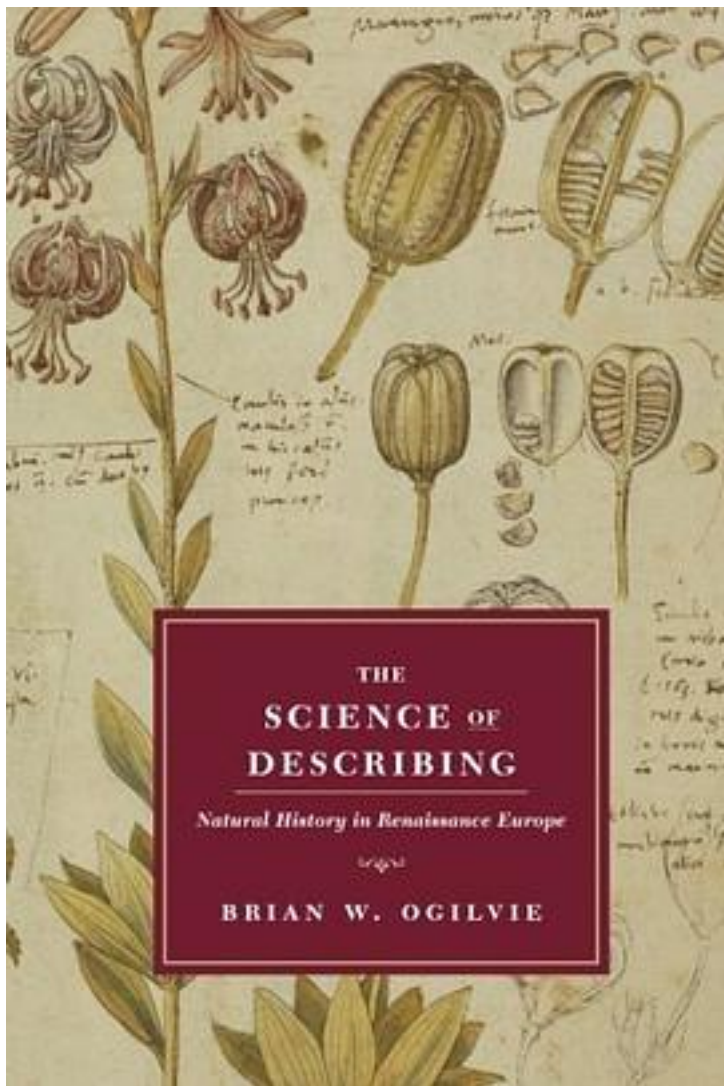


The Science of Describing



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Out of the diverse traditions of medical humanism, classical philology, and natural philosophy, Renaissance naturalists created a new science devoted to discovering and describing plants and animals. In order to distinguish and catalog new plant and animal species, they developed new techniques of observing and recording, created botanical gardens and herbaria, and exchanged correspondence and specimens within an international community. Drawing on published natural histories, manuscript correspondence, garden plans, travelogues, watercolors, and drawings, "The Science of Describing" reconstructs the evolution of this discipline of description through four generations of naturalists. Illustrated with woodcuts, engravings, and photographs, "The Science of Describing" is the first broad interpretation of Renaissance natural history in more than a generation and will appeal widely to an interdisciplinary audience.

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标签

科学史

博物学

备

博物画

STS

Enlightenment

EarlyModernEurope

评论

一本how多why少的书，但这句话完全不是批评。自然史学家的community，花园，cabinet，field trip啥的都写了，对我最有用的就是对古典传统的阅读和使用那块。从humanist natural history到descriptive natural history，描述作为区分，描述的美学追求等都cover到，最后还落脚到了描述的局限。描述的词汇、插图的定式，都是知识形成的条件甚至知识本身。当然如果是我研究更早的时代，可能颠倒过来把偏差作为重点，毕竟“描述”本身就假定了存在一个被描述的实体，但如果你真的对对象一无所知，实体的特点是什么、边界在哪，甚至是否真的存在都是不确定的。我的叙事估计是人类如何做到把想象和观察分开，虽然这种区分也不是绝对的。用一节专门写插图我都觉得少。

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书评

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