

## Editorial

# Evolution of Anatomy Drawings from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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In 1685, Govert Bidloo published an anatomical atlas, *Anatomia Humani Corporis*. The book was later plagiarized by English surgeon William Cowper for his *Anatomy of the Humane Bodies* (1698), which gave no credit to Bidloo. This led to a number of vitriolic exchanges between Bidloo and Cowper, including several pamphlets published in each anatomist's defense.<sup>1</sup>



**Fig.-1:** Govard Bidloo, *Anatomia Humani Corporis*, 1685.

William Cheselden's noted work, *Anatomy of the humane body*, was first published in 1713 and became an important textbook, going through 16 English and American editions up to 1806. In 1733, he published *Osteographia*, a grand folio edition depicting human and animal bones, featuring beautiful copperplate images, including playful skeletons.<sup>2</sup>



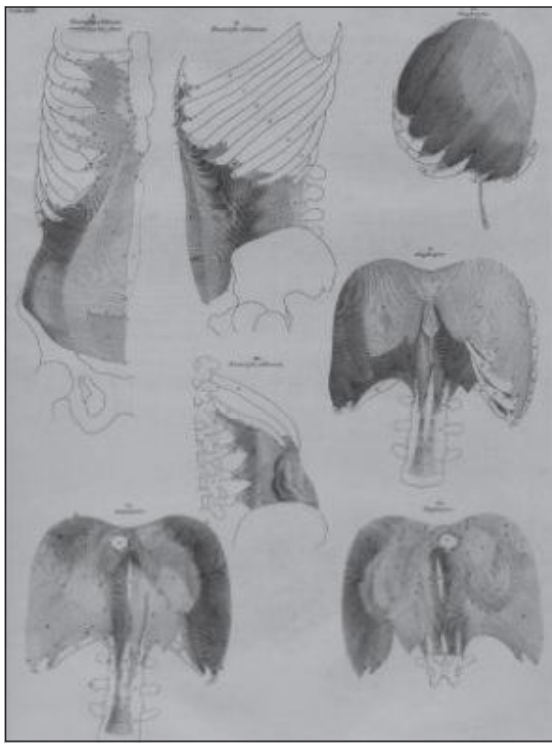
**Fig.-2:** William Cheselden, *The Anatomy of the Human Body*, 1713.

Santorini was generally acknowledged as the outstanding anatomist of his time, carefully dissecting and delineating many difficult and complex gross features of the human body. His most important work was *Observationes anatomicae* (1724), a valuable exposition of details of human anatomy. Some consider this work one of the best of the eighteenth century.<sup>3</sup>



**Fig.-3:** From Giovanni Santorini's *Observationes anatomicae*, 1724.

Albinus was one of the most famous teachers of anatomy in Europe. He is perhaps best known for his monumental *Tabulae sceleti et musculorum corporis humani*, which was first published in 1747, largely at his own expense. The artist and engraver with whom Albinus did nearly all of his work was Jan Wandelaar. In an attempt to increase the scientific accuracy of anatomical illustration, Albinus and Wandelaar devised a new technique of placing nets with square webbing at specified intervals between the artist and the anatomical specimen and copying the images using the grid patterns.<sup>1</sup>



**Fig.-4:** Albinus, *Tabulae sceleti corporis humani*, 1749.

William Hunter, the older brother of noted anatomist John Hunter, published numerous articles on anatomy, surgery and midwifery, but his most famous work was the beautiful *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi*, or *The anatomy of the human gravid uterus*. Hunter's text for the illustrations were later published after his death, expanded and edited by his nephew in 1794.<sup>1</sup>

William Hunter, *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi*, 1774.



**Fig.-5:** William Hunter, *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi*, 1774.

Antonio Scarpa was the most brilliant student of Morgagni and a co-founder of pathological anatomy. Scarpa was an excellent artist and engraved most of his own plates. The plates of Scarpa must stand among the finest anatomical illustrations ever produced". The plates illustrate the human glossopharyngeal, vagus and hypoglossal nerves, which had never before been correctly shown. Napoleon Bonaparte himself invited Scarpa to return to the teaching of Surgery. Scarpa received from Napoleon as a present a precious box of silver and ivory surgical instruments. Scarpa's anatomical research lasted nearly 60 years, and he continued to write until a year before his death.<sup>4</sup>



**Fig.-6:** Antonio Scarpa, *Anatomicarum annotationum*, 1807.

Henry Gray published the first edition of his Anatomy, which covered 750 pages and contained 363 figures. He had the good fortune of securing the help of his friend Dr. H V Carter, a skilled draughtsman and formerly a demonstrator of anatomy at St. George's Hospital. Carter made the drawings from which the engravings were executed, and the success of the book was, undoubtedly due in no small measure to

the excellence of its illustrations. The book is still published under the title Gray's Anatomy and is still widely appreciated as an extraordinary authoritative textbook for medical students.<sup>5</sup>



**Fig.-7:** Diagram from Gray's Anatomy (2nd edition), 1862.

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**References:**

1. Historical anatomies on the web. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/historicalanatomies/browse.html>.
2. Wikipedia article on William Cheselden. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Cheselden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Cheselden).
3. Wikipedia article on Giovanni Santorini. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni\\_Santorini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Santorini).
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5. Wikipedia article on Henry Gray. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Gray](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Gray).

\*In our previous issue of Journal (July 2011; Vol. 9, No. 2) Evolution of Anatomy Drawing from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century was published. In this issue the rest part is published.