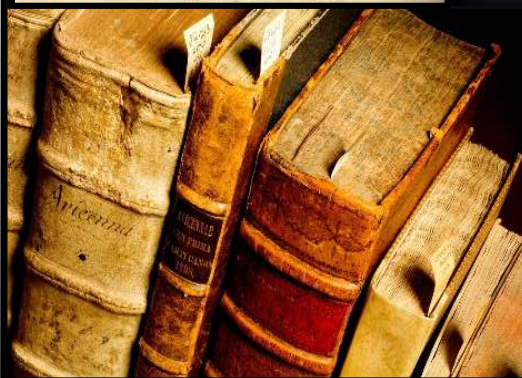
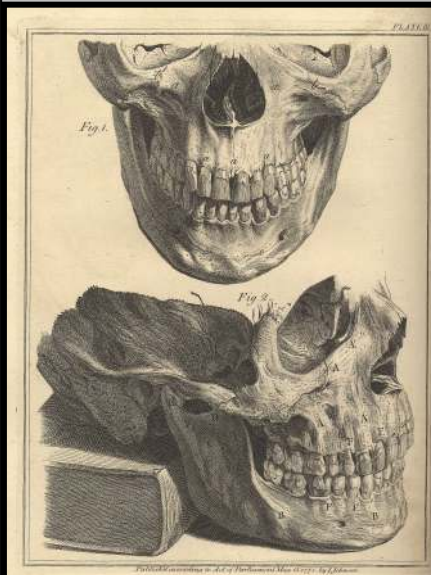


# Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room July 2019

**JOHN HUNTER (1728-1793). The natural history of the human teeth. London: Printed for J. Johnson, 1771.**

John Hunter was an anatomist and surgeon, practicing in London. He lacked the education and culture of his brother, yet his tireless energy helped him to overcome the obstacles his educational and cultural lacks may have provided. Hunter remains one of the great all-round biologists like Haller and Johannes Müller, and with Paré and Lister, one of the three greatest surgeons of all time. Hunter found surgery a mechanical art and left it an experimental science. One of Hunter's most important works was his treatise on the teeth. It was the first scientific study of the teeth and is basic to all modern dentistry. During Hunter's time, venereal diseases were thought to be caused by a single pathogen. In order to test this theory, Hunter inoculated himself with matter taken from a patient who had gonorrhea; however, unknown to Hunter, the individual also had syphilis. As a result, Hunter contracted syphilis and concluded that the

theory of a single pathogen was correct. Because of his reputation and authority, the experiment slowed the development of knowledge about gonorrhea and syphilis.



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