

Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

About Collection 7

The first new release of Early European Books in 2015, Collection 7 brings together more than 7,400 titles and 1.9 million pages from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague, the Wellcome Library in London and the Kongelige Bibliothek in Copenhagen. The collection marks the final instalment of content from Copenhagen, with over 2,700 new titles including sixteen incunabula, one of which is the first printed edition of Leon Battista Alberti's seminal work on architecture *De re aedificatoria* (Florence, 1485). Also included are works by the pioneer Danish physician Thomas Bartholin on his discovery of the thoracic duct and the lymphatic vessels, as well as his 1658 translation of the Venetian nobleman Luigi Cornaro's book on healthy aging. Added to this are titles in numerous languages on a range of subject areas including astronomy, philosophy, literature and aesthetics, as well as classical literature and curiosities like household calendars and the first ever Danish cookbook (published in 1616).

Continuing with the medical theme, works from the Wellcome Library include editions of the *Fasciculus medicinae* by the German physician Johannes de Kethem, as well as illustrated titles on anatomy, midwifery and an extensive range of 16th-century titles on the new disease of syphilis. Other highlights from the Wellcome include Paracelsus' groundbreaking study on the health of a single occupational group, *Von der Bergsucht oder Bergkranckheiten drey Bücher* (Dillingen, 1567) and William Harvey's *Exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus* (Frankfurt, 1628), the first edition of his account of his discovery of blood circulation. Beyond medicine and works on science, selections from the Wellcome also include religious texts such as the Dutch Anabaptist David Joris' *T' wonder-boeck* (1551) and a 1681 French translation of Leon Modena's study of Jewish ceremonies and customs. Also from the Wellcome are two editions of Italian geographer Giovanni Battista Ramusio's *Navigazione et viaggi*, a compendium of explorers' first-hand accounts of their navigations and travels, the first of its kind.

In addition to six incunabula, selections from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek also incorporate a number of exploration narratives, including Dutch translations of Sir Walter Raleigh's *The Discovery of Guiana* (Amsterdam, 1617) and of Leo Africanus' *Della descrittione dell'Africa* (Rotterdam, 1665). Material from The Hague is similarly strong on history titles, with accounts of the Dutch Revolt by the likes of Samuel Ampzing, Pieter Bor and the Flemish historian Emanuel van Meteren, as well as a Dutch history of the British Isles during the period of the English Civil War, Jacob van Oorts's *Ontloken roose, bloeyende distel-bloem, en Hersnaerde Harp door* (Dordrecht, 1661). Philosophy and religious titles are also represented, with a 1674 Amsterdam edition of Spinoza's *Tractatus theologico-politicus*, as well as works by Descartes and the influential German mystic Jacob Böhme, by Dutch humanists like Janus Dousa and Erasmus, and by key figures of the Reformation such as Jean Calvin, Theodore Beza and Martin Luther.

