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edited by Michele Camerota, Alessandro Ottaviani, and Oreste Trabucco, Roma, Bardi edizioni editore commerciale, 2021, pp. 548, € 35 (hardback), ISBN 9788821812149

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BOOK REVIEW

***Lynceorum historia:* le 'schede lincee' di Martin Fogel**, edited by Michele Camerota, Alessandro Ottaviani, and Oreste Trabucco, Roma, Bardi edizioni editore commerciale, 2021, pp. 548, € 35 (hardback), ISBN 9788821812149

Lynceorum Historia: Le 'Schede Lincee' di Martin Fogel is a significant contribution to the scholarly understanding of the Lyncean Academy (Accademia dei Lincei) and its reception in Europe during the second half of the seventeenth century. Compiled between 1663 and 1675 by the German scholar and physician Martin Fogel (1632–1675), it was intended to be a comprehensive history of the renowned Roman scientific institution, which boasted among its members personalities such as Giambattista Della Porta and Galileo Galilei. Fogel's efforts were deeply influenced by his mentor, Joachim Jungius, a prominent Lutheran reformer of knowledge, who had shown interest in the Roman academy during his studies in Padua, where, in 1619, he graduated in medicine. Despite Fogel's other publications, including a biography of his teacher titled *Historia Vitae et Mortis Joachimi Jungi* (1658), Fogel never sent his *Lynceorum historia* to the press. Tragedy struck in 1675 when Fogel died at the young age of 41. Consequently, his carefully prepared work remained unpublished. What endures is the wealth of information gathered by Fogel, presented here in the form of extensive excerpts. The publication is a part of the PRIN 2015 project, titled 'Galileo's Science and Myth in Europe between the 17th and 19th Centuries', and is published by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in a series dedicated to the history of the academy.

The book is divided into five sections: two introductory essays, the critically commented edition of Fogel's excerpta, and two appendices. The first introductory essay (pp. 17–107), titled 'Martin Fogel storico dell'Accademia dei Lincei' (Martin Fogel: Historian of the Lyncean Academy) by historian of science Michele Camerota, delves into the context in which Fogel conceived and developed his project. It explores both the network that the German physician established to gather the necessary information for his historiographical endeavour and the interest the material he collected on the Lyncean Academy sparked among later scholars.

The second essay (pp. 109–165), titled 'Come lavorava Fogel' (How Fogel Worked), by historian of philosophy Oreste Trabucco, examines Fogel's working methods. This analysis includes how his excerpts were organized, comparing them to a series of similar documents in the archive of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. These files originated from the library of Cassiano Dal Pozzo, who had collected the papers of the institution after Cesi's death. After Cassiano's demise, the collection passed to his brother, whom Fogel visited in Rome, where he studied and copied the papers. This comparison between the two collections allows for a better evaluation of Fogel's use of these sources and how he processed the information. Additionally, Fogel's original investigation emerges from this comparison, revealing previously unknown material and unedited information obtained through his research in Roman libraries, contacts, and interviews with other mediators or witnesses. One notable figure in this network was the nephew of Francesco Stelluti, librarian Carlo Annibale Stelluti (referenced on pp. 146–149), whom Fogel met during his grand tour (1662–1666) across Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany. Throughout these years, Fogel

established numerous friendships, forming a network that enabled him to continue his search and collection of information until the end of his brief life.

Following these two essays, the book presents the critical edition with explanatory notes of Fogel's excerpts related to the historiographical project (pp. 157–443). Fogel, a polyglot with a curious mind, had diverse interests ranging from experiments, botany, geography, medicine, history, linguistics, logic, didactics, to numismatics (pp. 38–52). He amassed a library of 3,600 volumes, a treasure that Gottlieb Wilhelm Leibniz coveted. After Fogel's death, Leibniz persuaded the Duke of Hannover to purchase this collection for 2,000 thalers (p. 53). Leibniz was particularly intrigued by Fogel's excerpta collection and the method he employed. Fogel adopted a data record and management system, known as *ars excerpendi*, a method of compiling interconnected notes from readings and observations, a skill mastered by his teacher Jungius and the professors of the Gymnasium Hamburgense, where Fogel also taught. Fogel's collection of excerpta comprised 32,500 items. After Fogel's death, Leibniz borrowed these files from Fogel's family, never returning them. Consequently, Fogel's files are now housed in the Gottlieb Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek of Hannover (Ibid.).

Each section of Fogel's files-collection is organized by topic and assigned a letter of the Greek alphabet, from alpha to omega. The section containing files related to the Lynceorum Historia is categorized under the letter omikron. Within this section, Camerota edited files omikron 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, and 15, while Alessandro Ottaviani edited file omikron 10, and Trabucco edited omikron 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17. Trabucco is also responsible for all the transcriptions and the section about the editorial rules placed at the beginning of this section.

Additionally, the book includes two appendices. Appendix A (pp. 445–507), edited by Michele Camerota, compiles 18 unpublished letters sent by Fogel to his acquaintances in Italy: Francesco Redi, Carlo Dati, Antonio Magliabechi, and Athanasius Kircher. Appendix B (pp. 509–519) features the 1675 eulogy of Martin Fogel written by Michael Kirsten, edited in this volume by Alessandro Ottaviani.

The *Lynceorum Historia* not only offers scholars a profound insight into the processes of recollection and information organization during the seventeenth century, shedding light on the construction and circulation of knowledge in the Republic of Letters and on the history of the Lyncean Academy, but it also provides a valuable perspective on how a contemporary scholar perceived the significance of experimental academies. Martin Fogel was acutely aware of drafting a work that would captivate the most innovative minds of his time, evident from his interactions with members of the burgeoning experimental academies, namely the short-lived Accademia del Cimento of Florence (1657–1667), the Royal Society of London (established in 1660), and the Académie Royale de Science of Paris (established in 1666).

One of the remarkable aspects of the book is its contextualization of Fogel's work within the broader scientific landscape of his time. In Florence, Fogel cultivated correspondence and friendships with notable figures such as Antonio Magliabechi, Francesco Redi, and Carlo Dati, a member of the Accademia del Cimento. Redi, though perhaps not directly affiliated with the Accademia del Cimento, was engaged in experimental activities at the Medici court. In his seminal work *Esperienze intorno alla generazione degli insetti* (1668, p. 160), Redi referred to Martin Fogel as his 'grandissimo amico' (p. 22). In Paris, Melchisédech Thévenot, the royal librarian deeply immersed in courtly networks interested in the new scientific developments and later a member of the Académie Royale des Sciences, extended an offer to Fogel to have his *Lynceorum historia* printed by the French royal press. Fogel declined this generous offer, however, choosing instead to oversee the entire editorial process in Hamburg

(p. 23). Unfortunately, his untimely demise halted the realization of this ambitious project in its final stages.

The keen interest of renowned figures such as Robert Boyle and Henry Oldenburg, the secretary of the Royal Society, in Fogel's historiographical endeavour is also documented in the book. The secretary of the Royal Society maintained correspondence with Fogel (pp. 17–18). Fogel firmly believed that the *Lynceographicum*, the set of rules designed by Cesi for his institution, which he planned to publish in his *Lynceorum historia*, could serve as a valuable framework to reshape the Royal Society of London, as he communicated to Oldenburg (p. 22). This historical context underscores the importance Fogel attributed to his work, envisioning it not only as a record of the past but also as a catalyst for shaping the future of scientific institutions.

The anticipation surrounding Fogel's historiographic work highlights the growing significance of historical narratives in the realm of early modern science. Despite Fogel's *Lynceorum historia* never seeing publication, the mere revelation of its existence played a crucial role. It prompted actors within the experimental academies of the time to perceive themselves within a broader historical movement and context, one that was in direct continuity with the esteemed Roman institution. The news of Fogel's project, as promoted in the *Philosophical Transactions* (pp. 17–21), served as a catalyst. It made European academicians of the era cognizant that they were, in a way, fulfilling Federico Cesi's vision for future research. Cesi had dreamed of the Lyncean Academy serving as a model for scientific academies to be established in nations worldwide, something that did eventually come to pass.

From this perspective, it appears that Fogel himself recognized the rational and experimental academy of his teacher, the *Societas Ereunetica* (founded in 1622 in Rostock–pp. 67–78), as a crucial link between the historical legacy of the Lyncean Academy and the emergent experimental academies of his own era. It emerges from the German physician's historiographical project that this interconnectedness of historical traditions was perceived as providing a foundation upon which the scientific endeavours of Fogel's time were built, contributing to the evolution of scientific thought and institutions.

Fogel's *Lynceorum historia* was originally planned as a two-volume work. The first volume was intended to encompass a general history of the academy along with the *Lynceographicum*. Following this, the second volume was meant to compile the biographies of the academy's members. This ambitious project, especially the endeavour to collect existing biographies of Galileo, slowed down the publication considerably. Galileo was slated to occupy a central position in this second volume. As Fogel meticulously worked on documenting the life of the Pisan philosopher, he attempted to gather all existing biographical information about Galileo (p. 26). Understandably, the challenges in obtaining these materials hindered Fogel from publishing his *Lynceorum historia* at an earlier date. As a separate consequence, Camerota claims that the aborted publication of Fogel's *Lynceorum historia* obscured from the public view how Galileo, a proponent of the physical-mathematical method, was situated within an academy whose prevailing epistemology still adhered to a programme typical of Renaissance naturalism (p. 106).

Written in Italian, this scholarly publication includes extensive citations in Latin, French, and other languages. In line with the tradition of Italian academia, it does not offer translations, rendering it an exclusive product for experts. The editing of the book is well done, with minimal errors noted (such as a typo on p. 105 where the Italian word for academy lacks a 'c'). A small number of black and white images, mainly of excerpts and titlepages, illustrates the book. The index of names provided at the end delivers a valuable tool for researchers. Regrettably, the book lacks a

general bibliography. Instead, all references are dispersed throughout the footnotes spanning 500 pages, which might pose a challenge for readers seeking a consolidated list of sources.

Lynceorum Historia's great contribution is to reveal the practice of historiography of scientific institutions during this transformative period. Fogel's experience offers a wonderful case study in the *ars excerpendi*, a methodical data compilation technique becoming increasingly relevant in early modern European scholarship.

Nota Personalis: Fogel is primarily known to linguists as the father of Finno-Ugric studies, having prepared for Prince Cosimo, the future Grand Duke Cosimo III of Tuscany, an essay titled 'De Finnicae linguae indole observationes' (1664–1669). However, Fogel also acted as an agent for Cosimo III until the end of his life (1675). Last year, while searching for letters related to the turner Johann Philipp Treffler, employed at the Medici court during the years of the Accademia del Cimento, I unexpectedly stumbled upon a correspondence between Cosimo III and Fogel that is relevant to scholars interested in Martin Fogel (Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato, folder 4491).

In Spring 1675, the very year of Fogel's death, Cosimo III asked the German scholar to help him arrange with the Government of the City of Hamburg for the departure of Anna Caterina Sanghers, the wife of Philipp Sanghers (also known as Sängers, Sangers, and Sangher), who was personal turner to Cosimo III in Florence. According to these letters, Philipp Saghers's art was one of the main pleasures of Cosimo III. In February 1675, however, when Sanghers's wife, still in Germany, experienced a miscarriage, she fell into a depression and refused to join her husband in Florence. Consequently, Sanghers became depressed and wished to leave his post to personally retrieve his wife. But the Grand Duke, who had some secrets regarding the art of turning taught to Sangher, did not grant him the right to leave.

To resolve this impasse, Cosimo III started writing several letters to the Burgomaster and to the Senate of Hamburg to organize Anna Caterina's voyage. He also wrote to Martin Fogel, who had to represent Cosimo's wishes to the Government of the city, and also to talk to Anna Caterina herself to convince her to leave and to speed up her departure. To the great satisfaction of Cosimo, Fogel was successful. Moreover, he sent the Grand Duke a naturalistic essay, mainly written by him, on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen (30th of June 1675). The essay included 'una esatta descrizione della Balena, degli Uccelli, e delle Piante che vi si trivano' (an exact description of the whale, birds, and plants that one can find there).

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