



# NOTES FROM THE JOHN MARTIN RARE BOOK ROOM

February 2020

**PIETRO ANDREA MATTIOLI (1500-1577)** *Commentarii, in libros sex Pedacii Dioscoridis Anazarbei, De medica materia. In officina Erasmiana; Apud Vincentium Valgrisium 1554 [48] 707 [1] pp., illus. 31.5 cm.*



Mattioli of Siena studied medicine at Padua where he graduated in 1523. During his career, he practiced at Siena, Perugia, Rome, Trent, and Gorizia and he was physician to Ferdinand I and later Maximilian II. He wrote books on syphilis practice of medicine, and therapeutics, but his best-known and most popular work was the present book.

Mattioli first published his commentary on Dioscorides in Italian at Venice in 1544 and this is his first Latin commentary and also the earliest edition to contain information on botanical specimens from the Americas, Asia, and Africa. He prepared what many authorities now regard as the encyclopedia of Renaissance pharmacology. Mattioli studied hundreds of plants, examined and described them fully, added many new species, and provided excellent illustrations which were far superior to those of any previous work in the field.



## Join us for the Iowa History of Medicine Society February Lecture: “History of the University of Iowa Psychiatry Department”

Thursday, February 27th  
5:30 to 6:30pm  
2117 MERF

**James Bass, Ph.D.**  
Freelance Editor/Writer

