



Botanics in the Making Writing and Reading 16th-century Herbals

Julia Heideklang (HU Berlin)

Centō, commentary, historia: Authors of botanical prose works reflected deeply and consciously on which writing techniques and compositions would lead to the best form of botanical prose writing. Early modern paratexts were influential tools, whether for displaying the expertise of a given author over his area of study or his position within the literary tradition and scientific community or whether debating garden and book, paper slips and natural things in their meaning for the emerging botanical practices.

Ultimately, however, it was not for the author to have the last word, but for the readers to decide, whether to embrace, modify or blatantly ignore the authorial concepts and writing techniques, with the first indicator being the title chosen for the book spine of the newly bound stack of paper: *commentarii*, *historia* or *herbarium* for instance.

In my talk, I will discuss the authorial concepts of Brunfels, Fuchs, Mattioli and Cesalpino in comparison to my findings regarding usage and reading practices in remaining copies of the Florentine libraries.



Leonhart Fuchs, *De historia stirpium commentarii insignes* (1542), Biblioteca di Scienze. Botanica, BL4A14 (Fondo Webb), p. 206/207, used by permission of the university of Florence.

Date: 12 May 2021, 18:00

Zoom-Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84432440838?pwd=OTZiR1dUV2pja1N3WXdlelpLQVhUUT09>