



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

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**UNIVERSITÄT
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STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS

14
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2023
5.00 pm CET

EARLY 17TH-CENTURY PHYSICIANS AND THE “PEREGRINATIO ACADEMICA”

THE CASE OF JOHANN SCHRECK TERRENTIUS (1576-1630)

NOËL GOLVERS • Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Johann Schreck, was born in Bingen and was educated as a physician in Freiburg. Afterwards he studied in Basel, tutoring students with chymiatric experiments. Already in early 1604, during a 2-year visit to Paris, he was considered as one of the best contemporary chymiatrists. Further studies in Padua (1604), probably with Acquapendente (and Galileo), continued by a ‘peregrinatio academica’ throughout Europe, searching for the (truth on) ‘lapis

philosophicus’, collecting medical books, distilling at German courts, producing chemical recipes and making personal contacts with, people such as Alstein, Crollius, Duchesne, and Mosanus. In 1609 - 11 in Rome in the Accademia dei Lincei, he perfected his medical practice with Johann Faber in Roman hospitals, with farmacist and botanists; from there he had contacts with Cinzio Clementi, Santorio Santorio, Petrus Poterius,

and others. In this lecture I shall explore Terentius’ medical profile which was part of a more holistic education, in the ‘encyclopedic’ tradition (Lull, Ramus, etc.), also with a strong mathematical component and his journeys. Terentius’ medical baggage comprised, apart from medicinal botany, also mineralogy and thermalism, the therapeutic application of opium and an active interest in quantitative medicine; he was the first to describe emphysema. Since 1618 he lived in China, where he translated some European medical (and mathematical) works in Chinese, before he died in 1630, during a pharmaceutical experiment with a *sudorificum*.