Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room December 2015

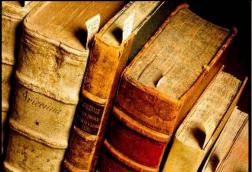
JACOPO BERENGARIO DA CARPI (1470-1530). Isagoge breves, perlucide ac uberime, in anatomia humani corporis. [Bologna: Impressum per Benedictum Hectoris, 1522].



Berengario was a serious student of Mondino and followed him in all matters pertaining to anatomy. He wrote Commentaria on Mondino's Anothomia in 1521 and, because he was such a discerning observer, was able to correct many of Mondino's shortcomings and add many of his own observations. He wrote his own anatomical compendium in 1522. Although his illustrations are inadequate and lacking in detail, his woodcuts are believed to be the first taken directly from human dissections. The full-length figures are always shown in action

poses and his muscle figures and skeletons are drawn against landscape backgrounds in the same fashion used later by Estienne and Vesalius. Although Leonardo da Vinci's anatomical drawings received limited circulation, it appears that Berengario was acquainted with them since the influence of Leonardo's artistic techniques is evident in a number of Berengario's woodcuts. The book is of unusual rarity and is an important example of anatomical illustration in the pre-Vesalian period.





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