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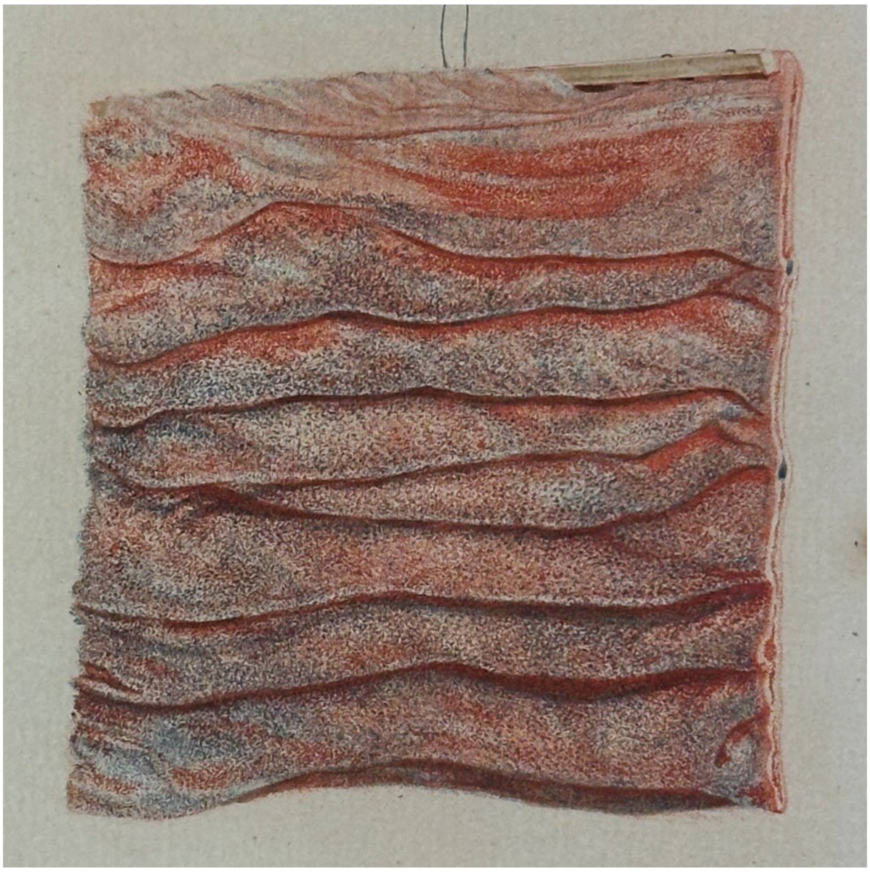
A NEW ERA FOR ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY: THE RISE OF COLOURED ILLUSTRATIONS

FIRST EDITION OF BLEULAND'S HISTOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF DUODENAL TISSUE

BLEULAND, JAN. *Icon tunicæ villosæ intestini duodeni, juxta felicem vasculorum impletionem. Ipsis coloribus, qui in præparato conspiciuntur edita.* Trajecti ad Rhenum [Utrecht]: apud B. Wild et J. Altheer, 1789.

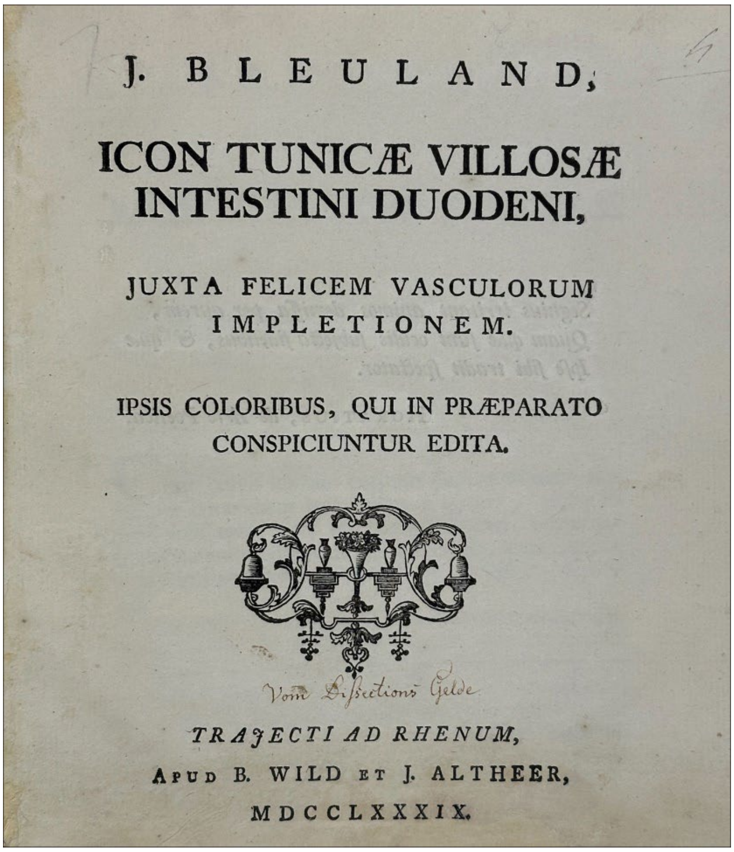
4to (21 x 19 cm), later paper wrapper, pp. 10, [2-last leaf blank missing] signature A^4 B^2 (B2 blank, missing)

ONE COLOURED PLATE REPRESENTING A SAMPLE OF DUODENAL TISSUE



JAN BLEULAND (1756-1838) was a renowned physician, professor of Anatomy, Physiology, Obstetrics and rector of Utrecht University.

He became famous for perfecting a technique of injecting fixatives and dyes into the soft tissues of the human body to reveal previously invisible anatomical details. The printed illustrations resulting from his technique are unique in their precision in depicting microscopic structures.
Among Bleuland's greatest achievements was his ability to visualize vascular systems, making even the smallest blood vessels perfectly visible, while preserving the true colours and textures of the tissues.


J. BLEULAND,

ICON TUNICÆ VILLOSÆ INTESTINI DUODENI,

JUXTA FELICEM VASCULORUM IMPLETIONEM.

IPSIS COLORIBUS, QUI IN PRÆPARATO CONSPICIUNTUR EDITA.

TRAJECTI AD RHENUM,
APUD B. WILD ET J. ALTHEER,
MDCCLXXXIX.

The ability to produce detailed and realistic tissue images, developed and improved by Bleuland, together with the work of his colleague, the Scottish pathologist Matthew Baillie (1761–1823), gave a significant boost to innovations in anatomical pathology.

During his distinguished career, Bleuland produced more than two thousand anatomical preparations, and his vast collection of specimens is now preserved at Utrecht Medical University.

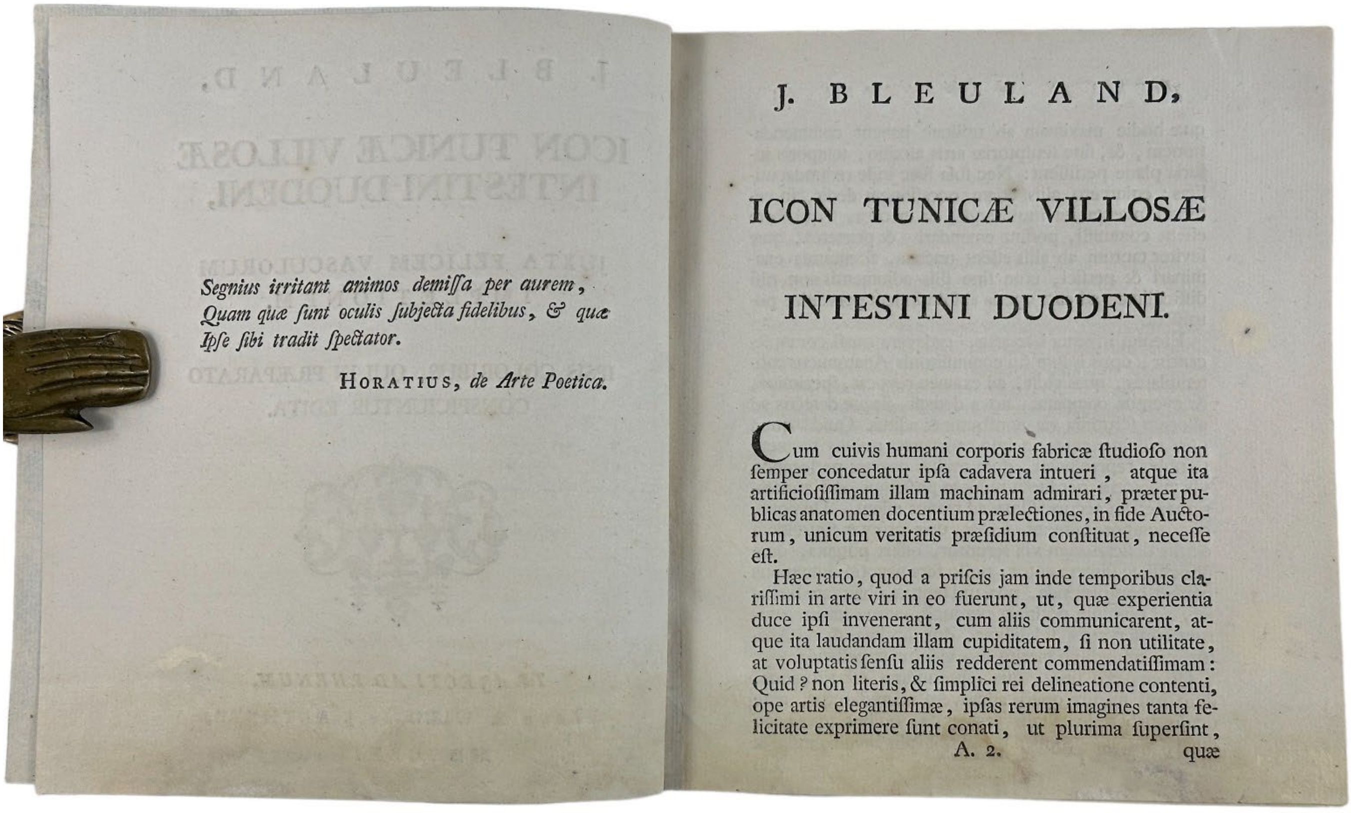
"Bleuland focused on the soft parts [of human body], which involved a much wider spectrum of organs and diseases and posed a different set of problems to technicians in the preparation of the specimens" (Meli, p.211, op. cit.)

"During his career Bleuland published a number of illustrated anatomical works printed in color, showing a special interest in the fine structure of healthy and diseased states of the organs and tunics of the digestive tract. Bleuland made a collection of over two and a half thousand anatomical preparations, with the assistance of Petrus Koning, whom he had trained as his attendant and as a surgeon from 1800" (Meli, op.cit.)

CONDITIONS: Small restoration at lower margins; overall a good copy.

PROVENANCE: Ownership signature at title page

REFERENCES: DOMENICO BERTOLONI MELI, *The Rise of Pathological Illustrations: Baillie, Bleuland, and Their Collections*, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Volume 89, Number 2, Summer 2015, pp. 209-242 (Article); FLORIAN RODARI, *Anatomie de la couleur*, 124; *James G. Mundies's Cabinet of Curiosite's,* February 2008; Blake p. 50; not in Waller or Wellcome.


Segnius irritant animos demiſſa per aurem,
Quam quæ ſunt oculis ſubjecta fidelibus, & quæ
Ipſe ſibi tradit ſpectator.

HORATIUS, *de Arte Poetica.*

J. BLEULAND,

ICON TUNICÆ VILLOSÆ

INTESTINI DUODENI.

Cum cuivis humani corporis fabricæ ſtudioſo non ſemper concedatur ipſa cadavera intueri , atque ita artificioſiſſimam illam machinam admirari, præter publicas anatomen docentium prælectiones, in fide Auctorum, unicum veritatis præſidium conſtituat, neceſſe eſt.

Hæc ratio, quod a priſcis jam inde temporibus clariſſimi in arte viri in eo fuerunt, ut, quæ experientia duce ipſi invenerant, cum aliis communicarent, atque ita laudandam illam cupiditatem, ſi non utilitate, at voluptatis ſenſu aliis redderent commendatiſſimam: Quid? non literis, & ſimplici rei delineatione contenti, ope artis elegantiſſimæ, ipſas rerum imagines tanta felicitate exprimere ſunt conati, ut plurima ſuperſint,

A. 2. quæ

Conſpicuæ autem in hac tabula ſunt valvulæ illæ magnæ, quæ a Kerkringio nomen ſortiuntur, & in interiore inteſtini duodeni parte, ſi per longitudinem ſecetur, reperiuntur. In arterias porro hujus inteſtini non ſimplicem, ut vulgo ſolet, colorem rubrum inmiſi, ſed albam ſubtiliorem addidi, quæ rubrum poſt ſe relinquit, unde vaſcula ſubtiliſſima, magis diſtincta, in ſpectantium oculos incurrunt: venæ, per eamdem partem discurrentes, coeruleo colore ſunt ornatae, ita ut etiam puncta villórum rubra, alba, atque coerulea conſpiciantur, in membranis diverſis & etiam in ipſis villis, ſub microscopio, tot diverſi coloris vascula monſtrantia.

Per omnem plicarum ſive valvularum conniventium ambitum tam clare conſpiciuntur hi impleti villi, ut ipſa eorum figura oculorum aciem non fugiat; conuli enim ſunt, qui baſi latiori affixi, vertice rotundo in inteſtini cavum elevantur, quod, cum ab altera parte hoc ſpecimen ſua magnitudine contemplati ſumus, clarius in iſtis patebit, quæ ope microſcopii ſunt delineata, cum aliis, quæ in illis notanda erunt.

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ida erunt.

Non autem opus ejus, ſaltem illud, quod mihi paravit, cum L'Admiralii comparari poteſt, quo factum eſt, ut, (quum ante quinquennium a præceptoribus, nunquam ſine ſumma veneratione nominandis, Hahnio atque Douvereno, poſtquam laboris mei ſucceſſum examinare haud dedignati erant, incitarer ad deſcribendum novum experimentum, quod de arteriolis lymphaticis inſtitueram,) a variis Anatomes cultoribus, non ita fauſte de ejus experimenti eventu judicaretur, quam deinde, ipſo præparato oculis nonnullorum eruditiſſimorum virorum ſubjecto, inter quos Paradyſium, Veiraccium, Beſoettium, atque, præmatura morte ereptum amicum van den Wynperſſe nominaſſe ſuffecerit.

Non autem criticorum, aliorumque, quibus ipſius ſpeciminis intuendi occaſio non datur, ſeveritatem eo tempore vitare potui, partim, propter tabulam male expreſſam, partim, quia ad finem nondum perducta eſſent exprimenta, quibus inſtitutis, eventus tamen eorum prius in lucem proferri non potuit, quam diligentiore, atque magis L'Admiralianæ imprimendi conſentanea methodo adjuvarer.

Ad hoc opus jam ſeſe mihi obtulit vir, æque diligens ac dexterrimus, J. Kobel, qui mecum poſt multum laboris atque temporis diſpendium, ni fallor, tandem invenit methodum eamdem, qua L'Admiralius in ſuis iconibus fuit uſus; Quum vero tum diverſi colores, tum vero etiam, quæ fidem ſuperat, ſubtiliſſimorum vaſculorum copia & tenuitas, quæ mihi poſt iterata pericula non tantum in ſingulis inteſtinorum tunicis, non tantum

in extima tunica cum venis lymphaticis lateraliter communicantia apparuerunt, ſed in ipſis veſiculis ampullularum abſorbentium totam intimam tunicam conſtituentibus, ipſe non finxi, ſed vidi, & quorum picturas non tantum, ſed ipſa præparata dubitantium oculis ſubjicienda ſervo, quum ergo, hæc paulo difficiliora viderentur, primo faſciculo iconem exhibui hepatis junioris, naturali quidem colore impletis arteriis, ſed ſimplici rubro colore ornatam, eo fine, ut ſenſim ad difficiliora pateret aditus.

Quæ autem jam prodit, difficillime, attamen ſumma cura ab ingenioſiſſimo pictore VAN DER JAGT ad normam præparatæ a me inteſtini duodeni portionis delineata eſt, & ipſis coloribus naturalibus diverſiſſimis impreſſa, ſicque, ni fallor, & grato ſpectaculo, & utilitate phyſiologica ſeſe admodum commendat.

Non facili certe negotio corporis humani ſubtiliores partes ſic poſt mortem ſuos naturales colores accipiunt diverſos, ut ſine ulla colorum confuſione naturalem illam picturam exhibeant, quam diverſus ab arterioſo colore venis contentus ſanguis efficit; non facile quoque, licet ita præparatæ, hæ partes delineantur aut imprimuntur, alioquin certo certius alii anatomici hoc adminiculo fuiſſent uſi, quorum praeparata & deſcriptiones praeſtantiſſimae ſunt, ſed a tironibus non ita clare percipi poſſunt, ac ſi etiam hac methodo eorum oculis eſſent ſubjectae.