

**Documentation of HMS Anatomy Day 2015  
at Countway Library, Center for the History of Medicine,  
18 September 2015, 1-3pm**

Collaborators: Sabine Hildebrandt, Trudy van Houten, Cynthia McDermott, Scott Podolsky, Dominic Hall, Jack Eckert, David Jones, Stafford Cohen, *based on an idea by Jeff Baker, MD, PhD; and Rachel Ingold, MA, MLS, Duke University*

Anatomy Day was an event offered to all first year medical students at Harvard after finishing the last assessment for the anatomy part of the Foundations Course. An invitation was also extended to later year medical students and faculty. More than forty persons signed up and at least as many attended eventually.

**Preparation:** Emails were sent to students and faculty via Canvas/Foundations Website 6 and 2 weeks before the event, asking for RSVP.

**Day of the Event:**

The venue for Anatomy Day was the Lahey Room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor Countway Library. Four stations were set up on tables arranged in a quadrangle. There was no formal introduction, and viewers were welcome to roam. Stations were freely accessible, faculty were at hand to comment. Each station was anchored by one faculty.

1. Renaissance anatomy (anchored by Jack Eckert):
  - a. Ketham, Joannes de, active 15th century. Fasciculus medicine. Impressum Venetijs : per Johanne[m] & Gregoriu[m] fratres de Forliuio, anno d[omi]ni millesimo quadringe[n]tesimo nonagesimo primo mensis Iulij die xxvi [1491 July 26] [26] p. : ill. (woodcuts) ; 40 cm. (fol.)<sup>[SEP]</sup>Countway Medicine | Rare Books f | Ballard 408
  - b. Keele, Kenneth D. (Kenneth David), 1909- Leonardo da Vinci, corpus of the anatomical studies in the collection of Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor Castle / by Kenneth D. Keele and Carlo Pedretti. London : Johnson Reprint Co. ; [New York] : Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1978-1980. 3 v. : ill., facsim. (some col.) ; 48 cm.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Countway Medicine | Rare Books ff | QM25 .L55 1978
  - c. Vesalius, Andreas, 1514-1564. Andreae Vesalii Brvxellensis scholae medicorum Patauinae professoris, De humani corporis fabrica libri septem. Basileae : Ex officina Ioannis Oporini, 1543. [10], 659 [i.e. 663], [37] p., [3] leaves of plates (2 folded) : ill., port. ; 44 cm.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Countway Medicine | Rare Books ff | QM21 .V63 c. 2
2. 17./18./19. century European anatomy, including “flap-books” (anchored by Stafford Cohen):
  - a. portrait of John Hunter, property of Dr. Stafford Cohen
  - b. Hunter, William, 1718-1783. Anatomia uteri humani gravidi tabulis illustrata, auctore Gulielmo Hunter ... The anatomy of the human gravid uterus exhibited in figures, by William Hunter... Birminghamiae : Excudebat Joannes Baskerville ; Londini : Prostant apud S. Baker, T. Cadell, D. Wilson, T. Nichol, et J.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Countway Medicine | Rare Books | 1.Mw.1774.H. (Cab. 14-2, Shelf 7).
  - c. Braune, Wilhelm, 1831-1892. Topographisch-anatomischer Atlas : nach Durchschnitten

- an gefrorenen Cadavern / herausgegeben von Dr. med. Wilh. Braune ; nach der Natur gezeichnet und lithographirt von C. Schmiedel ; colorirt von F.A. Haptvogel ; mit fünfzig Holzschnitten in Text. Leipzig : Verlag von Veit & Comp., 1872 [i.e. 1867-72] (Leipzig : Giesecke Devrient, Typ. Inst.) [64] p., XXXI [i.e. 33] leaves of plates : ill. (some col.) ; 56 x 39 cm.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Rare Books f | Treadwell 1118
- d. Rummel, Johann, 1583-1632. *Catoptrum microcosmicum, svis aere incisis visionibus splendens, cvm historia, & pinace, de nouo prodit ...* Francofurti ad Moenum, Sumptibus ac typis heredum Atony Hummen, Anno M.DC.LX. 27 [i.e. 25], [1] p. 50 cm. (fol.)<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Rare Books ff | QM25 .R28 1660
  - e. Ramsay, Alexander, 1754?-1824. *Anatomical plates.*<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Rare Books | Uncat.
  - f. Witkowski, G.-J. (Gustave Joseph), 1844-1923. *Human anatomy and physiology / by G.-J. Witkowski.* London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1878-1888. 11 pts., plates : ill. ; 42 cm.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Rare Books ff | 3.A.4.
3. Harvard anatomy (anchored by Dominic Hall):
    - a. Anatomical specimens from the Warren Anatomical Museum Collection
      - i. Black and white photographic print of John Collins Warren after death, 1896
      - ii. Dissected and dried preparation of the muscles of the cervical vertebrae, prepared by Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1862
      - iii. Sign marked "TANKS," from Warren Anatomical Museum laboratory space in Building A of Harvard Medical School, 1906 – 1950,
      - iv. Tiemann & Company post-mortem set, 1889 -1921, owned by Harvard Medical School pathologist S. Burt Wolbach.
      - v. Corrosion cast of bronchi and trachea, possibly from rabbit, sheep or dog, 1880-1890, prepared by Samuel Mixter
    - b. Physicians' anatomical aid. Chicago : Western Publishing House, [1888] 1 volume (unpaged) : color illustrations ; 39 cm.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Rare Books ff | QM25 .P57 1888
  4. Dissection ethics/Anatomy in National Socialism (anchored by Sabine Hildebrandt):
    - a. Pernkopf, Eduard, 1888- *Atlas of topographical and applied human anatomy.* Edited by Helmut Ferner. Translated from German by Harry Monsen. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1963-64. 2 v. : ill. (part col.) ; 30 cm.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | QS 17 P452a 1964
    - b. Hayek, Heinrich von, 1900- *Die menschliche Lunge.* Berlin, Springer, 1953. 289 p. illus. 26 cm. Countway Medicine | Harvard Depository | WF 600 H3m 1953
    - c. Hayek, Heinrich von, 1900- *The human lung. Rev. and augm. by the author.* Translated by Vernon E. Krahl. New York, Hafner Pub. Co., 1960. 372 p. illus. 26 cm.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Countway Medicine | Harvard Depository | WF 600 H3m 1960
    - d. Copies of original publications by Heinrich von Hayek used for his book on the human lung
    - e. Anatomical specimens from the Warren Anatomical Museum Collection
      - i. Osteological preparation of the right femur and ulna, and left tibia, 1852. Individuals were members of the Wadsworth company that was killed in April 1676 in Sudbury, Massachusetts during the "Sudbury Fight" of King Philip's War. The bones were excavated from their original place of internment and donated by Harvard medical student Henry Shaw in 1852.

- ii. Injected and dried anatomical preparation mounted onto black wooden base with metal fixture. Prepared by Richard Hodges in 1850s and donated by Henry Jacob Bigelow

Most visitors stayed for at least an hour, inspecting the books and artifacts and discussing questions, mostly about the historical background of the exhibits. The conversations were lively at all times. Reactions of students were recorded and published on <https://hms.harvard.edu/news/glimpsing-anatomical-past> . Students testified to the fact that the opportunity to explore the history of anatomy gave them a sense of connectedness of their own recent experience in anatomical dissection with a long line of anatomical investigators before them.

**Conclusion and considerations for the future:**

HMS Anatomy Day 2015 was a successful new venture that achieved its goal, formulated by Dominic Hall: to give students the opportunity to realize that they “are part of a continuum, and events like this can help students place themselves in relation to that timeline of medical discovery.” All those involved agree on making Anatomy Day an annual event at HMS. One measure to improve the overall impact of Anatomy Day would be the addition of one or two introductory lectures on the history and ethics of anatomical dissection in the medical curriculum, if necessary as a lunchtime talk. If these are offered on a voluntary basis it is to be expected that students will accept this invitation just as eagerly as the Anatomy Day Event.