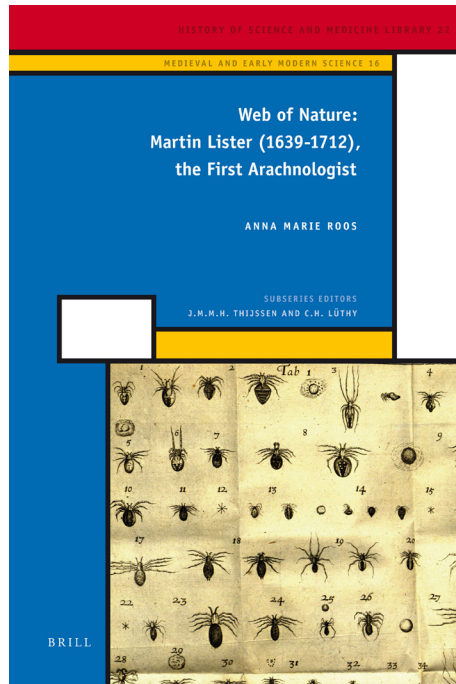


Web of Nature: Martin Lister (1639-1712), the First Arachnologist

Anna Marie Roos



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This first full-length biography of Dr. Martin Lister (1639-1712), vice-president of the Royal Society, Royal Physician, and the first arachnologist and conchologist, provides an unprecedented picture of a seventeenth-century virtuoso. Lister is recognized for his discovery of ballooning spiders and as the father of conchology, but it is less well known that he invented the histogram, provided Newton with alloys, and donated the first significant natural history collections to the Ashmolean Museum. Just as Lister was the first to make a systematic study of spiders and their webs, this biography is the first to analyze the significant webs of knowledge, patronage, and familial and gender relationships that governed his life as a scientist and physician.

Readership: All those interested in biography, early modern English history, the history of medicine, the history of science, and intellectual history, as well as arachnologists, conchologists, and natural historians.

Anna Marie Roos, Ph.D. (1997) in History, University of Colorado, is the Lister Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. She has published extensively on early modern English science including *The Salt of the Earth: Natural Philosophy, Medicine, and Chymistry in England, 1650-1750* (Brill, 2007).



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