

# History of the UT Library

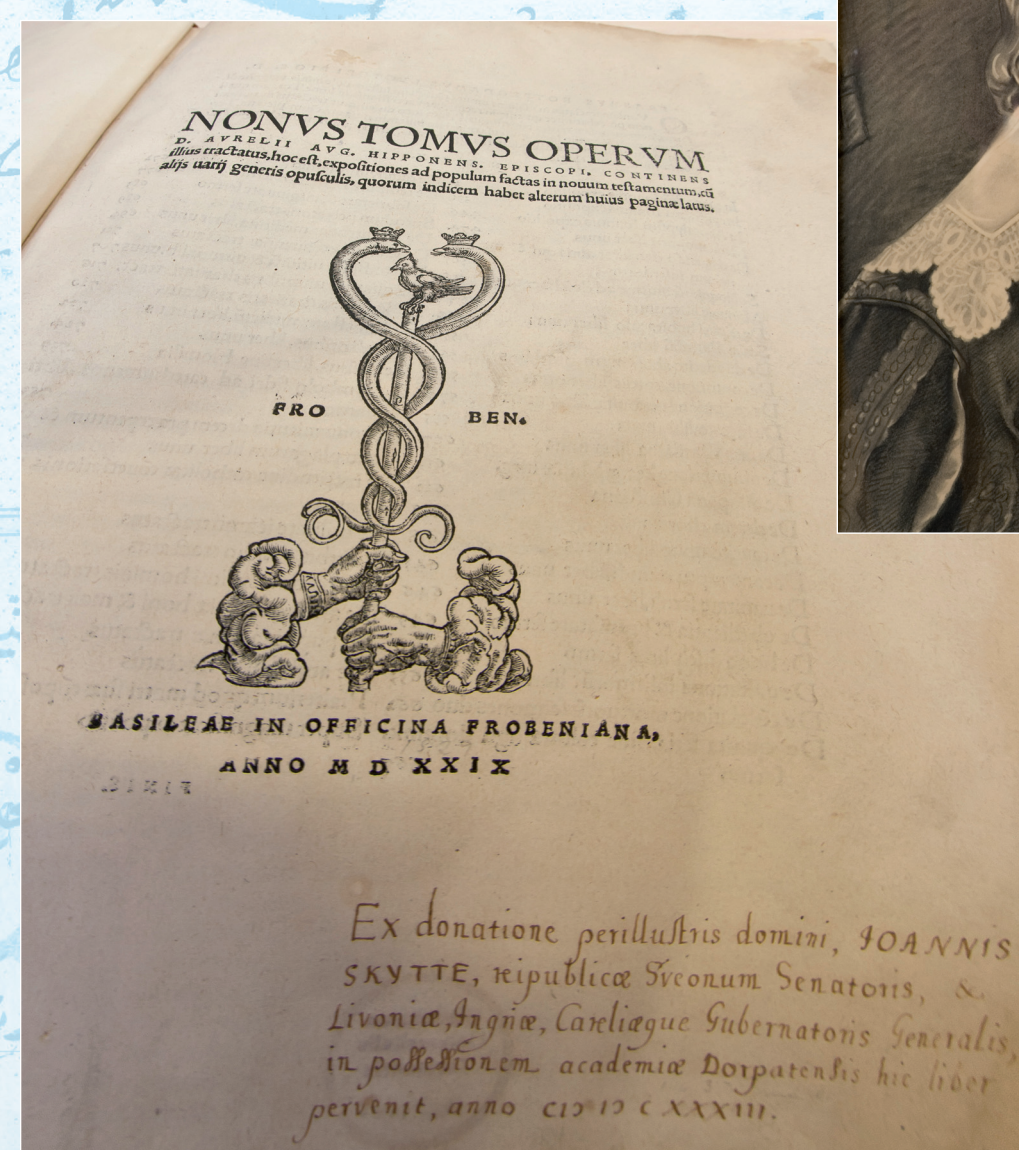
Tartu University, founded in 1632 by King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, worked in 1632–1656 under the name *Academia Gustaviana* and in 1690–1710, *Academia Gustavo-Carolina*. The university printers, the first printing shop in Estonia, mostly published materials related to the university – textbooks, dissertations, academic presentations and organisational documents. 4015 publications have been identified from their two periods of activities in 1632–1656 and 1690–1710. The 3300-volume library of *Academia Gustaviana* was evacuated to Sweden after the university activities were discontinued due to the Great Northern War, and merged with the Royal Library in Stockholm.

Kaljo Põllu.  
The first  
university in  
Tartu.  
Aquatint,  
1968



The artist's reconstruction of the first building of Tartu University in front of the Jaani Church. The building was remodelled for the university in 1642.

Richard Kivit.  
Portrait of Johann Skytte



This is the library's only living link with *Academia Gustaviana*. The book that was given to *Academia* in 1633 by its Chancellor Johan Skytte was returned to Tartu in 1935 as a present from Attaché of the Finnish Embassy M. Ingmann.

By the ukase of Tsar Alexander I, university was reopened in Tartu in 1802. During the following decades, Tartu University developed into one of the leading research centres in Europe and the Imperial Russia:

During his 37 years of service, the first library director, professor of classical philology, rhetoric and literary and art history Karl Morgenstern laid the basis for rich book collections of cultural and science historical importance.

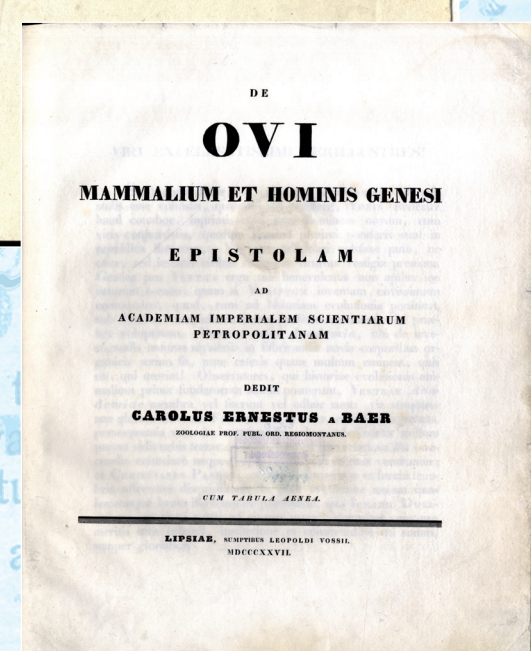


Franz Gerhard v. Kügelgen. Karl Morgenstern. 1809

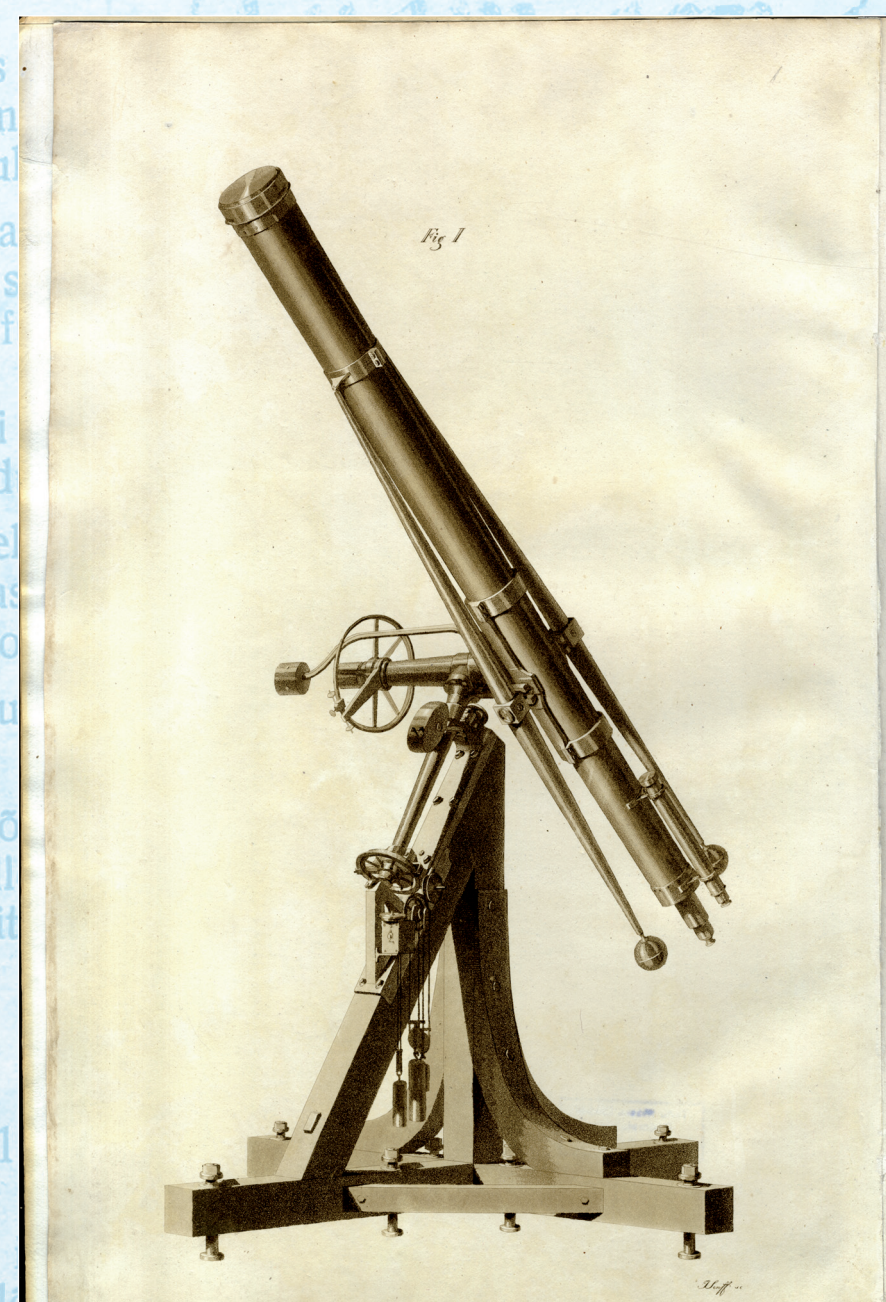
First editions of books by scholars of world-wide renown who have studied and worked at Tartu University are the pride of the library.



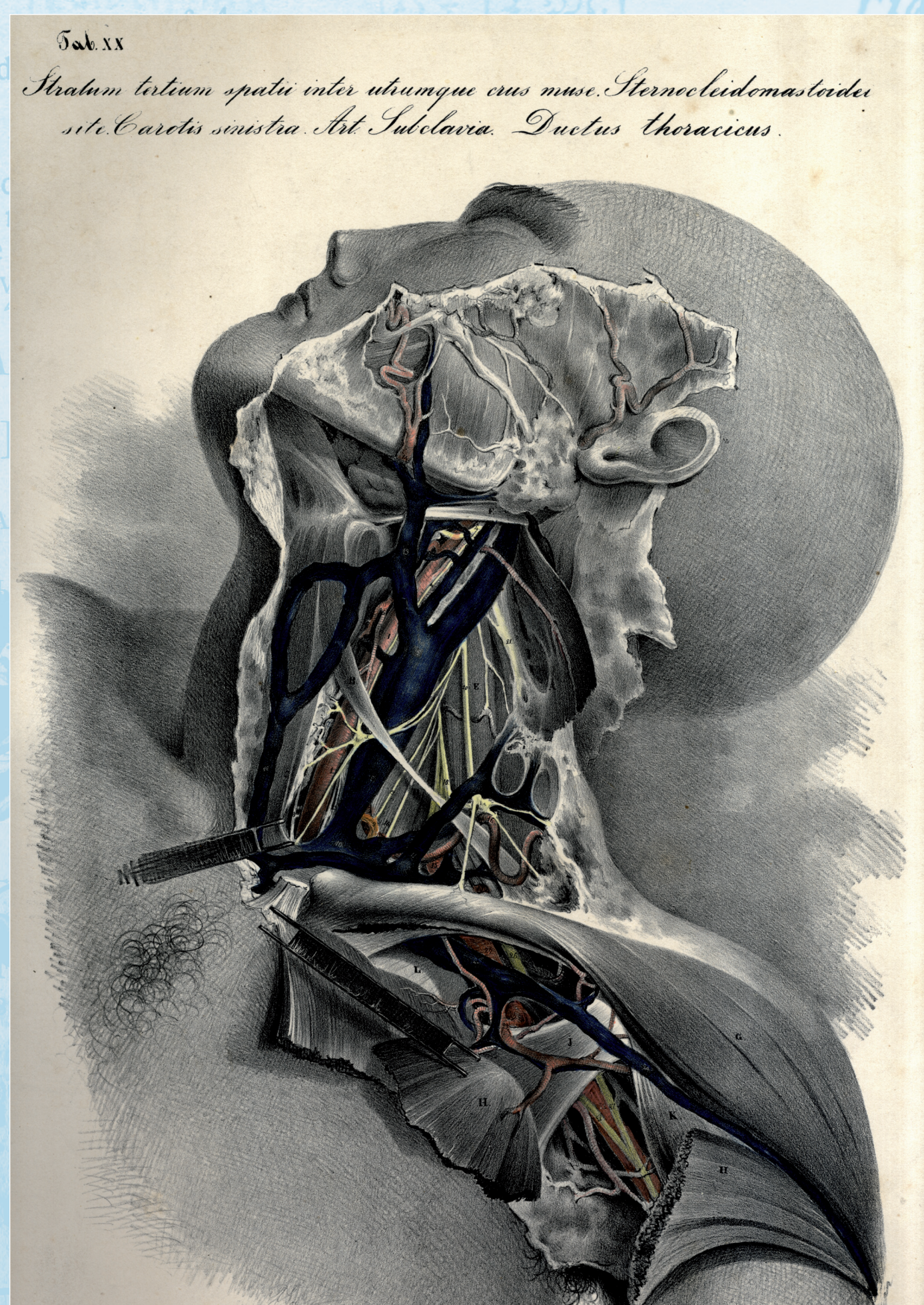
Tartu University alumnus Karl Ernst von Baer's research on the mammalian ovum laid the foundations for comparative embryology.



Professor of astronomy and geodesy and director of astronomical observatory Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve's description of the Fraunhofer telescope, the most powerful telescope of its time, which was installed at the Tartu Astronomical Observatory.



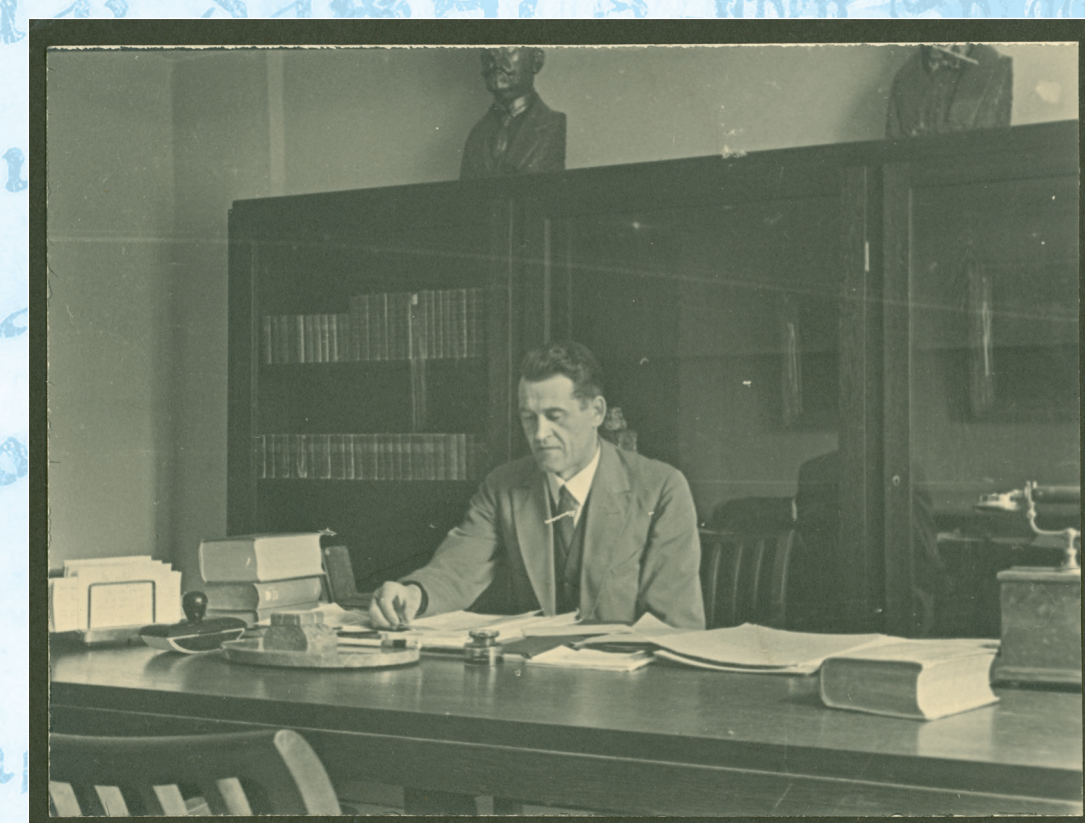
The book on vascular surgery, written by student of Tartu University, professor of anatomy and surgery, developer of anatomical and physiological trend in surgery Nikolay Pirogov, has an appendix in the form of anatomical atlas drawn by Tartu lithographer Friedrich Schlatter.



According to the peace treaty signed by the Republic of Estonia and Soviet Russia on 2 February 1920, almost all of the 420 000-volume valuable book collection that had been evacuated to Russia during WWI was returned to Tartu University.



WWI and the Estonian War of Independence (1918–1920) initiated changes in the university, bringing focus on disciplines concerning Estonia and the Estonian people. Teaching of book science, librarianship and bibliography was initiated at the university in 1927, marking the beginning of higher education in librarianship in Estonia.



Library director and lecturer Friedrich Puksoo was the initiator of the teaching of book science and librarianship in Estonia.



August Matthias Hagen. Buildings of the university medical clinics and the library on Toome Hill. 1827.

University architect Professor Johann Wilhelm Krause remodelled the choir part of the ruins of the former Dome Church to house the library and in 1806, the library was relocated to its new premises.

Since 1982, the library has been serving its users in its present-day Neo-functional building (architects Mart Kalling and Kaljo Valdre).



## BIBLIOTHECA UNIVERSITATIS TARTUENSIS