























READING 23-3

Source: Mastering Herbalism, Paul Huson. Stein and Day, New York. 1974. p. 31.

 pound	 SUGAR
 equal amounts	 alcohol
 ounce	 honey
 DRAM	 mix
 scruple	 BOIL
 pinch	 take
 pint	 distill
 still	 filter
 retort	 essence
 receiver	 powder
 vinegar	 compose <i>M.</i>

Herbalists' Symbols

## Herbal Notes

### ***Physica* (Hildegard of Bingen)**

1. First book in which woman discusses plants in relation to medical properties. Emphasis on medicine. includes recipes, diseases, cures, folk remedies.
2. Earliest book on natural history in Germany; influenced German Fathers of Botany
3. Strongly concerned with science in contrast to other mystical and theological works
4. Lists plants not translatable into Latin and thus first mention of German name

### ***On Plants* (Albertus Magnus)= Albert of Bollstadt (1193–1280)**

1. Scholastic philosopher
2. St. Thomas Aquinas one of his pupils
3. Worked on morphology, distinguishes between thorns (stem structures) and prickles (surface organs)
4. “The plant is a living being, and its life principle is the vegetable soul, whose function is limited to nourishment, growth and reproduction—feeling, desire, sleep, and sexuality, properly so called, being unknown in the plant world.”
5. Felt that species were mutable, pointed out that cultivated plants might run wild and become degenerate while wild plants might be domesticated.
6. Temperate tone on medical virtues

### ***Commentarii* of Mattioli**

1. Famous herbal, many translations, at least 45 editions
2. First published 1544
3. Exposition of Dioscorides but also all plants known to Mattioli
4. Later editions had beautiful figures
5. Did not have an expert knowledge of plants

### ***Herbarium Vivae Icones* of Otto Brunfels**

1. Modern age of botany began in 1530 with *Living Images of Plants*
2. Realistic and beautiful plant pictures, unequalled by Hans von Weiditz
3. Sequence based on when illustrations completed thus nonscientific
4. Watercolors recently found in in 1930s.
5. Text inferior to pictures, bookish

### ***Kreuter Buch* of Jerome Boch**

Book discusses characteristics of plants in Germany; a new directions and thus a truly modern work.

1. Developed system of botany, arranged plants into categories
2. Wrote in a clear manner, understandable to laymen. Listed mode of occurrence and localities for plants mentioned. Thus a kind of Flora. Seems to have been a keen collector. Free from credulity.
3. Later editions supplied with pictures from Brunfels and Fuchs
4. Written in German
5. 1539 *New Kreuterbuch* later *Kreuter Buch*

### ***De Historia Stirpium* of Leonhard Fuchs (Stirpium = plants)**

1. Interested in bringing reforms in German medicine
2. Careful matching figures with illustrations
3. Indices in Greek, Latin, traditional herbal names, and German

4. Used masculine and feminine terminology for stronger and weaker
5. Good illustrations done under the supervision of Fuchs
6. First mention of maize

***Cruydeboeck (Dodoens)***

1. Continued traditions established by Bock of investigation local flora and realized that plants of Europe were not all described by the ancients.
2. Books of Dodoens Clusius, and Obel are interrelated
3. Studies plants of the Netherlands
4. *Cruydeboeck*, 1554, basis for other works...eventually *Stirpium historiae en pemptades sex*. Folio volume of 900 pages, 1309 woodcuts, six copies from *Juliana Acicia* codex. Borrowed from woodcuts used for Fuchs.
5. Condemned Doctrine of Signatures
6. Basis of *Nievue Herbal* of Henry Lyte in 1578.

***Histoire des Plantes 1557 (L'Ecluse=Clusius)***

1. Studies plants of Austria Hungary and Spain.
2. Great powers of observation, added 600 known plants
3. French translation of Cruydeboeck
4. Interested in plants for their own sake; not preoccupied with medical side of plants.

***Stirpium Adversaria Nova (Mathias de l'Obel)***

1. Studies plants of Southern France
2. Main work *Stirpium Adversaria Nova* published in 1570 with Pena.
3. Distinguishes plants by leaves.

***Nievue Herbal Henry Lyte***

1. Based on the French version of Dodoens' Cruydeboeck of 1554 made by l'Ecluse in 1557. No mere mechanical translation but work is annotated and corrected with references to l'Obel and Turner.

***Herball (William Turner) 1st part in 1551 (London) 2nd in 1562 (Cologne) 3rd in 1568.***

1. Figures of Fuchs.
2. Independent thinker, scorned superstition
3. Respectful of Ancients but not slavish
4. Father of English Botany

***Herball John Gerard(e)***

1. Most famous English herbal
2. 1636 edition augmented by Thomas Johnston

***A Physical Directory (translation) (Nicolas Culpepper)***

1. Absurdities initiated reforms, but many editions.
2. Refers to Doctors: A company of proud insulting, domineering Doctors, whose wits were born above 500 years before themselves.