

The Anatomy House in Copenhagen

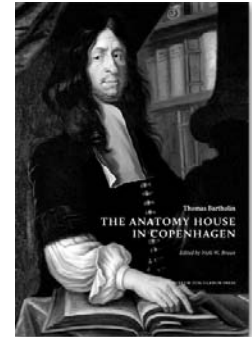
by Thomas Bartholin

Edited by Niels W. Bruun, Translated by Peter Fisher

Introduction by Morten Fink-Jensen

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Thomas Bartholin's *"The Anatomy House in Copenhagen"* edited by Niels W. Bruun who is a Senior Fellow at The Royal Library Copenhagen, has been recently published for the first time in English. This book is essentially the English translation of the original work of Thomas Bartholin in 1662 entitled *"Domus Anatomica Hafniensis Brevissime Descripta"* (A Brief Description of the Copenhagen Anatomy House). The original book meticulously described the layout of the Anatomy House alongside the first eighteen years of its history. Bruun points out in his Preface to this English version that he published Bartholin's book with a Danish translation and commentary once in 2007.

An extensive twenty-four-page introduction by Danish historian Morten Fink-Jensen which describes the detailed history of the anatomy in the University of Copenhagen from the foundation of the university to the period after Bartholin in 18th Century, provides a broader viewpoint to the readers. The main part of this book consists of both original Latin text and its comparative translation that has been presented by page. The book also contains a total of 44 illustrations with substantial legends.

Thomas Bartholin, Danish Professor of Anatomy came from a family which was famous for its pioneering scientists, twelve of whom became professors at the University

of Copenhagen. Three generations of the Bartholin family made significant contributions to anatomical science and medicine in the 17th and 18th centuries. Caspar Bartholin the Elder (1585–1629) was the first to describe the workings of the olfactory nerve and introduced the terms *nervus olfactorius* and *nervus vagus*. Second of his six sons, Thomas Bartholin (1616–1680) is known as the first demonstrator of anatomy of the thoracic duct and the lymphatic vessels in man. Thomas Bartholin's son Caspar Bartholin the Younger (1655–1738) is credited with the first description of two anatomic structures and therefore known eponymously for Bartholin's gland (*glandula vestibularis major*) and Bartholin's duct (*ductus sublingualis major*).

"The Anatomy House in Copenhagen" should be assumed as an important contribution to bring Danish anatomical history in the early modern period to light. Therefore, it is a valuable reference work for historians of medicine and anatomy.

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