

**Josiah DAVIS**

**Pliny's Revisions: Emending the Republic in the Preface to the *Naturalis Historia***

Considerations of genre have determined how scholars interpret the relationship between Pliny's preface to the *Naturalis Historia* (*NH*) and the narrative. I show that Pliny's instructions on how to read the narrative are a form of political address to Titus himself. Pliny speaks to Titus in terms of three paratextual apparatus: the *epistula*, the *titulus* and the *summarium*. Pliny cites a Republican author as precedent for each device. As Pliny revises these literary models, he provides Titus with an aesthetic for his own political behavior. He uses the technology of the book as a space within which to advise Titus on how to perform his imperial role as patron to the *populus Romanus*.