«Syndroms Ch. Bonnet» diskutiert V. Barras, und M. Archinard stellt Bonnet-Dokumente im Genfer Musée d'histoire des sciences vor. Bonnets Stellung in der Geschichte der experimentellen Methode würdigt zum Schluss M. Buscaglia. Eine Lebensstafel und ein Index runden den inhaltsreichen Band ab.

Urs Boschung, Bern

Bono, James J.: **The word of God and the languages of man.** Interpreting nature in early modern science and medicine. Vol. 1: Ficino to Descartes. Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, cop. 1995. XI, 317 p. (Science and literature). £ 20.50 (paperback). ISBN 0-299-14794-0.

This “remarkably ambitious work” (as we are told on the back cover) aims to revise the current understanding of how Renaissance humanism and scholarship was succeeded by the Scientific Revolution. It investigates the discourses of both, and sets out to show how, under the aegis of the same “master-narrative” (the creation and fall of man, the tower of Babel), a clear shift can be discerned in the attitudes of scholars to linguistic notation. On earlier side of this divide, Ficino, Fernel and Croll exemplify differing claims about the relationship of words to the Word of God and its inscription in nature on the one hand, and spiritual power, occult forces and the operation of God in the world on the other; the later figures, including Harvey, Galileo, Bacon and Descartes, are associated in a policy of “de-in-scription” of nature, that is, a move away from the exegesis of natural symbols and signatures and towards a celebration of the particularity of things and processes, which championed diversity and the turn to empiricism. There are good sections of the text (which coincide with those where Bono relies on good secondary sources), but there is also reliance on less good authority and a regrettable tendency to coin or borrow modish slogans (“de-in-scription”; “the emblematic world view”). There is little engagement with primary texts beyond the narrow canon which is cited here. The claims about linguistics need radical revision in the light of Marie-Luce Demonet’s “Les voix du signe”, which, as Bono acknowledges, appeared too late for him to use. The text is often laboured and repetitive, although this vice is not so apparent in the sections in which Bono engages profitably with difficult texts, notably Croll, Weyer and Del Rio.

Ian Maclean, Oxford

Carozzi, Albert V., and Newman, John K.: **Horace-Bénédict de Saussure: forerunner in glaciology.** New manuscript evidence on the earliest explorations of the glaciers of Chamonix and the fundamental contribution of Horace-Bénédict de Saussure to the study of glaciers between 1760 and 1792. Genève, Ed. Passé Présent, 1995. XII, 149 p. Ill. (Mémoires de la Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, vol. 48 1995). SFr. 45.–. ISSN 0252-7960.

Prof. A. V. Carozzi and Prof. J. K. Newman have done a splendid job of presenting Saussure’s diaries depicting his glacier exploration in the Alps from 1741–1796.