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The Edition Open Sources Project. Towards a critical edition of Antonio Vallisneri's manuscript *Primi Itineris Specimen* (1705)

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EOS (www.edition-open-sources.org) is a pioneering project in the field of scholarly publishing, which aims to edit and publish open access, peer reviewed critical editions of primary sources in the history of science. As EOS Postdoctoral Fellow, I am working towards an edition of Antonio Vallisneri's *Primi Itineris per Montes Specimen Physico-Medicum* (Vallisneri, 1705): a manuscript containing a wide array of geological, biological, historical, and technical data, including two maps of the Tuscan region of Garfagnana. Vallisneri, a major figure of his time in the field of medical and natural sciences (Generali, 2007; Luzzini, 2008, 2011a, 2011b, 2013), wrote this report after a journey he made in the Northern Apennines. This experience allowed him to support his theory on the meteoric origin of springs with conclusive empirical information, exposed in the *Lezione Accademica intorno all'Origine delle Fontane* (Vallisneri, 1715).

The *Primi Itineris Specimen* can be considered by all means as a precious document for the history of science in Europe. As far as we know, it is one of the earliest and most well-documented attempts to define an experimental and systematic approach to naturalistic explorations, offering a valuable insight into the requirements, criteria, and purposes to which field research should conform, according to a natural philosopher of the early eighteenth century. Once published in the EOS series, the manuscript will give a significant contribution in showing how experimental data and theories in the early modern period interacted and shaped the development of several main scientific, philosophical, social, and religious debates: the discovering of deep-time, the comprehension of geological phenomena, the perception of man's place in nature, the search for new therapeutics, the tormented – though fertile and charming – relationship between science and religion.

The edition will be complemented by an interactive map of the itinerary, with access to different data such as pictures, bibliographical references and sources, and links to related websites.

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