

EARLY MODERN HERBALS AND THE BOOK TRADE

Between 1525 and 1640, a remarkable phenomenon occurred in the world of print: England saw the production of more than two dozen editions identified by their imprints or by contemporaries as “herbals.” Sarah Neville explains how this genre grew from a series of tiny anonymous octavos to authoritative folio tomes with thousands of woodcuts, and how these curious works quickly became valuable commodities within a competitive print marketplace. Designed to serve readers across the social spectrum, these rich material artifacts represented both a profitable investment for publishers and an opportunity for authors to establish their credibility as botanists. Highlighting the shifting contingencies and regulations surrounding herbals and English printing during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, the book argues that the construction of scientific authority in Renaissance England was inextricably tied up with the circumstances governing print. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core at [doi.org/ 10.1017/9781009031615](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009031615).

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EARLY MODERN HERBALS AND THE BOOK TRADE

English Stationers and the Commodification of Botany

SARAH NEVILLE

Ohio State University



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Note on Transcription and Citation

When quoting early modern texts, I have retained the original spelling, including the use of *u/v* and *i/j*, with the exception of replacing the *long-s* *f* with *s* and *vv* with *w*. I have expanded contractions (except for ampersands) with supplied letters in square brackets (as in “cōmon” → “co[m]mon”), and I have declined superscript letters (as in “M^r.” to “Mr.”). I also have retained original punctuation, including the now-obsolete virgule or / glyph. With the exception of ash (æ) and ethel (œ), all ligatures are silently separated where applicable to single graphemes corresponding to modern usage. I have shortened and standardized capitalization in titles throughout. The names of early modern figures are standardized using the preferred spellings of the STC or ODNB.

For the ease of my readers’ ability to locate the particular editions I discuss, the first mention of a new title will be followed by its identification number in *STC*, *Wing*, and *USTC*. These numbers are also listed in the Bibliography.

Abbreviations

<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> , www.oxforddnb.com .
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> , www.oed.com .
<i>STC</i>	A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, <i>A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640</i> , 2nd ed., rev. W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson, and Katherine F. Pantzer, 3 vols. (London: Bibliographical Society, 1976–1991).
<i>USTC</i>	<i>Universal Short Title Catalogue</i> , www.ustc.ac.uk .
Wing	Donald Wing, <i>Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America, and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641–1700</i> , 2nd ed., 3 vols. (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1972–1998).

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