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Conrad Gessner's Fish Books (1556-1560): processing information in a rapidly expanding field of knowledge

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Conrad Gessner's Fish Books (1556-1560)

*Processing information in a rapidly expanding
field of knowledge*

Sophia Mathilda Hendrikx

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Cover image: Overview of salmonid species with woodcut illustration of a trout. Conrad Gessner, *Historiae Animalium liber IIII qui est de piscium & aquatiliū animantium natura*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1558.

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Conrad Gessner's Fish Books (1556-1560)

Processing information in a rapidly expanding field of knowledge

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ABBREVIATIONS

Early modern books

- Bel. L'Hist. nat.* Pierre Belon, *L'histoire naturelle des estranges poissons marins, avec la vraie peinture et description du Daulphin, et de plusieurs autres de son espèce observée par Pierre Belon du Mans*. Paris: Regnaud Chaudiere, 1551.
- Bel. De aq. lib.* Pierre Belon, *De aquatilibus libri duo cum iconibus ad vivam ipsorum effigiem quoad ejus fieri potuit expressis*. Paris: Carolus Stephanus, 1553.
- Bel. La nat. et div.* Pierre Belon, *La nature et diversité des poissons, avec leurs pourtraictz représentez au plus près du naturel*. Paris: Carolus Stephanus, 1555.
- Bel. L'hist. oys.* Pierre Belon, *L'histoire de la nature des oyseaux*. Paris: Guillaume Cavellat, 1555.
- Cam. Sym. et embl.* Joachim Camerarius the Younger, *Symbola et Emblemata: Cent. Quatuor*. Neuremberg, Gotthard and Phillip Vögelin, 1604, vol. IV.
- Ges. Hist. pisc.* Conrad Gessner, *Historiae Animalium liber IIII qui est de piscium & aquatiliu animantium natura*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1558.
- Ges. Nom.* Conrad Gessner, *Nomenclator aquatiliu animantium: icones animalium aquatiliu in mari & dulcibus aquis degentium, plus quam DCC cum nomenclaturis singulorum Latinis, Graecis, Italicis, Hispanicis, Gallicis, Germanicis, Anglicis, aliisque interdum, per certos ordines digestae*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1560.
- Ges. De quad. viv.* Gessner, *Historiae animalium liber primus de quadrupedibus viviparis*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1551.
- Ges. De av.* Gessner, *Historiae animalium Liber III qui est de avium natura*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1555.
- Ges. De quad. ov.* Gessner, *Historiae animalium Liber II. Qui est de quadrupedibus oviparis*. Zurich: Christoph Froschauer, 1554.
- Rond. Lib. de pisc.* Guillaume Rondelet, *Libri de piscibus marinis in quibus verae piscium effigies expressae sunt*. Lyon: Mathias Bonhomme, 1554.

<i>Rond. pars alt.</i>	Guillaume Rondelet, <i>Universae aquatiliū Historiae pars altera, cum veris ipsorum imaginibus</i> . Lyon: Mathias Bonhomme, 1555.
<i>Rond. L'Hist. ent.</i>	Guillaume Rondelet, <i>L'histoire entière des poissons, composée premièrement en latin par Maître Guillaume Rondelet, maintenant traduites en français. Avec leurs portraits au naïf</i> . Lyon: Matthias Bonhomme, 1558.
<i>Sal. Aq. hist.</i>	Hippolito Salviani, <i>Aquatiliū animanliū historiae</i> . Rome: Hippolito Salviani, 1558.
<i>Modern publications</i>	
<i>Early Modern Zoology</i>	Karl A.E. Enenkel and Paul J. Smith (eds), <i>Early Modern Zoology: The Construction of Animals in Science, Literature and the Visual Arts</i> . Leiden–Boston: Brill, 2007.
<i>Zoology in Early Modern Culture</i>	Karl A.E. Enenkel and Paul J. Smith (eds.), <i>Zoology in Early Modern Culture: Intersections of Science, Theology, Philology, and Political and Religious Education</i> . Leiden–Boston: Brill, 2014.
<i>Emblems and the natural world</i>	Karl A. E. Enenkel and Paul J. Smith (eds.), <i>Emblems and the natural world. Intersections Interdisciplinary Studies in Early Modern Culture</i> . Leiden–Boston: Brill, 2017.
<i>H. F.</i>	Holger Funk, <i>Dedications and Prefaces in Sixteenth-Century Fish Books</i> . Paderborn: privately published, 2019.
<i>Other</i>	
UBA	Universiteitsbibliotheek Amsterdam (Amsterdam)
Platter, MS III C2 22, UBA	Felix Platter's album MS III C2 22 containing Gessner's collection of (fish) drawings.
Platter, MS III C2 23, UBA	Felix Platter's album MS III C2 22 containing Gessner's collection of (animal and insect) drawings.

SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Conrad Gessner, *Historia piscium* (1558): Zentralbibliothek Zürich, NNN 48 | F.

Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 93, 94, 95, 96, 106, 109, 126, 129.

Conrad Gessner, *De Piscibus et aquatilibus omnibus libelli* (1556): Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: Zool. 119, VD16 O 1620.

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Anonymous, *Bairische Landts Ordnung* (1553): Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, VD16 B 1034.

Figures 7, 100.

Felix Platter, album containing many of Gessner's fish drawings: Universiteitsbibliotheek Amsterdam, MS III C2 22.

Figures 9, 91, 92, 99, 101, 102, 103.

Conrad Gessner, *Nomenclator* (1560): Zentralbibliothek Zürich, NNN 44,3.

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Conrad Gessner, *Fischbuoch* (1563): Zentralbibliothek Zürich, VD 16 G 1741.

Figure 11.

Conrad Gessner, *De quadrupedibus viviparis* (1551): Smithsonian Libraries, QL41 .G39h liber 1, 1551.

Figures 25, 26.

Hippolito Salviani, *Aquatilium animalium historiae* (1558): Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, LOG_0043.

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Guillaume Rondelet, *Libri de piscibus marinis* (1554): Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, 2 ZOOL VIII, 4560:1.

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Pierre Belon, *De aquatilibus* (1553): Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, 8 ZOOL VIII, 4540.

Figure 33, 65, 79, 80, 97.

Pierre Belon, *La nature et diversité des poissons* (1555): Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library, QL615 .B44.

Figure 63.

Gregor Mangolt, *Fischbuoch* (1557): Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Res/Zool. 348 VD16 M 576.

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Balthazar Staindl, *Künstlichs und nutzlichs kochbuch* (1545): Regensburg, Staatliche Bibliothek –999/Philos.1921/1922. VD16 S 8510.

Figure 45.

Linnaeus, *Systema naturae* (1758). Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, EZOOLO / Early Zoological Literature Online.

Figure 55.

Alciato, *Emblemata* (1591). Glasgow University Library: SM58.

Figures 105, 115, 124, 125.

François Boussuet, *De Natura aquatiliu carmen* (1558). Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library, 004955384.

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Joris Hoefnagel, *Aqua. Animalia aquatilia et conchiliata* (ca. 1575-1600): Washington (D.C.), National Gallery of Art [..], 1987.20.7.

Figures 108, 111.

Joachim Camerarius the Younger, *Symbolorum et emblematum IV* (1604): Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, 40.F.23.

Figures 112, 113, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 123, 127, 128, 130, 131.

Luca Contille, *Ragionamento [...]* (1754): Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Z-512.

Figures 117, 119.

Adriaen Collaert, *Piscium vivae icones* (after 1598): British Museum, 2AA*,a.67.5.

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Joachim Camerarius the Younger, *Vier Hundert Wahl-Sprüche und Sinnen-Bilder* (1715): Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, L.eleg.m. 174.

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Anonymous, *Rot en Paard, de Vis met zyn Staart* (18th century): Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, RP-P-OB-84.345.

Figure 133.

Anonymous, *Ziet deeze Visschen met dit Hoorntje [...]* (18th century): Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, RP-P-1984-350.

Figure 134.

Anonymous, *Een Grundel, Karper, Baars, een Scholletje of een Voren [...]* (18th century): Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, RP-P-1989-35.

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