

MEDICINE AND THE BODY IN THE RENAISSANCE



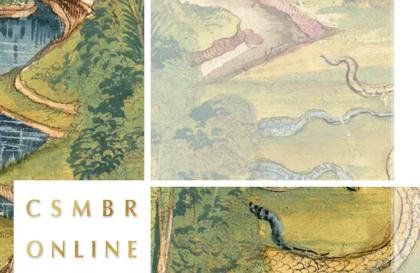
















## WRITING CIVIL AND NATURAL HISTORIES ON THE ISLAND OF AMBON

GENRE AND NARRATIVE IN THE WORK OF GEORG EBERHARD RUMPHIUS (1627-1702)

DÁNIEL MARGÓCSY • University of Cambridge

George Eberhard Rumphius is arguably whose printing was delayed because of the most important natural historian of the early modern Dutch colonial archipelago, East India Company. Rumphius' writings whose works defined the medicinal botany of Indonesia for the following three hundred years. This talk offers an overview of his extensive writings and publications Maluku from the period. We examine the that started with histories and geographies of the East Indonesian archipelago of translate the Hikayat tanah hitu, and Maluku and ended with the posthumous publication of the Herbarium amboinense,

the censorial intervention of the Dutch were heavily influenced by the Muslim Imam Ridjali, whose Hikayat tanah hitu is the only surviving local account of reasons why Rumphius decided to present this translation as his own, credible account of the development of society on Ambon. It is argued that there were significant resonances between the religious and philosophical worldviews of Rumphius and the religious and philosophical worldviews of Imam Ridjali. I suggest that the seventeenth-century Indonesian archipelago saw the concurrent development of Reformed Christian thinking amongst Dutch colonisers and reformist Islamic movements within Muslim elites. Significantly, Rumphius' approach to medicinal healing was determined by these religious and philosophical considerations and debates.