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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA



STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

STAYING FRESH IN EARLY BYZANTIUM

SCENTED CARE PRODUCTS IN AETIUS OF AMIDA'S « LIBRI MEDICINALES »

MACIEJ KOKOSZKO & ZOFIA RZEŹNICKA • University of Łódź

7
JULY
2026

5.00 PM

CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

The lecture will focus on a group of selected illustrative recipes for body cleansers and powdered deodorants from Book VIII of Aetius of Amida's medical encyclopaedia entitled *Libri medicinales*, composed in the 6th century. The speakers will address methods and whereabouts of application of the cosmetics, their ingredients as well as reasons for the choice of topical components, and production techniques. Since many of formulas for care products were

borrowed by Aetius from earlier authors, mostly from Titus Statilius Crato (active in the 2nd century AD), the lecture will also address the transmission and adaptation of ancient medical knowledge in the early Byzantine period. The analysis has been designed to place the topic in a broader context by highlighting the value of medical texts for the research into social and economic history. As a result, the speakers will discuss the gender

aspect of Byzantine cosmetology, indicating which sex was more likely to use particular types of cosmetics. Furthermore, the presentation will also attempt to specify social groups for whom care products were intended. To that end, myrrh will be set as an indicator of social status and through analysing such factors as its place of origin, varieties, supply ways and trade routes as well as types of preparations to which it was added, the speakers will try to sketch a picture of both myrrh-based and myrrh-free recipe addressees.

The event is free to attend but registration is required. Info at csmbr.fondazionecomel.org