

The finger of God: anatomical practice in 17th century Leiden Huisman, T.

#### Citation

Huisman, T. (2008, May 8). *The finger of God : anatomical practice in 17th century Leiden*. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12842

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12842

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

# The Finger of God

Anatomical Practice in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Leiden

Tim Huisman

## The Finger of God

Anatomical Practice in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Leiden

#### **PROEFSCHRIFT**

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,
volgens het besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op donderdag 8 mei 2008,
klokke 13.45 uur

door

TIJS HUISMAN

geboren te Terneuzen in 1964

### **PROMOTIECOMMISSIE**

Promotor prof. dr. H. Beukers

Referenten prof. dr. H.J. Cook (University College London)

dr. H.G.M. Jorink

Overige leden prof. dr. E.S. Houwaart (VrijeUniversiteit Amsterdam)

prof. dr. W. Otterspeer prof. dr. G.J.R. Maat

prof. dr. Ing. R.L. Zwijnenberg

prof. dr. D. van Delft

#### **Foreword**

I first came across the Leiden anatomical theatre as an art history student studying the print collection of the Museum Boerhaave in 1986. When some years later the Boerhaave became my employer my fascination for this strange object of 17<sup>th</sup> century scientific culture only deepened. I therefore feel grateful to the museum for having allowed me the chance to write this book. Many people have helped me in the process of whom I specifically like to mention Ton Meijknecht for his enthusiasm, Huib Zuidervaart for his criticism and of course my colleagues for their patience. I am indebted to Dalila Wallé for her work on the index to this book.

My biggest thanks however go to Lotje, for putting up with my frequent mental excursions into the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and to our sons Sam and Job for doing everything in their power to make me *not* work on this thesis.

#### **Table of Contents**

INTR	ODUCTION	10
	Existing literature The themes of this investigation About this book	11 12 13
PART	ONE	16
THE I	LEIDEN THEATRUM ANATOMICUM	17
	Introduction: Changing Identity from 1590 to 1725	17
I.	The construction of the Leiden anatomical theatre Leiden's first anatomists Who designed the theatre	19 21 26
II.	Petrus Paaw: his Practice of Anatomy Public anatomy in practice Paaw's famulus anatomicus Deviations from the normal procedure	27 28 30 31
III.	Reconstructing the contents of anatomy: Paaw's intellectual background Humanism Communicating in images The broader scope of anatomy Anatomy and philosophy/theology	33 35 36 37 40
IV.	The Succession of Petrus Paaw	42
V.	The Dawn of a New Era? Otho Heurnius Otho Heurnius's collecting activities	<i>46</i> 48
VI.	Otho Heurnius: his Vision of History, Philosophy and Collecting The Book of Nature, Dutch collections in the 17 <sup>th</sup> century Princely collections Egypt Otho Heurnius, Govert Basson and Robert Fludd	55 55 58 59 64
VII.	The New Anatomy: Joannes van Horne Van Horne and Leiden Van Horne's anatomical atlas A private collection Van Horne and the anatomical theatre Louis de Bils: an anatomical entrepreneur and his dealings with Van Horne Van Horne and the anatomy servant Accounts of anatomical practice under Van Horne	70 71 73 75 75 76 79 82
VIII	Counteracting decline Drelincourt's practice of anatomy The anatomical theatre as a source of income Reading the Book of Nature at University A shift in the message of anatomy	88 89 90 91 93 94
IX.	Govard Bidloo	96

	Bidloo appointed in Leiden Complaints	98 99
<i>X</i> .	The Anatomy Servant	103
PART	TWO	109
THE	COLLEGIUM MEDICO PRACTICUM AT THE CAECILIA HOSPITAL	110
	Introduction	110
I.	Caecilia Hospital	112
II.	Clinical Teaching Collegium Medico Practicum Maps and bills The interior of the Collegium Moral education in prints	115 118 119 122 123
III.	The Collegium in practice: teaching methods and grumbling students Thirty cases by Otho Heurnius Problems of continuity New faces	126 126 128 129
IV.	Sylvius Sylvius at work in the Collegium Medico Practicum A Danish eyewitness Descartes, Sylvius and Anatomia Nova	130 132 134 135
V.	The Collegium in the final decades of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century Some concluding remarks	138 143
PART	T THREE (CODA)	145
AN U	NEASY SYMBIOSIS; THE LEIDEN SURGEONS AND THE UNIVERSITY	146
	Introduction	146
I.	The Leiden Surgeons' Guild, the University and Anatomy Surgeons and Anatomy Leiden	147 147 148
II.	A new room for the surgeons Jacob Remmers	152 153
SYNT	THESIS AND CONCLUSIONS	156
	1589-1617 Petrus Paaw	156
	1618-1650 Otho Heurnius	157
	1651-1669 Johannes van Horne	158 159
	1670-1713 Charles Drelincourt, Antonius Nuck and Govard Bidloo 1650-1720 The rise of the anatomy servant	160
	1636 The Collegium Medico Practicum	161
	Anatomy and the surgeons' guild	162
	Conclusion	163
	SAMENVATTING (Summary in Dutch)	164
REFE	REFERENCES	
	Archives	168
	References	169
$\Delta P^{1}$	PENDLY I: Inventory of the Collegium Medico Practicum	170

APPENDIX II: Inventory of the Leiden Surgeons' Hall	183
APPENDIX III: Dissections in the Leiden anatomical theatre, as documented in archives and contemporary literature	191
Index Curriculum Vitae	196 202