

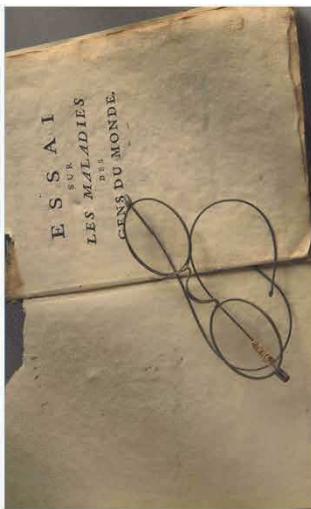


Before visiting the Esteva Pharmacy, the most important part of the Municipal Museum, we will take a look at the history of Llívia, using the archeological remains and documents that we have available. Llívia has been occupied and inhabited since the end of the bronze ages till our days, alternating its settlement between the top and the base of the Castle hill. And it was the county town until the foundation of Puigcerdà, around 1177-1178, and it was always considered a very important military bastion. That was so, that Queen Mary in 1447 and Charles I in 1528, appointed Llívia with the title of Villa, reason why it remained under Spanish sovereignty after the Treaty of the Pyrenees.

We will also learn about the botanical environment of Llívia and the history of the pharmacies of Catalonia and of the world; from the monastic pharmacies, where they mixed knowledge from the great libraries with the observation and day to day praxis in their herbarium and gardens; the hospital pharmacies, that were really charity institutions rather than healing centers, and where medicines were prepared for the hospitals and for the people living in the towns. And finally the office pharmacies like ours.

The climatic and geological conditions -so diverse- of the valleys next to the Villa, make them rich in flora and vegetation with the best medicinal properties that the practice of medicine that time required for the making of the formulas. The valley of Eina, just to mention one, attracts all those interested in the study of these plants and their diversity.





In the area dedicated to the Esteva Pharmacy, one of the oldest and of most renown of Europe, the collection transfers us to the pharmacies of the 17th, 18th, 19th and beginning of the 20th century, and helps us understand how these office pharmacies evolved, from preparing the substances *in situ*, to our days when the production was industrialized.

All though the documentation (owing to the proper evolution of the history of the Villa) has disappeared, we know of the existence of other pharmacies in Llivia since the beginning of the 15th century (1415). The first documented news we have is from 1594, after a visit of the Protomedicato of Catalonia; the owner of the pharmacy at that time, Jaume Bosan, was banned from continuing to manage it, because he did not have the title required in those times, for running a pharmacy.

In the course of the 17th and 18th centuries, there are a lot of pharmacies open in Llivia. It is important to understand the significance of Llivia at that time, after the Treaty that transforms Llivia into an enclave, and that the pharmacies not only had to cover the needs of the Villa, but also the needs of the towns nearby. In no other town of the French Cerdanya are there establishments like these. Many of the authorities living in France were good clients of the Pharmacy Esteva, because at that time travelling to Villafranca del Conflent or Aix to buy medicines was very expensive, and the frontier was very easy to cross.





The first Esteva of the family of pharmacists of Llívia was Jaime Esteva Sala, grandson of Jaime Sala. The first news of the pharmacy situated in Raval Street is of September 26, 1704, when Jaime Sala, in his last will, leaves the establishment to his wife Estefanía, and it ends up in the hands of his daughter Jerónima, who marries Nicolás Esteva, a wax candlestick worker from Bellver de Cerdanya, and whose son will finally achieve the title to be able to manage the establishment. The Esteva family kept the pharmacy open from the beginning of the 18th century until 1926, when Antonio Esteva decides to move to Puigcerdà. Because the pharmacy has passed from father to son and from pharmacist to pharmacist, it has conserved its *cordialer*, its polychrome boxes, jars, mortars... and an important pharmaceutical library that remains a testimony of the evolution of materials and of the scientific and technological changes, as well as of the ideas and thoughts that drove to modernity.

OPENING HOURS:

FROM THE 1st OF SEPTEMBER UNTIL 16 th OF JULY:

From Tuesday to Friday, 10am - 2pm and from 4pm to 6pm

Saturday, 11am - 2pm and from 4pm - 8pm

Sunday, 10am - 2pm

FROM THE 18th OF JULY UNTIL THE 31st OF AUGUST AND SPECIAL FESTIVES: Open through all the days, from 10am to 8pm

**Last ticket sale, 30 minutes
before closing**

