Vesalius 500

An exhibition at the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine to mark the quincentenary of the anatomist

Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)

Monday 3 February 2014 until Saturday 26 April 2014

Opening hours:
Monday – Thursday: 9.00 – 21.00
Friday: 9.00 – 17.30
Saturday: 10.00 – 16.30
Admission free: Open to all.

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine
1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE
Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street
www.rsm.ac.uk
Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)

A Flemish anatomist and physician widely considered the father of anatomy and one of the first dissectors of human cadavers. He served as court physician to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and later to his son, Spain’s Philip II (Mary I’s husband). However, Vesalius’ dissection of human bodies was condemned by the authorities and brought upon him the death sentence for grave-robbing under the Spanish Inquisition, a penalty commuted only upon his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He died on the way back from this pilgrimage.

“Man is no longer a link in a chain that stretches from heaven to earth. God and angels no longer rank above him, nor are animals and plants beneath him – he is apart from everything. For man is not to be compared with other beings, he is his own free creator and conqueror, he alone is endowed with development, with growing according to his own free will, he has in himself the seeds of an omnific life, and this pre-eminenct constitutes his unique dignity. Consequent to such a belief, the representation of man became the task of Renaissance art[ists]...because he was the subject most deserving of their skill. Philosophers and scientists wrote about the dignity of man, and even in the structure of his body they discovered not so much the providence of God, but rather the excellence of the human being. In the same vein Vesalius declared the study of the human body to be the proper task of man, the worthiest study of all that can be pursued by him...It is symbolic of the pride of that generation, of its belief in the ‘empire of man,’ who finds his destiny in himself, not in God.”

Ludwig Edelstein
Bulletin of the History of Medicine. 1943; Vol. 14: 547
Exhibition Curated by Robert Greenwood — Heritage Officer, RSM Library
Booklet arranged by Ashley Phillips—RSM Library
MONDINO DE' LUZZI, d. 1326.

Anatomia. [Leipzig : Martin Landsberg, about 1493]

Mondino (a diminutive for Raimondo; Mundinus) dei Lucci was born in about 1275, probably at Bologna, and died there in about 1327. He was Professor of Anatomy at Bologna from 1306 to 1326, where he performed a series of public dissections.

His book on anatomy served as a text-book for more than two hundred years, and became so renowned that if students found something in the course of a dissection that was not described in Mondino's Anathomia, it was regarded as an anomaly.

Mondino quotes from Galen the reasons why a man should write a book: "Firstly, to satisfy his own friends; secondly, to exercise his best mental powers; and thirdly, to be saved from the oblivion incident to old age."

Originally circulated in manuscript form, the book was first printed at Pavia in 1478, in a small folio without figures. Its popularity can be judged from the editions issued after the invention of printing. There is one at Pavia (1478), Bologna (1482), and Padua (1484); there are Venice editions of 1494, 1498, 1500, and 1507; Leipzig (1505), Strasburg (1509), and Marburg and Lyons shortly afterwards.

Shelfmark: L.6.c.7

Gabrielle ZERBI (1445-1505)

Liber anathomiae corporis humani et singulorum membrorum illius. Venetiis, 1502.

The first systematic and sufficiently detailed examination of the human body since Mundinus, far outstripping the latter in scientific accuracy.

With this volume are bound; Zerbi, G. De cautelis medicorum tractatus, 1503(?); Vettori, B. Opus theorice lattitudinum, 1516; Carenzio, L. Ludovici Charensii Patavini agnomine Tosetti Questio..., 1517; Charensius - Questio secunda de doctrinis 1519; Optatus, C. - Opus tripartitum de crisi, 1517; Niphus [Nifo], A. De diebus criticis seu decretoris aureus liber, 1519; Chrisogonus. De modo collegiandi, 1528; Grosseteste, R., Ruberti Linconiensis Opuscula dignissima. 1514.

Shelfmark: L.4.a.5

Johannes de KETHAM (1455–1470)

Fasciculus Medicinae, compositus per excellentissimum artium ac medicinae doctorem dominum Joannem de Ketam Alamanum, tractans de Anothomia et diversis infirmitatibus corporis humani, cui annectuntur multi alii tractatus per diversos excellentissimos doctores compositi, necnon Anothomia Mundini.

Venetiis : per gregorium de Gregoriis, 1513.

The volume includes "Petrus de Tussignano de Peste," "Mundini Anothomia," "Rases de egritudinibus Puerorum," and some smaller works by Petrus de Montagnana, whose portrait is on the title. The illustrations, which are very singular and full of expression, are outline woodcuts by Andrea Mantegna, who is considered to have been the inventor of engraving.

Johann von Kircheim, a physician and professor of medicine in Vienna in about 1460, was the probable compiler of this compendium of medical treatises intended for the use of students and practitioners. The name “Johannes de Ketham” is possibly a printer’s corruption of Kircheim’s name. This book was first published at Venice in 1491 and “includes the first printed anatomic illustrations of any kind” (Garrison & Morton 363). In the northern Italian style of Mantegna, to whose school they have been attributed, the woodcuts depict the Zodiac Man, the Bloodletting Man, the Planet Man, a dissection scene, the female figure with uterus, and the full-page woodcut of Petrus de Montagnana teaching.

Shelfmark: L.4.a2
Cabinet 2

Giacomo Berengario da CARPI (circa 1460-1530)

Isagogae breves : plucid*e ac uberrim*e, in anatomiã humani corporis a cômuni medicor*u academ-ia usitatã. / a Carpo in almo Bononiensi Gymnasio ordinariam chirurgi*e docente, ad suorum scholasticorum preces in lucem dat*e.
[Bononi*e : Impressum & noviter revissum per Benedictum Hectoris, 1523]

This revised and condensed version of his 1521 Commentaria is the work by which Berengario is best known. It includes a description of the heart valves, and adds 3 more anatomical woodcuts to the 1522 edition showing the heart and brain.

Shelfmark: 52.d.21

David EGUARDUS [Edwardes] (1502-1542)

De Indiciis et præcognitionibus, et in Anatomicen introductio.

The first anatomical text by an Englishman.

Shelfmark: L.9.a.5

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)

Leipzig : Barth, 1920.

Original title of tables: Tabulae anatomicae sex.

Vesalius’s first anatomical publication consisted of six oversized anatomical charts. The three skeletal woodcuts are signed by the artist, Jan Stephan van Calcar, who was also the publisher of this work. The remaining woodcuts were engraved after drawings by Vesalius. Only two complete sets of the original edition remain in existence.

Shelfmark: L.1.a.11
Vesalius’s famous *De humani corporis fabrica* was published in the same year (1543) as *The most excellent workes of chirurgerye : translated into English. Whereunto is added an exposition of straunge termes and unknown symples, belonging to the arte*, an English translation by B. Treheron of Giovanni de Vigo’s *Practica in arte chirurgica copiosa*, first published in 1514, the year of Vesalius’s birth. It is the first complete system of surgery since that of Guy de Chauliac, and has been described as “a book which especially suited a practitioner who knew nothing of anatomy and feared or disliked to make use of the knife.”

**Charles ESTIENNE (1504-1564)**

*De dissectione partium corporis humani libri tres ... / Una cum figuris et incisionum declarationibus, a Stephano Riverio chirurgo compositis.*

Paris : S. Colinaeus, 1545.

“Had [this] book appeared prior to 1543 as planned it would have eclipsed some of the innovation of Vesalius’s Fabrica.”


Charles Estienne, or Carolus Stephanus, was born in Paris in about 1504. He was the third son of Henri Estienne, founder of the famous dynasty of scholar-printers. Charles showed an early interest and talent in medicine and trained as a physician. When his brother Robert was forced to leave Paris for Geneva in 1550 following his publication of several controversial works of theology, Charles took over the running of the printing press, and published a number of notable books on agriculture, classics, and medicine. The business failed, however, and Charles, heavily in debt, was imprisoned in the Châtelet, and died there in about 1564.

'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. Most of the work was completed by 1539 with woodcuts by Jean "Mercure" Jollat (1530-1545), possibly after designs by the Florentine artist and architect Giovanni Battista Rosso, but publication was delayed until 1545 by a dispute between the author and the surgeon, anatomist, and artist Étienne de la Rivière (d. 1569) who had assisted at dissections and supplied some of the illustrations for the book.

For reasons unknown, several of the woodcuts were ineptly and crudely altered before printing.

**Shelfmark:** 53.f.26 & Librarian’s Room 3
Cabinet 4

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)

De humani corporis fabrica libri VII. Basileae : Joannes Oporinus, 1543.

The title-page is wanting. This is the first edition of Vesalius's Anatomy, published when he was only 29 years old. It was the fullest and most accurate account of human anatomy of its day, correcting the errors in the traditional teachings of Galen and advocating that the dissection of cadavers should be carried out by physicians. Its blending of typography, illustration, and exposition was unprecedented.

Shelfmark: L.1.b.7

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)


Shelfmark: L.1.b.6

Cabinet 5

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)

Andreae Vesalii ... Opera omnia anatomica & chirurgica : cura Hermanni Boerhaave ... & Bernhardi Siegfried Albini ... Lugduni Batavorum [Leiden] : Apud J. du Vivie, et J. & H. Verbeek, 1725.2 volumes


Shelfmark: Marcus Beck Library

Cabinet 6

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)

Andreae Vesalii Opera omnia anatomica & chirurgica / cura Hermanni Boerhaave & Bernhardi Siegfried Albini. Lugduni Batavorum : Joannem du Vivie et Joan. & Herm. Verbeek, 1725. 2 volumes


Shelfmark: L.2.a.4 & L.2.a.5
Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)
Epistola de ratione moduque propinandi radicis Chynae decocti.
Basileae, 1546.
Shelfmark: Marcus Beck Library [folio]

Matteo CORTI (1475-1542)
In Mundini Anatomen explicatio.: Nunc primum in lucem aedita.
Papiae : [Apud Franciscum Moschenum et Joannem Baptistam Nigrum], 1550.
Shelfmark: Marcus Beck Library

Thomas GEMINUS (circa 1510-1562)
Compendiosa totius anatomie delineatio / aere exarata per Thomam Geminum.
Londini : Imprinted ... by Nycholas Hyll ... for Thomas Geminus, 1553.
Engravings by Geminus after the woodcuts in Vesalius' De humani corporis fabrica, 1543; with altered texts of Vesalius' De humani corporis fabrica librorum epitome and of the descriptions accompanying the original illustrations.
First edition. This work is dedicated to Henry VIII, & is an extract from that of Vesalius, published two years before at Basle. The plates are copied from the woodcuts in the 1st. edit. of Vesalius, but they are curious & remarkable as being the earliest copper-plates printed in England. Geminus was an engraver on copper & the first who exercised the art in England.
Shelfmark: Librarian's Room 2

Nicolo MASSA (1489-1569)
Anatomiae liber introductorius : in quo quamplurimae partes, actiones, atque utilitates humani corporis, nunc primum manifestantur: quae a caeteris tam veteribus, quam recentioribus hucusque prae-termissa fuerant ...
Venetiis : Ex officina Stellae Jordani Zilleti, 1559.
Shelfmark: L.6.b.8
Matteo Realdo COLOMBO (circa 1510-1559)

De re anatomica libri xv.
Venetiis, 1559

Colombo was a pupil of Vesalius and succeeded him in the chair of anatomy at Padua, later proceeding to chairs at Pisa and at Rome. This book was published shortly after his death. In it, he gives a clear description of the pulmonary, cardiac, and aortic valves. Its only illustration is the woodcut title page. Colombo is said to have met Michelangelo in 1547, but failed to commission him to illustrate his book.

The RSM’s copy of this work was presented to the Library in April 1914 by Sir William Osler.

Shelfmark: L.3.b.5

Juan de Hamusco VALVERDE (fl.1550)

Anatomia del corpo humano composta / per Giouan Valuerde di Hamusco; & da luy con molte figure di rame, et eruditi discorsi in luce mandata.

Roma : A. Salamanca et A. Lafrerj, 1560.

Translation of Historia de la composicion del cuerpo humano; in collaboration with Antonio Tabo da Albenga.

"Nearly all the plates are copied from Vesalius and Valverde's text is plagiarized from the 'Fabrica'." Bibl. Osleriana, no. 576n.

Valverde freely acknowledged the fact that his book made use of illustrations taken from Vesalius. This work does include four entirely new plates engraved by Nicolas Beatrizet probably after Gaspar Becerra, a pupil of Michelangelo, and contains some revisions to Vesalius.

Shelfmark: Marcus Beck Library [folio]
Cabinet 9

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)
Suorum de humani corporis fabrica librorum epitome.
Paris, 1560.
Vesalius’s outline guide to the Fabrica.
The title page of this item bears the signature of its former owner, Joseph Fenton, together with his customary motto "Sustine abstine" meaning "Bear and forebear."
Fenton (c.1565/70 – 1634) was a London surgeon, resident at St Bartholomew’s Hospital where his contemporaries included the surgeon John Woodall and the physician William Harvey, and a freeman of the Barber-Surgeons' Company. Following his death, many items from his vast and extensive library were bought by Sir Hans Sloane and over 300 of them are now in the British Library.
Shelfmark: Tr.C.122(2)

Francesco del POZZO (circa 1520-1564)
Apologia in anatome pro Galeno : contra Andream Vessalium Bruxellensem ...
Venetiis : Apud Franciscum de Portonariis, de Tridino, 1562.
Shelfmark: Tr.C.54(2)

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)
Anatomicarum Gabriellis Falloppii observationum examen...
Venetiis : Apud Franciscum de Franciscis, Senensem., 1564.
For full description see H. Cushing, Bio-bibliography of Andreas Vesalius, IX-1
Shelfmark: 52.d.19
Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)


Cushing no. VI.A.-5.

"Universa antiquorum anatome tam ossium, quam partium & externarum, & internarum: ex Rufo Ephesio ... tribus tabellis explicata per Fabium Paulinum. Quibus accessit quarta ex Sorani ... fragmen-
to Graeco non antehac Latino facto. De matrice": 19 p. at end.

First published in 1543 under title: De humani corporis fabrica.

**Shelfmark:** Marcus Beck Library [folio]

Gabrielle FALLOPIO (1523-1562)

*Opera omnia / opera et studio J.P. Maphæi [cum appendice]. Francofurti, 1600-6.*

Falloppius studied under Vesalius and became professor of anatomy at Ferrara (1547), Pisa (1548),
and Padua (1551). A careful dissector, observer, and recorder, he discovered and first described the
chorda tympani and semicircular canals. He also described the structure and course of the cerebral
vessels, knew the circular folds of the small intestines, and enumerated all the nerves in the eye.

His *Observationes anatomicae* was published in 1561.

**Shelfmark:** L.2.a.6

Costanzo VAROLI (1543-1575)

*Anatomia, a J.B. Cortesio edita : access. de nervis opticis, &c. Francofurti, 1591.*

Born in the year that Vesalius’s *Fabrica* was first published, Varoli described a new method of dissec-
tion which enabled him for the first time to observe and describe the pons. His name is perpetuated
in the “pons varolii.”

**Shelfmark:** Marcus Beck Library

Caspar BAUHIN (1560-1624)

*Theatrum anatomicum / novis figuris aeneis illustratum et in lucem emissum opera & sumptibus The-
odori de Brý p. m. relictaev viduae & filiorum Joannis Theodori & Joannis Israelis de Brý.*


Contains 131 plates (no. 6 & 11 of bk. 3 each printed twice) being reduced copies of illustrations tak-
en, for the most part, from Vesalius, Valverde, Eustachius, Coiter and other anatomists. --cf. L.
Choulant. (Hist. and Bibl. of anatomic illus., 1920, p. 229)

Bauhin was professor of anatomy at Basle.

**Shelfmark:** Marcus Beck Library
HERITAGE CENTRE

Cabinet 11

Andreas VESALIUS (1514-1564)

Librorum de humani corporis fabrica epitome / cum annotationibus Nicolai Fontani ...
Shelfmark: M.7.d.18

Cabinet 12

Guido GUIDI (1508-1569)

Vidi Vidii ... De anatome corporis humani libri VII.
Nunc primum in lucem editi ...
Venetiis : Apud Juntas, 1611.
Guidi was professor of philosophy and medicine at Pisa. He discovered the Vidian nerve, the Vidian canal, and the Vidian artery. This work was edited by his nephew.
Shelfmark: L.1.a.6

Cabinet 13

Moritz ROTH

Andreas Vesalius Bruxellensis.
Berlin : G. Reimer, 1892.
Shelfmark: 296.g.8

Marion Harry SPIELMANN

The iconography of Andreas Vesalius : (André Vésale) anatomist and physician 1514-1564; paintings, pictures, engravings, illustrations, sculpture, medals, with notes, critical, literary, and bibliographical.
London : Bale & Danielsson, 1925.
Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. Research studies in medical history No. 3
Shelfmark: 92(VES)
Charles Donald O’MALLEY

Shelfmark: 92(VES)

J.B. deC. M. SAUNDERS & Charles Donald O’Malley
The illustrations from the works of Andreas Vesalius of Brussels. With annotations and translations, a discussion of the plates and their background, authorship and influence, and a biographical sketch of Vesalius.
Cleveland and New York, The World Publishing Company, 1950

Shelfmark: QS 17 VES

Harvey CUSHING (1869-1939)
A bio-bibliography of Andreas Vesalius.
Edited by John F. Fulton.
New York : Schuman’s, 1943.

[Yale University] Yale Medical Library. Historical Library. Publication No.6

Shelfmark: 92(VES)

Baldasar HESELER (1508 or 1509 – 1567) & Matteo CORTI (1475-1542)
Andreas Vesalius' first public anatomy at Bologna, 1540 / an eyewitness report by Baldasar Heseler, together with his notes on Matthaeus Curtius' lectures on Anatomia Mundini. Ed. with an introd., translation into English and notes by Ruben Eriksson.
Uppsala : Almqvist & Wiksells, [1959]

Lychnos-bibliotek, 18

Shelfmark: 611 HES

Cabinet 14

Bartolomeo EUSTACHI (circa 1510 or 1520 – 1574)
Tabulae anatomicae ... quas e tenebris tandem vindicatas / ... Praefatione, notisque illustravit ... Jo. Maria Lancisius ... Romae : Ex officina typographica Francisci Gonzagae, 1714.

This fine collection of plates, drawn by Eustachius himself and completed in 1552, remained unprinted and forgotten in the Vatican Library until discovered in the early 18th century and presented by Pope Clement XI to his physician, Giovanni Maria Lancisi who published them in 1714 together with his own notes. More accurate than the work of Vesalius, had the copperplates appeared in 1552 Eustachius may have ranked with Vesalius as one of the founders of modern anatomy.

Shelfmark: Marcus Beck Library [folio]