# Renaissance and Reformation
# Renaissance et Réforme

## Leong, Elaine, Lisa Smith, Amanda E. Herbert, R.A. Kashanipour, Sarah Peters Kernan, Joshua Schlachet, Laurence Totelin, Jess Clark, et al., eds. The Recipes Project—Food, Magic, Art, Science, and Medicine. Other

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Aller au sommaire du numéro

Découvrir la revue

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Readers hardly need to pause to check one of these + notes; the windows open quickly without loading a new webpage, usually without covering or obscuring the main text of a poem.

Since its original publication seven years ago, *Verse Miscellanies Online* has already been "migrated" once. Perhaps because of that migration, the website has stopped living up to some of its initial claims. Most disappointingly, the site's edition of *A Poetical Rhapsody* has disappeared. It is likely to reappear, perhaps at the site's next migration. Also, the site's digital editing tool, called the "Commonplacer," has stopped working. This tool was "intended to facilitate engagement with the processes of selection, modification, and compilation underlying the creation of each of the printed volumes" (main page). And it was intended to be maintained for five years. Its digital lifespan, in other words, has come to an end.

Even without this digital tool, *Verse Miscellanies Online* remains a supremely accessible, legible, and helpful source for the major Elizabethan and Jacobean printed collections of poetry. Of course, it makes it much easier for readers to find the texts of these collections—for free and online. It also helps readers attend to the visual layout of the originals. And it offers readers particularly valuable annotations, explaining the poems' more obscure references when readers want them, and staying out of readers' way until they do.

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**Leong, Elaine, Lisa Smith, Amanda E. Herbert, R.A. Kashanipour, Sarah Peters Kernan, Joshua Schlachet, Laurence Totelin, Jess Clark, et al., eds. *The Recipes Project—Food, Magic, Art, Science, and Medicine.* Other.** OpenEdition: Hypotheses. Accessed 18 June 2019. recipes.hypotheses.org.

*The Recipes Project—Food, Magic, Art, Science, and Medicine* is a Hypotheses-hosted scholarly blog focused on the history of recipes, which grew out of the Medicinal Receipts Research Group formed in 2002. The aims of this international group are to promote the study of recipes: first, by encouraging

collaboration between people working on historical recipes, and second, by disseminating information about historical recipes to scholars and practitioners working on adjacent lines of inquiry. By 2010, with the rise of the blogosphere and social media, the group expanded beyond emails and face-to-face meetings to create a public-facing website—the now defunct *Recipes, Remedies, Receipts*—which was a forerunner of the *Recipes Project* blog, itself co-founded by Elaine Leong and Lisa Smith in 2012. This blog continues to serve the group's original aims by presenting high-quality scholarly blog posts about the history of recipes as they relate to everything from economic history to the history of science.[1]

As of June 2019, the site hosts just shy of eight hundred blog posts, averaging nine to ten new posts per month. It also includes a collection of external links intended to assist scholars and students just beginning their research into historical recipes, as well as a 682-item Zotero group. In addition to the fourteen-person project team, almost one hundred scholars and students have written for the site over the past seven years. Potential contributors can apply to be given access to the site, giving a level of initial review to contributors without the additional editorial burden of conducting a formal peer review on every single post.[2] This sizeable and expanding contributor group is the project's biggest asset, giving it temporal, geographical, and thematic variety, but also leads to the biggest hurdle in using the site: the site is too large to easily browse, but inconsistent metadata practices make it difficult to find content through the site's categories or tags. Instead, the user is reliant on full-text searching, through Hypotheses' OpenEdition Search function, to find content of interest. While not ideal, this workaround makes the site's content acceptably discoverable to users who find the search option in the Hypothesis header bar.

The site's categories include a mix of geographical, temporal, thematic, authorial, and event-oriented choices that hint at their extensive albeit uneven coverage of recipe-related subjects. Geographic categories include America, Canada, and Germany, as well as Imperial China and Early Modern China, but the majority of geographical metadata appears to be in tags which cannot be easily searched. Instead, users who want to take advantage of the tags should either hack the URL (recipes.hypotheses.org/tag/

1. Lisa Smith, "Recipes Project Flashback," *The Recipes Project—Food, Magic, Art, Science, and Medicine*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/recipes-project-flashback.

2. "Advice for Contributors," *The Recipes Project,* accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/advice-for-contributors.

insert-the-tag-you'd-like-to-search-for-here) or navigate to a blog post with those tags and click on the tag to run a search for all tagged items. Temporal coverage is a bit easier to discover using site categories. It is possible to use the site's drop-down category menu to search for posts relating to antiquity or the classical world—the difference between the two appears to be authorial choice and there is significant overlap between the two categories—as well as medieval, premodern, early modern, and modern posts. There are almost twice as many early modern posts as all the other categories combined, making the site particularly though not exclusively useful for those studying the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. Both the geographical and temporal categories make clear the site's origin in early modern European and North American scholarship; the group has taken steps to include Chinese and Atlantic history posts, but the site will be significantly more useful to someone studying England (196 posts include that keyword) rather than Mexico (13), Japan (12), or Ethiopia (no results found).

Despite the shortcomings of the site's current interface setup and metadata, the posts themselves are excellent and demonstrate the versatility and utility of scholarly blogging as a genre. In exploring the site, I found everything from archival posts, detailing an interesting source that the author had recently consulted, to pedagogical posts, walking readers through a classroom experiment in consuming historical hot chocolate.[3] For the source-hunting scholar, the manuscript posts and collections overviews in the "First Monday Library Chat" series may be of most interest, introducing them to new manuscripts and books they might wish to consult.[4] While many of the posts are just brief overviews, there are also some extended discussions of sources, such as the series on "Manuscript 10A214" at the Historical Medical Library of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia.[5] While blog posts are inherently a different medium than journal articles, many of these posts make methodological and scholarly arguments as well; some further function as open-access gateways to

3. Carrie Griffin, "Magical Charms, Love Potions, and Surreal Tricks," *The Recipes Project*, 14 March 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/14705; Amanda Herbert, "Chocolate in the Classroom," *The Recipes Project*, 16 January 2014, recipes.hypotheses.org/3114.

4. "Category: First Monday Library Chat," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/category/first-monday-library-chat.

5. Hillary Nunn and Rebecca Laroche, "Exploring Manuscript 10A214," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/thematic-series/exploring-manuscript-10a214.

paywalled journal articles—enough to satisfy the curiosity of an idle browser but with links to the full article should anyone be interested in reading more.[6]

For those interested in pedagogy, there is a recurring thematic series on teaching recipes, with recent posts on running an Early Modern Recipe Online Collection transcribeathon, creating an educational video on material culture as evidence in food history, and teaching students how gender shaped historical writing techniques.[7] A slightly older post—tagged "teaching" but with a wider scope than the college classroom—discusses a series of public history events held in the United Kingdom, and addresses one of the more commonly asked food history questions: did historical Europeans really not drink water and, if so, were they perpetually drunk?[8] The site also serves as a showcase for both graduate student research—through a variety of blog posts over time, many of which have been specially highlighted as student posts—and undergraduate, through the recently-instituted Undergraduate Research Series.[9]

Overall, this is an excellent site that brings together and makes discoverable a wide variety of scholarly blog posts on research and teaching with historical

6. See, for example, Anne Stobart's series on "The Working of Herbs," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/thematic-series/the-working-of-herbs, or Erik Heinrichs, "The Live Chicken Treatment for Buboes: Trying a Plague Cure in Medieval and Early Modern Europe," *The Recipes Project*, 31 August 2017, recipes.hypotheses.org/9891. The latter article links to Project Muse and an associated journal article: Erik A. Heinrichs, "The Live Chicken Treatment for Buboes: Trying a Plague Cure in Medieval and Early Modern Europe," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 91.2 (2017): 210–32, doi.org/10.1353/bhm.2017.0025.

7. "Teaching Recipes," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/thematic-series/teaching-recipes-a-september-series; Liza Blake, "Teaching Transcribathons and Experiential Learning," *The Recipes Project*, 4 September 2018, recipes.hypotheses.org/11532; Carla Cevasco, "Do Objects Lie? Teaching About Food, Material Culture, and Evidence," *The Recipes Project*, 6 September 2018, recipes.hypotheses.org/11509; Amanda Herbert, "Tales from the Archives: Pen, Ink, and Pedagogy," *The Recipes Project*, 11 September 2018, recipes.hypotheses.org/11835.

8. James Brown and Angela McShane, "Jolly Good Ale and Old: Or, Were Early Modern People Perpetually Drunk?" *The Recipes Project*, 20 September 2016, recipes.hypotheses.org/8385.

9. "Student Posts," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/credits/student-posts; "Undergraduate Research Series," *The Recipes Project*, accessed 18 June 2019, recipes.hypotheses.org/thematic-series/undergraduate-research-series. As an asthmatic, I was particularly intrigued by Joanna Cunningham's post on ancient asthma cures and found it to have been as well written as any of the other posts I read on this site, attesting to the high quality of the student work the editors choose to include. Joanna Cunningham, "Ancient Cures for Asthma: Do They Really Work?" *The Recipes Project*, 13 November 2018, recipes.hypotheses.org/12816.

recipes. While the interface is a bit clunky, the project itself is remarkably robust and has been publishing consistently for seven years, making it likely that *The Recipes Project* will continue to be a useful resource for scholars working with historical recipes in the years to come.

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**Hooks, Adam G., and Zachary Lesser, project leads.**
**Shakespeare Census.**
University of Pennsylvania Libraries and the Price Digital Humanities Lab, 2018. Accessed 26 June 2019.
shakespearecensus.org.

**Stapleton, Michael, project lead.**
**SHAKEDSETC.ORG. Other.**
Accessed 26 June 2019.
shakedsetc.org.

More than any other subfield of literary studies, archival bibliography has been transformed over the past twenty years by the adoption of digital methods. Even if (as we often hear) the move from "humanities computing" to the "digital humanities" (hereafter DH) was understood to be a move away from such strictly textual concerns, certain facets of humanities computing—the archiving, retrieval, and descriptive cataloguing of textual objects—have utterly upended the field in a way that seems shocking when compared with the disciplinary impact of DH more broadly. The outsized impact of digital methods on bibliography is perhaps at its clearest when we look at the early, foundational DH work of Jerome McGann as an exemplary case. In the case of McGann, his capacious but focused Rossetti Archive and its critical-analytic tools have outperformed and been wildly more influential than his Ivanhoe game, which was itself an attempt to develop digital methods away from the labour of "sorting, accessing, and disseminating large bodies of materials."[1] Rather

1. Jerome McGann, "The Ivanhoe Game," accessed 26 June 2019, www2.iath.virginia.edu/jjm2f/old/Igamesummaryweb.htm.