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Autor: Erne, Lukas

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General Editor's Preface

SPELL (Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature) is a publication of SAUTE, the Swiss Association of University Teachers of English. Established in 1984, it first appeared every second year, was published annually from 1994 to 2008, and now appears three times every two years. Every second year, SPELL publishes a selection of papers given at the biennial symposia organized by SAUTE. Non-symposium volumes are usually collections of papers given at other conferences organized by members of SAUTE, in particular conferences of SANAS, the Swiss Association for North American Studies and, more recently, of SAMEMES, the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies. However, other proposals are also welcome. Decisions concerning topics and editors are made by the Annual General Meeting of SAUTE two years before the year of publication.

Volumes of SPELL contain carefully selected and edited papers devoted to a topic of literary, linguistic and – broadly – cultural interest. All contributions are original and are subjected to external evaluation by means of a full peer review process. Contributions are usually by participants at the conferences mentioned, but volume editors are free to solicit further contributions. Papers published in SPELL are documented in the *MLA International Bibliography*. SPELL is published with the financial support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Information on all aspects of SPELL, including volumes planned for the future, is available from the General Editor, Prof. Lukas Erne, Département de langue et littérature anglaises, Faculté des Lettres, Université de Genève, CH-1211 Genève 4, Switzerland, e-mail: lukas.erne@unige.ch. Information about past volumes of SPELL and about SAUTE, in particular about how to become a member of the association, can be obtained from the SAUTE website at <http://www.saute.ch>.

Lukas Erne

Acknowledgements

The essays in this volume derive from papers originally delivered at the third international conference of the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies, on Literature, Medicine and Science, which took place at the University of Lausanne in June 2012. The essays collected here should give a flavour of the richness and breadth of that interdisciplinary encounter, but we are grateful to all the participants who gathered in Lausanne to make the conference such a rewarding experience. In particular, we would like to thank our guest speakers, Professor Margaret Healy (Sussex), Professor Tony Hunt (Oxford), Professor Jennifer Richards (Newcastle), Professor Heinrich von Staden (Princeton), and Professor Vincent Barras in dialogue with the physician and novelist, Dr Eric Masserey (Lausanne). The conference could not have taken place without the generous support of our academic sponsors: the Swiss National Foundation, the *Fondation du 450^e Anniversaire*, the Faculty of Letters and the English Section of the University of Lausanne. Eva Suarato and Camille Marshall provided invaluable support in organising the conference, and we are infinitely grateful for the long hours and careful thought they put into making sure everything ran smoothly. Our grateful thanks, too, to Philip Lindholm, Georgia Guenzi and Raphael Mayer, for their excellent help with conference organisation and with preparing the index for this volume. Thanks, finally to Lukas Erne for his meticulous general editorship of this series, and to Keith Hewlett for his hawk's eye attention to detail in the copy-editing of these essays.

