

David Randall. *English Military News Pamphlets, 1513-1637*. Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2011. xxviii + 187 pp. \$60.00. Review by NICOLE GREENSPAN, HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE.

From medieval and Renaissance epistolary ideals, conventions, and practices through to the development of printed news pamphlets and corantos in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, in this collection of military news pamphlets the editor David Randall explores the evolution of the form and content of military news in England. Randall outlines three main characteristics of English military news pamphlets. The first is the plain or unadorned style, which evoked immediacy, urgency, and firsthand experience, privileged by military news writers. The second is partiality: English military news promoted Protestantism, nationalism, and support for allies. The third is rhetorical, the aim to persuade audiences of the justness of the cause, the heroism of particular individuals, and the importance of pursuing the conflict. In turn, each of these characteristics was tied to contemporary conceptions of truth and credibility.

The collection comprises a total of fifteen texts spanning the years 1513 to 1637. It begins with two pamphlets on Anglo-Scottish military conflicts during the reign of Henry VIII. The first, *Hereafter ensue the trewe encountre*, is the earliest extant printed military news pamphlet and treats the battle of Flodden Field in 1513. The second pamphlet, published in 1544, offers a good example of Anglo-Scottish border warfare. Two texts focus on conflicts between Christians and Muslims: the siege of Malta (1565) and the Ottoman invasion of Hungary (1566). Another pair of texts examine different facets of Anglo-Irish warfare. Three pamphlets cover various stages of the French wars of religion, while four texts examine wars between the Spanish and Dutch in the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The final two pamphlets move a bit further afield: one 1610 text examines the Swedish-Polish war fought in Russia, and the last, from 1637, treats the war between colonists in New England and the Pequod nation.

The texts highlight a variety of perspectives, experiences, geographical regions, religious affiliations, and types of warfare. Among the themes are the experiences of officers and common soldiers, differing

conditions in battleground and siege warfare, intra-Christian conflict, war between English colonists and Native Americans, and between Christian and Muslim nations. Attention to differing perspectives is evident in other ways as well. Alongside English translations of French and Dutch accounts of continental battles, for example, Randall includes pamphlets composed by Englishmen who witnessed or participated in continental warfare. Some of the selected pamphlets, such as English translations of French and Dutch military news, are relatively unknown to early modern English historians and literary scholars. The authors of other texts, including Hugh Peters, George Gascoigne, and Thomas Churchyard, are more familiar to those who work in the period. Taken together this is a series of well-chosen pamphlets that offer important insights into international and transatlantic warfare.

David Randall situates military news in the larger context of pamphleteering and popular literature. To frame the collection, the introduction provides a concise overview of recent scholarship in the fields of print and news cultures. The chronological and geographical breadth of the texts allow readers to follow the evolution and development of the genre of military news, and the juxtaposition of pamphlets can raise connections that are not always apparent in or made possible by keyword and title searches in Early English Books Online and other digital repositories. For historians and literary scholars who specialize in particular regions and periods, this collection can offer rich opportunities for international and chronological comparisons. For those unfamiliar with a particular period or conflict, each pamphlet is preceded by a separate introduction that contextualizes the account, identifies principal events and figures (including the author, if known), and highlights principal themes in the genre of military news. This makes it a particularly useful resource for students and instructors (though the steep price of the book may place it out of the range of individual, rather than library, purchasers).

Readers may find a number of the inclusions and omissions surprising. Some may be disappointed that the collection maintains the customary distinction between land and naval warfare and eschews the inclusion of naval pamphlets. Others may wonder at the absence of texts devoted to warfare in Germany during the Thirty Years War. No selection, however, will please everyone. Moreover, the decision

about which texts to include seems to have been made with more than geographical breadth in mind. As is evident in the series of pamphlets treating the French wars of religion and the wars between the Spanish and Dutch, for example, multiple accounts composed over the course of a long-running conflict demonstrate different stages of war and its evolution. Including a pamphlet on the less well-known war between Sweden and Poland shows the wide circulation of, and interest in, international military news. On the whole the pamphlets are good representations of the genre and illustrate the content, range, and breadth of news pamphlets. The anthology also builds upon increasing scholarly interest in international news and print cultures. Individually and collectively these lively and engaging texts are great examples of the dynamic, informative, and entertaining nature of military news pamphlets in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Stephen Pender and Nancy S. Struever, eds. *Rhetoric and Medicine in Early Modern Europe*. Farnham, UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2012. Literary and Scientific Cultures of Early Modernity Series. ix + 299 pp. \$119.95. Review by KARIN SUSAN FESTER, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR.

The book, the first of its kind, is a collection of essays that concentrates on the intimate relationship between medicine and rhetoric in early modern Europe. Each of the essays—ten in total—in this volume make a valuable contribution to the field of seventeenth-century studies, medical rhetoric, and scientific cultures, as well as philosophy.

Stephen Pender presents an eloquent and in-depth introduction to the history of rhetoric in medicine. In the first chapter of the book, Pender argues for the intersection of medicine and rhetoric, and he invokes the thinking of Pierre-Jean-Georges Cabanis, Plato, Aristotle, and the English physician John Cotta. He argues that “rhetoric and medicine share forms of inference and reasoning as well as areas of inquiry”; moreover, that “rhetoricised logic” influenced and was clearly linked to medical practice and theory during the early modern period (41).