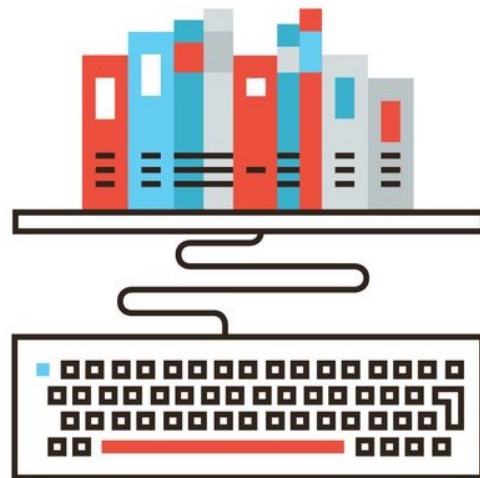
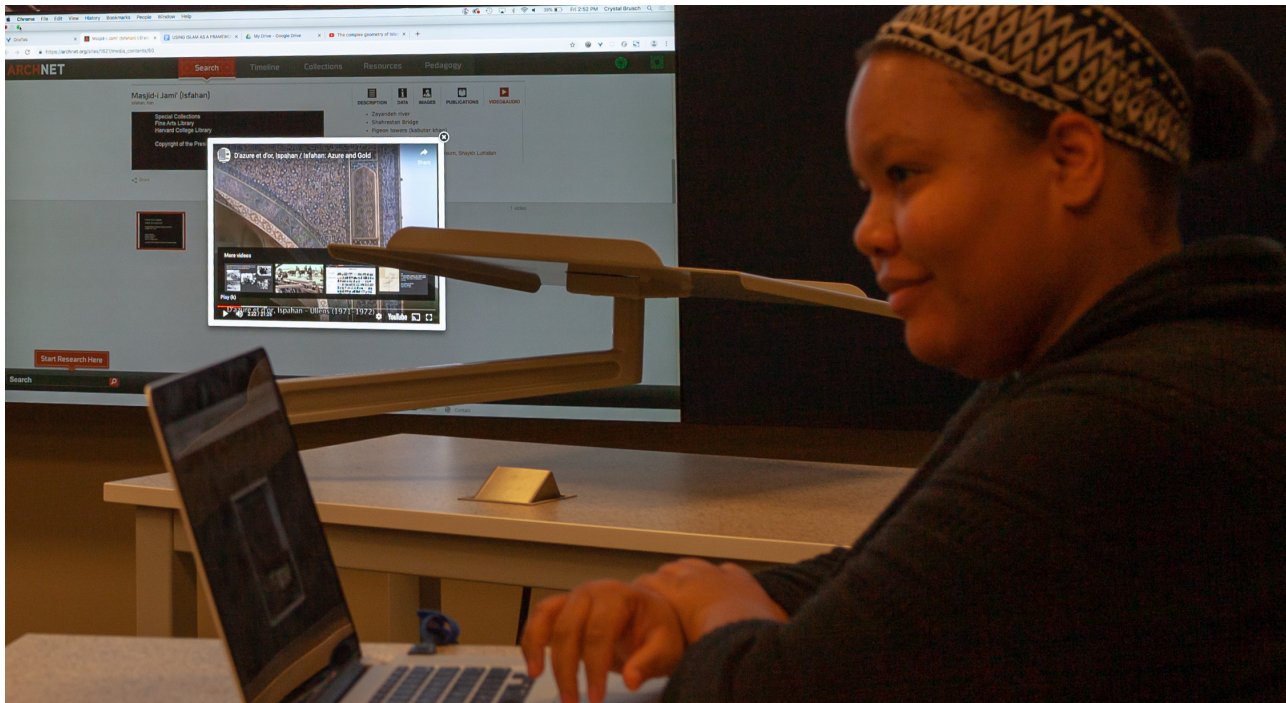


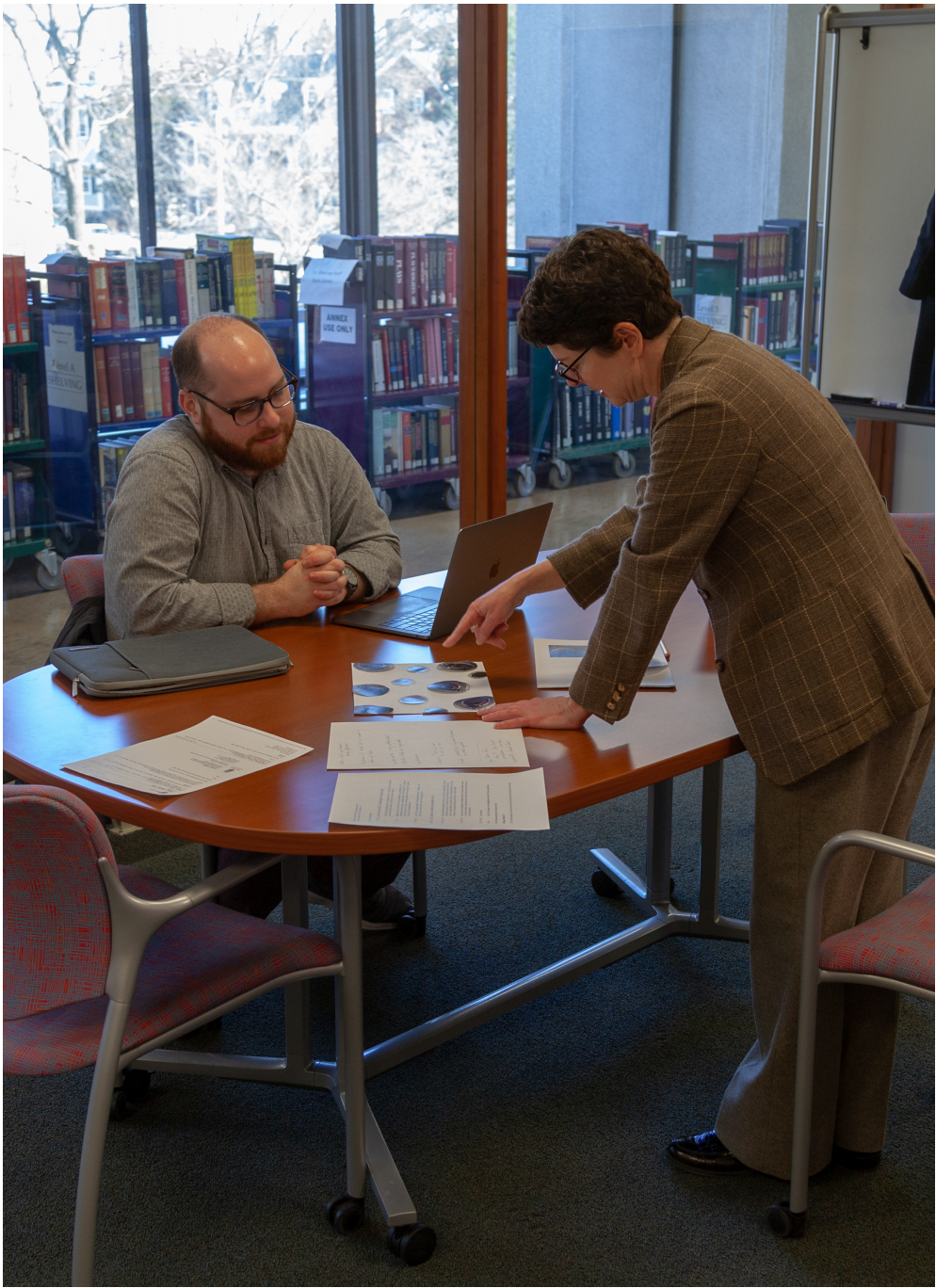
Brown University's Digital Publications Initiative: Advancing Excellence and Innovation in Digital Scholarship



- ❖ *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens*
(University of Virginia Press, July 2020)
Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak
- ❖ *Italian Shadows: A Genealogy of Virtual Reality*
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Sawako Nakayasu









Furnace and Fugue

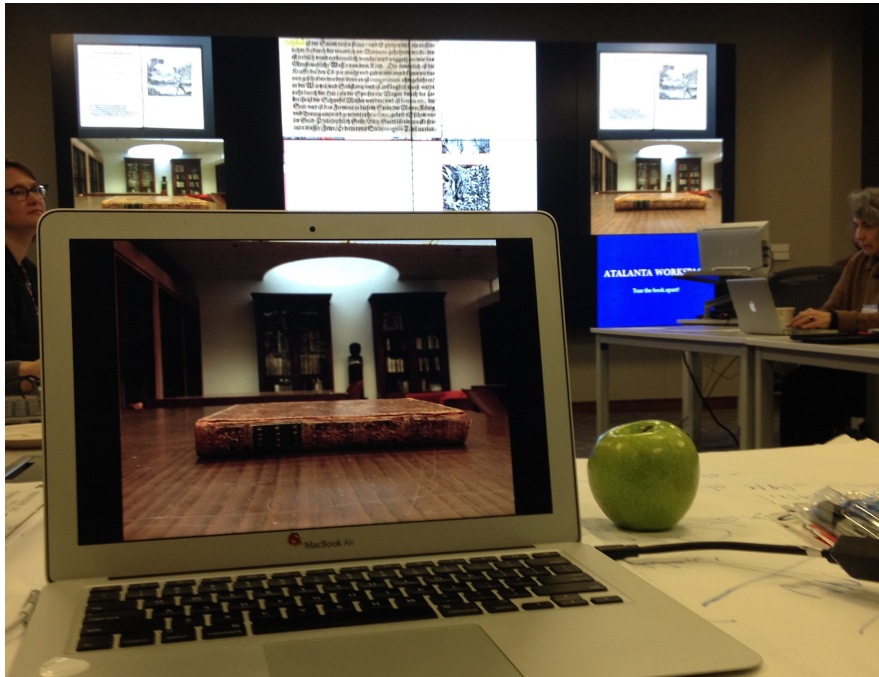
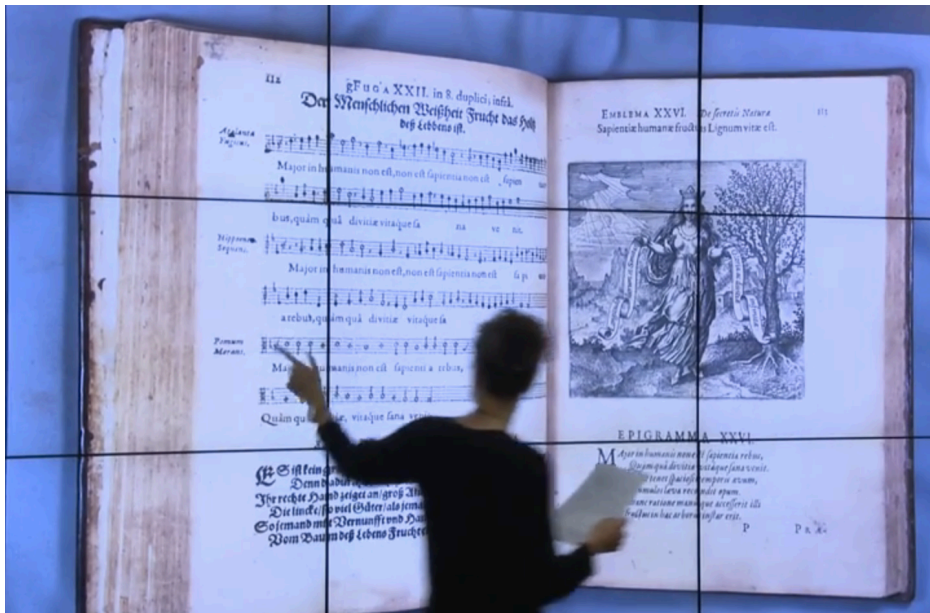
A digital edition of Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens* (1618) with Scholarly Commentary



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read and play the digital edition

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Furnace and Fugue

A digital edition of Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens* (1618) with Scholarly Commentary



How to Read *Atalanta fugiens*

Maier was in fact quite explicit about how he thought aspiring chymists⁴ should read his book. His title page and author's epigram point towards the most straightforward horizontal way to approach the book, which is to follow the story of the race, the consummation of Atalanta and Hippomenes' love and, finally, their ultimate transformation into lions.⁵ 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, Ladon), Venus, Cybele's temple, Atalanta and Hippomenes (both during their race and after their transformation into lions), all of which outline the tale to follow.



ff

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ESSAYS DIGITAL EDITION CONTENTS

Atalanta and Hippomenes disappeared after the opening pages, but perhaps the emblems told a tale of chymical processes instead, a step-by-step series of instructions for making the philosophers' stone.

Maier's readers, in short, may have approached *Atalanta fugiens* with different kinds of expertise and expectations, and this would have produced different kinds of readings and different kinds of lessons. If we envision that our reader has just finished reading and pondering Emblem 11, for example, where might he go from there? Perhaps he would simply flip the page to follow Atalanta and Hippomenes into Emblem 12, reading the emblems "in order." He also might have decided to obey Maier's exhortation to set aside confusing books entirely for the laboratory, putting down *Atalanta fugiens* and stoking a fire instead. On the other hand, this reader may well have chosen to remain within Atalanta

Emblem Collections

Reptiles Collection

Enlarge

Emblem 25

TAGS

Enlarge

Emblem 14

TAGS

Enlarge

Emblem 29

TAGS

Enlarge

Emblem 38

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FUGA XXIX. in 9. seu infra.

Wie der Salamander lebet im Feuer/ also auch der Stein.

Atalanta Fugiens.

Degit in ardenti Salamandra Salamandra potentior

i gue Nec Vulcane tuas affli mat illa minas.

Hippomenes.

Degit in ardenti Salamandra Salaman dra poten-

ti or i gue Nec Vulcane tu as affliat il la mi nas.

Pomum Morans.

Degit in ardenti Salamandra potentior igne

Nec Vulcane tuas affliat il la minas

XXIX. Epigrammatū Latini versio Germanica.

Er Salamander frohlig lebet in starckem Feuer vnverschret/ Vnd Vulcane gang nicht an dem Dräwen sich fehret/ Also auch der Flammen grawsam Entzündung achtet Stein/ Der gebore ist in stetem Feuer der Philosophen Stein/ Der selbe ist löschet auß das Feuer vnd verlost entgeht/ Dieser aber ist heil/ drum in gleicher Hiem sieth.

Play

Hear/mute Atalanta fugiens.

Hear/mute Pomum morans.

Hear/mute Hippomenes sequens.

Show piano roll

Atalanta fugiens.

Pomum morans

Hippomenes sequens.

man - dra, Sa - la - man - dra po - ten -

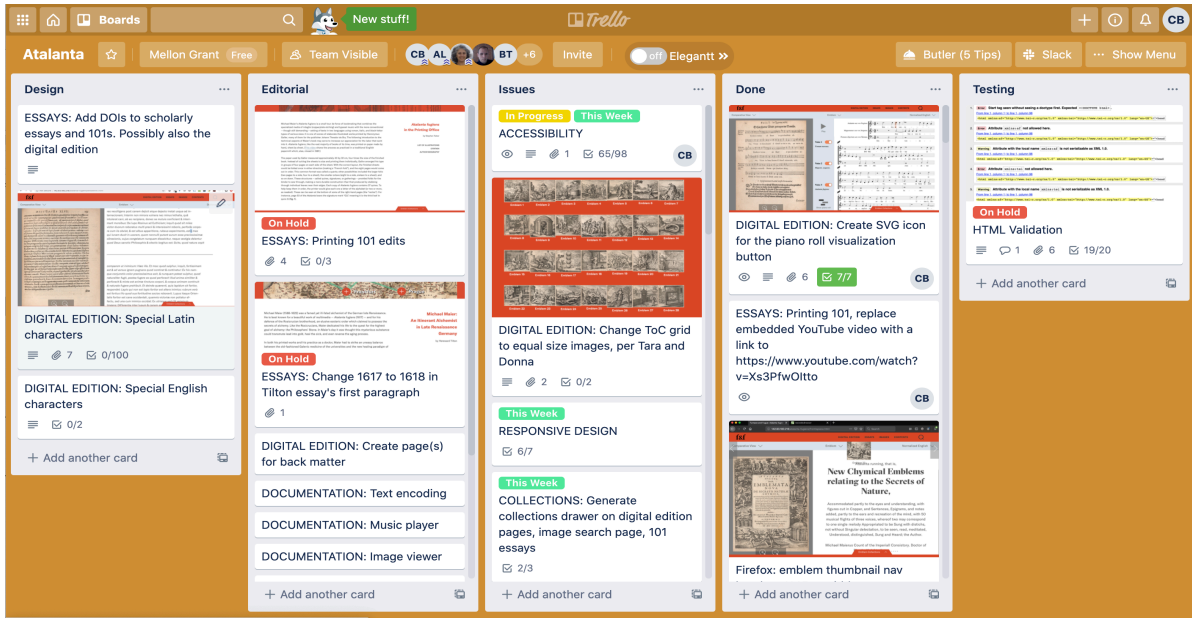
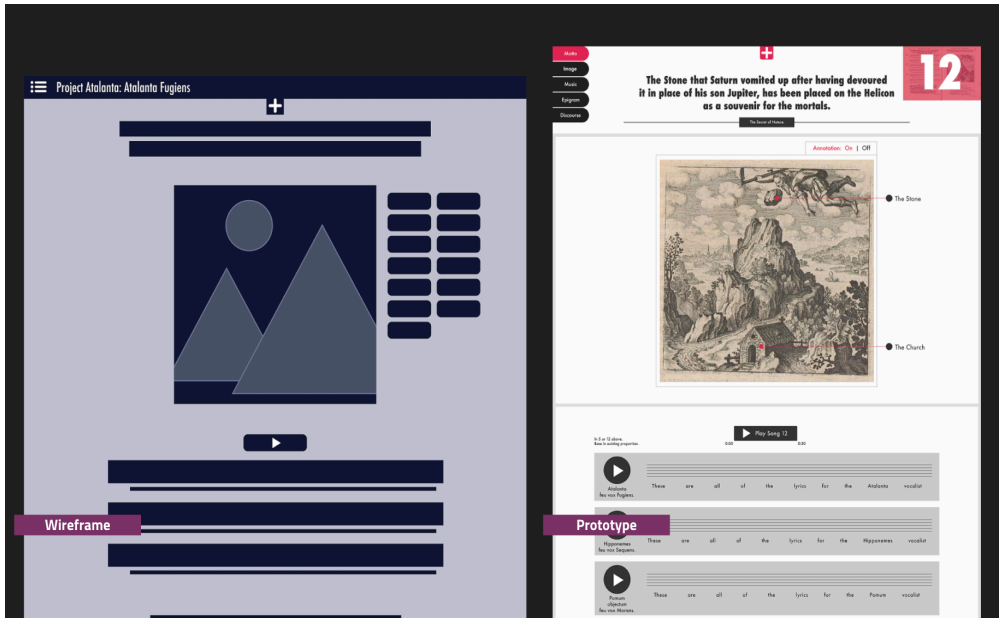
ti Sa - la - man - dra po - ten - ti or

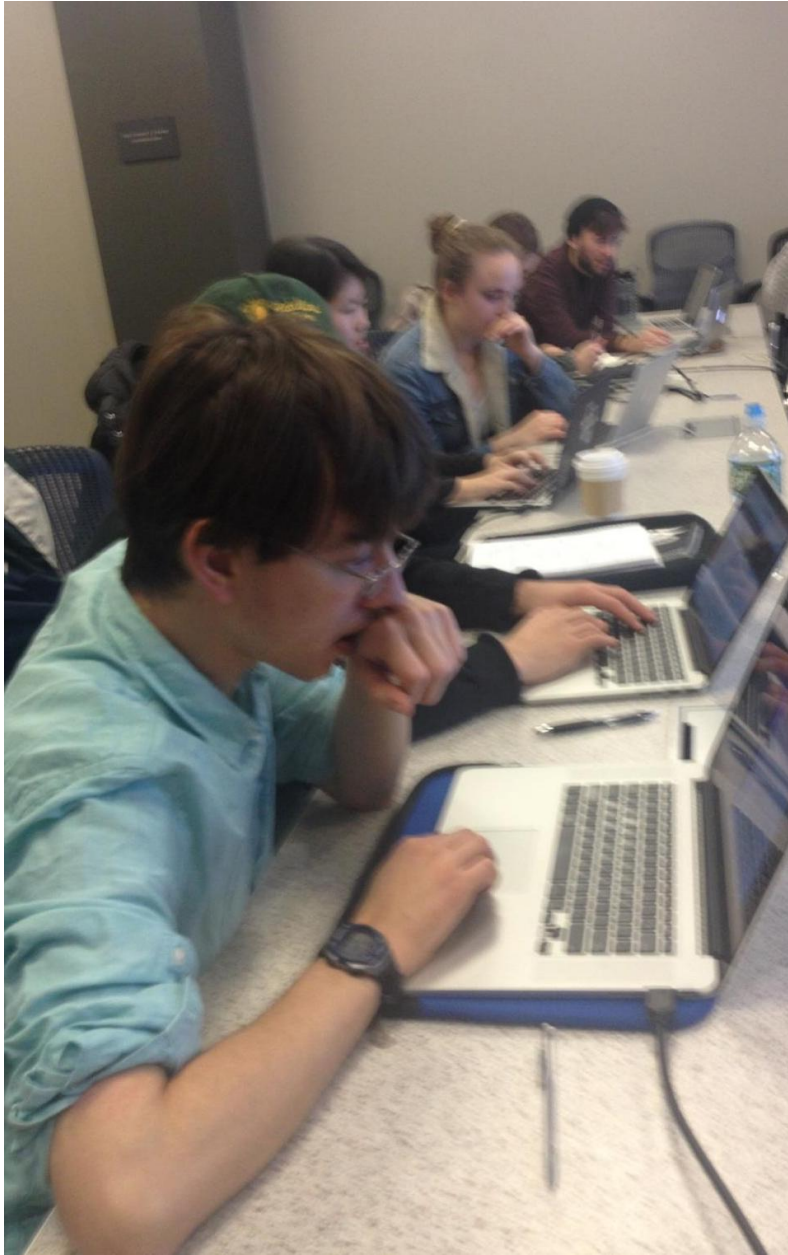
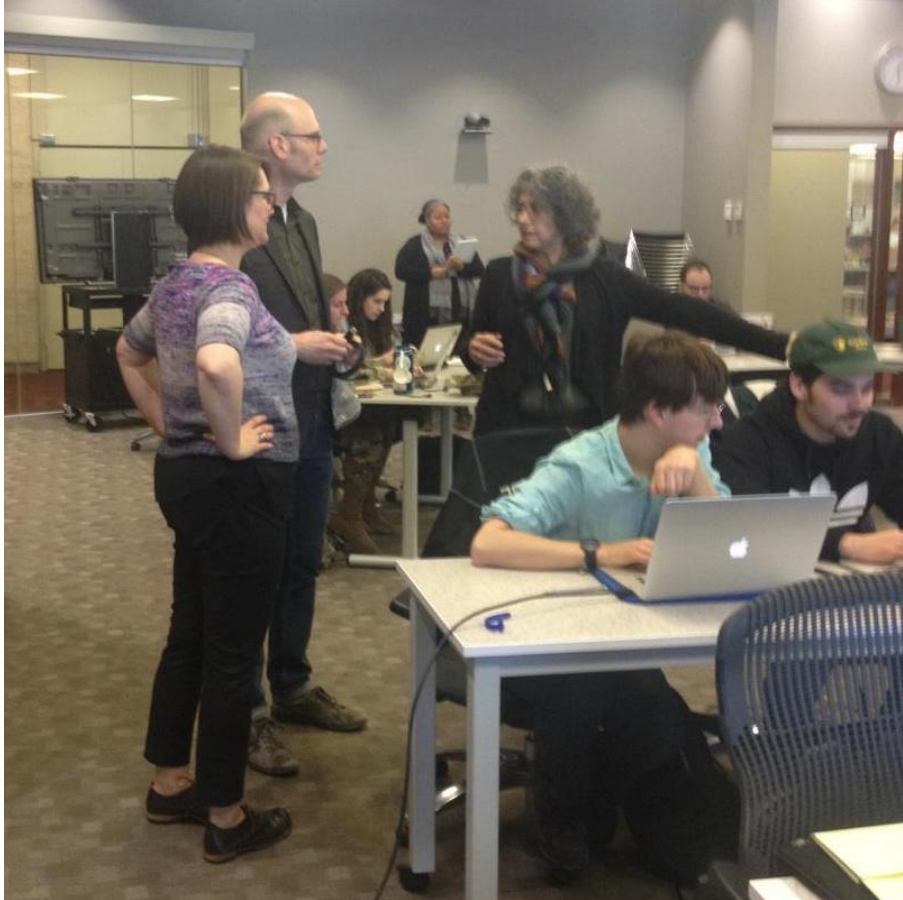
Sa - la - man - dra Sa - la - man - dra

ti or i - gue, Nec Vul - ca - ne tu - as ae -

i - gue, Nec Vul - ca - ne tu - as

po - ten - ti or i - gue, Nec Vul - ca - ne tu -





EDITED BY **TARA NUMMEDAL** AND **DONNA BILAK**

furnace and fugue



Furnace and Fugue

A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens*
(1618) with Scholarly Commentary

Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, and the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Social Science Research Institute at Brown University.

In 1618, on the eve of the Thirty Years' War, the German alchemist and physician Michael Maier published *Atalanta fugiens*, an intriguing and complex musical alchemical emblem book designed to engage the ear, eye, and intellect. The book unfolds as a series of fifty emblems, each of which contains an accompanying “fugue,” music scored for three voices. Historians of alchemy have long understood this virtuoso work as an ambitious demonstration of the art’s literary potential and of the possibilities of the early modern printed book.

Atalanta fugiens lends itself unusually well to today's digital tools. Re-rendering Maier's multimedia alchemical project as an enhanced online publication, *Furnace and Fugue* allows contemporary readers to

JULY
ISBN 978-0-8139-4558-3

hear, see, manipulate, and investigate *Atalanta fugiens* in ways that Maier perhaps imagined but that were impossible to fully realize before now. An interactive, layered digital edition provides accessibility and flexibility, presenting all the elements of the original book along with significant enhancements that allow for deep engagement by specialists and nonspecialists alike.

Three short introductory essays invite readers to get acquainted with early modern alchemy, the printing techniques used for the original book, and Michael Maier. Eight extended interpretive essays explore *Atalanta fugiens* and its place in the history of music, science, print, and visual culture in early modern Europe. These interdisciplinary essays also include interactive features that clarify and advance the authors' arguments while positioning *Furnace and Fugue* as an original, uniquely engaging contribution to our understanding of early modern culture.

Tara Nummedal is Professor of History at Brown University and author of *Anna Zieglerin and the Lion's Blood: Alchemy and End Times in Reformation Germany*.

Donna Bilak is Director and Founder of Twelve Keys Consultancy and Design and adjunct faculty at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study.

STUDIES IN
EARLY MODERN
GERMAN HISTORY

- An innovative open access digital publication
- Fully searchable text in original Latin and German as well as English translation
- High-resolution, zoomable images
- Newly commissioned, manipulable vocal recordings of *Atalanta fugiens*'s music
- Downloadable performance edition featuring modernized musical notation
- Multifunctional space allows users to curate and share their own selection and arrangement of Maier's emblems



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