Anatomy Anatomised
Two lectures by medical historians Andrew Cunningham and Ruth Richardson
Museum Boerhaave, Wednesday 15th of February 2012, 8 pm

In two public lectures medical historians Andrew Cunningham and Ruth Richardson question the making and keeping of anatomical collections.

Andrew Cunningham discusses the fate of the famous anatomical collections of the London surgeon John Hunter. Just as the fate of books is in the hands of their later readers, so the fate of anatomical collections is in the hands of their later keepers: what its keepers do with an anatomical collection can affect everything about it, right down to transforming the identity of the individual preparations in it.

Ruth Richardson’s lecture is something entirely different. She will give a performance reading of her essay ‘ORGAN MUSIC’, written after extensive fieldwork in a number of medical museums in the London region. It is a meditation among the specimens and bottles.

Dr. Andrew Cunningham is a leading specialist in the history of early modern medicine. He is associated with the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University. His most recent book The Anatomist Anatomis’d (Ashgate 2010) quickly turned into a standard textbook for students and researchers. He also wrote and presented the successful BBC radio 4 series The Making of Modern Medicine.

Dr. Ruth Richardson is a historian, writer and broadcaster, who has published numerous papers in medical and historical journals including the first ever survey of UK whole-body donors (in the Lancet, in 1995). Her history of UK dissection-room corpses, Death, Dissection and the Destitute (Chicago University Press 2000) is now a standard work and teaching text. She also published Gray’s Anatomy (Oxford 2008). Her most recent book, Dickens and the Workhouse (Oxford) is just out.

Date, Time & Venue
15th of February 2012, 8 pm (doors open at 7.30 pm)
Museum Boerhaave, Lange St. Agnietenstraat 10, 2312 WC Leiden
Entrance: €7,50 (free for students and visitors with a ‘museumjaarkaart’).
All welcome without prior registration!

The lectures are co-organized by the Leiden University research group on Cultures of Collecting, Museum Boerhaave and Studium Generale. They are part of the international conference Cultures of Anatomical Collections. See www.culturesofcollecting.nl