



# Commercial Visions: Science, Trade, and Visual Culture in the Dutch Golden Age

*Dániel Margócsy*

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**Commercial Visions: Science, Trade, and Visual Culture in the Dutch Golden Age** Dániel Margócsy  
Entrepreneurial science is not new; business interests have strongly influenced science since the Scientific Revolution. In *Commercial Visions*, Dániel Margócsy illustrates that product marketing, patent litigation, and even ghostwriting pervaded natural history and medicine—the “big sciences” of the early modern era—and argues that the growth of global trade during the Dutch Golden Age gave rise to an entrepreneurial network of transnational science.

Margócsy introduces a number of natural historians, physicians, and *curiosi* in Amsterdam, London, St. Petersburg, and Paris who, in their efforts to boost their trade, developed modern taxonomy, invented color printing and anatomical preparation techniques, and contributed to philosophical debates on topics ranging from human anatomy to Newtonian optics. These scientific practitioners, including Frederik Ruysch and Albertus Seba, were out to do business: they produced and sold exotic curiosities, anatomical prints, preserved specimens, and atlases of natural history to customers all around the world. Margócsy reveals how their entrepreneurial rivalries transformed the scholarly world of the Republic of Letters into a competitive marketplace.

Margócsy’s highly readable and engaging book will be warmly welcomed by anyone interested in early modern science, global trade, art, and culture.



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