



## Defining Nature in the Renaissance

World and Sex in the Lexicographer's Workshop

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Abstract: This study considers the development of the "nature" entry in the dictionaries of the printer Robert Estienne (1531-1549) with the aim of clarifying the meanings of the term in the Renaissance. Defined as genitals in the first edition of the *Dictionarium Latinogallicum*, nature becomes in the following edition the "creator of all things." The back-and-forth between these two Renaissance visions of nature brings to light a term whose meaning moves constantly between the concrete and the abstract.

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