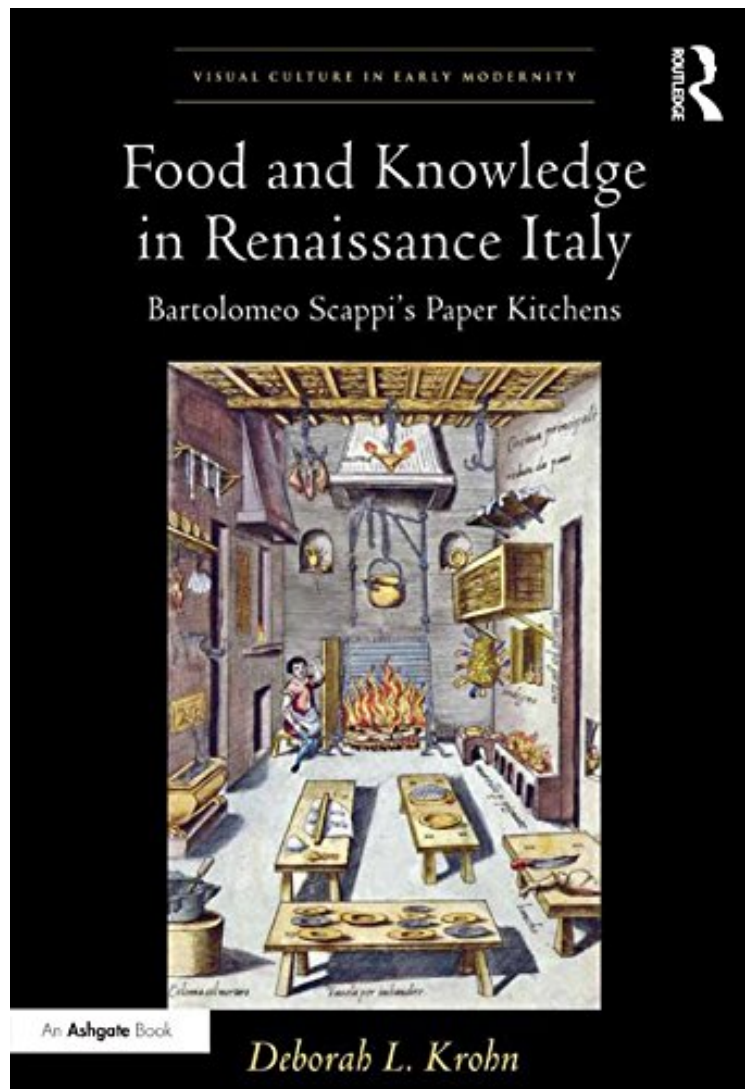


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(Visual Culture in Early Modernity)

Food and Knowledge in Renaissance Italy: Bartolomeo Scappi's Paper Kitchens (Visual Culture in Early Modernity)

Deborah L Krohn

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Deborah L. Krohn : Food and Knowledge in Renaissance Italy: Bartolomeo Scappi's Paper Kitchens (Visual Culture in Early Modernity) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Food and Knowledge in Renaissance Italy: Bartolomeo Scappi's Paper Kitchens (Visual Culture in Early Modernity):

Though Bartolomeo Scappi's *Opera* (1570), the first illustrated cookbook, is well known to historians of food, up to now there has been no study of its illustrations, unique in printed books through the early seventeenth century. In *Food and Knowledge in Renaissance Italy*, Krohn both treats the illustrations in Scappi's cookbook as visual evidence for a lost material reality; and through the illustrations, including several newly-discovered hand-colored examples, connects Scappi's *Opera* with other types of late Renaissance illustrated books. What emerges from both of these approaches is a new way of thinking about the place of cookbooks in the history of knowledge. Krohn argues that with the increasing professionalization of many skills and trades, Scappi was at the vanguard of a new way of looking not just at the kitchen-as workshop or laboratory-but at the ways in which artisanal knowledge was visualized and disseminated by a range of craftsmen, from engineers to architects. The recipes in Scappi's *Opera* belong on the one hand to a genre of cookery books, household manuals, and courtesy books that was well established by the middle of the sixteenth century, but the illustrations suggest connections to an entirely different and emergent world of knowledge. It is through study of the illustrations that these connections are discerned, explained, and interpreted. As one of the most important cookbooks for early modern Europe, the time is ripe for a focused study of Scappi's *Opera* in the various contexts in which Krohn frames it: book history, antiquarianism, and visual studies.

'Deborah Krohn tackles what has to be considered by far the most important cookbook of the Renaissance: Bartolomeo Scappi's *Opera*. Known not only for its massive text but also for its much reproduced illustrations, it has remained in many ways a somewhat mysterious unicum in the realm of high end cookery. Now, thanks to an innovative approach mixing book history, food history and the history of illustration in the sixteenth century, Scappi's cookbook finally finds its place in the context of sixteenth century publishing, a dynamic market in which both authors and publishers experimented with innovative formulas. A welcome contribution in more than one field.' Allen Grieco, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Italy
About the Author
Deborah L. Krohn is Associate Professor and Director of Masters Studies at Bard Graduate Center in New York City, USA.