

The Niewe Herbal or Historie of Plantes 1578

The library possesses a handsome leather bound first edition of this Herbal which the author Henry Lyte dedicated to Queen Elizabeth. It is a translation from the Dutch Herbal of Rembert Dodoens who was court physician to the Emperor Rudolph II.

The Niewe Herbal includes woodcut illustrations of each plant and an index of their 'vertues'. Lethargie or forgetful sickness can be cured by an "emplaster of mustard and figges...layd upon the heade" and Garlyke "cureth the old cough and healeth blacke and blewe scarres and the bitings of mad Dogges."

The volume is one of the earliest donations and appears on the churchwardens' list of 1599. A handwritten comment states: "This book belonged to the librarie found in Mr Gol' studdie & brought in again by F.P." F.P was Francis Pinner, who died in 1639, and Mr Gol' may be Mr Golding who lived at 3 Chequer Square.

Stephen Dart