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

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Contrary to popular image, a PhD project is far from a solitary journey. While working on my project I met a myriad of people who supported me, enlightened me, and inspired me. Firstly, I must thank my supervisors Paul Smith and Karl Enenkel. To both I owe gratitude for sharing their encyclopaedic knowledge of the early modern period. Through the discussions we had I began to gain the context I needed to fully understand my subject of study. In addition I owe special thanks to Paul for his continuous encouragement to complete my project and his support at crucial moments, which made the completion of this project seem within reach.

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During the years working on my thesis, I met countless others who also contributed in some way to the final result. Conferences, summer schools, et cetera, where academic efforts and knowledge were exchanged and aligned, have naturally inspired and shaped my research and writing. The infectious enthusiasm and curiosity of those I met at these occasions and countless other occasions have been inspirational. In this context, I thank Hans Mulder for organising many events at the Artis library, at one of which I first met both of my supervisors. I also thank Hans for providing me access to primary sources necessary to properly understand Gessner's endeavours. I am thinking in particular of the weeks I got to spend at the Artis Library studying Gessner's fish and animal drawings.

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I owe thanks also to a range of people who worked on PhD projects at LUCAS at the same time as I did, and who enthusiastically shared their insights with me. Tim Vergeer and Glyn

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Sophia Hendriks was born in Amsterdam in 1980. After graduating from the Vossius Gymnasium she studied Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam, combining her bachelor's studies with a *propedeuse* in Law and a minor in History, followed by an MA in History at University College London.

Over the following years she worked for rare book dealers in the UK and the Netherlands developing, through constant exposure to primary sources from various centuries, a strong interest in textual and pictorial presentation and organisation of information. In further pursuit of this interest and seeking to counterbalance the historical perspective with a contemporary one, she followed a traineeship funded by the UK Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). Subsequently she embarked upon an MSc in Information and Library Science at City University London from which she graduated with distinction, and which she combined with a research-track focusing on developments in the discourse on privacy in the European Parliament.

Her PhD research Conrad Gessner's Fish Books (1556-1560), Processing information in a rapidly expanding field of knowledge combines various interests, focussing on textual and visual presentations of information organisation in a subfield of zoology in the sixteenth century. The present study was completed at the Leiden Institute for the Arts in Society (LUCAS) under the supervision of prof. dr. Paul J. Smith (Leiden University) and prof. dr. Karl A. E. Enenkel (University of Münster).

Hendriks has published in a variety of peer reviewed journals on subjects including among other zoological classification of the sixteenth century, early modern descriptions and depictions of sea-monsters, emblematic literature of the sixteenth century, translations of early modern zoological texts, and nomenclature in sixteenth century zoology. She attended international conferences, organised academic events, and served as editor of the Journal of the LUCAS Graduate Conference (JLGC), the Leiden Arts in Society Blog, and Arts in Society, Academic Rhapsodies.

She co-curated the exhibitions Fish and Fiction and Misleiden – Fakes in art and science. For several years she coordinated and taught the honours course Things to do with Texts at the Leiden University Humanities Lab. In addition she taught workshops on the History of Zoological Illustration for the Amsterdam University College and on Monsters, Sea-Monks, and Mermaids during the annual Summerschool for the History of the Book at the University of Amsterdam.

Hendriks's interests continue to be rooted information organisation of both the past and the present. Since 2023 she works at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management as Advisor on the optimal management and transparency of government information. From August 2024 she will begin a new job as Senior Inspector at the Information and Heritage Inspectorate at the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science.