



## VILE BODIES

**Bourguet, Atlas of Anatomy.** Reprint by Dr Jean-Marie Le Minor / Prof Dr Henri Sick / Simon Finch Rare Books  
Price \$200 / £120 / €150  
Publisher Taschen  
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The eccentric publishing house Taschen seem to have honed their ability in knowing what we want before we know it ourselves. Their output numbers weighty tomes on subjects as diverse as the life and times of Muhammad Ali to facsimile editions of the greats of the illustrated book. As the trend for collecting science and medicine grows, Taschen have turned their attention to the work of Jean Baptiste Marc Bourguet whose 18th century volume, *Atlas of Anatomy*, they have just reprinted in large folio format on high quality paper.

What a lavish reprint it is with more than 700 colour plates and all four parts of Bourguet's treatise covering descriptive anatomy, surgical anatomy and techniques, general and microscopic anatomy. The book explores in full detail almost all the major medical operations that were performed in the first 50 years of the 19th century. The magnificent hand-coloured lithographs by Nicolas Henri Jacob are so detailed and realistic, while managing to appear so three dimensional they deserve their own screening at an IMAX cinema immediately.

The pleasures of this atlas of the body are not for the squeamish as their flesh-like quality depicts the intricacies of surgery from amputation to caesarean in full gory detail.

The original work by this industrious duo has now been given the prominence it deserves and as observed by a certain bookdealer may even look better than it ever did in life, perhaps like the bodies it depicts in their full technicolour glory.

Emma Lewis