



TALKS on The Book in the History of Medicine Seminar Series

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

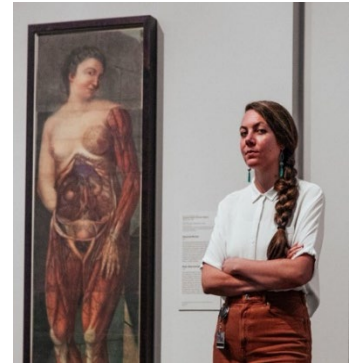
11:00 a.m., Pacific Time

Zoom (passcode: 554538)

“Atlas in 3D: Stereoscopic Photography in Medicine”

Thisbe Gensler, M.A.

Public Programs Specialist,
Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles



This talk reveals how stereoscopic photography mediates new forms of medical seeing, learning, and knowing in modern medicine. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, stereoscopic photography was increasingly employed to enliven anatomical, surgical, and pathological treatises such as the *Edinburgh Stereoscopic Atlas of Anatomy* (1905). Comprising ten volumes and over 300 stereographs, the atlas sought to virtually recreate the experience of dissection through a sequential visualization of the human body. Its striking illusion of three-dimensionality was widely celebrated for its immersive realism and pedagogical effectiveness, positioning stereoscopy as a powerful tool in anatomical education.

“Building and Dispersing a Collection of Books and Offprints on Cardiovascular Medicine, Surgery, Science, and Technology.”

W. Bruce Fye, M.D., M.A.

Emeritus Professor of Medicine and the History of Medicine
Emeritus Consultant, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota



This talk describes my 65-year-old collecting journey. It begins with an overview of significant stages in my life as a book collector, cardiologist, and medical historian. But most of the slides depict special items from my collection of about 2,700 books and 5,000 offprints relating to cardiovascular medicine, surgery, science, and technology that I donated to the Huntington Library in 2021. In this “show and tell” portion of the talk, I describe classic books by William Harvey, René Descartes, Giovanni Lancisi, and René Laennec, among others. Several slides describe 20th century discoveries and inventions that totally transformed the care of patients with heart disease.

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