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Rosen. Cameralism and the Concept of Medical Police, In Bull. of the History of Medicine, 1953 [photocopie]

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Présentation de la fiche

Coteb007_f0460

SourceBoite_007-12-chem | Police médicale allemande.

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

Personnes citées[Rosen, Georges](#)

Références bibliographiques

- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Bulletin of the history of medicine](#)
- [Rosen, Cameralism and the Concept of medical police, In Bull. history of medicine 1953](#)

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

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Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 22/07/2020 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

and healthy life and conduct, and that their support and surplus of temporal goods shall be promoted by flourishing rural and town occupations; but also that a land shall be improved with well-laid-out cities, country districts and towns, and all kept in good conditions."³¹

In the chapter entitled "On the Maintenance of the Health of the Subjects," Dithmar discusses in some detail matters concerning the health of the community. Basing his comments on Seckendorff and Wolff, he urged the need for a large population and advocated measures to increase marriages. Healthy subjects could be expected only if the parents were healthy. Provision should be made for the training of skilled midwives. Preventive measures must be taken against contagious diseases, and care should be given to keep the streets clean, food pure, and the air clean. Trained physicians should be available to treat the sick, and hospitals and apothecary shops should be in proper condition. Finally, the conduct of health matters should be placed under a *Collegium medicum et chirurgicum*, in other words, an administrative authority to supervise the public health.

As the century advanced, the earlier idea of police was transformed more and more into a theory and practice of administration. This process was intimately related to the needs of the absolute state, and its most distinguished representatives were associated with the monarchs of Prussia and Austria. Outstanding in this connection are the names of three men—Darjes, Justi, and Sonnenfels.

Joachim Georg Darjes (1714-1791) was professor of law, first at Jena and later at Frankfurt a. O. According to Roscher, he was the most important of the cameralistic professors patronized by Frederick the Great.³² Indeed, it was at his invitation that Darjes migrated in 1763 to Frankfurt. As a teacher he was distinguished by a capacity for systematization, attributable in part at least to his training under Christian Wolff. This faculty characterizes his *Erste Gründe der Cameral—Wissenschaften*,³³ published in 1756 at Jena. In it he created out of an encyclopedic mass of materials an orderly text suitable for the instruction of university students.

Encompassing the basic presuppositions of Darjes is the political theory developed by Samuel Pufendorf and further elaborated by Thomasius and Wolff. According to this doctrine, the theoretical basis of enlightened

³¹ Quoted by Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 226-227.

³² Roscher, *op. cit.*, pp. 419-420; Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 267-284.

³³ First principles of the cameral sciences.



