Cleyer Introduces Europeans to Acupuncture

Published in Frankfurt in 1682 by Johann Zubrodt, this is the first and only edition of Andreas Cleyer’s Specimen Medicinae Sinicae. Housed in the WLM’s K. Garth Huston, Sr. Rare Book Room, Cleyer’s classic was actually the first illustrated text on Chinese medicine to be published in the West. Specimen Medicinae Sinicae familiarized European readers with Chinese medical philosophies and practices such as pulse diagnosis, meridian theories, and acupuncture therapy. Cleyer’s text is “bound in contemporary vellum over boards” with a text published earlier in Frankfurt, J. Clauberg’s 1681 Dictata physica private id est Physica contracta... (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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