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The Peregrinations of 'Lugless Will': Deconstructing an Early Modern Travel Narrative

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Title:	The Peregrinations of 'Lugless Will': Deconstructing an Early Modern Travel Narrative
Author:	Barraball, Jonathon
Department:	Department of History
Program:	History
Advisor:	James, Kevin
Abstract:	William Lithgow (1582-1645) went travelling during a period in which the meanings and practices associated with travel were undergoing a change. Lithgow was a Scotsman who embarked on three separate journeys in the early seventeenth century. Travelling all throughout Continental Europe, the Middle East, and parts of North Africa and Asia, he recorded his observations and produced a narrative of his travels, first published in 1614, and subsequently re-worked and expanded in its final iteration, <i>The Totall Discourse of the Rare Adventures and Painfull Peregrinations</i> , in 1632. This thesis seeks to analyze this text within the context of the history of travel, evaluating the degree to which Lithgow's work is representative of seventeenth century travel narratives and practices. In order to do so, this thesis deconstructs the text by examining Lithgow's travel identity, rhetorical structures, and the circulation and reception of his work throughout the seventeenth century. Positioning this study within the field of the history of travel and tourism, this thesis seeks to refine linear conceptions of the genesis of travel practices by investigating how Lithgow appropriates travel experience in a tourist mode. While acknowledging that tourism was not properly established until the nineteenth century, this study contributes to scholarship by demonstrating the benefit of adapting this mode of analysis to an early modern travel narrative.
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