



# Royal College of Physicians

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# Entering the Sixth Century of Advancing Medical Research

**Founded in 1518 by King Henry VIII, the *Royal College of Physicians of London* formed in response to a critical need for more stringent guidelines around medical practice.** At the time, many “physicians” worked with no formal training or knowledge, spurring the RCP’s founding principle that practitioners with proper qualifications should be formally granted licenses to practice medicine, while those who were unqualified should be exposed and punished for malpractice.

As the oldest medical college in England, the Royal College of Physicians is not only an enduring, historical institution in London, but is also recognized as one of the most significant organizations in the global medical community. Centuries after its founding charter, the RCP continues to play a pivotal role in setting and raising medical standards, while shaping the public health agenda every day. Today, the RCP continues to pursue its mission of improving healthcare and reducing illness, while driving progress in the diagnosis of disease, the care of individual patients, and the health of the global population.

## Sharing a Royal Research Legacy

2018 marks the 500th anniversary of the Royal College of Physicians, celebrating five centuries of research and its unique primary source collections, authored by its members. Until now, the massive archives have only been available for on-site exploration. While the task of organizing the archives for digitization seemed, at first, insurmountable, the Royal College of Physicians recognized the indisputable value of these original sources and the impact access could have on both its members and the researcher community at large. As a result, the Royal College of Physicians has partnered with *Wiley Digital Archives* to restore and digitize

its collection, ensuring improved discovery and access to scholars around the globe. Researchers will now be able to easily find or *serendipitously discover previously unknown materials in this vast collection, without the need to travel to the physical archives.*

Accessible through the Wiley Digital Archives platform, the Royal College of Physicians collection contains a vast range of original sources that have shaped over five centuries of medical progress, and represents a unique opportunity for scholars to reinvigorate their research with previously unexplored historical context.

**Today, the *Royal College of Physicians* is proud of its outstanding membership, which has sustained the RCP’s leading position in the medical community:**

33,000 international members and fellows working in hospitals and communities in **over 30** medical specialties

**Notable members & fellows** include Richard Mead, William Harvey, John Brereton Barlow, James Cyriax, Ronald Ross, and Dame Sheila Sherlock

Members are responsible for **raising standards of healthcare** and shaping public health



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# Centuries of Medical History Now Accessible to Researchers

Inspire your researchers to go beyond published conclusions by **empowering them to explore primary source material** within its historical context, encouraging a more critical interpretation of modern research and the acceleration of novel discoveries.

From astronomy and anatomical studies to neurology and botanical research, the Wiley Digital Archives: Royal College of Physicians collection contains an extensive body of diverse and interdisciplinary original materials, available to researchers via institutional access.

Designed to facilitate critical research activities, the Wiley Digital Archives platform enables unprecedented engagement with exclusive archive materials, including tools for visualizations, mapping, and textual analysis; enhanced metadata; indexing; and MARC records that will support the cataloging, search, and discovery needs of your library.

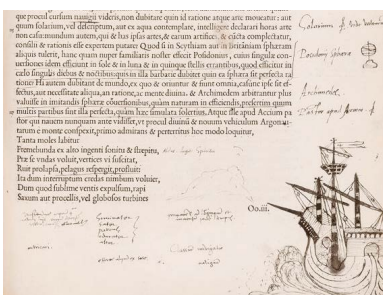
## A range of unique materials include:

- Books
- Committee Records
- Correspondence
- Domestic Manuals
- Grants, Charters, and Statutes
- Illustrations, Sketches, and Drawings
- Journals
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Personal Papers
- Medical Textbooks
- Physical Artifacts
- Proceedings
- Reports
- Treatment Records
- Questionnaires
- & More!**

## Spanning a vast range of multi-disciplinary medical research:

- History of Medicine
- History of the Royal College of Physicians
- Regulation, Law, Policy, and Control
- Medieval and Early Modern Texts
- Non-Western Medicine
- Anatomical Studies
- World Health
- Vaccinations
- Medieval and Early Modern Diseases and Medical Treatment
- Public Health and Common Diseases
- Military Medicine
- Early Medical Textbooks
- & More!**

## Peek inside the Collection



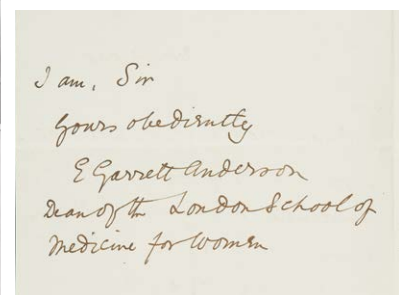
### Studies of John Dee

John Dee (1527-1608/09) was a leading Renaissance scholar and tutor/advisor to Elizabeth I. His studies encompass a wide range of disciplines from modern science to magic, including subjects such as mathematics and divination. Primary source content from his collection is available for the first time in full color using state-of-the-art scanning technologies.



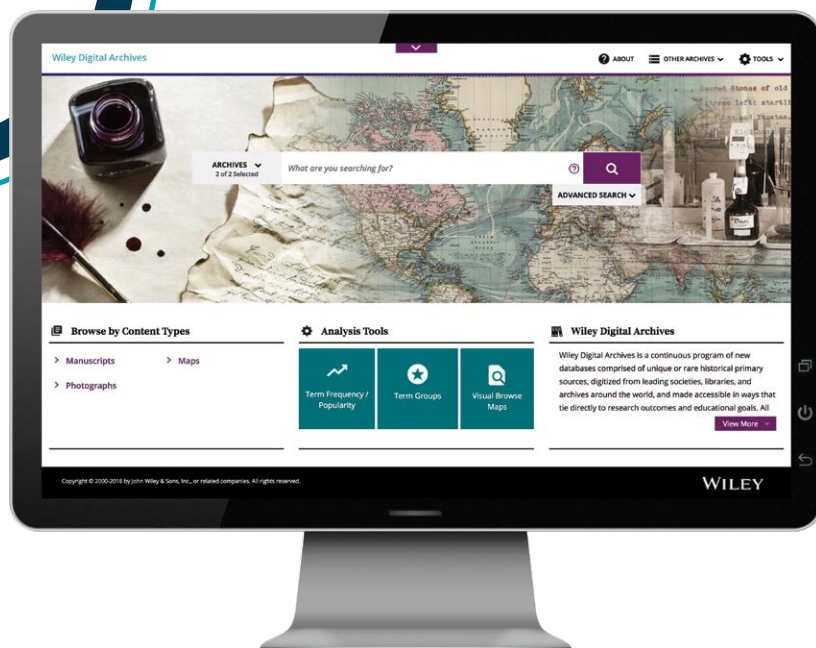
### William Harvey Studies

William Harvey (1578-1657) was a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians who encouraged his fellow doctors to "search and study out the secrets of nature by way of experiment." His discovery of the systematic circulation of the blood, pumped around the bodies of all animals by the heart, is a legacy of scientific endeavor built upon the empirical pillars of observation and experimentation.



### Women in Medicine

The history of women in medicine is rich and filled with challenges, obstacles, and achievements in gender equality. Including well-known pioneers such as Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917), the barriers all women faced in medical practice are prevalent throughout the history of the Royal College of Physicians archive.



The **Wiley Digital Archives** platform has been specifically designed to meet modern archival research needs.

- Intuitive interface
- Full-text searchability for printed documents
- Visual search results
- Enhanced metadata
- Downloadable optical character recognition (ocr) text
- Term frequency, chronology, and analysis tools
- Exportable datasets for charts, tables, statistics, and handwritten fieldwork notes
- Geotagged historical maps
- Textual analysis
- Headers—names, places, and dates—and core metadata have been manually keyed in
- Collections are browsable at archive, collection, box, and folder levels
- Print, download, save, and share documents

Learn more at  
**wileydigitalarchives.com**