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ALLISON LEVY
Digital Scholarship Editor

LIBRARY PUBLISHING FORUM
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Brown University’s Digital Publications Initiative: Advancing Excellence and Innovation
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Current Projects

Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens* (1618) with Scholarly Commentary
Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak, History

Italian Shadows: A Genealogy of Virtual Reality
Massimo Riva, Italian Studies

The Sensory Monastery: Saint-Jean-des-Vignes
Sheila Bonde and Clark Maines, History of Art

Islamic Pasts and Futures: Gazing at Horizons of Time
Shahzad Bashir, Middle East Studies

Nicholas Brown and the Roman Revolution, 1848-1849
David Kertzer, Italian Studies
ATALANTA Fugiens,
hoc est,
EMBLEMATATA NOVA
DE SECRETIS NATURÆ
CHYMICA,
Accommodata partim notulis & intellectu, figuris
cupro incisis, adjechique farrinatis. Epigram-
matis & notis, partim autibus & recreantio
animi plus minus. fugax Muscalibus trium
Vocum, quorum duc ad unam simplicem melo-
diam difficultia cas ascendit, peragram, contro-
decant, non absq; singularei succintute vienda;
legenda, meditanda, intellecta, judicandae,
cenandae & auditanda:

Michael Maiero

OPFENHEIMIT
Ex typographi. Hieronymi Gallery, 
Sumptibus Joh. Theodor. de Betz, 
M DC XVII.
Collection Comparison
Add emblems to your collection to explore similarities and make connections.

Swimming, Dragons, and Mountain Collection

Add Emblems 31, 7, 25 and 50 to Collection

How to Read Atalanta fugiens

Maier was in fact quite explicit about how he thought aspiring chymists should read his book. His title page and author’s epigram point towards the most straightforward horizontal way to approach this book, which is to follow the story of the race, the consummation of Atalanta and Hippomenes and, finally, their ultimate transformation into lions. The book first sets out this theme in the images on the title page. We see the Garden of the Hesperides guarded by a many-headed dragon. Laddor, Versu, Cybeles’s triangle, Atalanta and Hippomenes both during their race and after their transformation into lions, all of which outline the tale to follow.

Chasing Atalanta

Maier, Steganography, and the Secrets of Nature

by Donna Blaze

Atalanta fugiens is a curious work. On the surface, it is a retelling of the story from Ovid’s Metamorphoses about a legendary race between a beautiful huntress named Atalanta and her rival Hippomenes, who wins their contest...