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A Recipe for Success: The Manuscript Collective Returns

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Keywords

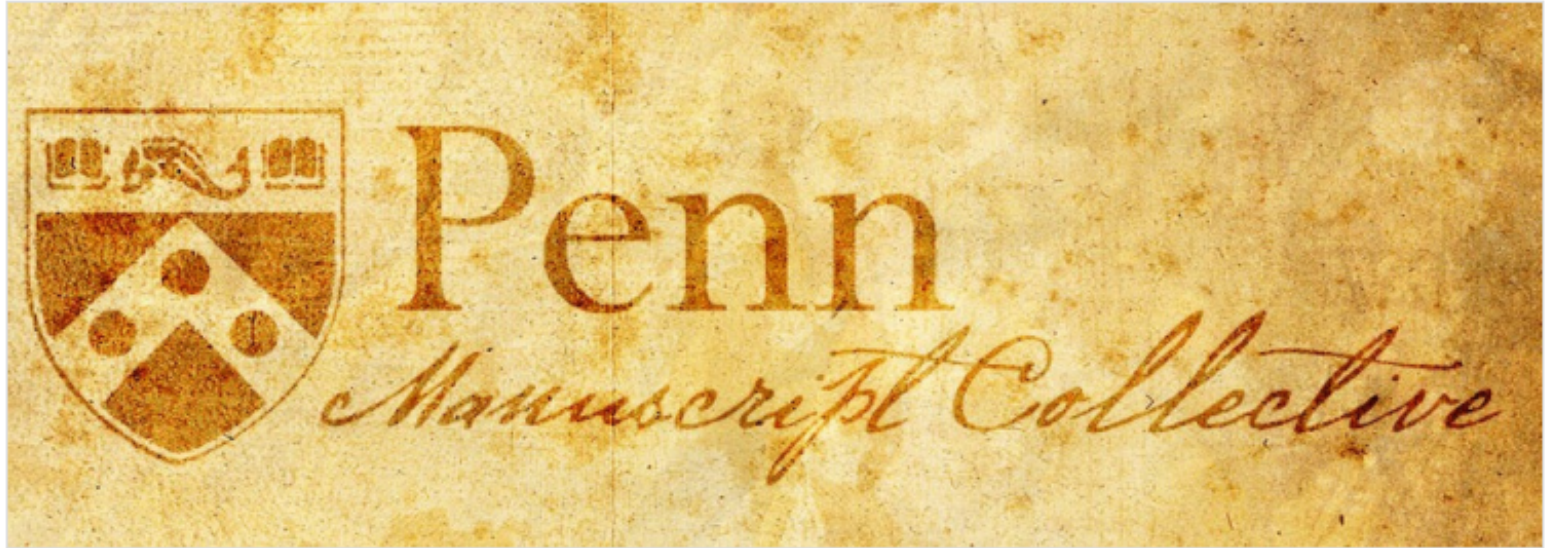
secretary hand, transcription, recipe book

View on Penn Manuscript Collective Blog

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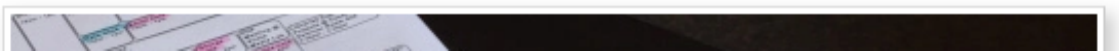
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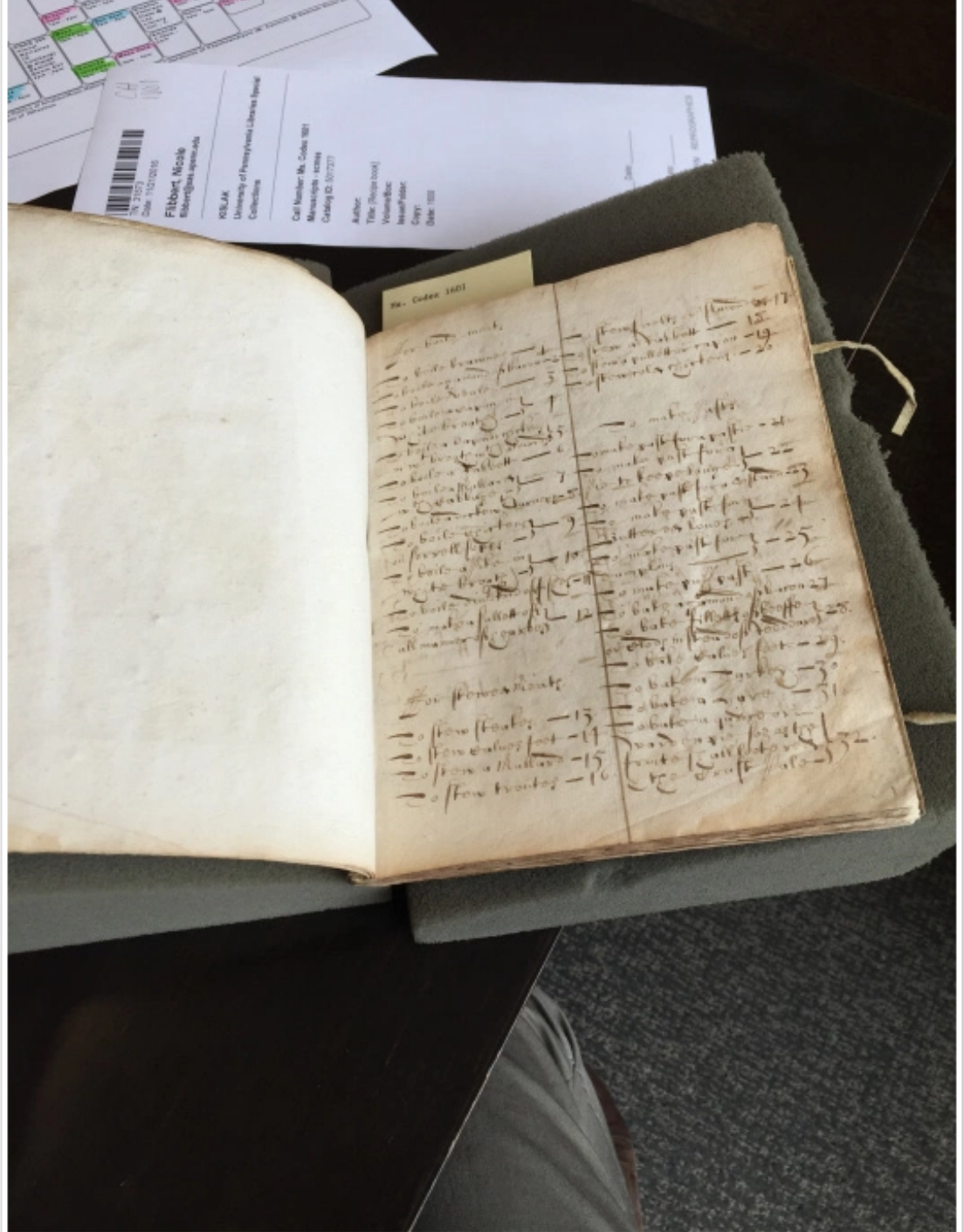
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After a summer hiatus, the Manuscript Collective reconvened in October. We went through a brush-up on Secretary Hand, then dove straight into a transcription exercise. The result: a page transcribed from an exceptionally difficult manuscript.

The manuscript, Ms Codex 1601, is a collection of recipes inscribed in different hands, dated roughly from 1600 to 1825. Such a long span of use for one book is unusual, at least in my limited view, and I'd love to see someone tackle a project to inquire into the provenance of the manuscript. The Franklin record states that some of the recipes are linked to publishings by Elizabeth Grey (1653 and 1687), and later Doctor Short. However, little is known about the array of hands, or the relationships of one owner to another. Is it a family recipe book? Did earlier recipes influence later ones in the book? Interesting questions, worth pursuing.

For the majority of the meeting, which was revelrous, we reviewed the basics of Secretary Hand. (Because who doesn't need a brush-up?) Next, we completed a group transcription exercise of the table of contents of this manuscript. The hand was particularly difficult for novice transcribers:





Here is our partial transcription of the first page:

for boild meats

To boile browne

To boile in gamond of bacon

To boile veale

To boile a capon in

White broth

To boile a capon or chickens

in w[hi]t[e] brothe w[i]th almonds

To boile a Rabbett

To boile a Mallard

W[i]th] cabbage

To boile a ducke w[i]th turneps

To boile chickens

on sorrell sopes

To boile a pike in

white broth

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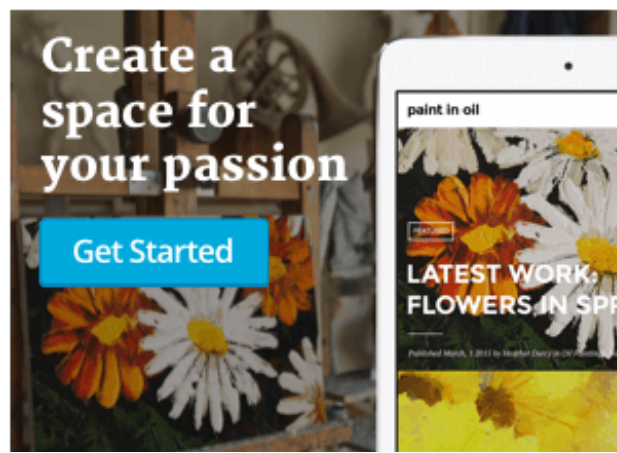
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paint in oil

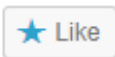
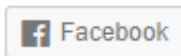
LATEST WORK: FLOWERS IN SPRING

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