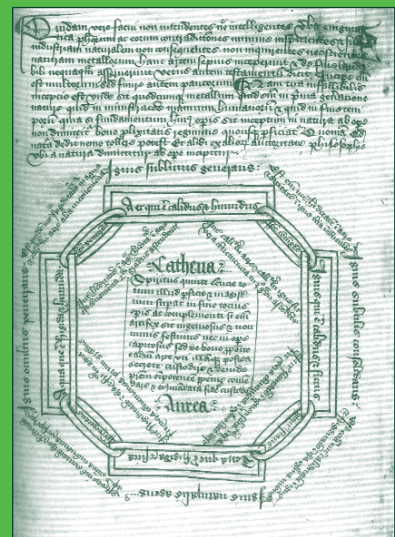


The image shows a detailed view of a manuscript page from the Voynich manuscript, featuring two columns of text and various diagrams. The left column contains a vertical sequence of symbols, including a large 'X' shape and a circular diagram. The right column contains a large, ornate initial 'V' and a series of horizontal lines. The text is written in Voynich script.

Series One: The Papers of 1660-1753 from the British



Part 6: The History of Medicine, Surgery & Anatomy

NEW



Adam Matthew Publications

Sloane was the greatest collector in an age of great collectors and his collections helped form the foundations of the British Museum and the British Library.

The Sloane collection is one of the prize assets of the British Library. It is a vast horde of manuscripts full of gems ranging from the 9th to the 18th centuries, but which has been somewhat neglected due to the lack of any printed or online catalogue of the collection.

Following the advice of Roy Porter, we are approaching our publication of the Sloane manuscripts thematically, gradually revealing the breadth of the collection and the riches within any of the chosen themes.

Part 1 covers **Science & Society, 1660-1773**, and it should come as no surprise that the correspondence it contains is spectacular. Sloane was President of the Royal Society from 1727 to 1741, succeeding Sir Isaac Newton in that post, and was responsible for reviving the *Philosophical Transactions*. He built up an impressive network of scientific correspondents around the world including: John Aubrey, Herman Boerhaave, William Byrd (of Virginia), Pierre Desmaizeux, John Evelyn, Benjamin Franklin, Edmond Halley, Gottfried Leibnitz, Isaac Newton, Alexander Pope, John Ray, Harman Verelst, Horace Walpole and Theodore Zwinger. This is an excellent source for understanding the connectivity of scientific enquiry and the way in which ideas and discoveries in America, Britain and Europe were shared.

Parts 2 and 3 cover **Voyages of Discovery, 1492-1750**. This was an area which had fascinated Sloane ever since his own voyage to the West Indies in 1687 as physician to the newly appointed governor of Jamaica, and also, part time, to Henry Morgan, the buccaneer. Sloane's enthusiasm for this area caused him to amass a collection of manuscripts including:

- a mid 15th century copy of *The Travels of Marco Polo*;
- original papers of Drake, Frobisher, Hawkins and Raleigh;



- an account of *The Destruction of the Indies* by Bartolomé de Las Casas;
- Captain Bartholomew Sharp's *South Seas Waggoner*;
- The journal of William Dampier - the source of tales of Robinson Crusoe;
- Notes on Brazilian Natural History;
- a *History of Travaille into Virginia* and a dictionary of the Indian language;
- a narrative of the voyage of Christopher Columbus;
- Pierre Radisson's survey of the Canadian North for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1684;
- Records of the colonization of Newfoundland;
- Accounts of travels in Russia, China and Japan;
- Papers of the gun-founder to the Great Moghuls.

Parts 4 and 5 cover **Alchemy, Chemistry & Magic**. Sloane was as interested in these areas as his contemporary, Sir Isaac Newton. He bought manuscripts from all over Europe dating from the 13th to the 17th centuries and documenting proto-chemistry and early pharmaceutical research from c.1900BC to c. AD1600. There is great coverage of the great Egyptian and Greek founders of Alchemy such as Hermes Trismegistus, Avicenna, Rasis, Aristotle and Geber; as well as of Neoplatonism and the Hermetic tradition. There are extensive holdings of manuscripts by, or relating to, Albertus Magnus, Thomas Aquinas, Roger Bacon,

Sloane succeeded Sir Isaac Newton as the President of the Royal Society and held that post for fifteen years from 1727 to 1741

Ramon Lull, Arnald of Villanova, Nicholas Flamel, George Ripley, Thomas Norton and Paracelsus. There are also accounts of magical rings by Simon Forman, discussions with angels, and predictions by Miriam, Merlin, Nostradamus and others. Finally there are works of early chemistry by Lemery, Ficino and Robert Boyle.

Part 6 commences our coverage of **The History of Medicine, Surgery & Anatomy**. Sloane was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1719 to 1735, and counted Queen Anne and King George II among his patients. His collection in this area is one of the best of the world and it falls into five distinct categories:

- early and late medieval manuscripts documenting the transmission of medical knowledge from authorities such as Aesculapeius, Arderne, Aristotle, Galen, Geber, Hippocrates, John de Bordeaux and Paracelsus;
- notebooks and consilia of physicians through the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, which tell us much about contemporary practices, from the use of herbal remedies to bleeding and leeches;
- papers of leading physicians such as William Harvey, including his famous notebook describing his theory of the circulation of the blood;
- lectures on medicine given in London, Leyden and Milan by Boerhaave, Francis Glisson and others;
- papers relating to the Royal College of Physicians and those concerning the foundation of hospitals and asylums for the insane.

There are also tracts and treatises on medical topics and accounts of the Plague.

Any library supporting research in the history of science or the history of medicine will wish to acquire the Sloane collection. It is remarkable for its breadth and depth and will appeal to a wide audience.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Series One: The Papers of Sir Hans Sloane, 1660-1753 from the British Library, London

Part 1: Science & Society, 1660-1773 - **Part 2 & 3:** Manuscript Records of Voyages of Discovery, 1450-1750

Part 4 & 5: Alchemy, Chemistry & Magic - **Part 6:** The History of Medicine, Surgery and Anatomy

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