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978-0-521-49103-7 - Pliny's Encyclopedia: The Reception of the Natural History

Aude Doody

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PLINY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Elder Pliny's *Natural History* is one of the largest and most extraordinary works to survive from antiquity. It has often been referred to as an encyclopedia, usually without full awareness of what such a characterisation implies. In this book, Dr Doody examines this concept and its applicability to the work, paying far more attention than ever before to the varying ways in which it has been read during the last two thousand years, especially by Francis Bacon and Denis Diderot. This book makes a major contribution not just to the study of the Elder Pliny but to our understanding of both the cultural processes of ordering knowledge widespread in the Roman Empire and the reception of Classical literature and ideas.

AUDE DOODY is Lecturer in Classics at University College Dublin. She has published articles on Pliny the Elder and his *Natural History* and on Latin literature, and has co-edited (with Liba Taub) *Authorial Voices in Greco-Roman Technical Writing* (2009).

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Note on the text

The titles of Classical works have been abbreviated in accordance with the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.