



„So long, and thanks for all the fish“: Reflections on Early Modern Natural History

Master Class with Prof. Anthony Grafton (Princeton), Basel - 02.11.2018

In this class, we will examine documents created by two sixteenth century experts on natural history, Conrad Gessner and John Caius, as they exchanged information about animals and fish. I will present the group with a series of texts (in Latin, with translations) and images, and we will work through them systematically. One goal of the exercise will be to establish the ways in which the two men went about making knowledge about nature – and, more specifically, the ways in which they identified reliable sources for natural knowledge. As background reading I would suggest. Another will be to ask questions about the nature of philology as a method for making knowledge about the natural world.

Anthony Thomas Grafton is one of the foremost historians of early modern Europe and the current Henry Putnam University Professor at Princeton University. He was awarded with the Balzan Prize for History of the Humanities.

When: Friday, 2nd November 2018 - 9.30 am - 1.00 pm, Lunch will follow

Where: Department of History, Hirschgässlein 21, 4051 Basel, SR, 1

Registration: <https://bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration> (Deadline: 19.10.18)

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