‘Herbaries’ and apothecaries: The identification of William Turner’s herbalists in Tudor and Stuart England

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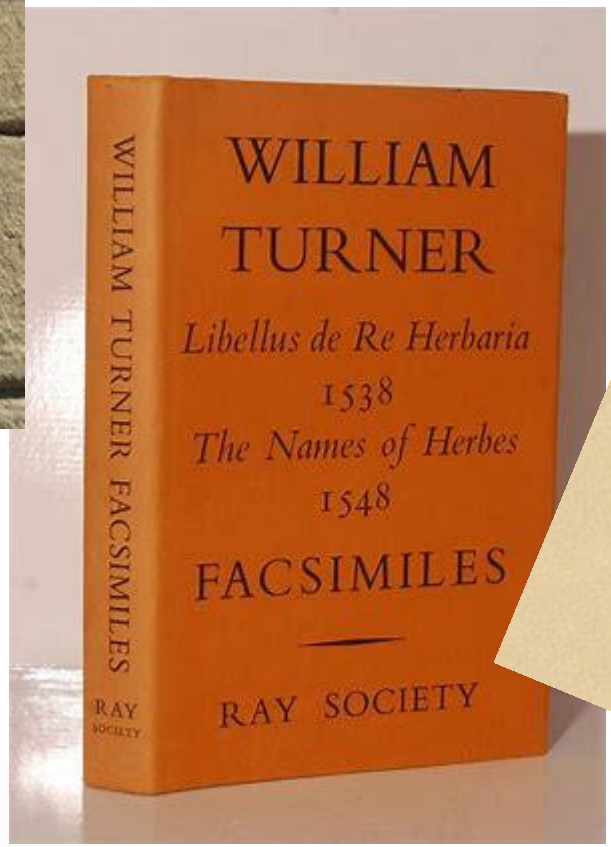
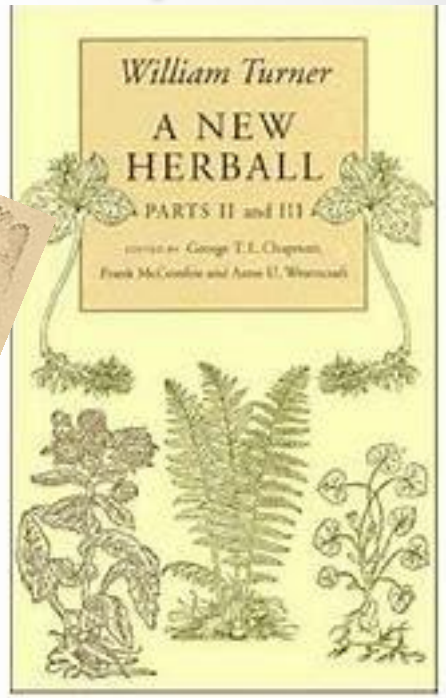
Dr William Turner (1508-1568)









Which herbs did Turner name in English?











Herbary (L. *herbarius*), herbarist, herbalist

Oxford English Dictionary

- "one versed in the knowledge of herbs or plants; a collector or writer on plants; a botanist"

OR

- "a dealer in medicinal herbs or simples; one who prepares or administers herbal remedies"

Sir Thomas Elyot's dictionary

- "he which knoweth the properties of herbes, and maketh medycynes of theym"

AND

- "he or she that doth gather herbes for physitions"

Timeline of development of the word herbalist

Turner *Libellus* 1538 *Dictionary of Sir Thomas Eliot Knight* 1538	L. herbarius
Elyot *Bibliotheca Eliotae* 1542	L. herbarius/herbaria
Turner *The names of herbes* 1548 Turner *A new herbal* 1551	herbary
Elyot *Bibliotheca Eliotae* 1552	Herbalist: Asclepias "is called of the herbalistes hirundinaria"
William Harrison *Description of England* 1577	herbarist



Plant entries citing herbaries in Turner's *Names of herbes 1548*

Acanthium.	H: 'Ote thistle'	Onopordum acanthium
Adiantum.	H: 'Venus heir'	Adiantum capillus-veneris
Alcea.	H: herba Hungarica, 'Verven mallowe'	Malva alcea
Alsine.	H: morsus galline, 'Chicke weede'	Stellaria media
Anemone.	CH: herba venti, 'Rose perseley'	Anemone hortensis
Anthenus [Anthemis*]	CH: chamomilla romana, 'cammomyle'	Anthemis nobilis Chamomilla recutita
Asclepias.	H: hirundinaria, 'Swallowurt'	Vincetoxicum officinale
Bellis.	H: consolida minor, 'Dasie'‡	Bellis perennis
Bryon thalassion.	2 kinds - usnea marina, 'Sea mosse', or H: corallina, or - 'slauke'	Ulva latissima
Caltha.	H: calendula*, 'Marygolde'‡	Calendula officinalis
Cisthus.	H: rosa canina & rosago, 'Cistsage'	Cistus creticus
Clymenum.	H: scrophularia maior, 'Water betonie'	Scrophularia aquatica
Convolvulus.	H: volubilis, 'Bynde weede'	Convolvulus arvensis
Crataeogonum.	H: parsicaria*, 'Arssmerte'	Polygonum hydropiper
Crithmus.	H: creta marina, 'Sampere'	Crithmum maritimum
Cucumis sylvestris.	CH: asininus, 'Cucummer'	Ecballium elaterium
Dipsacos.	CH: Vugam [virgam] pastoris*, 'wilde Tasel'‡	Dipsacus fullonum
Geranium.	CH: pes columbinus, 'Dovefote'	Geranium molle
Geum.	H: Garyophyllata sanamunda & benedicta, 'Avennes'	Geum urbanum
Helxine.	H: parietariam, 'Parietorie/Pelletorie of the wall'	Parietaria officinalis
Hippoglossum.	H: 'Tonge laurel'	Ruscus hypoglossum
Laserpitium gallicum.	H: Angelica, 'Pillitorie of Spayne'	Anacyclus pyrethrum
Limonium.	H: Pyrola, 'Wyntergrene'	Pyrola rotundifolia
Lithospermon.	H: Milium solis, 'Gray myle' [gromwell]	Lithospermum officinale
Lycopus.	CH: cardiaca, 'Motherwurt'	Leonurus cardiaca?
Oenanthe.	H: Filipendula Spiraea, 'filipendula'	Filipendula ulmaria
Periclymenum.	H 'Honeysuccles' & 'Wod bynde'	Lonicera periclymenum
Personata.	H: lappa maior, 'Bur'	Arctium lappa
Pityusa.	H: 'Spourge'	Euphorbia esula
Plantago.	H: 'Plantaine'	Plantago spp.
Polygonatum.	H: Sigillum Solomonis, 'Scala celi'	Polygonatum multiflorum
Radicula.	CH: saponaria & Herba fullonum, 'Sopewurt'	Saponaria officinalis

H = 'herbaries'; CH = 'common herbaries'.
*so named in *Bibliotheca Eliotae* (1542)
‡ sold in apothecary shops

Botanical names checked with Ruel (1536) Turner annot. Britten (1881), Grieve (1992), Kew MPNS.

Some of the medicinal plants linked to apothecaries in Turner's *The names of herbes*

asparagus
colchicum
senna
hounds tongue
tamarind
blessed thistle
juniper
valerian
agnus castus
borage
elecampane
squill
woad
vervain
betony
dock
coltsfoot
madder
cleavers
savory
tansy

Origin of the 32 plant names of the herbaries

The Grete Herball (1526)

- Vervain mallow
- Daisy
- Marigold
- Chamomile
- Bindweed
- Water-pepper
- Teasel
- Dove's-foot cranebill
- Avens
- Gromwell
- Meadowsweet
- Burdock
- Plantain
- Soapwort
- Round-leaved wintergreen
- Spurge
- Samphire

apothecary textual tradition

From Banckes' herbal:

- Motherwort ‡

[‡ = non-native}

From Gerard's index:

- Squirting cucumber
- Swallowwort ‡
- Sea moss

From Dodoens

- Water figwort

Others named in Jean Ruel *De natura stirpium* (1536):

- Solomon's seal, pellitory of the wall, cotton thistle, pellitory of Spain ‡, maidenhair fern, spineless butcher's broom ‡, honeysuckle, pink rock-rose ‡, broad-leaved anemone ‡ and chickweed

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