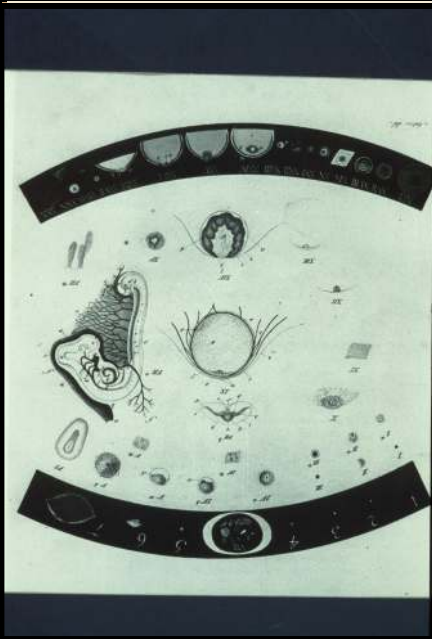
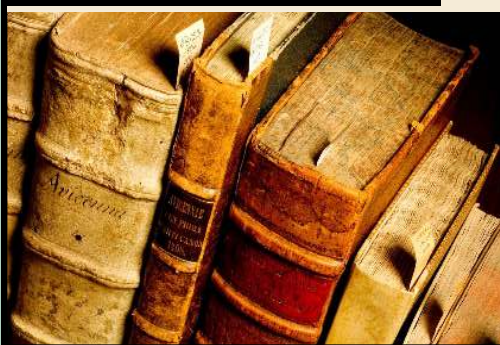


Notes from the
John Martin Rare Book Room
March, 2017

KARL ERNST VON BAER (1792-1876). *De ovi mammalium et hominis genesi*. Leipzig: Sumptibus L. Vossii, 1827.



Baer was an early pioneer of modern embryology who, through painstaking and patient effort, investigated germ cell lineage of a variety of species, firmly establishing embryology as a comparative science. It was during his professorship at Königsberg that Baer wrote this most significant work, describing for the first time the mammalian ovum. In this epoch-making book Baer also made reference to the germ layer theory, suggested the similarity of the early stages of embryonic development in related species, and observed the first rudiment of the dorsal spine, later called the notochord. Baer is also considered to be one of the founders of modern morphology as a result of his work in comparative embryology.



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