

Mystery Monday: A Broida from France?

HONORS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL WOMEN

Mlle. Gaussel, M.D., has been appointed director of a clinic of Montpellier University—the first time a woman has occupied such an office.

Mlle. Sarah Broida, M.D., has been made ship's physician on a packet boat of the Mixte Steamship Company, plying between Marseilles, Africa and Sicily.

Mme. Curie, who with her husband discovered radium, has been elected a corresponding member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

Mmes. Louise Briand and Jeannes Menard, both graduate doctors of medicine, act as ship's physicians on two of the large Mediterranean steamers. Thus is French medicine opening its doors to women.

For the first time in the history of Russia a woman is to hold the position of university professor. The woman is Dr. Dontchakova, and she successfully defended a thesis before being admitted to the University of Moscow. She is a graduate of Zurich, and is said to be an expert in pathology. Her opening lecture is awaited with much interest, and the students are prepared to greet her with an ovation that will assure her at once of the warm feeling with which she is received by the student body as an instructor. The appointment of a woman professor is the more singular inasmuch as the Moscow University does not admit women as students.

"Honors for Foreign Medical Women" Mlle. Sarah Broida, MD, in *The Woman's Medical Journal*, Volume 18, page 209, 1908, via

GoogleBooks.

[Broida Family](#) (Click for Family Tree)

Who is Mlle. Sarah Broida??

Was she a Karklinski-Broida, who had gone to France to get a job? Was she a Broida from the Lithuanian Rabbi line? It would be very interesting to learn more about her life- she probably had some great stories to tell!

How wonderful that she was a doctor in 1908, when there were not that many female doctors.

The Mixte Steamship Company was based in Marseilles, France, and operated between 1855-1981 under various owners.

Mlle. Broida kept good company, at least in the newspapers- note the next paragraph, mentioning Marie Curie! Women were making in-roads, finally, in the sciences.

The last paragraph about Dr. Dontchakova, helps to give us some context. If Dr. Sarah Broida was a Karklinski-Broida, her roots were in Lithuania, often a part of Russia. Where did she go to medical school? Where was she licensed? Apparently she would not have been able to go to school in any of the Russian settlements. Many women doctors of that time period (and men as well) were Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.s), which was more accepting of women and those who did not choose the path of a formal medical school.

If you know anything of this Sarah Broida, please do share!

Notes, Sources, and References:

1. "Honors for Foreign Medical Women" Mlle. Sarah Broida, MD, in *The Woman's Medical Journal*, Volume 18, page 209, 1908, via GoogleBooks.

2. Compagnie de Navigation Mixte (Shipping company, France)– <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/fr~hfcnm.html>

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We would love to read your thoughts and comments about this post (see form below), and thank you for your time! All comments are moderated, however, due to the high intelligence and persistence of spammers/hackers who really should be putting their smarts to use for the public good instead of spamming our little blog.

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