

Victoria, University of Victoria Libraries, Ms.Brown.It.1
Acc. 1992-044
Fifteenth-century leaf from a medicinal and culinary miscellany (fol. 38)
Italy **s. XV²**

This study was completed by ENSH MA student Kerri Li for a manuscript studies course taught by Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin in Fall 2023.

Folio 38 as a Whole

versions of the *Libellus* in Latin. Both contain place it with other medical

8. *Colirium pro oculis* (A salve for the eyes)

argues that *synonyma* were particularly important “[d]uring the Middle Ages, when there was no uniform system for identifying plants and herbs [meaning] there was a genuine risk of a doctor administering the wrong drug to a patient” (Gerrit 7), and *synonyma* helped reduce that risk significantly. What is puzzling in this case is that most *synonyma* are encyclopedic (Gerrit 6), that is, a vast number of entries arranged alphabetically and spanning many pages. The *synonyma* in Ms.Brown.It.1 is an excerpt of one entry (treating trees and flowers).

popularization and simplification of Latin medical learning” (Getz xv). Despite the accessibility, supported by presence of the vernacular, the scribe makes clear attempts to establish authority—attributions to both Emperor Frederick II and John Chrysostom bring a level of intellectual weight that not needed for recipes belonging to more popular traditions. However, if fol.38 does include elements of popular medicine (such as charms), commonly associated with women, why include a poem denouncing all women? This is the topic of the second part of my study.

“Folio 38 as a Whole”: Works Cited

- "Abbreviated Names of Collections and Their Location." *Index of Middle English Prose: Index to Volumes I to XX*. Ed. Kari Anne Rand. Boydell & Brewer, 2014. Viii-X. Index of Middle English Prose,
https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/A49AC823B759394B402F9A6CAB9241B3/9781782043232/oa_pviii-x_CB_O.pdf/abbreviated-names-of-collections-and-their-location.pdf.
- Burnett, Charles, and David Pingree. “Between the Ghaya and the Picatrix, II: The Flos Naturarum Ascribed to Jabir.” *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, vol. 72, 2009, pp. 41–80,
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40593764>.
- Burnett, Charles. “The Synonyma Literature in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.” *Globalization of Knowledge in the Post-Antique Mediterranean, 700-1500 / Edited by Sonja Brentjes and Jurgen Renn*. Routledge, 2016, doi:10.4324/9781315585147.
- Bos, Gerrit, et al. “Introduction.” *Medical Synonym Lists from Medieval Provence Shem Tov Ben Isaac of Tortosa : Sefer Ha-Shimmush, Book 29*. Brill, 2011.
- Clemens, Raymond, and Graham, Timothy. “Selected Scripts.” *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*, Cornell University Press, pp. 135-180.
- David Smith, Romney. “Across an Open Sea Mediterranean Networks and Italian Trade in an Era of Calamity.” PhD Thesis, University of Toronto Centre of Medieval Studies, 2016,
https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/82589/3/Smith_Romney_D_201611_PhD_thesis.pdf.
- De Vries, Ranke. “A short tract on medicinal uses for animal dung.” *North American journal of Celtic studies*, The Ohio State University Press, vol. 3, no. 2, 2019, pp. 111-136,
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/781234/pdf>.
- “Entry 15564.” *Briquet Online*, Osterreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, last updated January 2021,
<https://briquet-online.at/loadRepWmark.php?rep=briquet&refnr=15864&lang=fr>.
- Getz, Faye M.. *Healing and Society in Medieval England : A Middle English Translation of the Pharmaceutical Writings of Gilbertus Anglicus*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1991,
<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/lib/uvic/reader.action?docID=3445339&ppg=76>.
- Guaynerius, Antonius. *De matricibus, sive De propiis mulierum aegritudinibus*. Accessed through Gallica. <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k584768.image>
-
-

