

SUMMARY

Medical Terminology in Jessenius' *Anatomia Pragensis* (1601)

Iohannes Jessenius (1566-1621), professor of surgery and anatomy in Wittenberg, personal doctor of the elector of Saxony and of the king of Hungary, rector of the Charles University in Prague, studied medicine in Wittenberg, Leipzig, and, most importantly for him, in Padova. He was a student of a distinguished anatomist and surgeon Girolamo Fabrizi. After finishing his studies he lived in Wittenberg first and then he moved to Prague, where he performed the first public dissection there in 1600. Most of the audience was laymen, and so his scientific explanations were partly presented in a popular manner, aiming to inform but entertain as well. In this respect the lecture that accompanied his Prague dissection is quite unique. Best known as *Anatomia Pragensis*, it was published in 1601 under the title *Iohannis Iessenii a Iessen Anatomiae Pragae anno MDC abs se solenniter administratae historia*. The dissection is described in lively documentary style; the lecture is divided according to nine performances (*administrationes*). Jessenius calls all anatomical parts with their Greek and Latin names, often adding an etymological explanation. He speaks about different ways the parts were called in the past and mentions many popular names too. His terms are not always used consistently and sometimes he uses terminological synonyms. Often the parts are identified by their aspect and location. Many terms are no longer used in medicine. *Anatomia Pragensis* demonstrates that medical terminology was not yet standardized in Renaissance.