

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Purchase of a sensational archival document in the international history of homeopathy**

**Stuttgart, 15 April 2014** During the lifetime of Dr Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843), the founder of homeopathy, every homeopath dreamt of obtaining a letter of recommendation from the great man himself. Many a homeopath would travel to Köthen and later also to Paris, where the greatly revered octogenarian had moved in 1835 and where he continued to practise homeopathy. Anyone fortunate enough to secure from the Master a recommendation as an experienced homeopath would be sure to be well received by the public. Since the successful treatment of cholera during the epidemic of the early 1830s, homeopathy had become quite the fashion.

We have taken the opportunity of purchasing such a letter of recommendation by auction. On 24 August 1840, Hahnemann mentioned on his visiting card the physician and Councillor Dr Anton Schmit as “an experienced homeopath and great apostle of our divine art.” Schmit had practised as a physician in Lucca for many years, advertising homeopathy to great success. In 1835 he translated one of Hahnemann’s treatises on the cholera into Italian.

The recommendation is addressed to a certain Curé Benedict Bayer, possibly the reverend of this name who lived from 1800 to 1854, was in office at the Cathedral of Baltimore in 1839 and is buried on the Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Philadelphia. Even then, homeopathy was an international phenomenon... in which women also had a say: the letter of recommendation is signed “Hahnemann and his wife”!

The Institute for the History of Medicine (IGM) with domicile in Stuttgart was established in 1980. Its main fields of research are the social history of medicine and the history of homeopathy. The Institute is home to a library of over 40.000 volumes and the Homeopathy Archives which house the estate of Samuel Hahnemann as well as records of national and international homeopaths’ organisations. [www.igm-bosch.de](http://www.igm-bosch.de)  
For further information please contact Prof. Dr. Dinges, phone ++49-(0)711/46084-167.



Paris le 27 Aug. 1840

und sein Frau

grüßt Ihnen herzlich & Anton Schmit  
vorwärts, Gattin & mich selbst im Vorher,  
bringen als meine geübten Gemüthsaffen in großen  
Ansehen in unsern geübten Kunst

Herrn Curé Benedic Bayer.