the space of forty Years, among the *Turks* and others at *Constantinople*.

That altho' at first the more prudent were very cautious in the use of this Practice; yet the happy Success it has been found to have in thousands of Subjects for these eight Years past, has now put it out of all suspicion and doubt; since the Operation having been perform'd on Persons of all Ages, Sexes, and different Temperaments, and even in the worst Constitution of the Air, yet none have been found to die of the *Small-Pox*; when at the same time it was very mortal when it seiz'd the Patient the common way, of which half the affected dy'd. This he attests upon his own Observation.

Next he observes, they that have this Inoculation practis'd upon them, are subject to very slight Symptoms, some being scarce sensible they are ill or sick; and what

is

Fig. 2

H. *Nova & tuta Variolas excitandi per Transplantati-onem Methodus, nuper inventa & in usum trahta: Per Jacobum Pylarinum, Venetum, M. D. & Reipublicæ Venetæ apud Smyrnenfes nuper Consulern.*

Operationem Medicam inventu non minus quàm e-ventu mirandam Orbi literario pandimus; Non à Phyzicæ cultoribus, aut à doctis in Apollinea arte viris, sed à plebea rudique gente in humani generis adjumentum, in feviffimi morbi folamen detecham, vetustis Scholarum Lucubrationibus, sedulis recentiorum investigationibus ignotam; sed quæ ex innocentioris & æquioris fami-liz pœnu defluxit. Verus ignoratur ejus adinventor: in Græcia tamen, præcisè in Thessalia, primò invaluisse certissimum est; hinc in propinqua successivè serpendo loca & civitates, in Byzantinam tandem irrepit urbem; ubi latuit quidem initio per aliquot annos, rarò quoque, & inter humiliores dumtaxat recepta: Immaniter autem grassante nuper Variolarum epidemia, latius innotescere cepit; Numquam tamen sublimiores ausa est ingredi au-las; donec Nobilis quidam nec obcurus inter præstanti-ores Græcos, & ex antiquo Caryophyllorum stipite cla-rus, mihi verò intimiori amicitiz titulo notus, anno salutis 1701, sub hyemis finem, serio mē quidnam de hac in-ficione sentirem, consuluit; & an ad eandem in qua-rur propriis filiis celebrandam præstarem assensum: Nam tū temporis lethaliter totam ferè civitatem morbus hic invaferat; qui summum ei de natorum salute metum in-cutiendo, anxium valdè reddiderat. Verum quid ipse super ignota re decernerem, nulla præcedente novissima hujusce methodi notitia, penitus ignorare me dixi; ac simul Operatoris conveniendi copiam petii. Triduo per-acto, cum ad amicum denuò accessissem, & de eadem

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Fig. 3

THE LIFE OF
Lady Mary Wortley
Montagu

by
ROBERT HALSBAND

OXFORD
At the Clarendon Press

1956

Fig. 4

Some ACCOUNT Of what is said of Inoculating or Transplanting THE *Small Pox*. By the Learned D. *Emmanuel Timonius*, AND *Jacobus Pylarinus*. With some Remarks thereon. To which are added, A Few *Quæries* in Answer to the *Scruples* of many about the *Lawfulness of this Method*. Published by Dr. ZABDIEL BOYLSTON. BOSTON: Sold by S. GERRISH, at his Shop in Corn-Hill. 1721.

In-8° de 1 feuillet + 22 pages. Rarissime.

Bibliothèque du Musée britannique : 1174. d. 46(4).

Fig. 5a

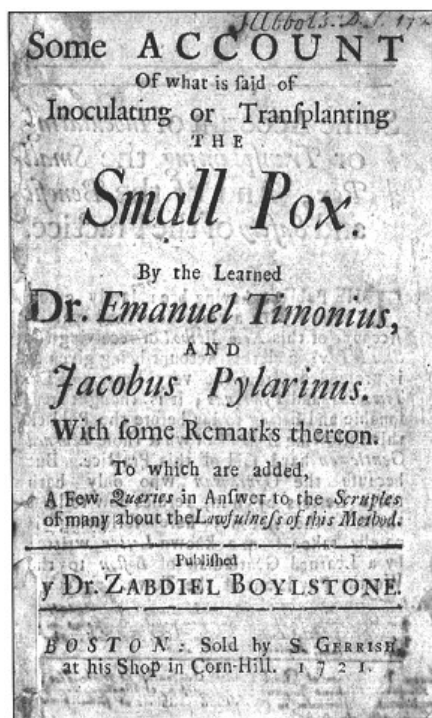


Fig. 5b

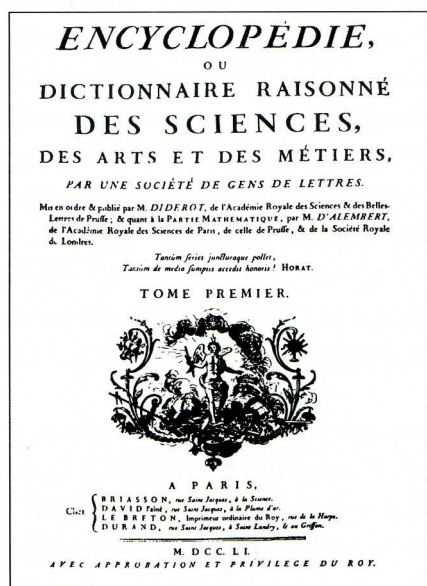


Fig. 6

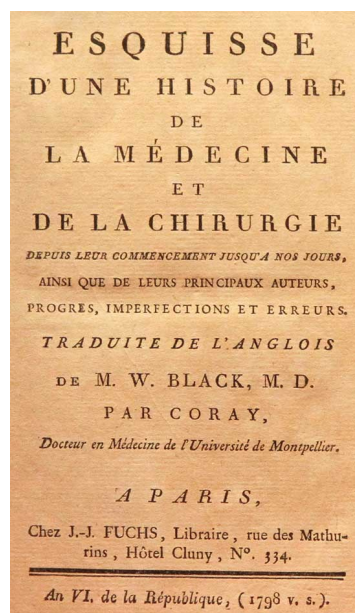


Fig. 7

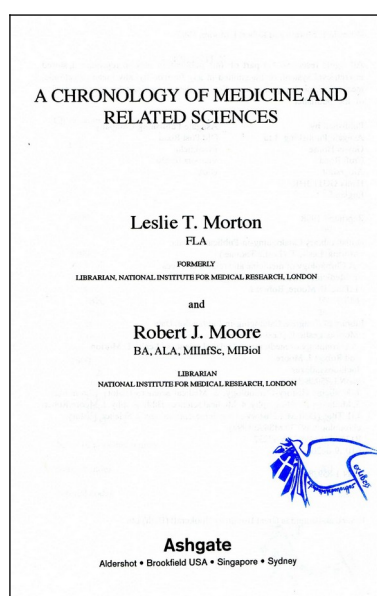
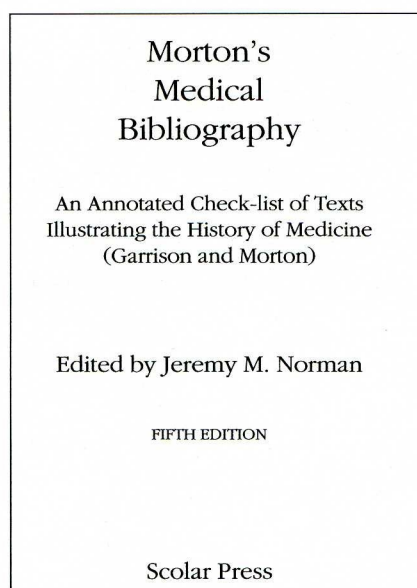


Fig. 8



Pl. 9a

The first medical description of smallpox was written by Rhazes, about the year 910. . The above work is the first edition of the Arabic text with a parallel Latin translation by the English pharmacist and scholar, John Channing, concerning whom see E. Savage-Smith, John Channing: Eighteenth-century apothecary and arabist. *Pharmacy in history*, 1988, **30**, 63-80. For an English translation see *Med. Classics*, 1939, **4**, 22-84. A translation was also published by the Sydenham Society, 1848. See Nos. 2527 & 5441.

- 5405 VOLLGNAD, HEINRICH. 1634-1682
Globus vitulinus. *Misc. Curiosa sive Ephem. nat. cur.*, Jenae, 1671, **2**, 181-82.
First authentic report on variolation.
- 5406 THACHER, THOMAS. 1620-1678
A brief rule to guide the common-people of New-England how to order themselves and theirs in the small pocks, or measels. Boston, *J. Foster*, 1677 [i.e. 1678].
Broadside. The first medical publication of North America and the only one to appear in the 17th century. The sheet was reprinted, with a bibliographical and biographical study, in *Bibliotheca Medica Americana*, Vol. 1, Baltimore, 1937.
- 5407 SYDENHAM, THOMAS. 1624-1689
Observationes medicae circa morborum acutorum historiam et curationem. Ed. quarta. Londini, *G. Kettlby*, 1685.
Contains (Book 3, Cap. 2; Book 5, Cap. 4) an important account of smallpox, particularly the epidemics of 1667-69 and 1674-75. Sydenham attributed smallpox to a specific inflammation of the blood; he clearly distinguished it from measles. His treatment of fevers with fresh air and cooling drinks was an improvement on the sweating methods previously employed. English translation in his *Works*, ed. R. G. Latham, London, 1848, **1**, 123, 219.
- 5409 TIMONI, EMANUELE. *d.* 1718
An account, or history, of the procuring of the smallpox by incision or inoculation, as it has for some time been practised at Constantinople. *Phil. Trans.*, 1714-16, **29**, 72-82.
A letter dated December, 1713 from Timoni of Constantinople to John Woodward and read to the Royal Society in May, 1714 described the practice in that city of inoculation against smallpox. The letter aroused interest in inoculation in England. A fellow of the Royal Society since 1703, Timoni was the first to write on this subject for Western physicians, although Pylarini's researches had commenced in 1701.
- 5409.1 PILARINO, GIACOMO [PYLARINI]. 1659-1718
Nova et tuta variolas excitandi per transplantationem methodus; nuper inventa et in usum tracta. Venetiis, *apud J. G. Hertz*, 1715.
Inoculation was practised in ancient times. Pilarino in 1701 inoculated three children at Constantinople with smallpox virus. He is accredited with the "medical" discovery of variolation, and thus is the first immunologist. His book records his many researches on the subject.
- 5410 PILARINO, GIACOMO. 1659-1718
Nova & tuta variolas excitandi per transplantationem methodus, nuper inventa & in usum tracta. *Phil. Trans.*, 1714-16, **29**, 393-99.

Fig. 9b

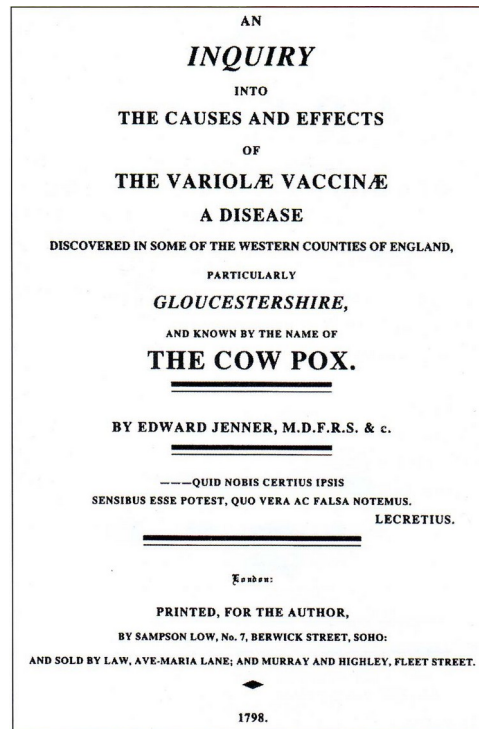


Fig. 10