

Trew made himself known as an able medical practitioner, teacher of anatomy and botany, collector in natural history, editor of one of the first medical periodicals—the *Commercium litterarium*—and of magnificently illustrated botanical works (see also my notice of T Schnalke [ed.], *Natur im Bild in Med. Hist.* 1996, 40: 529). His surviving correspondence, a total of 4,831 letters to him and 873 from him, was linked to a large extent to these activities. Schnalke has selected for his study five representative correspondences, in which Trew entertained dialogues with a medical professor (Albrecht von Haller), a court surgeon (Carl Friedrich Gladbach), a court physician (Johann Lorenz Ludwig Loelius), a *Physicus*, i.e. medical officer (Christian Albrecht Gotthold Gruner), and an academic surgeon (Johann Cristoph May).

A number of issues that are characteristic of Enlightenment medicine feature in these letters, e.g. the introduction of smallpox inoculation, difficulties in the procurement of corpses for anatomical study, and the trade in anatomical preparations. More important, however, is the insight into the personal and professional relations between the different types of medical men exemplified by Trew's correspondents. Haller became for Trew the critical authority in anatomical and botanical matters. As a young physician in Berne, Haller had initially sought contact with the established Nuremberg doctor and naturalist. However, soon after Haller's appointment to a professorship in Göttingen in 1736, Trew could not keep pace with him in scientific research, and the balance of power between the two shifted. Interestingly, Trew had previously rejected the offer of a chair at the new university of Göttingen, made to him by the Hanoverian court through its surgeon Gladbach. Despite his elevated occupation and the fact that he had studied and travelled with Trew, Gladbach was hardly accepted by the Nuremberg doctor as a scholarly correspondent: the status difference between academic physician and surgeon was not overcome. By contrast, Trew communicated

extensively and at the same level with the physician Loelius at the Ansbach court. As a non-resident personal physician to the same court, Trew was frequently consulted by his colleague. In the patronage relationship between (noble) patient and doctor, Trew's geographical distance from the court rather enhanced his medical authority. Patients' estimation of his medical advice "from a distance" is likewise reflected in his consultations with the younger *Physicus* Gruner in Gräfenberg near Nuremberg. Perhaps the most remarkable of the five correspondences studied by Schnalke is that with May, an apprenticeship-trained surgeon, who had been taught anatomy by Trew in Nuremberg and then went to Strasbourg, where he made an academic career as a surgical teacher, prosector, and demonstrator of anatomy. In various ways May was aided in his career by Trew as well as by the Strasbourg professors of anatomy and surgery Johann Jacob Salzmann and Heinrich Albert Nicolai. May, who became a member of the Paris Académie des Sciences, can be seen as a prime example of the "academic rise of surgery". Yet his case also shows that this depended not only on the personal ability and ambition of surgeons, but also on the support of academic physicians.

On the whole, Schnalke's analysis of Trew's medical correspondence provides a differentiated picture both of physician-surgeon and of physician-physician relations in the eighteenth century. Communication was widespread and sometimes intense, yet without erasing differences in status. It is to be hoped that this careful work will serve as a model for further studies into the various relations between eighteenth-century healers.

**Andreas-Holger Maehle,**  
University of Durham

**Detlef Haberland,** *Engelbert Kaempfer 1651–1716: a biography*, trans. Peter Hogg, London, The British Library, 1996, pp. vii, 158, illus., £35.00, \$70.00 (0-7123-4503-5).

## Book Reviews

This compact and lucid biography tells the story of the man subsequently known as the “Humboldt of the seventeenth century”, on account of his extensive travels and contribution to the study of geography. If anyone deserves this accolade then it was certainly Engelbert Kaempfer (1651–1716), who made extensive notes and sketches of the topography, arts and manufactures of the countries of Asia, and particularly of Russia, Persia and Japan. But this label serves merely to highlight one facet of Kaempfer’s remarkable, peripatetic career. Besides being a geographer, Kaempfer wrote extensively on the political and natural history of the countries he visited, as well as on the practice of medicine, in which he earned his living.

Kaempfer was born in the Westphalian town of Lemgo, the son of a Lutheran pastor, who encouraged him in the study of the humanities and natural history. After studying a range of subjects (including medicine) at the universities of Krakow, Königsberg and Uppsala, Kaempfer left the latter to find employment with a Swedish commercial legation bound for Russia and Persia. In Persia, Kaempfer left the legation and joined the Dutch East India Company, working for several years as a surgeon in the port of Hormuz. Brief sojourns in India and Batavia were followed by residence in Japan (1690–92), where Kaempfer was physician at the Dutch factory at Deshima. During this time, he collected notes for a political and natural history of Japan which was published posthumously from among his manuscript collection, purchased by Sir Hans Sloane. This work—translated into several languages—attracted a wide audience and established Kaempfer’s place in the pantheon of travellers and natural historians.

By contrast, the works published during Kaempfer’s lifetime seem to have made little impact. Yet it is perhaps these very works—his Leiden doctoral dissertation (published 1694) and his *Amoenitatum exoticarum politico-physico-medicarum fasciculi* (1712)—which are likely to interest modern scholars, in that they contain Kaempfer’s sympathetic descriptions

of Japanese medicine, particularly the practices of acupuncture and moxibustion. The Japanese were just as eager to learn of the latest developments in European medicine. Indeed, the experiences of Kaempfer, and of contemporaries such as François Bernier in India, show that medicine provided one of the most important cultural bridges between the cultures of Asia and Europe—the significance of which we are only just beginning to realize.

**Mark Harrison**, Sheffield Hallam University

**Francis Maddison and Emilie Savage-Smith**, *Science, tools and magic, Part One. Body and spirit, mapping the universe*; **Emilie Savage-Smith** with contributions from Ralph Pinder-Wilson and Tim Stanley, *Part Two. Mundane worlds*, The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art, vol. 12, London, The Nour Foundation in association with Azimuth Editions and Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. 439, illus., £185.00 (0-19-7276105).

This volume both illustrates splendidly items in a magnificent collection of Islamic art and provides the highest level of scholarly commentary on these items. The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art “documents”, as its owner states in the Foreword, “the artistic achievements of the Islamic world”. This two-part volume stands apart in being devoted to items which, though often incidentally beautiful and well-crafted, are primarily functional, and documents the high achievements in science and technology of that world. The aim is not to indicate (as is often done) how the Islamic world contributed to Western European culture, but rather to place the objects within a specifically Islamic society—a society in which (in common with contemporary European culture) magic and science commingled. The subjects covered include anatomy, medicine (*materia medica*, general medicine, surgery and prophetic medicine), cupping glasses, alchemical equipment, magic-medicinal bowls (including porcelain examples made in China with Arabic