

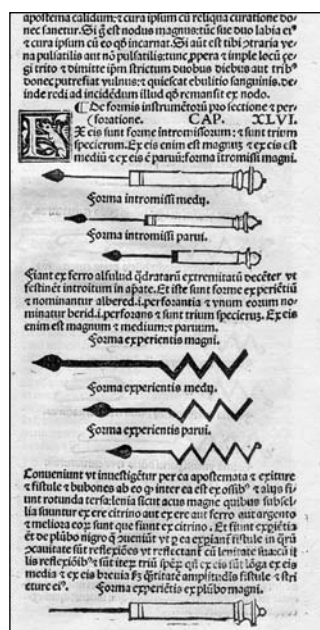
Printing and medicine: the impact of print on five centuries of Western medicine

On 15 September 1507, King James IV of Scotland granted the country's first royal licence for printing. It went to the Edinburgh merchant Walter Chepman and his business partner, the bookseller Andrew Myllar. The first book with a known date from Chepman and Myllar's printing press was John Lydgate's vernacular poem 'The Complaint of the Black Knight', printed on 4 April 1508 near what is now Edinburgh's Cowgate.

To mark the quincentenary of printing in Scotland, a College exhibition explores the relationship between print and medicine, drawing on the magnificent collection of the College Library, the first of its kind in Scotland.

CONTINENTAL INFLUENCES

Andrew Myllar trained in France, where he learned of the European printing techniques that would be imported to Scotland. These techniques are beautifully demonstrated in some of the College's oldest books, which form one part of the exhibition. They include the first printed edition of the *De medicina*, by the first-century AD Roman writer Aulus Cornelius Celsus. This work, the first printed treatise on the whole of medicine, was printed and published in Florence in 1478 by Nicolaus Laurentii. It is notable as an early example of the use of a roman, as opposed to gothic, typeface.



Another featured work is the *Chirurgia parva* of Guy de Chauliac, printed in Venice by Bonetus Locatellus in 1500/01. Guy de Chauliac (c. 1300–68) was born in the Auvergne region of France and was the foremost surgeon of the medieval period. His *Chirurgia parva* is a condensed version of his much longer *Chirurgia magna* and is a collection of surgical works. The second part of the work contains a Latin translation of a treatise by the tenth-century Islamic surgeon Abu al-Qasim

Khalaf ibn al-Abbas Al-Zahrawi, known as Abulcasis, which is illustrated with woodcuts of cautery irons and other surgical instruments (pictured above) that have been incorporated into the text. These illustrations are among the earliest to be found in a printed book on medicine.

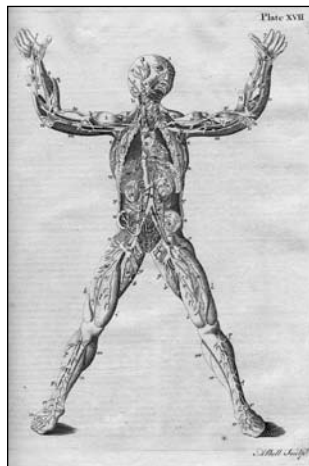
THE COLLEGE PHARMACOPOEIA



The first College pharmacopoeia, the *Pharmacopoea Collegii Regii Medicorum Edinburgensis*, was printed in Edinburgh in 1699 by 'the successors of Andrew Anderson'. Between then and 1841 a further 11 editions were published. This regular updating and revising made the pharmacopoeia one of the most widely used and influential in the world. It was reprinted in London, Florence, Venice, Bremen, Geneva, Leipzig, Göttingen, Augsburg and Milan. When the Medical Society

of Boston produced the first American civilian pharmacopoeia, it openly admitted that the RCPE's publication 'was the basis of their own' to such an extent that it denied theirs 'the appearance of originality'.

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA



Published in Edinburgh at the height of the Scottish Enlightenment, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was the brainchild of the printer and bookseller Colin Macfarquhar and the engraver Andrew Bell. Macfarquhar and Bell employed another local man, William Smellie, to produce the encyclopaedia in 100 weekly parts. The first number went on sale on 6 December 1768,

priced sixpence. In 1771 the completed work of 2,391 pages was bound into three volumes and sold at 12 pounds a set. The first edition of the *Britannica* devoted several hundred pages to medical subjects, many of which featured copper-plate illustrations engraved by Bell. King George III was among those shocked by the three pages of illustrations accompanying the article on midwifery – he ordered that these pages be ripped out of every copy of the encyclopaedia. When the second edition appeared a few years later, the offending illustrations were omitted.

THE BURKE AND HARE COLLECTION



In the early nineteenth century Edinburgh's reputation as a centre for studying medicine led to an increasing demand by the medical school for cadavers for dissection. This in turn gave rise to the dark and lucrative trade of grave robbing. William Burke and William Hare, however, decided that murder was an easier option. Between 1827 and 1828 Burke and Hare killed 17 people and sold

the bodies for medical dissection. The murders caused a sensation in Edinburgh and generated a wide variety of printed material that reveals examples of the emerging popular press. The two volumes in the College collection contain broadsheets, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, portraits, satirical prints and court reports collected during the course of the events and the trial.

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is a free public exhibition, running from April to October 2008 in the College Library (Mondays to Fridays, 10am to 4.30pm).

For more information, visit the Library website at: <http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/library/index.php>

This exhibition is part of wider celebrations to mark 500 years of printing in Scotland.

Further information is available at: <http://www.500yearsofprinting.org>

For a College podcast of a lecture by Professor Lisa Rosner in April 2008 on forensic science in the era of Burke and Hare, please go to: <http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/library/history/rosner/rosner.php>

Professor IML Donaldson, Honorary Librarian, RCPE, and **John Dallas**, Rare Books Librarian, RCPE

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

Friday 31 October 2008

Venue: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh

The practice of cardiology is changing rapidly as a result of spectacular developments in the pharmacological and device management of heart disease. We have assembled a comprehensive educational programme to highlight this progress: in addition to state of the art presentations by acknowledged experts, we have allowed time for lunchtime how-to sessions to include tips on echo, PCI, management of rhythm disturbance and a session on how to optimise training opportunities in cardiology.

Much of this change has been driven by developments in our molecular understanding of cardiac pathology: we have included a session on basic science to allow clinicians an insight into this vital field.

Please register early for what promises to be a splendidly interesting and educational experience.

Session 1

- Cholesterol: 4 and 2 or 5 and 3?
- What really causes cardiac disease?
- Equal opportunity killer: cardiovascular disease in Asians

Session 2

- When does cardiovascular disease begin? Early programming of cardiovascular disease
- Cardiac rhythm disturbance

Lunchtime sessions

- PCI tips
- Echo tips
- Funny-looking beats
- Training in Cardiology

Session 3

- Grown-up congenital heart disease
- Echocardiography: how to assess valvular function
- Advanced heart failure

Session 4

- Cinderella cardiology: cardiac rehabilitation
- Coronary intervention: primary PCI for myocardial infarction

(Programme may be subject to change.)

All grades of medical, nursing, scientific staff and allied professions are most welcome.

Fees

Standard	£120
FRCPEd/ Collegiate Members/ e-Associates/	
Associates	£60
Nurses/AHPs	£45

Admission is free to medical students who register in advance.

Further details are available on www.rcpe.ac.uk or from: Ms Eileen Strawn, tel: 0131 225 7324 or e-mail: e.strawn@rcpe.ac.uk

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