

RECENZJE

DE LA CRUZ CABANILLAS, ISABEL.
A COLLECTION OF SUNDRIE APPROVED RECEIPTS.
STUDY AND EDITION OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
FERGUSON MS 43. ALCALÁ DE HENARES:
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Studies and editions of medical manuscripts seem to be fortunately on the rise. Dr Isabel de la Cruz Cabanillas benefits from her experience and deep knowledge of manuscript studies and medical discourse to carry out a semi-diplomatic edition and thorough study of a never-before edited eighteenth-century English recipe book housed in Glasgow University Library, Ferguson MS 43.

The manuscript under study has never received scholarly attention. Therefore, the author's paleographical transcription makes it accessible and readable to twenty-first-century readers for the first time. Editorial intervention has been kept to a minimum (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and line divisions have been maintained) to preserve the richness and uniqueness of the original manuscript.

Dr Isabel de la Cruz Cabanillas takes a step further in her edition and study of Ferguson MS 43, as she contextualizes and provides information and knowledge about the recipe genre and the English language at the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth century. The aim of the physical and linguistic analysis provided in this volume is 1) to evaluate the degree of standardization, and 2) to examine the evolution of the recipe genre.

In addition to the lists of abbreviations, figures, and tables, the introduction renders the required information to contextualize the edition and to anticipate the structure of the volume. After the introduction, chapter II deals with the study of Ferguson MS 43. First, an overview of the Ferguson collection held at Glasgow University Library is provided. The Ferguson collection contains manuscripts and printed books dating from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, gathering treatises dedicated to chemistry, alchemy, and medicine. Then, the focus moves to the manuscript under study, providing a detailed physical description and the study of several paleographical elements: marginalia, abbreviations, contractions, curtailments, bevigrahs, superscript letters and punctuation. This study is enriched thanks to a great number of images which illustrate the items analyzed.

The section dedicated to the authorship of Ferguson MS 43 is of special interest. The author identifies the attribution to Lady Stanhope on the second leave: "The Honourable Laday Stanhopes Book". No further information is provided about Lady

Stanhope within the manuscript. To unveil whether Lady Stanhope was the compiler of the volume or the recipient of the book, the author carries out comprehensive research on the surname Stanhope using a wide variety of sources. The author's effort and perseverance to gather information about Lady Stanhope should be esteemed. What is more, bringing to the surface the attribution to Lady Stanhope brings to light the capacity of women to contribute to domestic medicine at the end of the seventeenth century and early eighteenth century.

The contents of the Ferguson MS 43 constitute another key element of recipes, and follow the pattern used in earlier collections. Although traditional organization of the recipes (e.g., ingredients, preparation methods and preparation stages) are preserved, the author highlights the absence of allusions to the humoral theory. This absence of references demonstrates that late seventeenth-century and early eighteenth-century medical knowledge was not always firmly rooted in the four humours theory and that domestic medicine was flexible enough to incorporate new theories.

As for linguistic features, the author studies specific linguistic features from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in Ferguson MS 43: 1) ending in *-(e)s* for the 3rd person singular in the present tense, 2) periphrastic *do* in negative sentences, 3) subjunctive, 4) genitive case and the use of the apostrophe, 5) spelling evidence, and 6) other differences with Present-Day English. Dr. Isabel de la Cruz Cabanillas's thorough study of these linguistic features reveals the degree of standardization of the English language in the manuscript under study. The author identifies which of the aforementioned linguistic features were firmly rooted and which ones were still in the process of adoption.

About the author's study of the recipe structure, a detailed analysis of the conventions is presented in the volume following Alonso-Almeida (2013). This analysis of recipe structure is enriched with an analysis of specific linguistic features of the recipe collection: 1) verb forms and second-person pronouns, 2) deletion of objects, 3) temporal sequence, and 4) use of specialized terminology.

The images and paleographical transcription of the manuscript follow. The arrangement of the semi-diplomatic transcription (the manuscript image on the left, and the transcription on the right) facilitates and enriches the reading and understanding of the collection of recipes gathered in the manuscript under consideration. This section closes with the glossary, which contains a list of words specific to the recipe genre. It has been compiled with the AntConc concordance program and for the definitions, the author has used *The Oxford English Dictionary* among other dictionaries.

All in all, this volume is another important contribution to the the studies of a recipe and the development of medical writing at the end of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. It brings to light a recipe collection and a manuscript which has gone largely unperceived in the eyes of scholarship. What is more, it contextualizes and deeply analyses the conventions and the language of the manuscript under study. Undoubtedly, the volume is as readable and enlightening as

it is well-documented and informative. We can only be glad that Dr Isabel de la Cruz Cabanillas has decided to shed light on the unexplored mine of medical writing. Certainly, this volume is to become a reference for specialists in historical linguistics, philology, manuscript studies, and history of medicine alike, and a must for the shelves of every University Library.

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