

**Narratology in Early Modern Medical Manuscripts:
The Case of London, Wellcome Library, MS 213**

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Abstract

It has been argued that narrative elements can be found throughout the history of English scientific writing. Narratives can be linked to specific genres; thus, learned texts for medical doctors were different from those directed to lay audiences (Taavitsainen 2022). This article sets out to analyse a specific type of medical narrative, that of recipe collections, focusing for the purpose on the text housed in London, Wellcome Library, MS 213. The manuscript dates from the beginning of the seventeenth century (1606, more specifically) and gathers recipes “experienced and tryed by the speciall practize of Mrs Corlyon” (Moorat 1962-1973).¹ The codex belonged to Alethea Howard (née Talbot), countess of Arundel, and seems to have been a wedding gift from her mother-in-law (Leong and Pennell 2007: 141). The main aim of the study is to identify and examine narrative forms and functions as well as particular features in the collection of recipes held in MS Wellcome 213, which can contribute to the knowledge of recipes written by (and for) women during the Early Modern period.

Keywords: Early Modern English, medicine, MS Wellcome 213, recipe collection, women writing.

References

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¹ This has been taken from the database description of the Library Catalogue of the Wellcome Collection, available at <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/u3w8qbrt>.

Taavitsainen, Irma. 2022. Narratives from 1375 to 1800 in Medical and Scientific Writing: Forms and Functions. Paper delivered at the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) Conference 2022 Mainz, 29 August-2 September 2022, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.