

Book Reviews

Iconographia Boerhaavii, edited by G. A. LINDEBOOM, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1963, pp. ix, 29, 40 plates, 32 guilders; *Boerhaave's Correspondence, Part One*, edited by G. A. LINDEBOOM, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1962, pp. x, 241, 30 guilders.

In 1955 Professor Lindeboom started to publish studies of Herman Boerhaave (1688–1738) and a few years later he began editing *Analecta Boerhaaviana* of which the first volume was his own *Bibliographia Boerhaaviana* (1959). The second volume was Schulte's *Hermanni Boerhaave Praelectiones de morbis nervorum 1730–1735* (1959), and the two books now under review are the third and fourth volumes of the *Analecta*. The fifth is to be the second and final volume of the correspondence.

There has been no previous iconographical study of Boerhaave, although three famous and other lesser artists depicted him. He had students from all over Europe, making Leiden during a brief period the greatest medical centre there has been; and his pupils included chemists and botanists (among whom was Linnaeus). Naturally his students left written records of the appearance of their beloved master. The greatest pupil was Albrecht von Haller (1708–77), who went to Leiden for two years at the age of seventeen and became the greatest medical bibliographer, one of the greatest medical poets and a superb experimental physiologist. Haller praised his teacher as *Communis Europae Praeceptor*, and described him thus: 'ein unansehnlicher vierschrotigter Mann mit Katzen-Augen, einer kleinen Nasen, und schwarzem Gesichte, verstrubelte Haare, schlecht Hut, grau elend Kleid, grobe Schuh, ohne Degen'.

Albertus Schultens (1680–1750) was a close friend who delivered the funeral oration six weeks after the death of Boerhaave. In this he gave a description of his physical appearance. William Burton, one of many British students, also described Boerhaave in the anonymous *Life* Burton published in 1743.

These verbal descriptions give us little real idea of the appearance of this great man, and some of the portraits are not readily available. The best known is probably the family painting by Aert de Gelder (1645–1727), pupil of Rembrandt (1606–69), which hangs in the Rijks Museum at Amsterdam; it shows Boerhaave with his wife and their only surviving child, Joanna, probably painted about 1723 when Boerhaave was fifty-four. De Gelder's second portrait, probably painted at the same time, shows Boerhaave as a professor (the caption under the plate is misleading in stating it is a 'Painting of Aert de Gelder' since portraits of artists are also included in the *Iconographia*).

Cornelis Troost (1696–1750) painted Boerhaave late in life, and some of the eight or so copies are probably by him. But Jan Wandelaar (1690–1759) was the personal friend who has made Boerhaave's appearance most familiar; he it was who made new copper-engravings of all the plates for the edition of Vesalius's *Fabrica* produced by Boerhaave and the younger Albinus (1697–1770), and the superb chalk drawing survives from which he made his engraving of Boerhaave. These and many copies by different artists are reproduced in this excellent volume which contains forty plates.

Boerhaave's correspondence was immense. As Professor of Botany for twenty years, he built up the academic botanical garden by an extensive correspondence with botanists in England, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland, thereby obtaining specimens by gift or exchange. As Haller noted in his diary, 'Boerhaave hat Briefwechsel in Ostindien, China, Zeylon, Cap de Bona Spe, Carolina und allen Theilen von Europa, woraus er immer Saamen kriegt, ist auch mit ausstheilen sehr freigebig.' In addition his medical pupils consulted him about their patients, and patients themselves wrote for advice. A Chinese mandarin, seeking advice, addressed his letter to 'Boerhaave—Europe' and it was delivered.

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In the second book under review, a wide selection of Boerhaave's letters is given with translation from the Latin into English. Many unpublished letters are included, together with some already published. For instance, the letters to the well-known British scholar Cox Macro (1683–1767) were published by Sir D'Arcy Power in 1917, and the letters to Bassand were published with a Dutch translation by Lindeboom in 1957. Most of the unpublished letters come from English and Dutch public archives, and the great collection in Leningrad is not included. The main part of the volume consists of the letters to Cox Macro, to William Sherard, to Hans Sloane, Richard Mead and Cromwell Mortimer. But the final chapter includes letters to a miscellaneous collection of British physicians, such as John Arbuthnot and Boerhaave's biographer William Burton. The translations are excellent and the book is accurately produced. With the promised second part, scholars will have available material that is necessary for assessing the importance of Boerhaave in the histories of medicine and botany.

H. M. SINCLAIR

British Anatomy 1525–1800, a Bibliography, by K. F. RUSSELL, Melbourne University Press, 1963, pp. xvii, 254, illus. £15 15s.

Kenneth Russell, associate professor of anatomy at Melbourne, has completed a survey of British Anatomy books which is at once less and more than a bibliography, being rather a catalogue with considerable historical annotations. In form it is an alphabetical author-catalogue of all known books wholly or partly on anatomy by British authors, wherever published, or by foreign authors published in Britain, from the reign of Henry VIII to the end of the eighteenth century, amounting to more than nine hundred editions. Russell's careful but unobtrusive annotations make his book into the substance of a history of the study and teaching of anatomy in these islands, which he summarizes all too briefly in a lively introduction.

Russell has not elaborated his technical descriptions, recording simply the full imprint, format and pagination, with notes on provenance, bindings, etc. This is sufficient for identification, and the manner of his book may be compared with that of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* where historical interest was preferred to mere bibliography. Russell's researches have added several unrecorded editions to the canon of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books, while in the eighteenth century he is charting a virtually unmapped ocean in this special field. He estimates that more than half of the books he describes appeared after 1700.

He has given us for the first time a precise enumeration of the many editions of such successful school-books as those of Cheselden, Innes, Keill, or Monro. The rare and little-known Syllabuses for the 'muscular' and 'visceral' lectures of the London surgeons at their Hall are also assembled, and where possible attributed to particular lecturers. Russell has made ample use of contemporary documents and other external evidence to elucidate the publishing-history of individual books. The sequence of the various issues of such distinguished books as William Cheselden's *Osteographia* or Charles Nicholas Jenty's *Human Structure* is thus authoritatively established.

Besides discovering and recording many interesting association copies, such as a *Historie of Man* by John Banister given by the author in 1596 to the library where it still is, or an author's presentation copy of the improved fifth edition of Cheselden's *Anatomy* at Warrnambool in Australia, a place undreamed of in 1740, he has cleared up several debated points. The most important among these, and in itself a nice piece of historical detection, is Russell's account of the only eighteenth-century