



Anatomy



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The Anatomical Museum, section of the most articulated MUSA - University Museum of Arts and Sciences - of the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, stores unique collections of anatomical preparations that, due to the high number, the variety and conservation techniques, represent a heritage of

unparalleled historical, scientific and educational value of one of the oldest medical faculties in the world.

The MUSA includes the sections of Pharmacology, Stomatology, Bibliography and Art as well as the rich monumental heritage of the Vanvitelli University.



The Collections

ANTIQUÉ EQUIPMENT AND THE ANCIENT LIBRARY

The museum stores a large number of optical microscopes from the 18th and 19th centuries and part of the ancient book collection from the Institute of Anatomy. The collection, which includes several volumes printed between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, is the testimony of the bibliographic tools available to scientists and students in various eras, and is a faithful report of the anatomical and medical knowledge of the past. The volumes are a precious indication to perceive the students' training path and the didactic experience of the professors who succeeded one other at the Anatomy chair of our city.

ANATOMIC WAXES

The anatomical waxes have both an educational-scientific and artistic value, dating back to the mid-700s with the reign of Charles III of Bourbon. The 375 waxes, now in the Museum, are the work of several ceroplastic masters who lived in those years.

SPECIMEN IN STORAGE LIQUIDS

This extensive collection consists of dissections in formalin or in alcohol of parts of the human body and a collection of rare human and animal monstrosities.

SECTION OF ANCIENT CRANIA

The section of the ancient skulls contains numerous pieces dating from the first century BC up to the 800's and consists of four series. One of the famous collections concerns the "Skulls of the Vicaria", studied by Prof. Giovan Battista Miraglia.

SECTION OF MARINE ANIMALS

The collection includes 51 specimens of marine animals in preservation liquids, which, due to their particular characteristics, are of considerable anatomical-comparative interest.

SECTION OF FOETAL MALFORMATIONS

The large section of foetal malformations includes 153 specimens stored in formalin or in alcohol, which represent a unique heritage, very useful for those who study the mechanisms leading to the structural alterations of human morphogenesis.

DRY PREPARATIONS

This collection includes 417 findings prepared with a special drying technique that has allowed the preservation, where present, of the ligamentous and cartilaginous structures.

SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITIES

We named "curiosities" all those objects not easily classifiable in specific collections that, due to their singularity, arise the interest of visitors. One of these is the "Homer of Vesalius" placed in a small wooden and glass case with a donation letter next to it. We can also find eight strips of dried and tattooed human skin and two Tsantsas trophies, cultural expression of the Jibaros, inhabitants of Amazonia.

THE "PETRIFICATIONS" OF EFISIO MARINI

The preparations, commonly identified as the petrifications of the Marini, are particularly fascinating. Efisio Marini (1835-1900), represents an example of a "difficult" scientist; he worked in Naples for over thirty years developing a personal method of mummification and petrification of organic parts, performed mainly on segments of the arts.

STONES

Unique in its kind is the "collection of stones" that originates from a first nucleus of "stones" collected by the scientist Antonio Nanula who, in 1834, offered it to the University of Naples. The stones are extracted from ureters, urinary bladders and human and animal gallbladders.

SKELETONS

The collection includes 560 artefacts, some missing chronological reference, others dated rather certainly and complete with indications on age and provenance; among the finds, the skulls of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Pontecagnano stand out for their archaeological and anthropological interest.

CALCINATION PREPARATIONS

In the museum, two glass and brass cases containing a dried body of a newborn and the bust of a young woman are exhibited. The two preparations were obtained through the calcination technique prepared by the physician Giuseppe Albini, commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior, who invited him to find an alternative method to the burial and the cremation of corpses.

