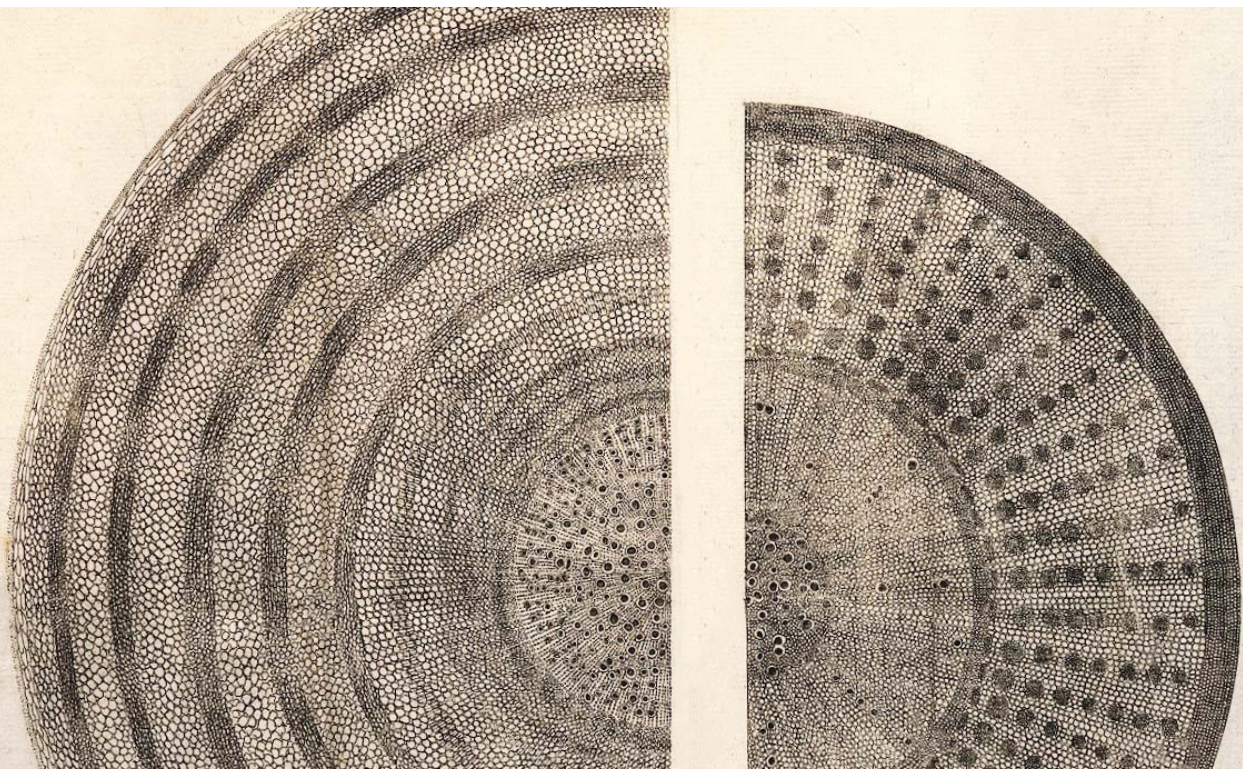


WORKSHOP

THE MAKING OF THE "ANATOMY OF PLANTS" (1682): NEHEMIAH GREW AND THE WORLD OF EARLY MODERN NATURAL HISTORY

BERLIN, 9-10 MARCH 2022



ORGANIZED BY:

PAMELA MACKENZIE AND CHRISTOFFER BASSE ERIKSEN

IN COLLABORATION WITH HANNAH BAADER

ABOUT THE PROJECT

EMERGING SCHOLARSHIP ON THE MAKING OF NEHEMIAH GREW'S "THE ANATOMY OF PLANTS" FROM A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712) was an active member of the Royal Society during a lively period of its early years, serving both as curator for the *Anatomy of Plants* and as secretary to the society. Throughout his tenure there, he produced several innovative lectures and books on plant anatomy with the help of the Society's microscopes. His work on plants ultimately led to the publication of "The Anatomy of Plants" in 1682, a lavishly illustrated book that has been widely circulated. The book featured innovative insights about plant reproduction, a distinct natural philosophy that incorporated diverse influences from his seventeenth-century milieu and an exciting range of visual material that captured some of the earliest views of plant interiors seen using a microscope. His personal papers, housed at the British Library, are substantial and give insights into his career and the creation of his important work on plant anatomy. The archive includes, among other things, letters and medical consultations, handwritten notes on philosophical works, excerpts from a drawing manual and extensive lists and charts of plants and seeds. Given the wealth of material available, and its relevance across fields ranging from the History of science and Medicine to book history and the creation of printed images, "The Anatomy of Plants" has received relatively little attention in scholarship of the seventeenth century.

Next to his peers Robert Hooke and Marcello Malpighi, there has been a conspicuous absence of devoted literature on Grew. However, in recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in Grew's work, with recent publications considering the influence of chymistry on his work, his attempts to establish plant anatomy as a discipline, and his strategies of representation. This resurgence has also been driven by a broader scholarly rediscovery of the importance of botany and plants in the early modern world. In this light, the group is coordinating a thorough overview of emerging scholarship on the making of Nehemiah Grew's "The Anatomy of Plants" from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives, incorporating many facets of his thought and a close consideration of the archival material available. The articles of the special issue situate Grew's work within a number of intellectual contexts, such as the alchemical tradition, early modern agriculture and husbandry, museums and collections, strategies of representation and visualisation, philosophical and theological debates, and communities of instrument-makers. Therefore, the special issue will be an important contribution to a number of disciplines, from Philosophy and the History of Science to Art History and Agricultural History.

COVER IMAGE:

Nehemiah Grew, "Tab. 4," *The Phytological History of Plants*, 1673, Call Number: 434851, Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

In this workshop, a group of international scholars specializing in the study of early modern botany, art, and science will convene in Berlin as a part of a larger project on the making of Nehemiah Grew's 1682 publication "The Anatomy of Plants." The event is in collaboration with the Research and Fellowship Program "4A_Lab: Art Histories, Archaeologies, Anthropologies, Aesthetics," a cooperation between the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, with the current focus theme "Plants".

The workshop will include a public lecture on the importance of Grew's work in the development of late seventeenth century understandings of plant life (see below), a hybrid internal workshop for the contributors to a special issue, and a visit to see botanical treatises and other primary source material at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin along with the 4a_Lab Fellow group. The project will result in the publication of an edited special issue of the History of Science journal *Centaurus* in the spring of 2023.



SPECIAL ISSUE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Fabrizio Baldassarri *Nehemiah Grew's Philosophy of Plants: A Theoretical Framework to the Anatomy* **Justin Niermeier-Dohoney** *Germination as Transmutation: Nehemiah Grew's Vitalism and Mechanism in the Context of Seventeenth-Century Alchemy* **Christoffer Basse Eriksen** *'A Perfect Collection of Samples': Reconstructing Nehemiah Grew's Collections, Catalogues and Lists of Plants* **Pamela Mackenzie** *Seeing In Depth: The Development of Nehemiah Grew's Visual Vocabulary* **Oana Matei** *Building an Early Modern Science of Vegetation: Nehemiah Grew's Inquiries into the "Anatomy of Plants"* **Justin Begley** *Seeing Plants as Animals in Nehemiah Grew's 1682 "Anatomy of Plants"* **Anna Marie Roos** *Afterword*

IMAGE ABOVE:

Nehemiah Grew by Robert White (1701). (c) National Portrait Gallery, London

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022

Venue: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Haus unter den Linden, Unter den Linden 8, 10117 Berlin | [Directions](#)

1:00 PM VISIT TO THE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK ZU BERLIN

with Dr. Katrin Böhme (Department of Historical Prints): Nehemiah Grew, *The Anatomy of Plants* (1682). Books and resources from the collection. [1]

Nehemiah Grew: *Phytological History* (1673), *The Anatomy of Trunks* (1675), *Anatomie des Plantes* (1675), *Mueasum Regalis Societatis* (1681), *Anatomie des Plantes* (1685); Henry Power: *Experimental Philosophy* (1664); Marcello Malpighi: *Opera Omnia* (1686), *Anatome Plantarum* (1675)

3:30 PM *Transfer / Lunch break*

5:00 PM LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSION (HYBRID VIA ZOOM)

Nehemiah Grew and the Making of the "Anatomy of Plants" (1682)

Venue: Lecture room, Kunstgewerbemuseum, Kulturforum, Potsdamer Platz, Matthäikirchplatz 4-6, 10785 Berlin | [Directions](#)

Speaker:

Christoffer Basse Eriksen, Ph.D.

Visiting Scholar, Department of History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Respondent: **Anna Marie Roos***, University of Lincoln

Panel:

Fabrizio Baldassarri, Ca' Foscari Venice/Indiana University Bloomington
Justin Begley, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München **Oana Matei***,
Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad/University of Bucharest **Justin
Niermeier-Dohoney**, MPI für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin **Anna Marie
Roos***, University of Lincoln

Moderation:

Pamela Mackenzie, 4A_Lab Doctoral Fellow, Kunsthistorisches Institut in
Florenz – MPI

[1] Access to the event is only possible with 2G proof: full vaccination or recovery is required. Restriction: as far as the then current regulations of the SPK allow. If applicable, the event must take place online.

*Attend online only.

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2022

Venue: Lecture room, Kunstgewerbemuseum, Kulturforum, Potsdamer Platz, Matthäikirchplatz 4-6, 10785 Berlin | [Directions](#)

10:00 AM **4A_LAB AND ANATOMY OF PLANTS READING GROUP**

Florike Egmond, *Eye for Detail: Images of Plants and Animals in Art and Science, 1500-1630* (Reaktion Books, 2016), ch. 7 and 8.

12:30 PM *Lunch break*

1:30 PM **INTERNAL WORKING SESSION**

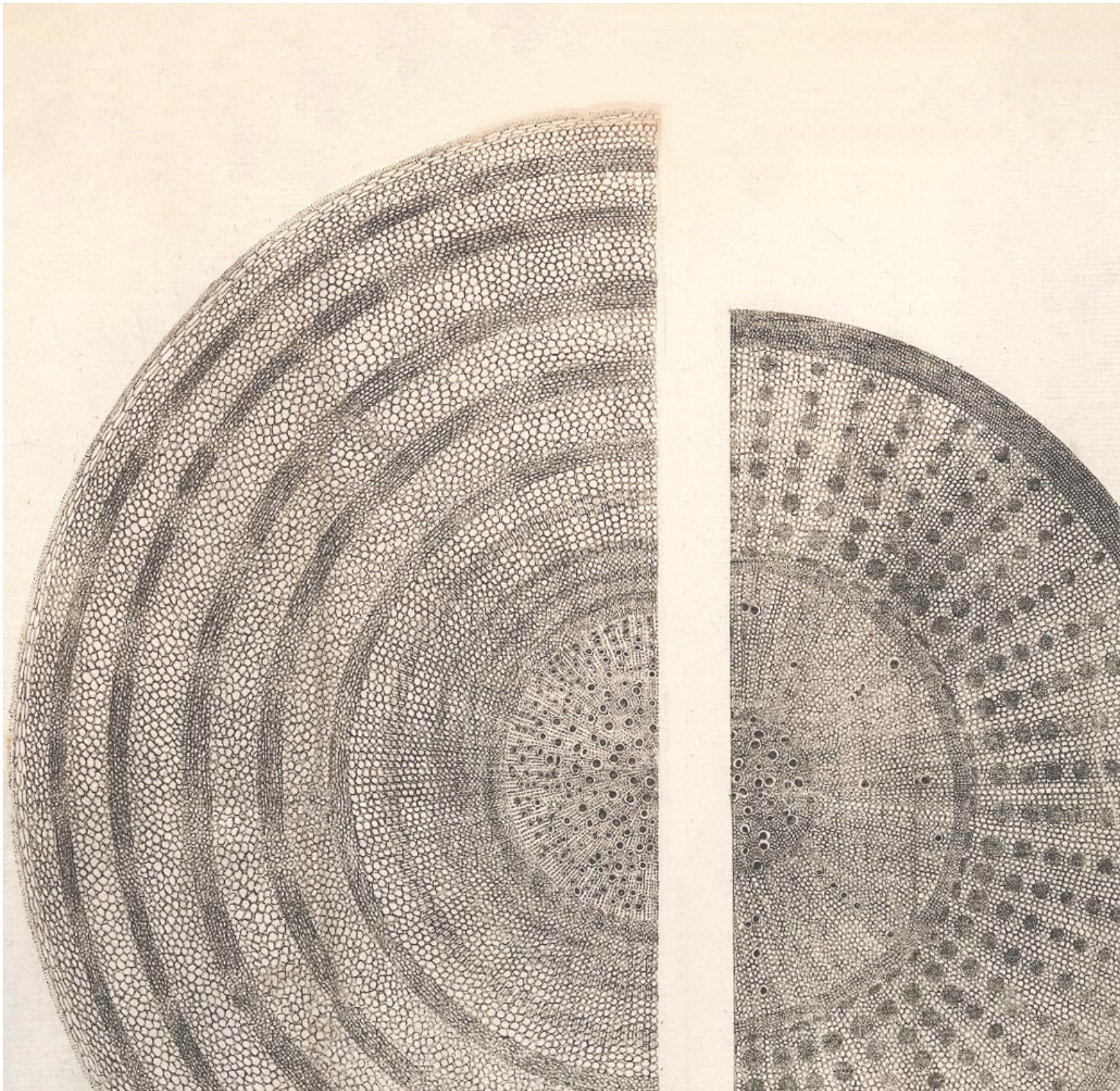
Special issue contributors only

3:30 PM *Coffee / Tea break*

4:00 PM **INTERNAL WORKING SESSION**

Special issue contributors only

6:00 PM End



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4A
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