

is that this shift proposed by Rose is directly parallel with a change of genre. The novels discussed in the first part of the book were purely intended for entertainment with no ulterior pedagogical agendas, while the biographies in Mattheson's *Ehrenpforte* intend to report the real life of a serious musician. I would suggest reading the two parts of the book as more or less independent studies of aspects of the view of musicians in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that do not necessarily reflect a historical development.

Elaine Leong and Alisha Rankin, eds. *Secrets and Knowledge in Medicine and Science, 1500-1800*. Farnham, England and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2011. ix + 247 pp. + 1 illus. \$104.95. Review by IRVING A. KELTER, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, HOUSTON.

We all have secrets. Individuals, institutions and nations may survive, and even thrive, because of their secrets. This collection of essays, based on a 2008 conference held at the University of Cambridge, delves into the literature of secrets in early modern Europe. As the editors assert in their introduction, the essays demonstrate “the centrality of secrets in various arenas of early modern European knowledge” (5).

The collection is divided into four parts, beginning with a part on defining secrets. Here William Eamon, master of secret lore, discourses on issues such as the nature of the authors of these books of secrets, the nature of the audiences for these works and modern historians' reading of them. He also points out that these books indicate “something important ... about changes in the moral economy of early modern science” (44). What Eamon is referring to is the movement away from secrecy to openness which he discerns among some within the early modern esoteric tradition. The second essay in this part is by Pamela Smith, who focuses on books of secrets and craft knowledge. She argues that books of secrets were books containing the “experiential knowledge of craftspeople and practitioners” (49).

Part Two deals with secrecy and openness in England. Ayesha Mukherjee treats of the Elizabethan scientific thinker Sir Hugh Platt and his critique of secrecy. She also looks at the relationship of his revelation of the secrets of nature to the English economic world and

his own personal fortunes, or lack thereof. Michael Hunter offers us yet another perceptive study of Robert Boyle whom he shows to have been both a proponent of openness and secrecy in the world of science. The third study in this section is by Michelle DiMeo who contends that the London-based Hartlib circle was not totally in favor of openness and against secrecy in natural philosophy and medicine.

Part Three moves into the dangerous world of illicit secrets. Tara Nummedal peers into the career of Anna Zieglerin and her holy alchemy at the court of Duke Julius of Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel in the 1570s. Tessa Storey also looks at a woman, the early seventeenth-century Roman widow Maddalena who was put on trial for making a rare poison. Storey uses this trial as a jumping off point into the worlds of the making of secrets and remedies and Italian books of secrets.

The last part of this volume deals with secrets and health. Montserrat Cabré gives us a learned discourse on beauty secrets in early modern Iberia, something that is still of tremendous import today. Sandra Cavallo analyzes, as she sees it, the revival of regimens of preventive medicine in terms of the secrets of healthy living. Finally, Lisa Wynne Smith examines Vivant-Augustin Ganiere, an eighteenth-century French physician and his investigation of the secrets of nature and morality. She contends that he believed he could understand not only Nature's secrets but also "the secrets of social order concealed within his patients' illnesses and characters" (230).

This review cannot reveal the full richness of this collection. The authors all appear to be masters of their subjects and, indeed, some of them are already known as among the greatest living experts in their respective fields. The essays rest on solid research into the relevant early modern printed and/or manuscript literature, as well as into the works of other modern historians. The notes to the essays are excellent.

If you are interested in any way in the world of early modern European science and the crucial matters of secrecy and books of secrets you should examine this collection.