

Digitize funds from the Pharmaceutical Museum

The French Apothecary opened its doors in 1882 and became a museum in 1964

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Author:



[Hugo Garcia](#)

digital@juventudrebelde.cu



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In the experts' opinion, in the "Botica" matancera a work of the highest professional level has been done that will allow the preservation of valuable treasures for future generations. **Author:** Hugo García **Published:** 09/21/2017 | 06:03 pm

MATANZAS.— A group of specialists from the Institute of Tropical Research and Ecological Exchange, Florida Keys, concluded the first phase of the process of digitizing the valuable documents treasured in the Ernesto Triolet Pharmaceutical Museum, located in the province of Matanzas.

Gladys Collazo Usallán, president of the National Heritage Council, told this newspaper that through the collaboration agreement between the entity she directs and that institute, the museum's funds have been digitized, a privilege that has led to hard work, which will continue the same specialists of the museum, who received by donation all the technology.

Dr. Christine Flanagan, a museologist at the Institute, said that since they learned about the French Pharmaceutical or Apothecary Museum and their treasures they have been interested in preserving all that scientific and cultural legacy for future generations.

"I have been impressed by the quality of the information we have digitized, the chronological organization of the data, and the high significance for the history of traditional medicine, not only of Cuba, but of the world," said Christine, who is 24 years old. of experience in working with museums.

Dr. Mary Chambers said that in the United States all this information is dispersed, not like in the Matanzas museum, which preserves all the data on the formulation of medicines using medicinal plants.

Alan Morgan, photographer, said the work is monotonous, sheet by sheet, but has required extreme care to avoid damage: «We review each photograph so that there is no need for further manipulation, and we guarantee that the images can be visualized or printed with good quality and large format ».

Marcia Brito, director of the Pharmaceutical Museum, commented that part of history and science is safeguarded from the effort of this collaboration at the international level.

"The 55 volumes of the recipe settlement books have been digitized with more than a million formulas, medicines, and in the case of scientific books only the cover, the first page and the index," says Marcia, for whom this great effort will facilitate to the scholars in natural therapies an approach and deepening in those subjects.

"There has been a work of the highest professional level, with capable, experienced and careful specialists," he said.

The library has hundreds of unique editions related to pharmacology, medicine, chemistry and botany, with some of those books autographed by Triolet himself.

With around 48,000 labels of medicinal products and more than 500,000 pieces in its collections, the museum has been visited in its 50 years by more than one million people.

The team that participated in the digitalization is also made up of Carolann Sharkey, director of the Institute; the photographers Linda and Bill Klipp, Eduardo and Orlando García, and Benny López and Miguel Coyula, and the translators Renier and Ricardo Rodríguez.