

Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

About Collection 9

Collection 9 combines a balanced selection from the Wellcome Library in London and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague and includes approximately 4,000 titles and 1.4 million pages of new material.

Among the treasures to be discovered are selections from the Wellcome Library's prestigious collection of incunabula, or earliest printed books. These include medical titles – including editions of Aulus Cornelius Celsus's *De Medicina*, a 1496 Venice edition of the *Liber Teisir* by the 12th-century Arab physician Ibn Zuhr, works by Alessandro Benedetti, the 15th-century surgeon general of the Venetian army, and the 1491 Venice printing of Antonio Gazio's treatise on health, *Corona florida medicinae*.

Literary works include a 1480 Gouda edition of the *Dialogus creaturarum* by Nicholaus Pergaminus.

A rich and intriguing variety of science and medical titles can be found in the later material from the Wellcome Library. In medicine, these range from standard works of the classical world by Galen and Hippocrates to the writings of the Arab physician Serapion the Younger and to more specialized studies of the early modern period. Included are multiple works on anatomy and surgery. Also included is Jean Riolan's writings on blood circulation and a 1539 Paris edition of Guillaume Budé's work on gout and diseases of the joints. The collection also includes scientific titles on chemistry and astronomy and a fascinating range of titles pursuing alchemical enquiry and the occult sciences.

Beyond these, the Wellcome selection is supplemented by a mix of natural history and classical literature. A work by Robert Boyle on air pumps and even a book on beards: Marcus Antonius Ulmus' *Physiologia barbae humanae* (1602).

Content from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek provides a variety of material but also gives an emphasis to science, mathematics and astronomy titles. Starting with 17th-century editions of Pliny the Elder's writings on natural history in both Latin and Dutch translation, the selection moves to a 1682 Amsterdam edition of the Dutch botanist and artist Abrahamus Munting's *Waare oeffening der planten* and numerous other works of early modern scientific enquiry. Astronomy titles include Jacob Cats' *Aenmerckinghe op de tegenwoordige steert-sterre* (1618) as well as works by the Italian astronomer Giovanni Antonio Magini who devised the Maginian System of planetary theory. A further science highlight from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek is a selection of writings by the Dutch doctor and philosopher Heydentryk Overkamp. Political science and history titles are also featured, but the selection is marked by titles reflecting Dutch engineering and entrepreneurship.

