

# Jan Victor, Market Scene with a Quack at his Stall (c. 1650)

## Abstract

Carnivals, trade fairs and markets regularly attracted so-called itinerants such as the “quack” pictured here. “Quack” was a pejorative term for those offering medical treatment without any professional qualification while loudly advertising their “medicines.” The fact that quacks were also itinerants only supported their reputation as a suspicious social group. In the Early Modern period, when “itinerant” was a synonym for those not subject to any ruler since itinerants did not maintain a place of residency. In a society divided into a hierarchy of estates, this was considered a disadvantage, yet it also provided some freedoms – such as unrestricted mobility – which were denied the majority of the population.

## Source



Source: Szépművészeti Múzeum - Budapest (Hungary - Budapest), athenaeum,  
<https://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=223927>

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