

The facts of the turkey case are well established by the turkey entry in the *Oxford Companion to Food*, but what is new is the citing of new, or little-known, sources to demonstrate the turkey's existence in most of western Europe in the early 1500s. These sources constitute an excellent representation of the history of the turkey in European countries. We are also informed why the name for a turkey in India is *perulpiru* which Portuguese merchants must have brought to India. The 'etymological thicket obscuring the names for this bird' is very well explained.

MARK CHERNIAVSKY

Joel S. Denker: *The Carrot Purple and Other Curious Stories of the Food we Eat*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2015: 316 pp., hardback, £24.95.

This is a volume in the publisher's food history series, edited by Ken Albala. Joel Denker, a familiar face at the Oxford Symposium, writes about food in various American newspapers as well as being a university teacher of a wide range of subjects, including labour studies. Arranged as an alphabetical excursion through the vegetable kingdom, from Anise to the Watermelon, it takes in the big (coffee) and the small (capers). However, it soon becomes plain that no vegetable has a 'small' history: each has giant ramifications in the history of the world's trade, the exchange of appetites and flavours, in the fate of kingdoms. Not one is what it seems. Each single plant chapter takes us for a breakneck ride through aeons of history and cookery, all expressed nicely, with plenty of real-life experience, anecdote and information. It might be objected that the wood is not seen for the trees, and that a vegetative metatheory is crying out to be adumbrated, but in the meantime, read and enjoy.