More Vesalian Second Thoughts. The Annotations to the *Institutiones anatomicae secundum Galeni sententiam*, 1538

Vivian Nutton

**Summary**

In 1538 Andreas Vesalius published his unauthorised revision of Guinther von Andernach’s little anatomical textbook, the *Institutiones anatomicae*. Immediately on publication he set to work on a further revision, making around 250 changes. This paper presents these changes for the first time, discussing them in the context of Vesalius as a reviser of his own work and as anatomist moving away from reliance on Galen towards the independence of the 1543 *Fabrica*. As well as simple proof corrections, the notes show corrections to Vesalius’ earlier anatomical observations as well as page references to passages in Galen discussed at greater length in the *Fabrica*.

**Keywords:** anatomy, annotations, Fabrica, Galen, Guinther von Andernach, printing, Andreas Vesalius, Padua

**Introduction**

One of the most controversial of all the publications of Andreas Vesalius (1514–1568) was his unauthorised revision of the *Institutiones anatomicae secundum Galeni sententiam* by his Parisian master Johann Guinther von Andernach. The work had been published originally in Paris in 1536, and was followed immediately by a Basle printing. As its title indicates, this was an attempt to present the principles of Galenic anatomy in a form that was easily accessible to medical students. It epitomized the revolution in anatomy

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