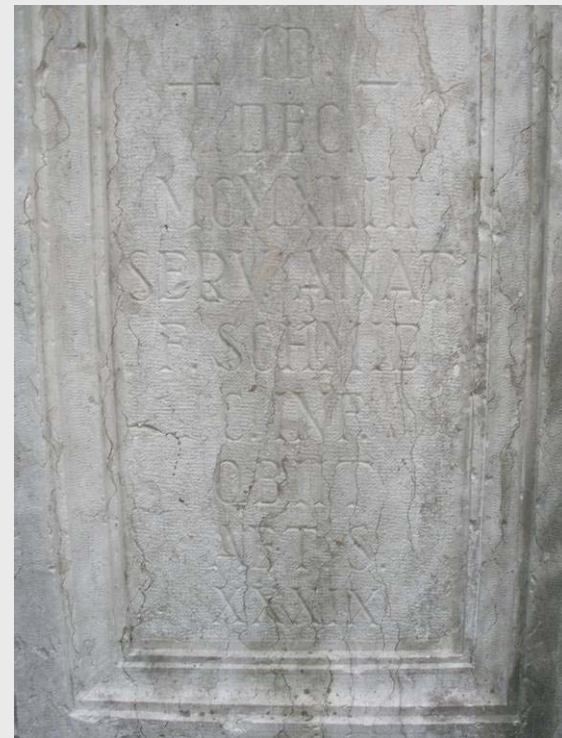


The anatomical museum of the institute of anatomy in Innsbruck – a universal heritage



Entering the garden of the institute we see a plate of marble. Two lines of the inscription tell us that the institute and also the collection were somehow destroyed. We read “Wiederaufbau – Reconstruction” and “Ausbau –Completion”. The building was bombed on December 15th, 1943, and a third of the house and of the collection was destroyed.



On the second figure we see a marble statue showing the human surface muscles, placed on a column. The corpus was done by the Tyrolean artist Johannes OBLEITNER in the 1950ies. It is his last work in stone, planned together with professor Gustav SAUSER. SAUSER, Ordinarius from 1946 to 1968, followed Felix SIEGLBAUER who was head of the institute from 1918 to 1946.

Really important was the detection of an inscription in the upper part of the column. ID. DEC. MCMXLIII SERV. ANAT. FRANZ SCHMID C. INF. OBIIT AET. S XXXIX = IDIBUS DECEMBRIS MCMXLIII (1943) SERVUS ANATOMICUS FRANZ SCHMID, CUM INFANTIBUS, OBIIT, AETATIS XXXIX (39), i.e.: on December 15th, Franz Schmid, a servant at the anatomy, died at the age of 39 years together with his children; only his wife survived. There were 3 children: a boy, born in 1937, a girl born in 1940 and a baby boy born in 1943.

By this we are confronted every day with the consequences of a very bad time and also a great heritage, in the sense that it should not happen again and that we must never forget.

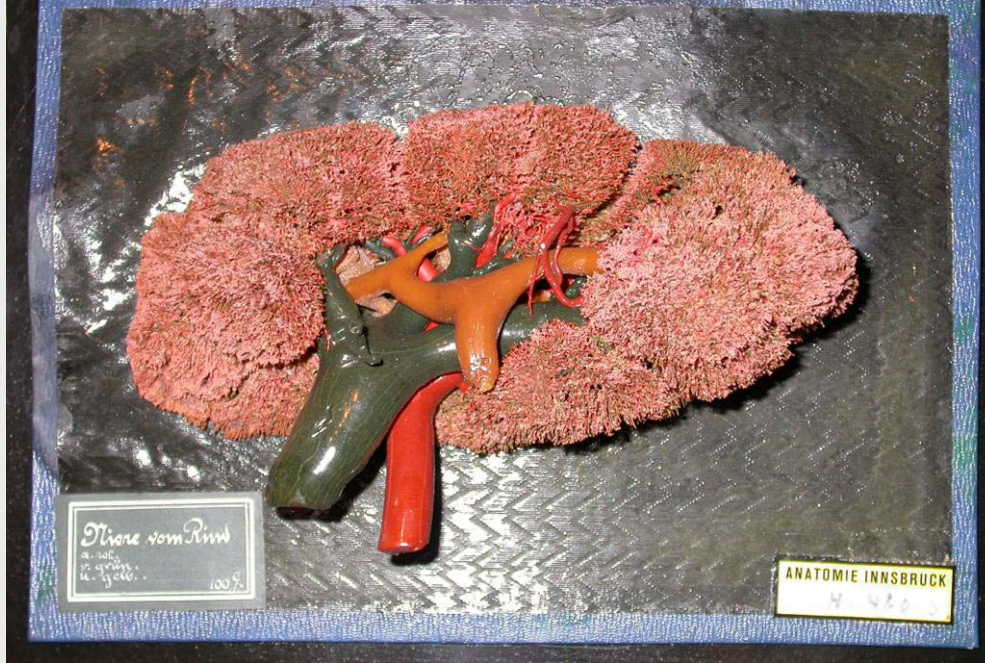


When we come to the staircase, a neonatus looks from the wall. “XAIPE - Chaire”, he greets everybody coming or going.



Further up, on the 1st floor, we set our feet into the museum, the “THESAURUS ANATOMICUS”.

At the first moment the deepest impression is certainly made by the skeleton of the “giant of the castle” (Burgriese) Nikolaus HAIDL who died in 1491. Haidl was the bodyguard of Duke Siegmund der Münzreiche (the duke of the many coins). Haidl lived in the old centre of Innsbruck. His house is still to be seen in the HOFGASSE. His bones were found in the church of ST. JACOB in 1866. Put together by Carolo DANTSCHER, ordinarius from 1846 to 1882, he gives us an idea of a person with a height of ca. 2 metres and a quarter.



Prof. DANTSCHER was a great artist in making specimens by CORROSION. In the next picture we see one of the last well kept renes of a cow (1850) he himself prepared.





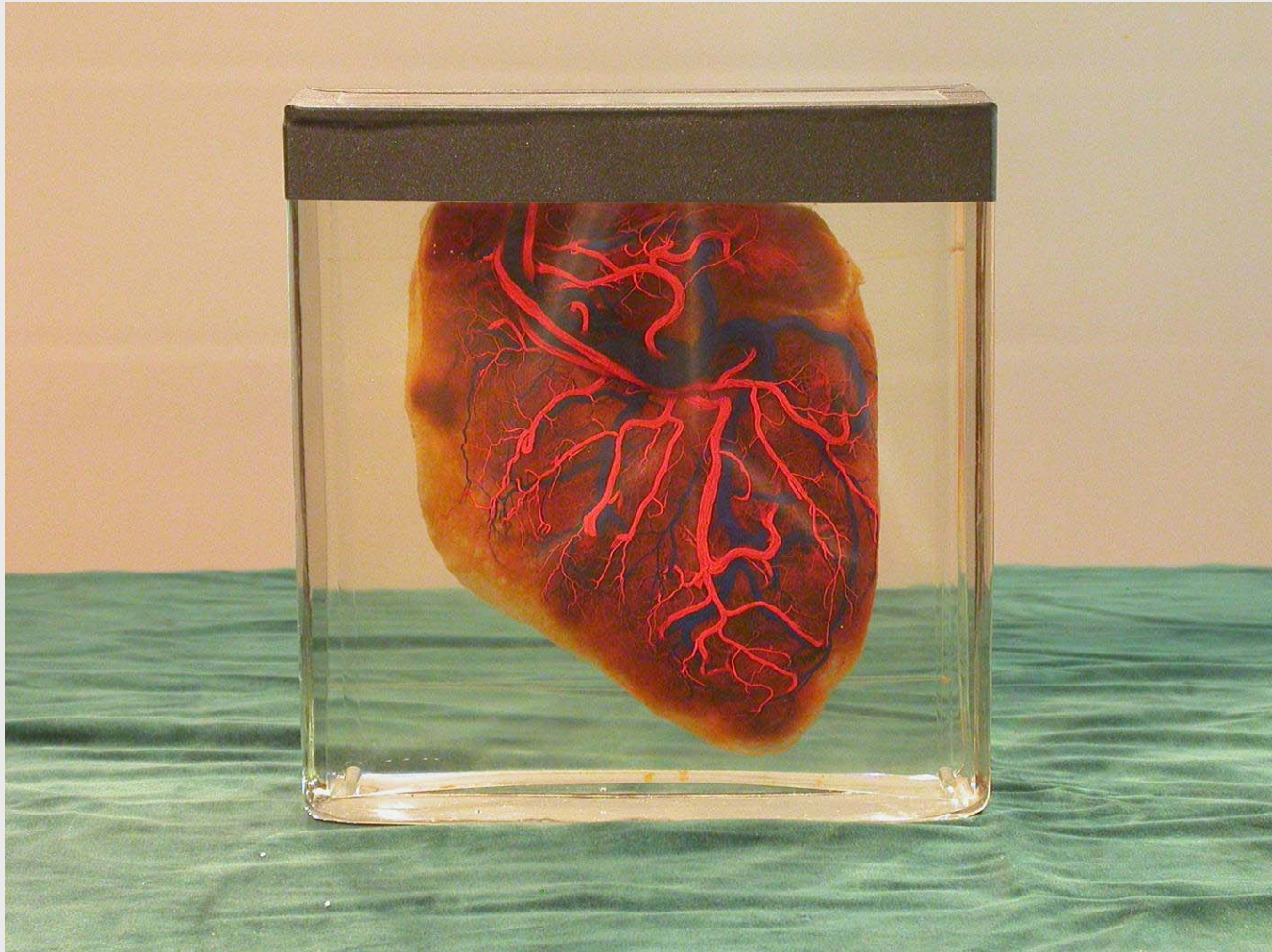
One of the followers of Professor DANTSCHER was FERDINAND HOCHSTETTER (1896 – 1908). A very excellent example for his dry specimens is the next figure which represents a whole man with injected periphery vessels. Also famous are his injected tendonsheaths and joints, as we can see on the next two figures.



*Sehnencheiden und
Schleimbeutel
der Hohlhand. 5969*



The following pictures show some aspects of our embryological collection.









Of much cultural interest until today are the painted skulls. On this picture you can see two skulls from the PAZNAUN VALLEY, the right one with a SUTURA FRONTALIS PERSISTENS: In the 19th century people who had a frontal suture were thought to be very intelligent. The museum also has painted skulls from HALLSTATT in UPPER AUSTRIA and PÜRGG in STYRIA. After the opening of the borders, especially to the East, the author could see that there are painted skulls not only in Austria but also in other countries, for instance ROMANIA. The skulls always occur in mountainous regions.

The last figure shows us a VESPERTILIO, a bat. But this is not a usual bat. It was caught in the church tower of WILTEN in 1937, two years before World War II broke out.

It is a universal heritage!



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