

Ampullae Lids for Theriac from Varna

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This paper presents six lead lids for sealing the theriac medicine that were found in the old part of the town of Varna during the excavations of the so-called Roman bath. The medicine was produced in a number of West European cities but mainly in Venice after the mid 15th century. The lids bear emblems of the pharmacies-producers. The medicine was extremely valuable and expensive and for that reason it was often falsified. The lids from Varna are fakes, imitat-

ing the production from a Venetian pharmacy "At the golden head". They bear the year 1603. The discovery of absolutely identical lids at one and the same place as well as identical examples from Bulgaria gives reason to suppose that the false medicine was distributed in the Bulgarian territories through the Varna harbor, at least in the first decades of the 17th century. One of the lids is defective and it is probably a local fake (Fig. 1 4, 8).