This paper is about the interplay of science and information in the early modern period. As a way into a world of rising academic aspirations and seventeenth-century communication, I consider one English virtuoso, Sir John Finch (1626-82), whose life lends itself to be repackaged as a small palimpsest of European-Ottoman sociability. Finch’s anatomical notebook and miscellaneous reports will allow us to question the relationship between experimenting and publishing, and to rehearse the construction of the scribal self as a dynamic adjustment between gaps and interactive awareness. Against this background, my talk defends a more dynamic, polycentric view of the Cimento’s network, which includes both Medicean and cosmopolitan historical actors, and reassesses the notion of connectedness by using a comparative approach. Finally, Finch’s career also ensures a discussion of Livorno as a pivotal port city and diplomatic entrepôt.