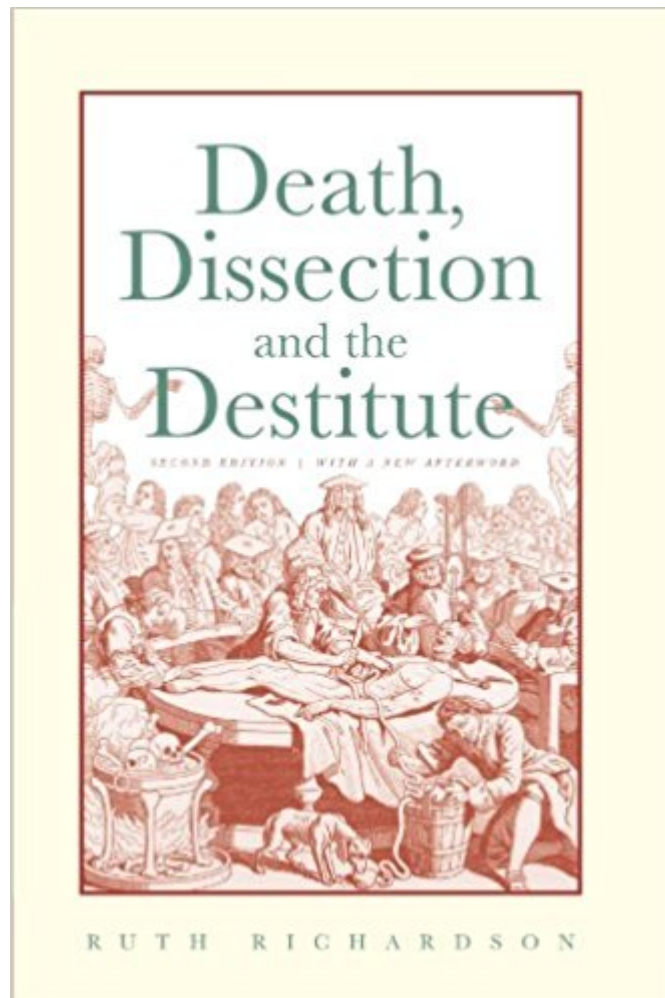




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Death, Dissection And The Destitute



Synopsis

In the early nineteenth century, body snatching was rife because the only corpses available for medical study were those of hanged murderers. With the Anatomy Act of 1832, however, the bodies of those who died destitute in workhouses were appropriated for dissection. At a time when such a procedure was regarded with fear and revulsion, the Anatomy Act effectively rendered dissection a punishment for poverty. Providing both historical and contemporary insights, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute* opens rich new prospects in history and history of science. The new afterword draws important parallels between social and medical history and contemporary concerns regarding organs for transplant and human tissue for research.

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Customer Reviews

Until 1832 dissection-much hated and much feared-was restricted to the corpses of hanged murderers. Bodysnatching was rife. The 1832 Anatomy Act, however, appropriated instead the corpses of the poor, effectively rendering dissection a punishment for poverty. *Death, Dissection and the Destitute* reveals why fear of the pauper funeral so afflicted the nineteenth-century poor. Ruth Richardson's book opens rich prospects in history and the history of science. Her new afterword draws important parallels between historical and current concerns about the body, organs for transplant, and human tissue for research.

Ruth Richardson is a historian living in London.

Ruth Richardson really knows her subject. I've been using this book as a primary source for a paper I'm writing. Along with being a very valuable resource, it also makes for very enjoyable reading.

Perfect condition, very interesting reading so far.

This has been one of the best books I have read in grad school. Basically, it deals with the creation of the British Anatomy Act and with the criminalization of poverty. However, it's also got great info about grave robbing, murder for body-procurement, burial practices, and corpse decomposition - and it's extremely readable. Richardson explains that she began this book while reading Shelley's *Frankenstein* and with questions she had about the meanings of dissection and the body. This book is not about *Frankenstein*, but it's a must-read if you are to truly understand the society that *Frankenstein* was created for. It's also a must-read if you are at all interested in anatomy, poverty, or social policy dealing with anatomy and poverty.

This is a wonderful book: smart, packed with astonishing information, beautifully written and--although it's about "the Body"--100% free of po-mo blather. They don't write 'em like this anymore, which is a damned pity.

I'd like say that this book is ver intrested for me, because I write my book about tha modern anatomy, medicine and politics.

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