

**Notes to accompany a facsimile reproduction of the diploma of Doctor of Medicine granted by the University of Padua to William Harvey 1602 : with a translation / by J.F. Payne.**

**Contributors**

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Università di Padova.

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NOTES TO ACCOMPANY A FACSIMILE  
REPRODUCTION

OF THE  
DIPLOMA OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE  
GRANTED BY THE

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA

TO

WILLIAM HARVEY

1602

WITH A TRANSLATION

By J. F. PAYNE, M.D., F.R.C.P.

HARVEIAN LIBRARIAN TO THE ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS



LONDON

PRIVATELY PRINTED AT THE CHISWICK PRESS

1908



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YOUR TO ACCOMPLISH A FACULTY

REPRODUCTION

OF THE

DIPLOMA OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

GRANTED BY

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

TO

WILLIAM J. JARVIS

1905

WITH A TESTIMONIAL

BY THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

AT THE CITY OF LAWRENCE,

1905

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE

## NOTES ON HARVEY'S PADUAN DIPLOMA

THE Document now reproduced, the original Diploma of Doctor of Medicine conferred by the University of Padua upon William Harvey, possesses a historical and biographical interest which need hardly be emphasized, and has also some features worth noting from an archaeological point of view. The reader may naturally ask: Why has the Diploma this particular form? What is the meaning of the decoration? Who are the persons referred to in the Document? and so on, questions which these rough notes attempt, though very incompletely, to answer.

It is well known that Harvey took his degree of B.A. after four years' study at Caius College, Cambridge, in 1597, and then, following in the footsteps of Linacre and Caius, proceeded to Italy for his medical studies. He must have entered the University of Padua in 1598, but no record of his matriculation remains. There exists, however, a memorial of his having belonged to the *Natio Anglica* (for students were then classified according to their nationality) and being a *consiliarius* of that body in 1600. This memorial is a curious tablet called a *Stemma*, discovered at Padua in 1893, of which the College possesses a

copy, and which is reproduced in the Diploma. In due course he took his Doctor's degree as shown by this Diploma.

The University of Padua was at that time in a very flourishing state, being liberally endowed and supported by the Senate of Venice, to the jurisdiction of which the City of Padua was then subject. The Chair of Anatomy, formerly adorned by Vesalius, was occupied by the great anatomist Fabricius of Acquapendente, whose relations with his illustrious pupil Harvey are too well known to need mention.

It was then, and still is in most Universities, the custom to give every graduate a diploma written on vellum with a seal attached, as evidence of his having taken a degree. The name diploma is, of course, not peculiar to University documents, meaning merely a folded or *doubled* parchment, such as were given as charters, or as commissions or credentials to various official persons, and among others, to envoys and those employed in *Diplomacy*. Most University diplomas are on a single sheet of parchment, like those of Sydenham and Mead from Cambridge and Oxford respectively, in the possession of the College. Diplomas in the form of a small quarto book, with the special style of decoration seen in this one, and in a handsome binding, seem to have been peculiar to Venice (where they were granted by the College of Physicians and by the Company of *Aromatarii* or Apothecaries) and the Universities of Northern Italy, viz.: Padua, Pisa, Pavia, Perugia, Bologna, and perhaps others. In the southern Universities, Rome and Naples, diplomas

seem to have been on a single sheet, of which I have seen a finely decorated specimen, granted to a Doctor of Medicine by the University of Naples in 1554. Diplomas in book form were not given, so far as I know, by the French, German, or English Universities.

The origin of this particular style may, I think, be traced to Venice, for the diplomas are much like in outward form to the Venetian official documents called *Ducali*, which name comprises the oath taken by a Doge of Venice on admission to office, the commissions of Deputy Governors, Procurators and others, and similar official warrants or permits. Many of these documents are in the form of a small book, often illustrated with a portrait of the chief personage concerned and other figures, also sometimes with a shield of arms and small landscapes or other pictures in panels. The decoration was in many cases executed by eminent artists, so that some *Ducali* are highly valued as works of art.<sup>1</sup>

The University diplomas cannot compare in artistic merit with the *Ducali*, which reflect the magnificent tastes of Venice; but I think it is clear they were humble imitations of those splendid documents. They were given to Doctors of Law and Medicine: whether also to Doctors of Divinity I cannot say. Old specimens are not very uncommon in Italy, but as they have been chiefly valued for their binding, it

<sup>1</sup> Specimens may be seen in the British Museum, and further information found in an article by J. W. Bradbury in *Bibliographica*, vol. ii, p. 257.



often happens that the contents have been torn out and the binding only preserved. The seals are nearly always wanting, so that Harvey's Diploma is an unusually perfect and well preserved specimen of its kind. There are two other similar diplomas in the College library coming from Padua, one conferred on the celebrated Dr. Mead in 1695, the other on a Dr. Lepi, who calls himself Anglus, in 1683.

The diploma being an individual possession, no two specimens are precisely alike. Probably the amount of decoration depended upon how much the new Doctor was prepared to spend; for some diplomas, even of Padua, are comparatively plain. But there is a sort of general plan traceable in nearly all. The page opposite the beginning of the document itself, forming a sort of frontispiece, is usually decorated on a regular system. In the middle is a panel or frame containing either the portrait of the Doctor (as in Dr. Lepi's Diploma just spoken of) or his arms or the arms of the University, or an ornamental device, or (as here) a sacred inscription. There is generally an ornamental border, sometimes with small panels containing pictures. The rest of the document has, beside the beautiful Italian writing and the gold letters, no ornament but a coloured border. Harvey's diploma has no portrait, which is to be regretted, nor arms; for he had at that time no family arms, being described in the Cambridge register as son of a "Yeoman," not of an "Armiger," as would have been the case had he belonged to an armigerous family. The escutcheon at the top of the page represents the *Stemma* of a con-

*siliarius* of the Natio Anglica above mentioned. Whether the three little landscapes in the medallions have any significance is not clear. Probably they are merely decorative. On the artistic merit of the decoration I do not venture to pronounce any opinion. If not displaying the characters of the best period of Italian art, this, at all events, shines by comparison with the later diplomas of Mead and Lepi, which show the deterioration of art in the seventeenth century. This fashion in diplomas lasted till late in the eighteenth century, but the art got worse and worse.

It remains to say something about the substance of the Diploma itself. We see that it is granted in the name of a nobleman, Count Sigismund de Capitibus Listae, whose relation to the University is not quite clear. He was not the Chancellor, nor does he describe himself as Rector, or use any other official title. What authority he possessed was derived from the Emperor, for he claims in two places to be acting by Imperial authority. It seems that the Emperors granted to Counts Palatine the right to create Masters and Doctors; it is to be presumed, with the concurrence of a University, though this is not mentioned. There is evidence that this right was admitted, except as to degrees in theology. Hence it was as Count Palatine, i.e., *Comes Sacri Palatii*, that Sigismund claimed the powers he exercised. I have found records of one other degree, at least, conferred in his palace. In the later Paduan diplomas I find no mention of any person of like style and dignity. The presiding

authority is generally either an ecclesiastic or some specially important professor acting under the authority of Venice. There is no mention in the Diploma of the Pope or any ecclesiastic, nor is there any testimonial of orthodoxy or confession of Faith, such as I have seen in diplomas from Bologna and other universities; an omission which shows the tolerant and liberal spirit characteristic of Padua.

The reference to the "English Nation" means, of course, that organization within the University already spoken of, for a fuller account of which we may refer to Mr. Darcy Power's "Life of Harvey."

The extremely eulogistic terms in which Harvey's marvellous performances in his examination are spoken of have been remarked by more than one of his biographers. Dr. Munk says the language of the Diploma is quite unusual, and shows what extraordinary ability Harvey must have displayed, and the Diploma has been spoken of by another biographer as "a splendid testimonial." Unfortunately it is nothing of the kind. This grandiloquent language was a common form, and occurs in several Paduan diplomas which I have seen. Every doctor was said to have answered "marvellously," and far surpassed the high expectations which had been entertained regarding him. Harvey's Diploma was neither more nor less than the usual one. It is notable that the University, or the Count Palatine, claims to confer the right of teaching, practising, etc., *everywhere*, as other Universities did at that time.

The ceremonies of conferring the degree by the

books, the ring, the cap, and the kiss of peace were customary in European Universities, and lasted in the University of Oxford at least till the middle of the seventeenth century, for they are described in nearly the same words by Evelyn in his Diary, in an account of the mode of conferring the Doctor's degree at Oxford in the Commonwealth times and later.

It will be seen that finally the Diploma was to be confirmed by the seal of the "University of Artists" of the Gymnasium of Padua. The word university originally meant something like "corporation" or "guild," and was used of persons, not of subjects, so that the phrase meant Corporation or Association of Graduates in Arts. There was also at Padua a *Universitas Juristarum*, or Corporation of Lawyers, to which Harvey seems to have originally belonged, as shown in Mr. Darcy Power's book referred to above. The word for what we now call a university, in the wide sense, was *Studium generale* or *Studium* simply, or *Gymnasium*. The actual words on the seal are, however, "University of the Doctors of Philosophy and Medicine." The lettering reads as follows: SIGILLUM ALMAE UNIV[ERSITATIS] D.D[OCTORUM] PHIL-OSOP[HIAE] ET MED[ICINAE] PAT[AVINI] GIMNAS[II].

Thus at Padua the name university was not applied to the whole institution, but to the two bodies above mentioned. The usage, however, varied very much in different universities.

The document closes with a list of witnesses. We find that it was usual on these occasions to invite some of the graduate's own countrymen, if any were at hand,

to witness the ceremony. Evidently this might be afterwards of some importance to the doctor in proving his degree should the diploma be lost. Among the English witnesses we note the names of three who must in later years have known Harvey in London. Matthew Lister, afterwards knighted, was physician to King Charles I; Peter Munsel, or Mounsel, became Gresham Professor of Physic, though not a Fellow of the College; Simon Fox, the only one of the three who took his degree at Padua, was ultimately President of the College. The others I have not been able to trace.

Among the signatures on the last leaf, those of Fabricius of Acquapendente, and of Casserius Placentinus have special interest, as both, especially the former, were eminent anatomists, and Harvey's teachers. J. P. Minadous wrote in his time a good many medical books, but they seem to be now forgotten. The last signature is that of Franciscus Refatus, Notary Public of Padua, and Chancellor to Count Sigismund.

The MS. entry at the foot of the page, giving the graduate's age and the date of his birth, must have been written by Harvey himself, for the writing is like an early signature of Harvey's on the title-page of a book in the possession of the College, and no one else is likely to have written it.

The inscription on the last page, written in 1764, stating that the Diploma was presented to the College by the Rev. Osmund Beauvoir, Head Master of the King's School, Canterbury, at the request of Sir

William Browne, who in the following year was elected President of the College, requires little explanation. The edition of Harvey's works referred to, was the fine quarto brought out by the College in 1766. At the end of that volume is a reprint of this Diploma.

The two seals, reproduced by photography, are those of the University of Artists, and of Count Sigismund. In the original the seals are attached by cords to the binding, an arrangement which could not be reproduced.

As the legal and technical phraseology of the Diploma is not easily followed, I have thought it might be useful to append an English version, rendered as literally as the prolix and magniloquent language of the original would allow. I have to thank F. Madan, Esq., M.A., sub-librarian of the Bodleian Library, for his very kind and valuable help to me in the translation.

In conclusion, these rough notes are dutifully submitted by the Harveian Librarian to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, always we trust, in the words of Sir William Browne, *nomen Harveii fere ad religionem usque venerantes.*

The first part of the paper discusses the  
importance of the study of the  
history of the United States  
in the context of the world  
and the role of the United States  
in the world. The second part  
discusses the role of the United States  
in the world and the role of the  
United States in the world.

The third part of the paper discusses  
the role of the United States in the  
world and the role of the United States  
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discusses the role of the United States  
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DIPLOMA OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE  
GRANTED BY THE UNIVERSITY  
OF PADUA TO WILLIAM HARVEY

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, AMEN.

**T**O all and singular who shall see, read, or hear read the present special grant of a Doctōrate, Sigismund de Capilisti, of Padua, Count of the Sacred Palace of the Lateran, and of the Court of the Caesars, and of the Imperial Consistory, etc., gives salutation in Him who is the Salvation of all men.

A praiseworthy custom was in vogue in old time among our ancestors, and has lasted to this day, that they who devoted themselves to the study of the various parts of divine learning, and became highly proficient therein, should be enrolled with due honour in the company of right learned men. A custom, indeed, of great sanctity, and instituted with excellent reason, for it is agreeable to law and justice that those who when proved in a fair contest are pronounced fit and worthy, should be crowned with the laurel of a Doctōrate.

We therefore make known to you and by the tenor of these letters testify that on the day of the date of these presents we, Count Sigismund aforesaid,



by the imperial authority long ago graciously conceded to our family by the invincible Sigismund of blessed memory, some time ever sacred Emperor of the Romans, and King of Germany, Hungary, etc., as appears by his most liberal Grant, fortified with the Imperial seal and given at Basel in the year 1434, on the third day of April:

We have listened with immense pleasure of mind to the noble and erudite William Harvey of Folkestone, an Englishman, Councillor of the famous English nation, son of the illustrious Thomas Harvey, learnedly, eloquently, and in a praiseworthy and excellent style discussing the themes in Arts and Medicine, propounded to him by the distinguished and most excellent Doctors of Arts and Medicine, Hieronymus Fabricius of Acquapendente, Public Professor of Anatomy and Surgery; Johannes Thomas Minadous of Rovigo, First extraordinary Professor of the Practice of Medicine; Julius Casserius of Piacenza, teacher of Anatomy, Physic, and Surgery; Georgius Raguseus of Venice, Second Ordinary Professor of Philosophy, moreover subtly replying to and lucidly resolving the arguments, doubts, and cases brought before him.

And in this examination so wonderfully and most excellently did he conduct himself, and so much force of intellect, memory and learning did he display, that very far surpassing the expectations which he had raised about himself in the minds of all, he was, by the aforesaid distinguished Doctors *unanimously and with united voice, and by the votes of all (no single one of them differing in the least, or dissenting, or even hesitating)*

adjudged competent and perfectly qualified in Arts and Medicine.

Following therefore the ancient and approved custom, and taking into consideration the knowledge, learning, and virtues of the aforesaid noble William, of all which when examined and tested he has given indubitable evidence,

We, sitting in the seat of authority, have solemnly made and created, and do by these presents make and create him, the noble William, Doctor of Arts and Medicine, granting and conceding to him as truly worthy and well-deserving of them, Authority and Liberty to occupy the Magistral chair, and in every country and place to Lecture, to Repeat, to give Counsel, to Teach, to Heal, to Dispute, to Interpret, to decide Questions, to govern the Schools, to make Bachelors, and to use and enjoy all and singular the Privileges, Prerogatives, Liberties, Precedencies, Honours, Favours, Graces, and other Indulgences, by whatever name they may be called,

Which the Doctors and Masters of the Court of Rome; of the schools of Paris, Cambridge, Oxford, Padua, Bologna, Perugia, Basel, Vienna, Ingolstadt, and other schools wherever situated, in virtue of any Ecclesiastical, Imperial, or other temporal Privileges (whether public or private), concessions or Indulgences, enjoy and use, or might, or shall in the future be able in any way to use and enjoy:

According to the tenor and contents of our Privilege aforesaid,

Notwithstanding to the contrary any Laws, De-

crees, Constitutions, Statutes or other Ordinances, in virtue of any clauses or words therein contained; all and singular of which even when the fact is implicit and not expressly stated, we by our Caesarean authority do modify.

And when these things had been done and declared as above stated the illustrious and most excellent Johannes Thomas Minadous did there solemnly decorate and adorn the same noble William Harvey (who in a most perspicuous oration asked for and accepted them) with the accustomed Insignia and ornaments belonging to a Doctor:

For he delivered to him certain books of Philosophy and of Medicine, first closed, and then, a little while after, open; he put a golden ring on his finger, he placed on his head the cap of a Doctor, as an emblem of the Crown of Virtue, and bestowed on him the Kiss of Peace with the Magistral Benediction.

And in testimony of all and singular these things we have ordered these letters subscribed with our own hand to be executed, and to be subscribed by our Chancellor, and to be fortified by appending our Seal and that of the illustrious University of Artists of the School of Padua.

Done and delivered at Padua in our Palace in the year from the Virgin Birth one thousand, six hundred and two, in the fifteenth indiction, on Thursday the twenty-fifth of the month of April.

There were present at the ceremony the illustrious Doctors, Josephus Carrara of Brescia, and Petrus Buarnus of Brescia, the Syndics and right honourable Pro-Rectors of the University of Artists, and of the University of Jurists, of the most flourishing School of Padua. Also the noble gentlemen Aurelius Palazzolus of Treviso, the respected Head of the Academy of the Stabiles of Padua, Henricus Palladius de Olivis, of Forli; the Englishmen Antony Fortescue, Richard Willeby, Matthew Lister, Peter Munsel, Simon Fox, Robert Darcey, with other illustrious and learned men of various nations in large numbers, witnesses brought in, called, summoned and specially invited to the aforesaid ceremony.

Glory be to God!

[Signed]

The same Sigismund, Count of Capilisti.

Joseph Carrara, of Brescia, Syndic.

Hieronimus Fabricius of Acquapendente.

Johannes Thomas Minadous of Rovigo.

Georgius Raguseus of Venice.

Julius Casserius of Piacenza.

Franciscus Refatus, Notary Public of Padua, and  
Chancellor of the aforesaid illustrious Lord  
Count, set his name to the mandate as above  
with his own hand in witness.

## INSCRIPTION ON THE LAST PAGE

ON the 7th of July, in the year of our Lord 1764, when the College, consulting the interests of medicine, and its own honour, applied itself to publishing the works of the divine Harvey with greater accuracy, the Very Reverend and most learned man, Osmund Beauvoir, Master of Arts, lately fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, Head Master of the King's School, Canterbury, with great kindness and liberality presented this Diploma, at the request of Sir William Browne, Knight, a Fellow of the College, who venerates the name of Harvey almost as though he were divine; in order that so desirable a record of him might be preserved among the sacred treasures of the College, safe and sound for ever.

Witnessed, in accordance with his promise, by

W. BROWNE.









