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## Spectrum

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## ...And That's Why It's Illegal! Timeline of Ethics with Human Cadavers

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Ancient

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

380bc  
Anatomical dissection was completely forbidden in Greece and Rome. Dissection was only used for medical education in Alexandria, Egypt.

1238  
The first anatomical dissection in Europe was performed in Bologna, Italy, by Leonardo da Vinci.

1300  
The first anatomical dissection in England was performed in 1300 by Guy of Claulio.

1506  
The first anatomical dissection in Scotland was performed in 1506 by John of Arden.

1600  
The first anatomical dissection in France was performed in 1600 by Jean Fernel.

1818  
The first anatomical dissection in the United States was performed in 1818 by John Hall.

1933-1945  
The first anatomical dissection in the Soviet Union was performed in 1933-1945 by Leonid Rogoyan.

2006  
The first anatomical dissection in the United Kingdom was performed in 2006 by Dr. David Nisbet.

30bc  
The first anatomical dissection in the Roman Empire was performed in 30bc by Galen.

1299  
The first anatomical dissection in the Islamic world was performed in 1299 by Ibn al-Nafis.

1387  
The first anatomical dissection in the Ottoman Empire was performed in 1387 by Ibn al-Nafis.

1540  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in 1540 by Hieronymus Fabricius.

1636  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in 1636 by Willem Joesphus de Witt.

1730  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in 1730 by Willem Joesphus de Witt.

1830s  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in the 1830s by Willem Joesphus de Witt.

1947  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in 1947 by Willem Joesphus de Witt.

1968  
The first anatomical dissection in the Netherlands was performed in 1968 by Willem Joesphus de Witt.

30ad  
The first anatomical dissection in the Roman Empire was performed in 30ad by Galen.

1299  
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1387  
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1543  
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1832  
Cholera Outbreak in U.S.A.

1832  
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Sinha, D.N. 2015. Ancient human cadaveric dissection. *National Journal of Clinical Anatomy* 4(1): 33-57. [https://www.njcaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/14\\_1421509865.pdf](https://www.njcaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/14_1421509865.pdf)

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1880s  
Forensic medicine was put on the market in France, Germany, Belgium, and the U.S. for medical embalming.  
(Formacare)

Ancient

380 B.C

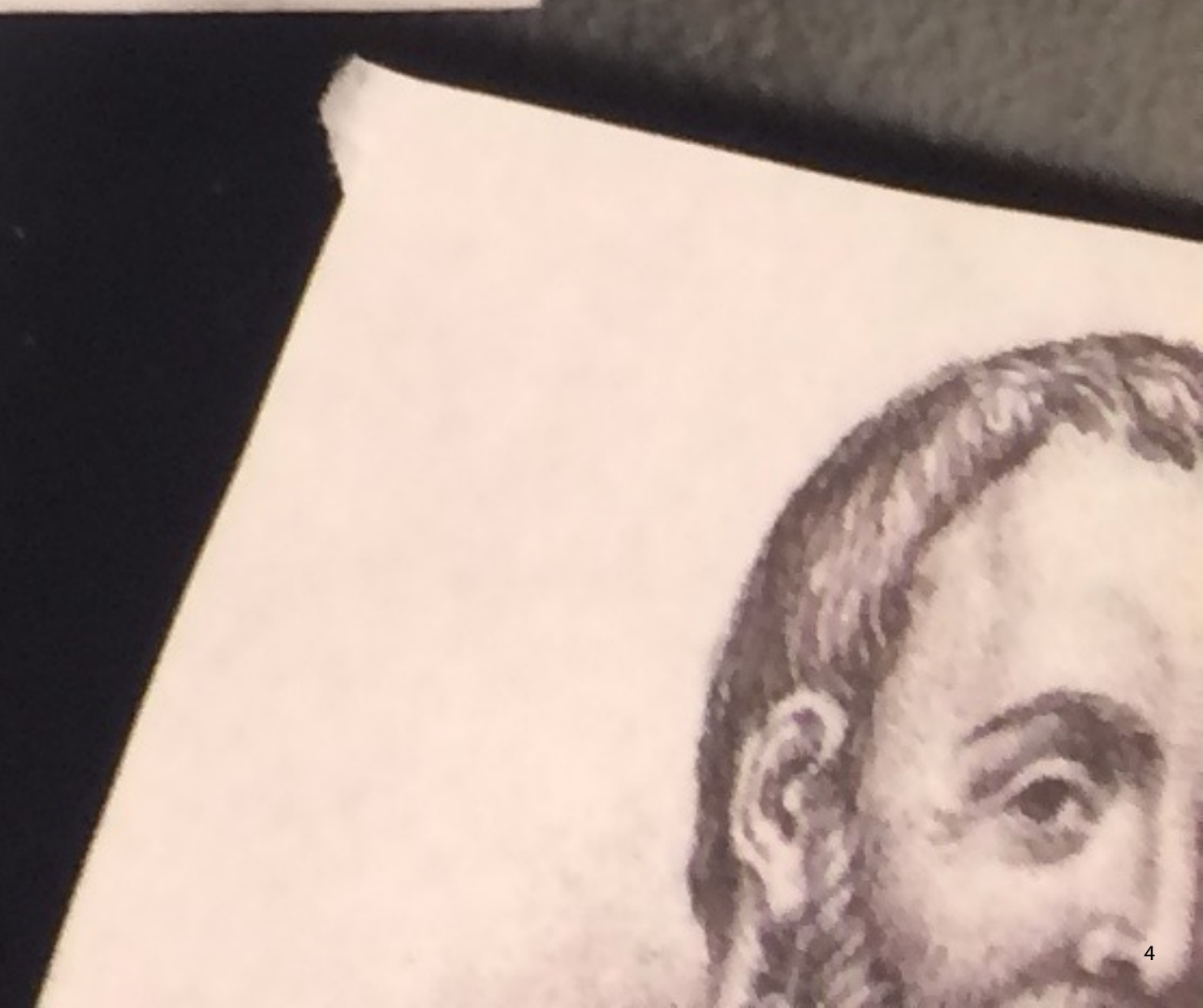
Crystus, Euboea, Greece - Diocles  
dissects a human fetus and coins  
the term Anatomy in his scripts

(Sinha 2015: 53)

30 B.C

Ancient Mediterranean institutions began to cease out human dissection, eventually suppressing practical learning of anatomy for over 1000 years

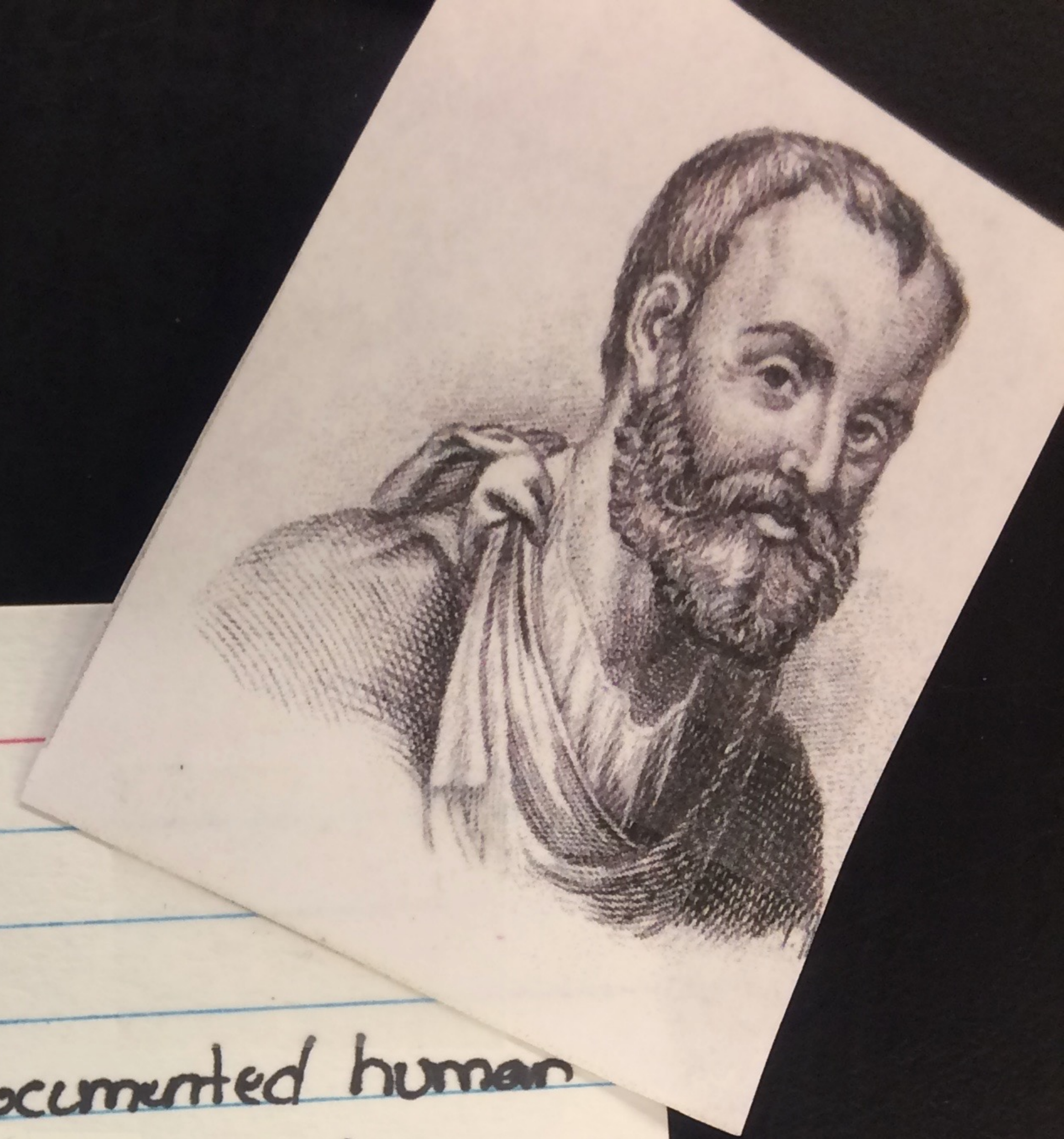
(Sinha 2015: 53)



30 A.D

Greece - "The first documented human dissection was performed by Herophilus of Chalcedon and Erasistratus of Chios of Ptolemaic Medical School in Egypt"  
Public dissection of dead criminals are now utilized

(sinha2015: 53)



now

30 A.D.

Greece/Egypt - Herophilus may  
have dissected over 600 humans,  
including dissections on living  
individuals.

(Sinha 2015: 53)



199 A.D

Human dissection was completely suppressed due to wide spread superstitions of various nature and beliefs

(Piers 2015: 53)

1200

1238

Salerno, Italy - first known  
legislative authorization of  
human dissection.

Only allowed 1 human dissection  
every 5 years! (Hildebrandt 2008:6)

1299

Anatomical Departments must apply for "papal dispensation" to dissect executed bodies

"papal dispensation" is basically permission from the pope...

(Hildebrandt 2008: 6)

1.300

1300

Italy - "...knowledge of anatomy was further utilized to substantiate the evidence in Forensic assessment of the cause of death of human beings"

(Piers 2015: 54)

1387

Italy - ups the number of dissections from 1 every 5 years to 3 dissections every year

(Hildebrandt 2008:6)

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1

4

0

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1500

1506

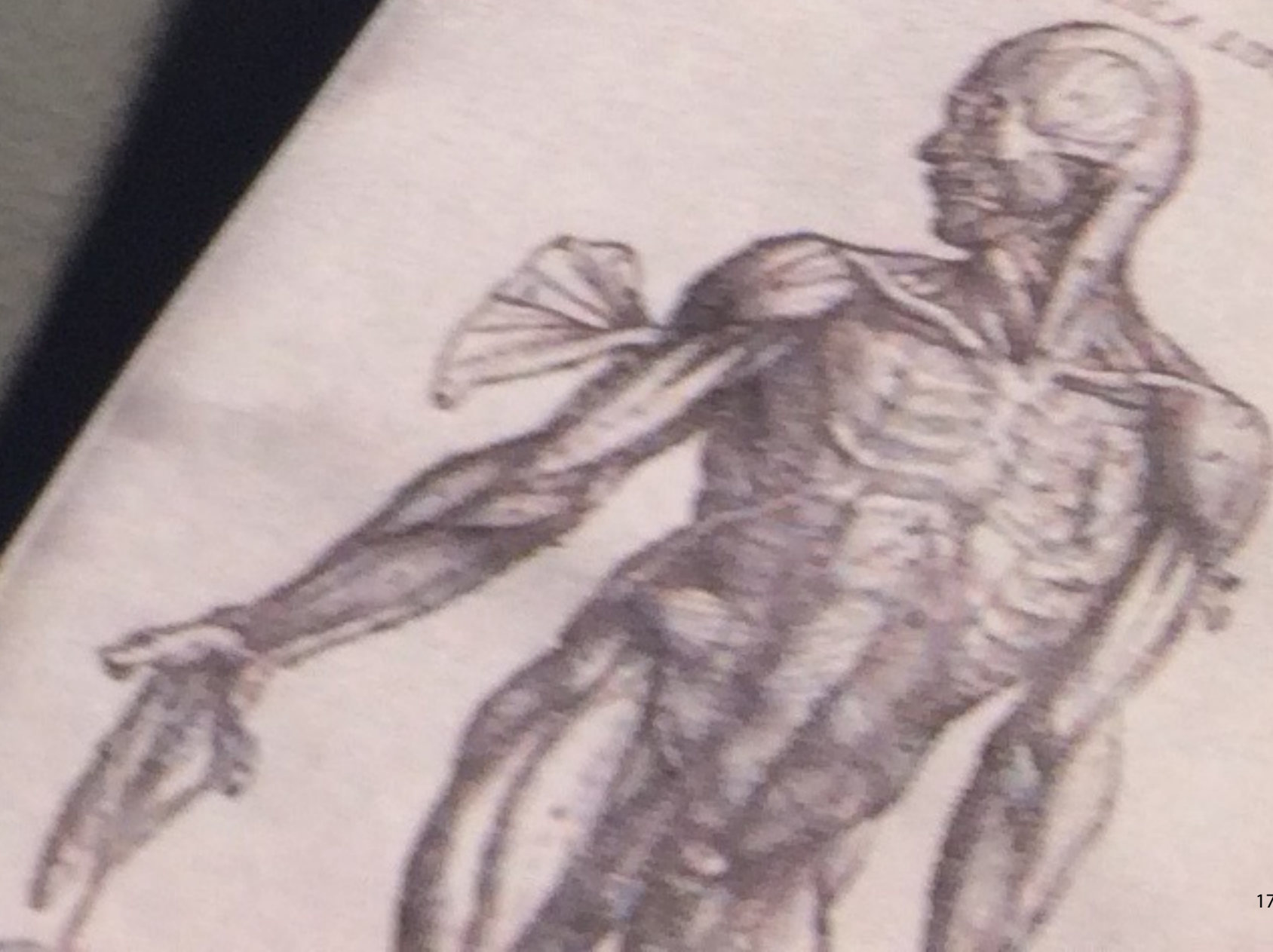
Scotland - the Edinburgh Guild of Surgeons and Barbers had someone executed annually

(Hildebrandt 2008:6)

1540

England - begins donating  
"4 hanged felons" to the Barber-  
Surgeons of London

(Hildebrandt 2008: 6)

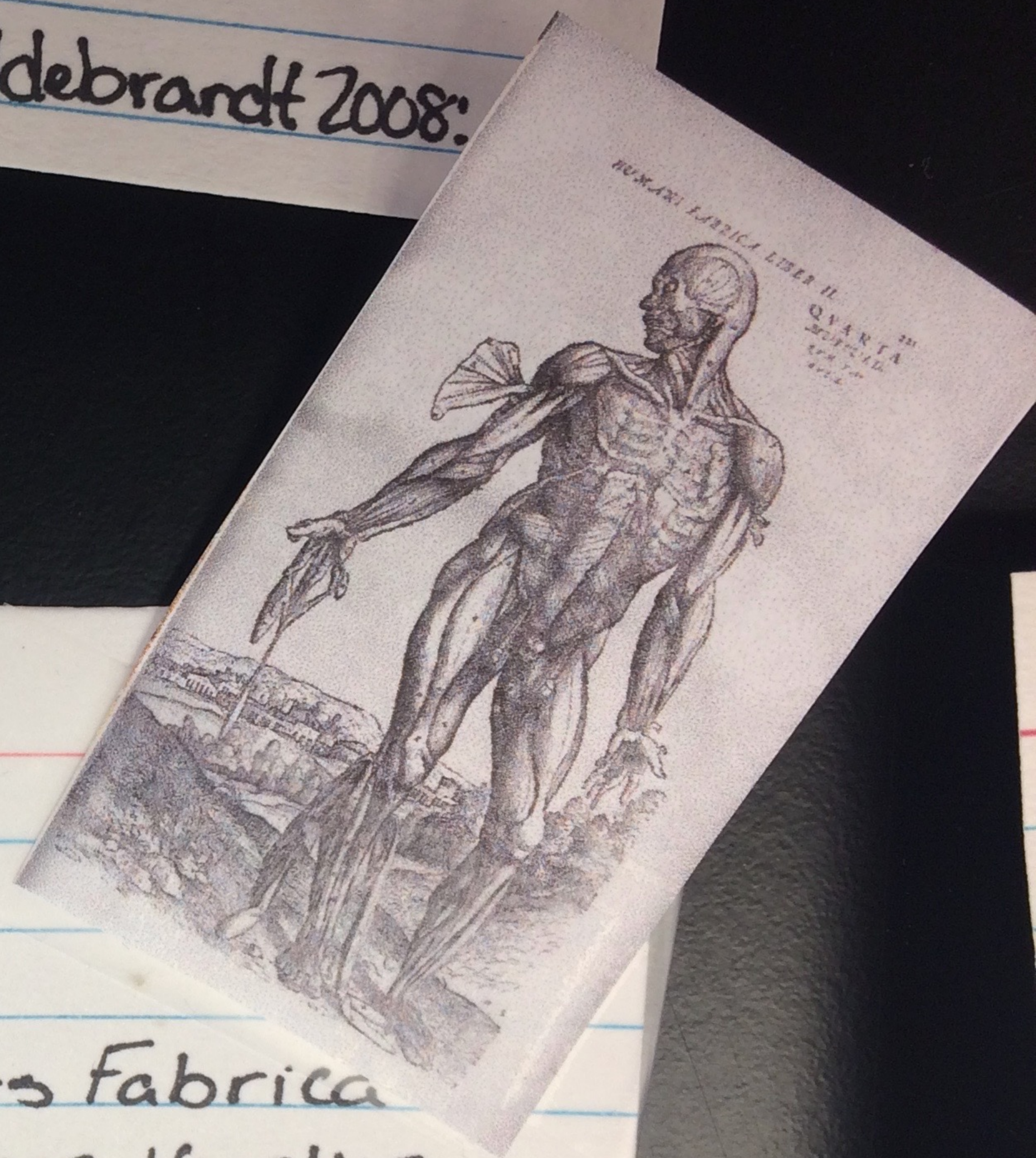


(Hildebrandt 2008:

1543

"De Humani Corporis Fabrica  
was published by Andreas Vesalius  
which reinvented anatomical  
illustrations and challenged Galen's  
theories

(University of Missouri)

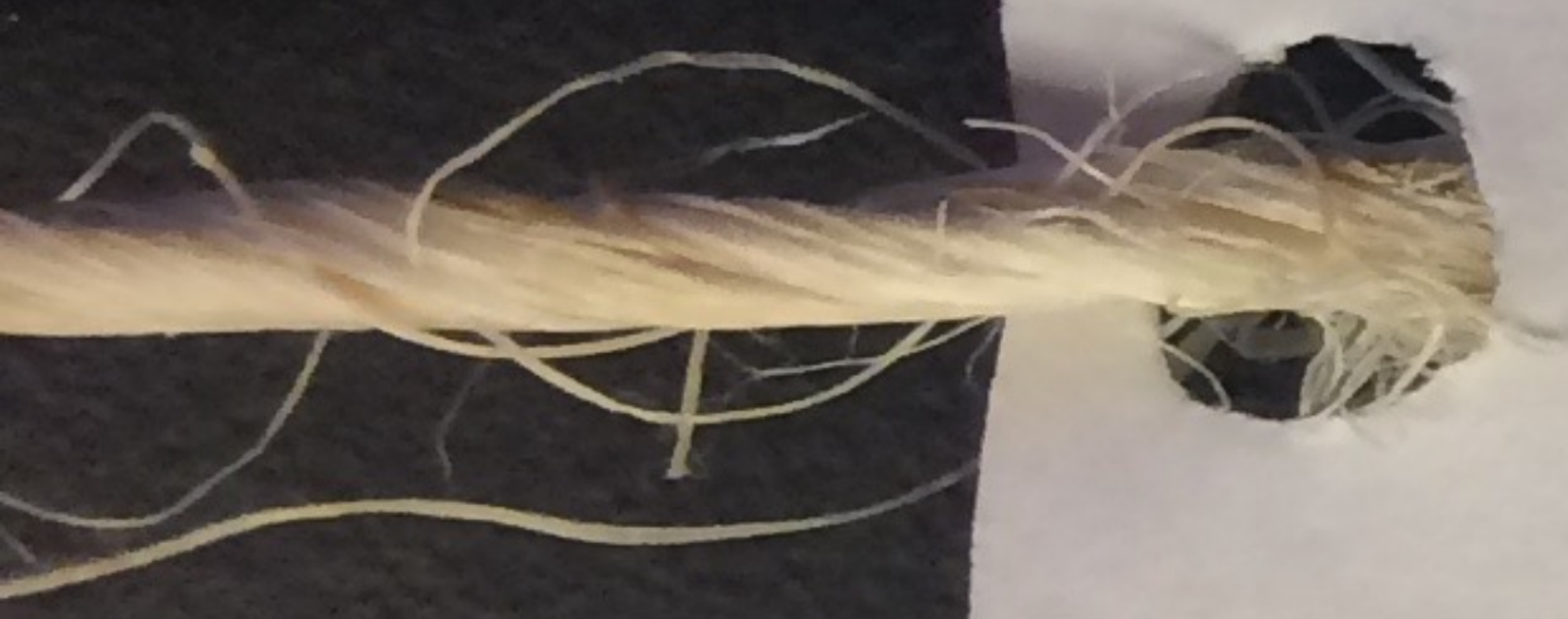


1565

England - permission to dissect  
any executed criminals is granted

(Hildebrandt 2008:6)

1600



~1600

Anatomy dummies were first  
invented, unknown by whom or  
when exactly but they were  
made of Ivory

(Discovery Magazine)

1636

England - "a charter of King Charles expanded the number of hanged criminals available for dissection at Oxford University from those who died within the city to those hung within 21 miles of Oxford."

(Mitchell et al. 2011: 92)

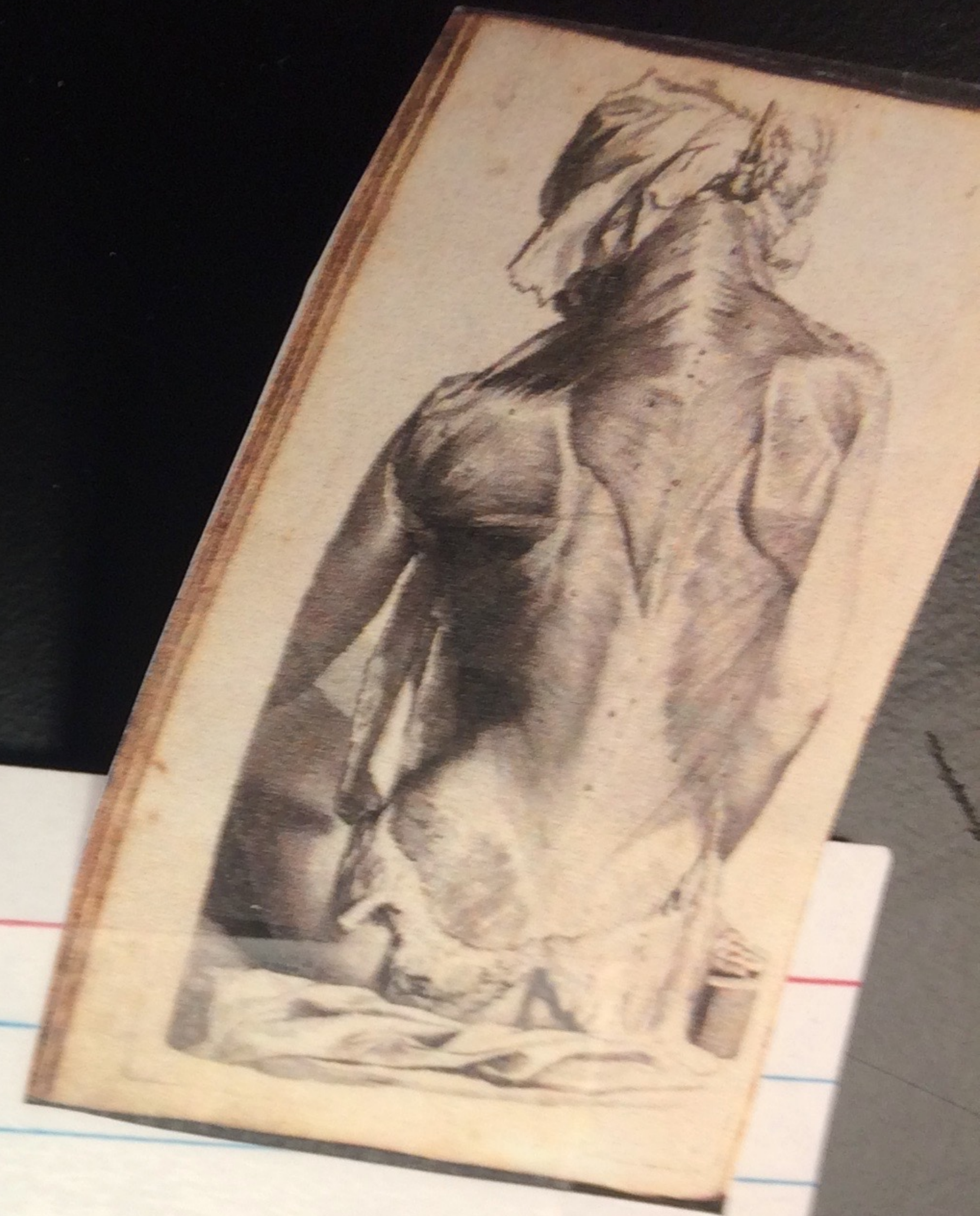


1698

Bologna, Italy - signs to have  
any unclaimed bodies from hospitals  
delivered to Scuola di Anatomia

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1699



Jena, Germany - University of Halle  
requests for all punished bodies,  
both executed and suicide, to be  
donated for anatomical purposes

(Hildebrandt 2008:6)

1700



1726

England - authorizes that ALL  
executed bodies be sent to anatomists

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1730

Halle, Germany - signs for any  
bodies of the executed, the poor,  
and those who were imprisoned to  
be delivered to the University of Halle

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1750s

"Unlike most children, Lucia had grown up privy to her father's experiments, which often involved mangled corpses being anatomized in a laboratory close to the family kitchen... City officials had not precisely condoned anatomizations in private homes... (Montillo 2013: 7)

1752

1752

Great Britain - The Murder Act  
was established "for better  
preventing the horrid crime of  
murder"

(Project Gutenberg)

(Project Gutenberg)

1752

England - Following The Murder Act, surgeons and anatomists were required to perform all dissections of convicted murders to the public in efforts to expose the corpse as second punishment.

(Mitchell et al 2011:92)



1762

Germany - expands body donations  
from executed to including suicides  
and any unclaimed

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

(Hildebrandt 2008:7)

# 1770s

"Snatching bodies proved a lucrative enterprise for the anatomists... The general population thought it was disgraceful and gruesome. Doctors could have their reputations tarnished if they became known as grave robbers and body snatchers."

(Montillo 2013:70)

1780s

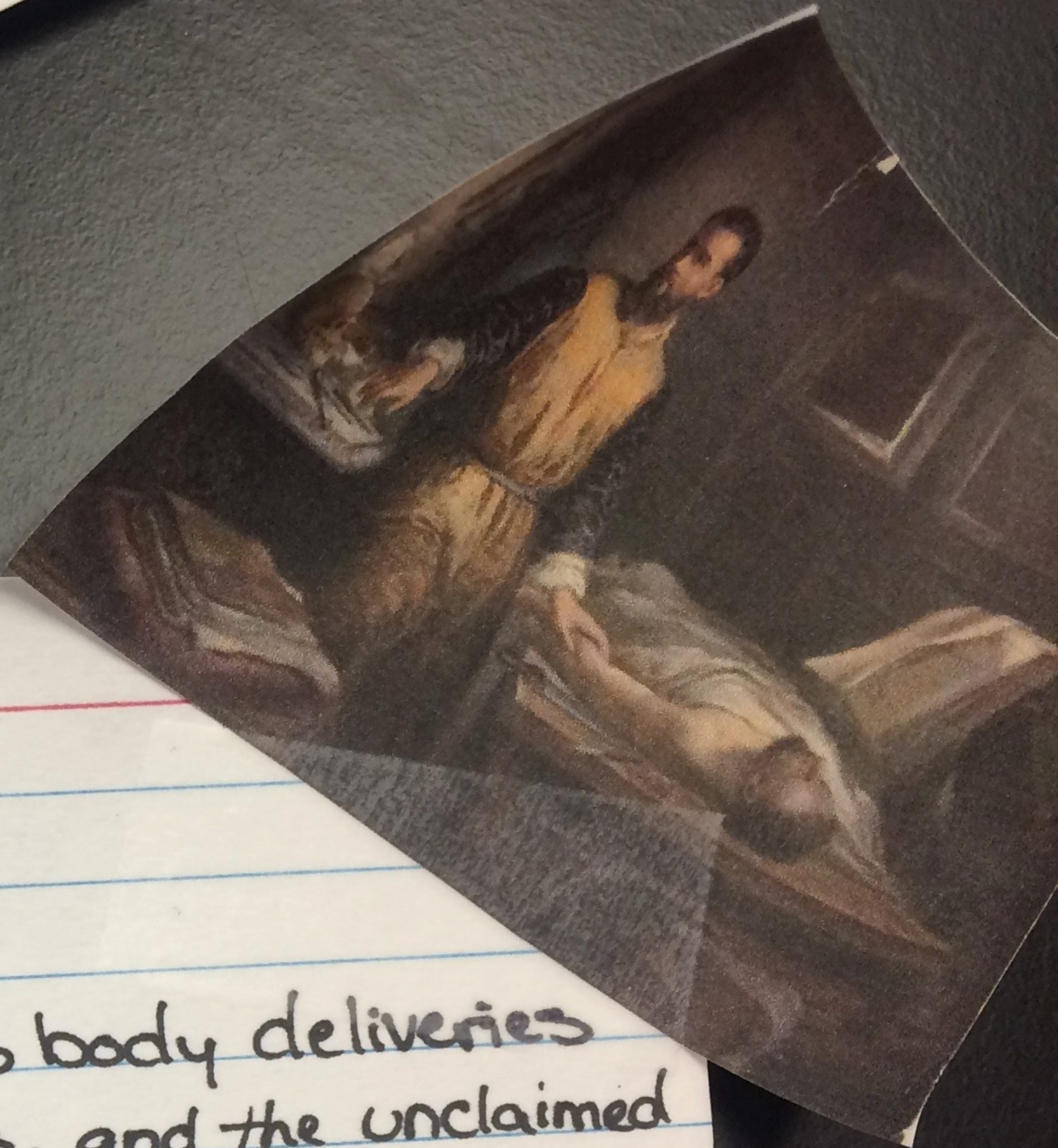
Rackstrow's Museum:

- displays of preserved human organs
- wax anatomical models
- most famous for wax pregnant lady with red liquor flowing through veins to show blood circulation.

(Pier et al 2011: 95)

1780

- Rackstraw
- displays of p...
  - wax anatomical ma...
  - most famous for wax preg...
  - with red liquor flowing through...
  - to show blood circulation.
- (Pier et al 2011: 95)



1781

Germany - expands body deliveries from executed, suicides, and the unclaimed to including all bodies from the poor, psychiatric hospitals, duelists, prostitutes, the drowned, drunkards, and ALL prisoners

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1785

1785

Joshua Brookes museum:

- Opened first Saturday every month
  - invited EVERYONE, including public, foreigners, and "private gentlemen"
  - 6000 anatomical specimens of humans and animals in osteological comparison!
- (Piers et al 2011:96)

- foreign  
- 60000 animals  
humans and animal  
comparison!

1788

Mr. John Hunter's museum:

- 13,000+ preparations of human  
and animal anatomy and pathology

(Piers et al 2011: 95)

1789

New York, U.S.A - signs for executed  
bodies to be dissected

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

human  
army and pathology  
(Piers et al 2011: 95)

(Hildebrandt 2008: 71)

1789

United States - U.S Congress  
in correspondance to states donate  
unclaimed / unwanted poor people bodies  
to U.S Medical Schools

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1792



in con  
unclaimed  
to U.S. medica

(Hick)

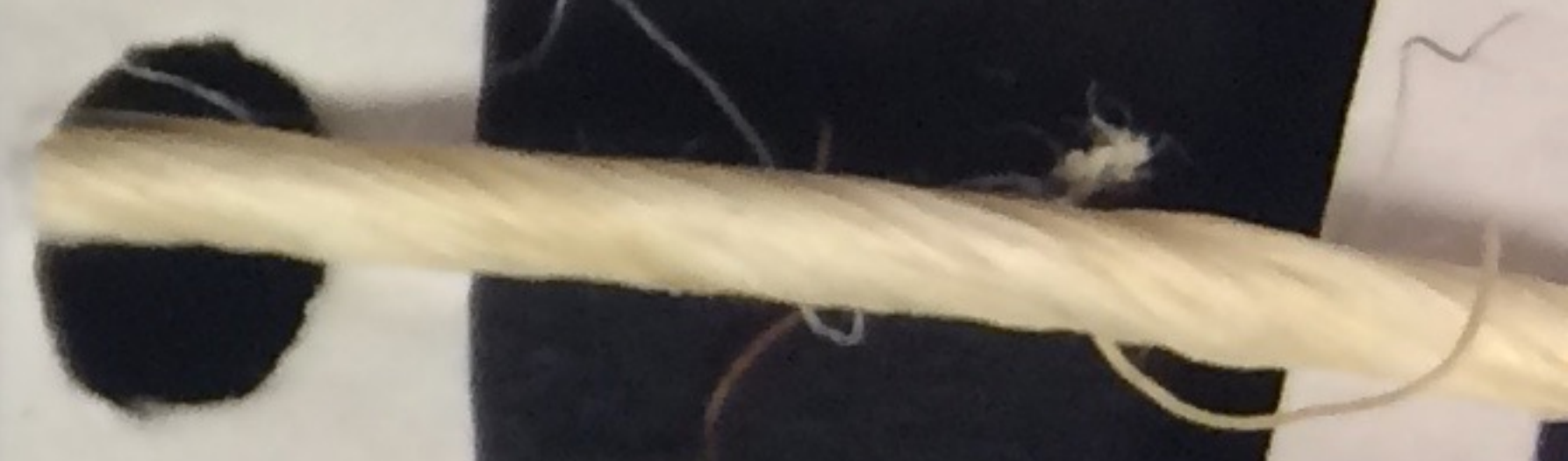
1793

Yellow Fever  
Outbreak in

U.S.A.

(Aptowicz 2014: 2)

1800



# 1818

"... the study of anatomy across Europe was at an all-time high, and viable cadavers were becoming harder to find and increasingly valuable... The immortal act of unearthing and stealing corpses had become common practice... Cemeteries hired guards..." (Montillo 2013: 208)

# 1830s

"The first incision usually brought the patient's first scream - the first scream of many. Soon came the blood, the struggle, the shock. The patient would beg the surgeon to stop, plead and shout, and yell to the students to come save him..."

(Aptowicz 2014: 16)

# 1831

"The London Burkers... were convicted in 1831 for murdering men, women, and children in London, [then having sent] their bodies to medical schools for dissection."

(Montillo 2013: 22)

7002

Cl

Sem  
for dissection

1832

Cholera Outbreak  
in U.S.A

(Aptowicz 2014:26)

1832

United Kingdom

1832

United Kingdom - The Anatomy Act was signed. This act gave a free licence to anatomy teachers, students and doctors to dissect donated bodies. It was enacted to stop odious behavior of body snatchers

(Aptowicz 2019.29)

Anatomy Act,  
ary

1832

England - Following the Anatomy Act, body snatching was no longer necessary since the act permitted all dead, unclaimed poor people, and hospital patients to be legally dissected

(Piers et al 2011: 92)

1871



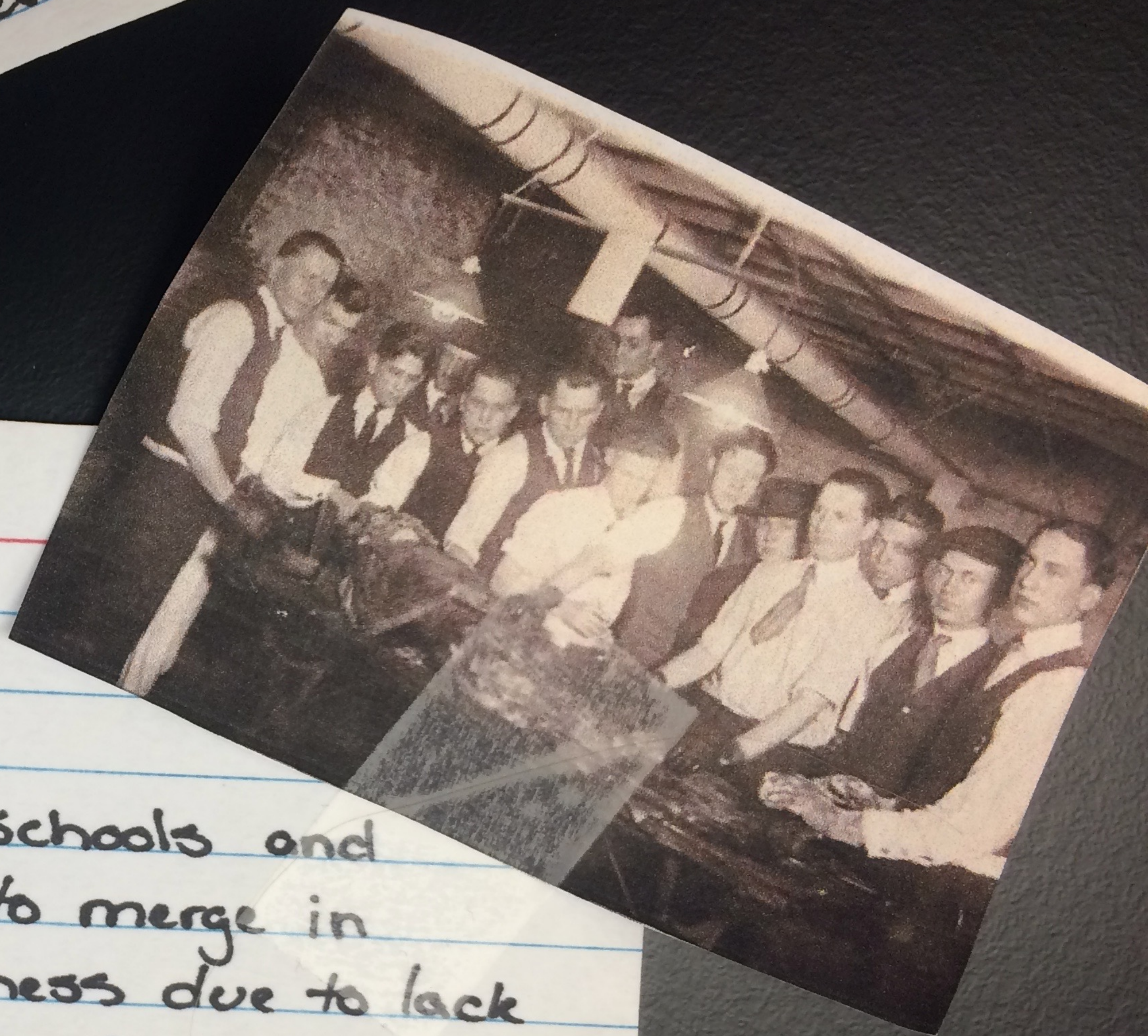
body snatcher  
Since the act of  
unclaimed poor people  
to be legally dissected

(Piers et al 2011: 96)

1871

Medical/anatomy schools and  
independent schools had to merge in  
fear of going out of business due to lack  
of bodies. Many had to auction their  
collections of curiosities to the  
general public

(Piers et al 2011: 96)



1880s

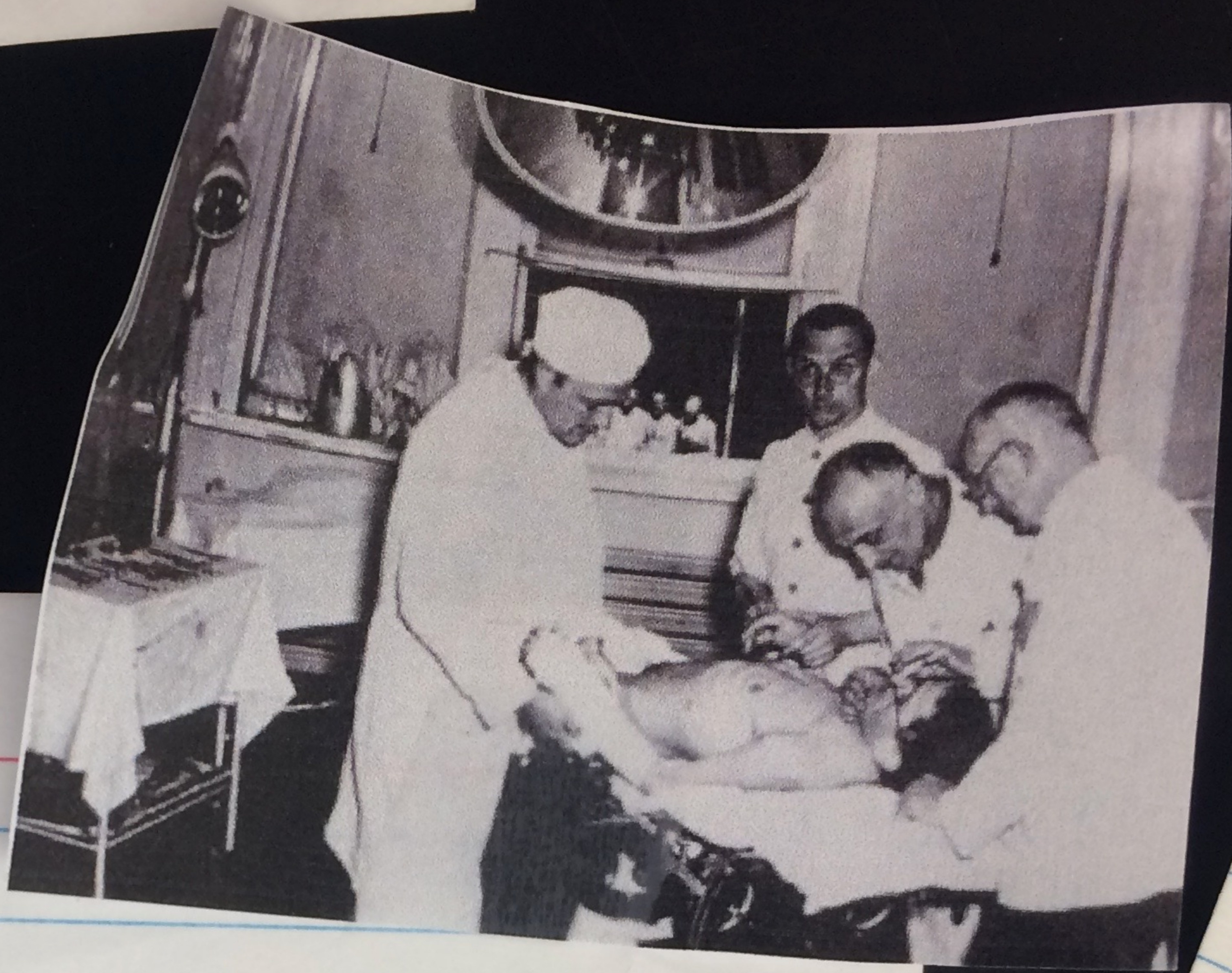
Formaldehyde was put on  
the market in France, Germany,  
Belgium, and the U.S. for medical  
embalming

(Formacare)

public on their ack  
onosities to the  
(Piers et

1900

1933-1945



Germany - during the Holocaust, medical experiments flourished, using concentration camp victims as tests. Experiments ranged from freezing, genetics, diseases, torture, high altitudes, sterilization, pharmacology and so much more...

WHILE LIVING

(Remember.org)

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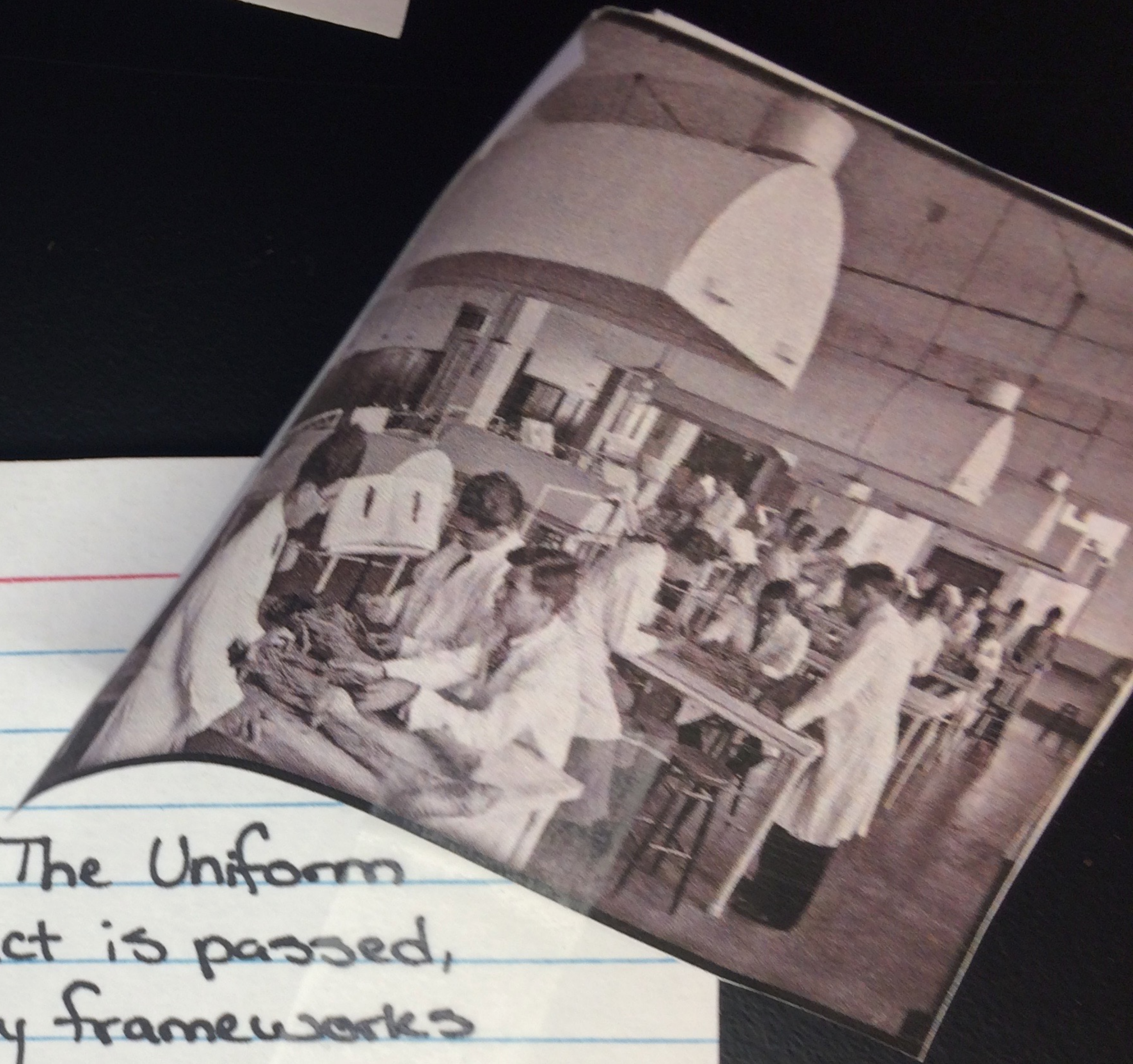
1947

United States - stops donating  
unclaimed / unwanted poor people  
bodies to medical schools

(Hildebrandt 2008: 7)

1968

United States - The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act is passed, setting regulatory frameworks for the donation of organs, tissues, and other human body parts



1990s

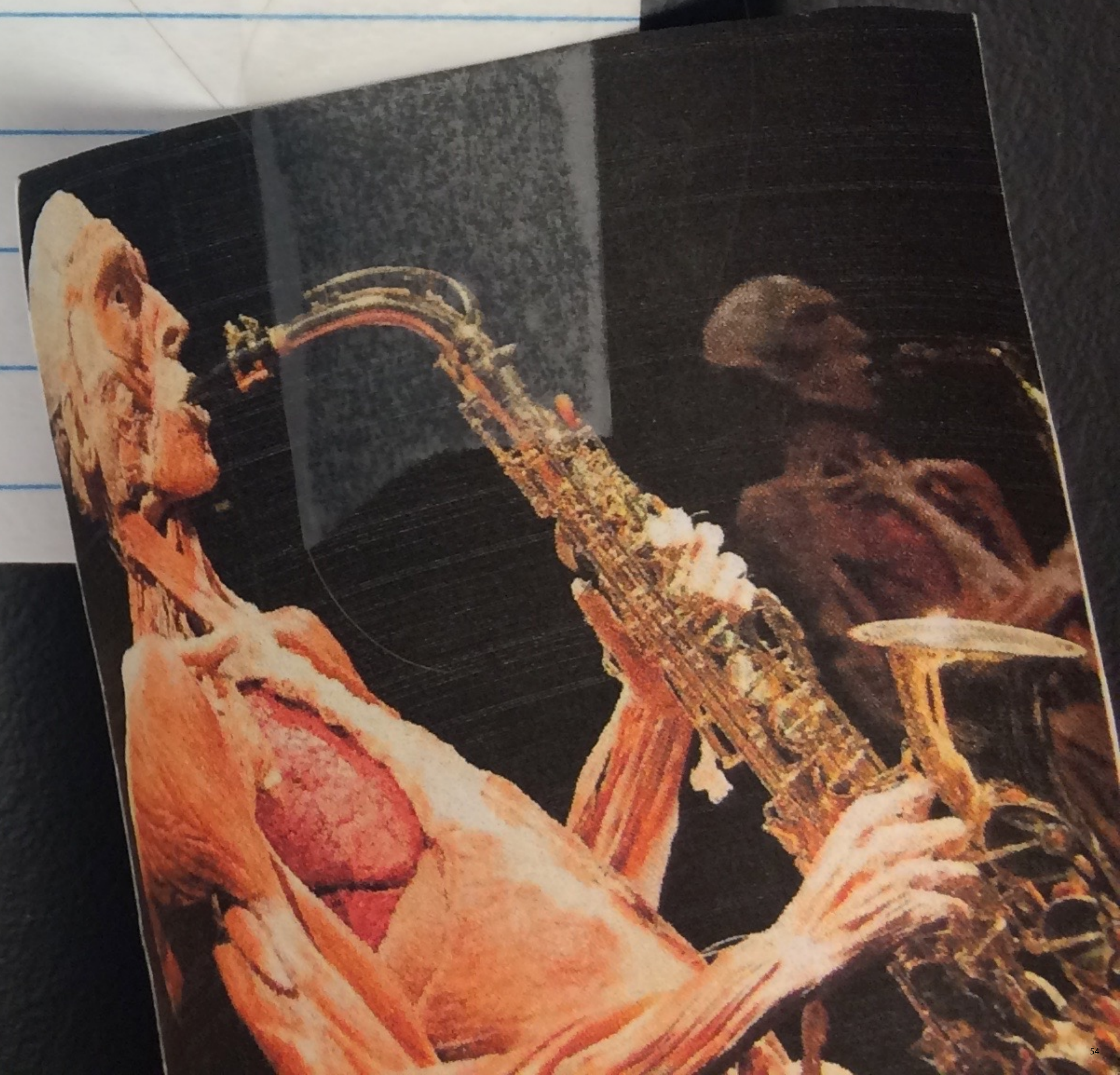
United States -

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is enacted to stop people (archaeologists) from specifically robbing indigenous burial grounds for the sake of museum studies

1995

1995

Tokyo - Body Worlds opens  
for the public





2000

2006

United States - The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act is revised to permit use of life support systems for allocating organs to transplant recipients

(Uniform Laws)

Riley Boss

... And That's Why It's Illegal! Timeline of Ethics with Human Cadavers

Anatomical Illustration: Art Informing Science 1543-1950. MU Libraries. University of Missouri. <https://library.missouri.edu/exhibits/anatomy/pre17th.htm>

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