Books & Bodies
The Medical History of the Low Countries
with Elisabeth Brander,
Rare Book Librarian, Bernard Becker Medical Library
April 30 – May 8, 2022
PARTICIPATE in hands-on private workshops at Antwerp’s UNESCO-listed Museum Plantin-Moretus, the former residence of the Plantin-Moretus publishing family, which houses the world’s oldest printing presses.

GO behind the scenes of the Teylers Museum’s library in Haarlem, Holland, with an intimate look at 18th- and 19th-century medical books and gleaming historic scientific instruments not in public view.

TAKE a private perusal of rare original scientific works and early publications at Leiden’s Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, Holland’s national museum of natural science and medicine.

VISIT Leiden University’s Library to see anatomical artist Jan Wanderlaar’s original sketches for Dr. Bernard Siegfried Albinus’ treatise *Tabulae Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani*.

ACCOMPANY the owner of a magnificent Rococo-style private house in Antwerp for an exclusive tour.

JOIN a special private tour at the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, the national library of Belgium, which features original editions of Andreas Vesalius’ *De Fabrica Humani Corporis*.

GATHER for a delightful dinner in Amsterdam’s Museum Van Loon with a private concert by members of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, and, in Haarlem, witness an exclusive demonstration of the famous 18th-century Müller organ Handel and Mozart once played.

TRAVELING WITH YOU

Elisabeth Brander joined the Bernard Becker Medical Library as Rare Book Librarian in 2012. She holds a Master of Arts in History and a Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland at College Park, and has completed further coursework through the Rare Book School located at the University of Virginia. She is a member of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association; and Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences. Her areas of academic interest include the history of the book, the history of anatomical illustration, and the portrayal of medicine in literature.
Dear Washington University Alumni and Friends,

In pursuit of intellectual freedom in the 16th and 17th centuries, medical students and scientists from across Europe flocked to Holland and Belgium. Their scholarship, including some of the earliest published books, has been meticulously preserved in cinematically beautiful libraries and museums. As tulips bloom across the charming Low Countries, join us for rare private access to cherished archives and collections, including original medical texts, anatomical illustrations, and intersections between science and the region’s world-famous art.

On this week-long journey, your study leader will be Elisabeth Brander, Rare Book Librarian at the Bernard Becker Medical Library, who will add rich context to these treasures. Begin in the Dutch capital of Amsterdam with exclusive tours of centuries-old collections. Behold The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Deijman, Rembrandt’s thought-provoking depiction of scientific study, at the Hermitage Amsterdam. On an excursion to Haarlem, peruse rare medical books in the library at Holland’s first and oldest museum, the elegant Teylers Museum. Venture to Leiden and its famous university, founded in 1575. Wander through its 16th-century botanical garden, where the iconic tulip was introduced to Holland. In the library, enjoy a private viewing of original anatomical sketches for the landmark 1747 treatise Tabulae Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani. Discover early science publications usually out of public view in the Rijksmuseum Boerhaave’s extensive library, housed in a 15th-century convent.

In Antwerp, Belgium, take part in hands-on private workshops at the UNESCO-listed Renaissance-era Plantin-Moretus publishing house, which hosts the world’s oldest printing presses. Conclude in Brussels with an exclusive exploration of the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique (KBR). Its precious collection of books includes first editions of Brussels-born anatomist Andreas Vesalius’ beautifully illustrated 1543 masterpiece De Fabrica Humani Corporis, the most influential anatomical text in history and considered the first modern scientific book.

Owner-led visits to exquisite homes, exciting private concerts, and exclusive art tours will round out this journey. Book with confidence: Your deposit will be fully refundable until 120 days before departure. Because we expect this program to fill up quickly, we suggest you reserve your place soon by sending in the enclosed reservation form, or by contacting our tour operator, Arrangements Abroad, at (800) 221-1944. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Alumni Travel Office at (314) 935-7378 or toll free at (866) WU-TRIPS.

Sincerely,

Susan Cohen
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Alumni & Constituent Engagement

Rubens House, Antwerp
SATURDAY, APRIL 30: DEPARTURE
Depart for Amsterdam on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, MAY 1: AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND
Arrive in Amsterdam, and transfer to your hotel. Gather with your fellow travelers this afternoon for a guided canal cruise as an introduction into the city. This evening, toast with your fellow travelers, and attend a welcome dinner.

MONDAY, MAY 2: AMSTERDAM
This morning, transport yourself to 17th-century Holland. At the Hermitage Amsterdam, experience the Portrait Gallery of the 17th Century exhibition, which features 30 colossal group portraits pulled from impressive collections normally on display at the Amsterdam Museum and the Rijksmuseum, including Rembrandt’s 1656 painting The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Deijman. After lunch, discover the archaeological collections at the Allard Pierson, a museum based at the University of Amsterdam. We also plan to stop at the Amsterdam City Archives for a private look at documents related to medical illustration (pending confirmation). This evening, enjoy dinner at leisure in one of Amsterdam’s exceptional restaurants.

TUESDAY, MAY 3: AMSTERDAM / HAARLEM
Today, take an excursion to Haarlem, and view the Dutch masterworks at the Frans Hals Museum. Continue to the Grote Kerk, a 13th-century church, where you will behold one of history’s most famous and beautifully designed instruments, the Müller organ, dating from 1738. Many well-known musicians traveled to Haarlem expressly to play the Müller organ, including German Baroque composer Georg Friederich Händel in 1740 and 1750 as well as a 10-year-old Mozart in 1766. Today, enjoy an exclusive special demonstration concert of the Müller organ performed by the Haarlem city organist. This afternoon, delve into the wonderful worlds of art and science at the Teylers Museum. The tour includes a behind-the-scenes visit to the library, with a special viewing of medical books. You will also admire the many historic scientific instruments of the collection. Return to Amsterdam for dinner at leisure.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4: AMSTERDAM / LEIDEN
Drive to Leiden, home to Leiden University, which became one of Europe’s most prestigious institutes of higher learning. Experience five centuries of natural science and medical history at the Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, which is named after the legendary Leiden University professor Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738). The museum’s library boasts rare early printed editions of groundbreaking scientific publications alongside works by and about eminent Dutch scientists and physicians. Afterwards, wander through the university’s Hortus Botanicus, Holland’s oldest botanical garden, founded in 1590. The garden is noteworthy as the place where the iconic tulip was introduced on Dutch soil. Lunch is at leisure. This afternoon, visit the university’s Library to uncover the sketches created by anatomical artist Jan Wanderlaar for Dr. Bernard Siegfried Albinus’ celebrated anatomical treatise Tabulae Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani (1747). Return to Amsterdam for a special dinner in the Museum Van Loon, which will feature a private concert by members of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra (pending confirmation).
THURSDAY, MAY 5: AMSTERDAM / THE HAGUE / ANTWERP, BELGIUM
The Hague, located on the North Sea coast, is known as “The Royal City by the Sea” and the seat of the Dutch parliament. Gaze upon its wide boulevards and classical 18th-century mansions, which make it a harmonious and vibrant city. Today, discover the Mauritshuis, an art museum acclaimed for its extraordinary Dutch Golden Age paintings by Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Van Dyck. You may opt to explore Huis van het boek (House of the Book), also known as Museum Meermanno. Housed in the former residence of Baron Van Westreenen van Tiellandt (1783-1848), this museum is remarkable for its collection of sculpture, books, etchings, and paintings. Continue to the Flemish city of Antwerp in Belgium. The owner of an exquisite private house, one of the best examples of Rococo style of architecture in the country, will welcome us for an exclusive tour. Later this afternoon, check into your hotel, and enjoy an evening at leisure. B,L

FRIDAY, MAY 6: ANTWERP
Antwerp is renowned for its medieval and modern architecture as well as its impressive art collections. In the Cathedral of Our Lady, behold Rubens’ great Descent from the Cross, and visit the 17th-century Rubens House to view some of the Flemish painter’s other masterworks. This afternoon, admire the world’s oldest printing presses at the UNESCO-listed Museum Plantin-Moretus, a Renaissance-era publishing house and one of the most significant landmarks in the history of the book, printing, and entrepreneurship. Delight in a private tour followed by a fascinating exclusive workshop. Housed in the former Plantin-Moretus family mansion, the museum holds astonishing collections of graphic prints from the 16th and 17th centuries, around 600 medieval manuscripts, and 25,000 books printed before the 19th century. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

SATURDAY, MAY 7: ANTWERP / BRUSSELS
Brussels has often been a home for great scientists, inventors, artists, and writers who have changed our understanding of our bodies and the world. Most notable was the Belgian physician Andrea Vesalius, one of the founders of modern anatomy. Today, delight in a behind-the-scenes visit at the KBR (commonly known as the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique). Peruse its exceptional rare books collection, including an up-close look at the first and second editions of Vesalius’ 1543 masterpiece De Fabrica Humani Corporis. After lunch at leisure, explore the city at your own pace, or opt for a guided tour of the fascinating Musée de la Médecine de Bruxelles, whose exhibits focus on intersections between medicine and art, history, and literature, from antiquity to modern times. This evening, toast to a remarkable journey with your fellow travelers during a festive farewell dinner. B,D

SUNDAY, MAY 8: BRUSSELS / RETURN
Depart the hotel early this morning for flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Washington University Alumni and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.
PROGRAM RATE
$6,999 per person, double rate
$8,599 single rate

RATE INCLUDES
- Seven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wines/beer at dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

HOTEL ESTHERÉA, AMSTERDAM
Set along Amsterdam’s oldest major canal, this family-run, boutique-style hotel occupies a row of 17th-century buildings. It features 96 rooms and two suites, all of which share the hotel’s interior design philosophy of lavish décor coupled with plush furnishings.

HOTEL RUBENS–GROTE MARKT, ANTWERP
Situated less than a minute walk from the lively Market Square as well as the Cathedral of Our Lady, this elegant hotel features 36 spacious rooms with free Wi-Fi and minibars.

HOTEL AMIGO, BRUSSELS
This luxury, 173-room property is set in the historical heart of Brussels. Its bright and spacious rooms are decorated with fresh, contemporary styling with cozy touches and occasional antique pieces.
To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (fully refundable until 120 days prior to departure) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print._____________________________________________________________

Address

City                      State                  Zip

Telephone (home)                       (business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference

☐ One bed   ☐ Two beds   ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with_____________________________________________________________

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check
   (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

☐ Credit card   ☐ Debit card

Name on credit/debit card

Credit/debit card number

3- or 4-digit security code            Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)                     Date

Signature (required)                     Date