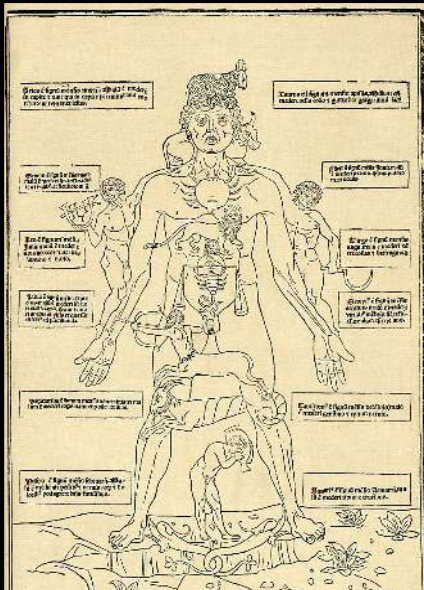
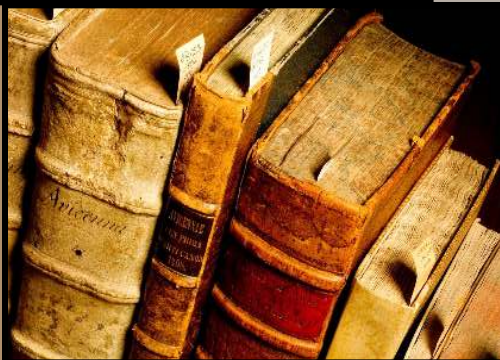


Notes from the
John Martin Rare Book Room
December 2014

JOHANNES DE KETHAM (fl. 1460). Fasciculus medicine. [Venice: Per Cesarem Arrivabenum, 1522].



Little is known of Johannes de Ketham. He was born in Swabia and was practicing medicine in Vienna in 1460. This work is a collection of medical texts then current among students and practitioners, some of which had been in use for centuries, others more recent. Among the most important is the Anothomia of Mondino, which is the first modern treatise on anatomy, but which did not appear until the second edition of the Fasciculus medicinae. But the texts themselves, while not unimportant, pale alongside the illustrations which accompany the volume. Those appearing in the first edition were the first realistic illustrations to a medical book and are among the best woodcuts of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Among them are Zodiac Man, the Bloodletting Man, the Planet Man, the dissection scene, the Female Figure with Uterus, and, of special interest, the full-page woodcut showing Petrus de Montagnana teaching. With this 1522 edition the Ketham myth reached its final form, for the volume opens with the phrase “Here begins the Fasciculus medicinae composed by that most consummate Master of the Arts and of Medicine Dominus Johannes de Ketham the Alemanian. . . .”



Hardin Library for the Health Sciences
Room 446
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
319/335-9154
donna-hirst@uiowa.edu
<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/rbr/>

 THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES