DISSECTION IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

Dissection is a practice with a long history stretching back to antiquity, and has played a crucial role in the development of anatomical knowledge. This absorbing book takes the story back to Classical antiquity, employing a wide range of textual and material evidence. Claire Bubb reveals how dissection was practiced from the Hippocratic authors of the fifth century BC, through Aristotle and the Hellenistic doctors Herophilus and Erasistratus, to Galen in the second century AD. She focuses on its material concerns and social contexts, from the anatomical subjects (animal or human) and how they were acquired, to the motivations and audiences of dissection, to its place in the web of social contexts that informed its reception, including butchery, sacrifice, and spectacle. The book concludes with a thorough examination of the relationship of dissection to the development of anatomical literature into Late Antiquity.

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DISSECTION IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

A Social and Medical History

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A Note on Citations, Abbreviations, and Dates

Abbreviations for Galenic titles follow those in the appendix to Singer and van der Eijk (2018), which also includes a list of modern editions and translations; to the degree to which anything about the Galenic corpus is standardized, these abbreviations are the standard ones – they are just about identical, for example, to those in the appendix to Hankinson (2008a). Similarly, for the sake of both simplicity and flexibility for the reader, all citations to Galen refer to the pervasively available pagination from Kühn (1821–33). I supply chapter or page numbers from other editions only in cases where the text or specific passage is not included in the Kühn numeration. I have, however, consulted modern critical editions wherever available; in cases where textual differences become pertinent, I cite the relevant edition(s) in the footnotes. The only exceptions to this practice are references to On the Usefulness of the Parts (UP) and On the Doctrines of Hippocrates and Plato (PHP). For UP, I include the pagination in Helmreich (1907–9) (H) after the Kühn numbers to facilitate reference to May (1968); for PHP, I include the chapter numbers from De Lacy (1978–84) after the Kühn numbers to facilitate reference to the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae.

For passages from the latter books of Galen’s Anatomical Procedures (AA), which survive only in Arabic, I use the pagination from Simon (1906) (S) and the translation from Duckworth, Lyons, and Towers (1962). For other texts that survive only in Arabic, the cited edition is also the source of any quoted translations. Unless otherwise indicated, all other translations are my own.

Hippocratic abbreviations follow those in Craik (2015); all other abbreviations are according to The Oxford Classical Dictionary (4th ed.) (2012), as available. The abbreviation CMG refers to the Corpus Medicorum Graecorum series, TLG refers to the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, and DK refers to the numeration in Diels and Kranz (1951–2).
A Note on Citations, Abbreviations, and Dates

For the convenience of the reader, I have included dates for all major figures when they are first handled; these are according to The Oxford Classical Dictionary (4th ed.) (2012), The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity (2018), or The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium (1991), as appropriate, unless otherwise noted.