The Root of Life: a History of the Heart
3 August 2015 – 31 October 2015
An exhibition at the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine
ADMISSION FREE OPEN TO ALL

OPENING TIMES
Monday – Thursday: 9.00 – 21.00
Friday: 9.00 – 17.30
Saturday: 10.00 – 16.30

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE
Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street

To show the Circulation, and the effect of Vital Air on the blood.
“The heart is the root of life and causes the versatility of the spiritual faculties. The heart influences the face and fills the pulse with blood.”

Huang Ti
(The Yellow Emperor)
[2697 – 2597 B.C.]
The Yellow Emperor’s Classic of Internal Medicine.
This exhibition of books from the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine has been curated to coincide with the 2015 European Society of Cardiology Conference held at the ExCeL Exhibition and Convention Centre in London from Saturday 29 August - Wednesday 02 September 2015. It is the world’s largest and most influential cardiovascular event contributing to global awareness of the latest clinical trials and breakthrough discoveries.

The subjects described in these books include discoveries and observations regarding the physiology and mechanism of the heart and of respiration, morbid changes in the heart, differentiation between cardiac and pulmonary diseases, cardiac hypertrophy and dilatation, estimates of blood pressure, transfusion of blood, angina, purulent pericarditis, mitral and aortic valve disease, the arterial pulse, electrocardiographic tracings, cardiac arrhythmias, fatty degeneration of the heart, auscultation, heart murmur, valvular disease, and aneurysm, and congenital defects of the heart.

Among the treasures of the RSM’s collection is a first edition of Vesalius’s *De humani corporis fabrica libri VII*, published in 1543 when he was only 29 years old. The fullest and most accurate account of human anatomy of its day, it corrected the errors in the traditional teachings of Galen and advocated that the dissection of cadavers should be carried out by physicians. Its blending of typography, illustration, and exposition was unprecedented. In the drawings of the human heart, Vesalius showed the pores that he believed were in the wall separating the two chambers even though he was unable to see the pores himself.
Richard Lower, Tractatus de corde, 1669
One of the oldest books on display in this exhibition is by Charles Estienne, or Carolus Stephanus, who was born in Paris in about 1504. His *De dissectione partium corporis humani libri tres* was published two years after Vesalius’s famous *De Fabrica*, but may be considered pre-Vesalian because many of its plates are dated between 1530 and 1532.

Richard Lower’s *Tractatus de corde : Item de motu & colore sanguinis et chyli in eum transit* of 1669 is the first important work on cardiac physiology to appear after Harvey’s *De motu cordis*.

Eighteenth-century works on display include books by Vieussens, Lancisi, Senac, Morgagni, Hales, Parry, and Robert John Thornton, one of whose plates of the heart has been used for the exhibition poster.

Illustrated works by Charles Bell, Mathew Baillie, and Sir Robert Carswell are included here, as well as Joseph Chitty’s *Practical treatise on medical jurisprudence* of 1834. Chitty was a barrister and one of the most prolific of legal writers. His treatise includes a beautiful engraving of the human heart.

Other important nineteenth-century books on the heart include works by Burns, Corvisart, Farre, Cheyne, Hope, Bouillard, Latham, Stokes, Peacock, and Flint. The twentieth century is represented by works by Mackenzie, Lewis, Starling, White, and Taussig.
**Library lobby**

**Antonio Scarpa (1752-1832)**

Tabulae neurologicae : ad illustrandam historiam anatomicam cardiacorum nervorum, noni nervorum cerebri, glossopharyngaei, et pharyngaei ex octavo cerebri.

Ticini : Apud Balthassarem Comini, 1794.

**Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)**

De humani corporis fabrica libri VII.

Basileae : Joannes Oporinus, 1543.
Cabinet 1

**Charles Estienne (ca. 1504 – ca. 1564)**
La dissection des parties du corps humain.
Paris, chez Simon de Colines, 1546

**Jacopo Berengario da Carpi (c. 1460 – c. 1530)**
Isagogae breves : plucide ac uberrime, in anatomi humani corporis a cômuni medicorû academia usitatâ.
[Bononie : Impressum & noviter revissum per Benedictum Hectoris, 1523]

**William Harvey (1578 – 1657)**
Exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus. Francofurti : Sumptibus Guilielmi Fitzeri, 1628.

**Rene Descartes (1596-1650) & Florentius Schuy (1619-1669)**
De homine figuris, et latinitate donatus a Florentio Schuy.
Lugduni Batavorum : Ex officinâ Hackiana, 1664.

**Richard Lower (1631-1691)**
Tractatus de corde : Item de motu & colore sanguinis et chyli in eum transitu.
Londini : Typis Jo Redmayne, impensis Jacobi Allestry, 1669.
Jean Nicolas Corvisart des Marets (1755-1821)

John Richard Farre (1775-1862)

John Cheyne (1777-1836)
A case of apoplexy in which the fleshy part of the heart was converted into fat. Dublin Hospital Reports. 1818; 2: 216-23.

James Hope (1801-1841)
A treatise on the diseases of the heart and great vessels: comprising a new view of the physiology of the heart's action, according to which the physical signs are explained. London : Kidd, 1832.

Allan Burns (1781-1813)
Observations on some of the most frequent and important diseases of the heart: on aneurism of the thoracic aorta; on preter-natural pulsation in the epigastric region; and on the unusual origin and distribution of some of the large arteries of the human body. Edinburgh : T. Bryce, 1809.
Rene Descartes, De homine 1664
Cabinet 3

**Robert John Thornton (1768-1837)**
Plates of the heart: illustrative of the circulation of the blood; and the effects of oxygen air on the blood. London: Symonds, 1799.

**Sir Charles Bell (1774-1842)**
Engravings of the arteries: illustrating the second volume of the Anatomy of the human body, by J. Bell, surgeon; and serving as an introduction to the surgery of the arteries. London: Printed by C. Whittingham ... for T.N. Longman and O. Rees ... and: T. Cadell, jun. and W. Davies, 1801.
**Cabinet 4**

**Alexander Ramsay (1754 – 1824)**
Anatomy of the heart, cranium, and brain : adapted to the purposes of the medical and surgical practitioner ; to which is added, in notes, observations on the laws of life and sensation.
2nd ed., much enl.

**John Elliotson (1791 – 1868)**
On the recent improvements in the art of distinguishing the various diseases of the heart being the Lumleyan lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians in the year 1829.
London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1830.
Cabinet 5

Matthew Baillie (1761-1823)
A series of engravings,: accompanied with explanations, which are intended to illustrate the morbid anatomy of some of the most important parts of the human body. 2nd ed. 2 vols. London: Printed by W. Bulmer, 1812.

Sir Robert Carswell (1793 – 1857)
Pathological anatomy: Illustrations of the elementary forms of disease.

Cabinet 6

Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682 -1771)
De sedibus, et causis morborum per anatomen indagatis libri quinque. Dissectiones, et animadversiones, nunc primum editas complectuntur propemodum innumerias, medicis, chirurgis, anatomicis profuturas. Multiplex praefixus est index ...
Venetiis : Ex Typographia Remondiniana, 1761.
Cabinet 7

**Raymond Vieussens (1641-1715)**

Novum vasorum corporis humani systema .
Amstelodami : Apud Paulum Marret, 1705.

**Giovanni Maria Lancisi (1654-1720)**

De motu cordis et aneurysmatibus opus postumum : in duas partes divisum juxta exemplar Romanum.

**Jean Baptiste Senac (1693-1770)**

Traité de la structure du coeur : de son action, et de ses maladies.
Paris : Chez Jacques Vincent, 1749.

Cabinet 8

**Jean Bouillard (1796-1881)**

Traité clinique des maladies du coeur : précédé de recherches nouvelles sur l'anatomie et la physiologie de cet organ.
Peter Mere Latham (1789-1875)
Lectures on subjects connected with clinical medicine, comprising diseases of the heart.
2nd edition
London, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1845

William Stokes (1804-1878)
The diseases of the heart and the aorta.
Dublin: Hodges and Smith, 1854.

Thomas Bevill Peacock (1812-1882)
On malformations, &c., of the human heart; with original cases.
London : Churchill, 1858.

Austin Flint (1812-1886)
A manual of percussion and auscultation : of the physical diagnosis of diseases of the lungs and heart, and of thoracic aneurism.
London, 1876.
**Cabinet 10**

**Sir James Mackenzie (1853-1925)**
Diseases of the heart.
London: Henry Frowde, 1908.

**Caleb Hillier Parry (1755-1822)**
An inquiry into the symptoms and causes of the syncope anginosa, commonly called angina pectoris.
Bath: Printed by R. Cruttwell, 1799.

**Stephen Hales (1677-1761)**
Statical essays. Volume 2: Haemastatics; or, an account of some hydraulic and hydrostatical experiments made on the blood and blood-vessels of animals. Also an account of some experiments on stones in the kidney and bladder; with an enquiry into the nature of those anomalous concretions. To which is added, an appendix, containing observations and experiments relating to several subjects in the first volume.
3rd edition.
London, Wilson and Nicol, 1769

**Sir William Osler (1849 – 1919)**
Lectures on angina pectoris and allied states.
William Heberden (1710 – 1801)
Some account of a disorder of the breast.

Ernest Henry Starling (1866-1927)
The law of the heart.
London: Longmans, Green, 1918.
Linacre lecture; 1915, St. John's College, Cambridge

Sir Thomas Lewis (1881-1945).
The mechanism of the heart beat.
London: Shaw, 1911.

Paul Dudley White (1886-1973)
Heart disease.

Helen Brooke Taussig (1898-1986)
Congenital malformations of the heart.
Cabinet 11

Robert Lee (1793 – 1877)
Engravings of the ganglia and nerves of the uterus and heart. For the use of students in anatomy and physiology.

Cabinet 12

Joseph Chitty (1775-1841)
A practical treatise on medical jurisprudence,: with so much of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and the practice of medicine and surgery, as are essential to be known by members of parliament, lawyers, coroners, magistrates, officers in the army and navy, and private gentlemen; and all the laws relating to medical practitioners.
Cabinet 13

Joseph Hodgson (1788-1869)
Engravings, intended to illustrate some of the diseases of the arteries: accompanied with explanations.

Cabinet 14

Henry Gray (1827-1861)
Anatomy, descriptive and surgical. The drawings by H.V. Carter; the dissections jointly by the author and Dr. Carter.
London, J.W. Parker, 1858
Berengario, *Isagogae breves* 1523

Exhibition curated by: Robert Greenwood, Heritage Officer
Booklet produced by Robert Greenwood & Ashley Phillips
August 2015