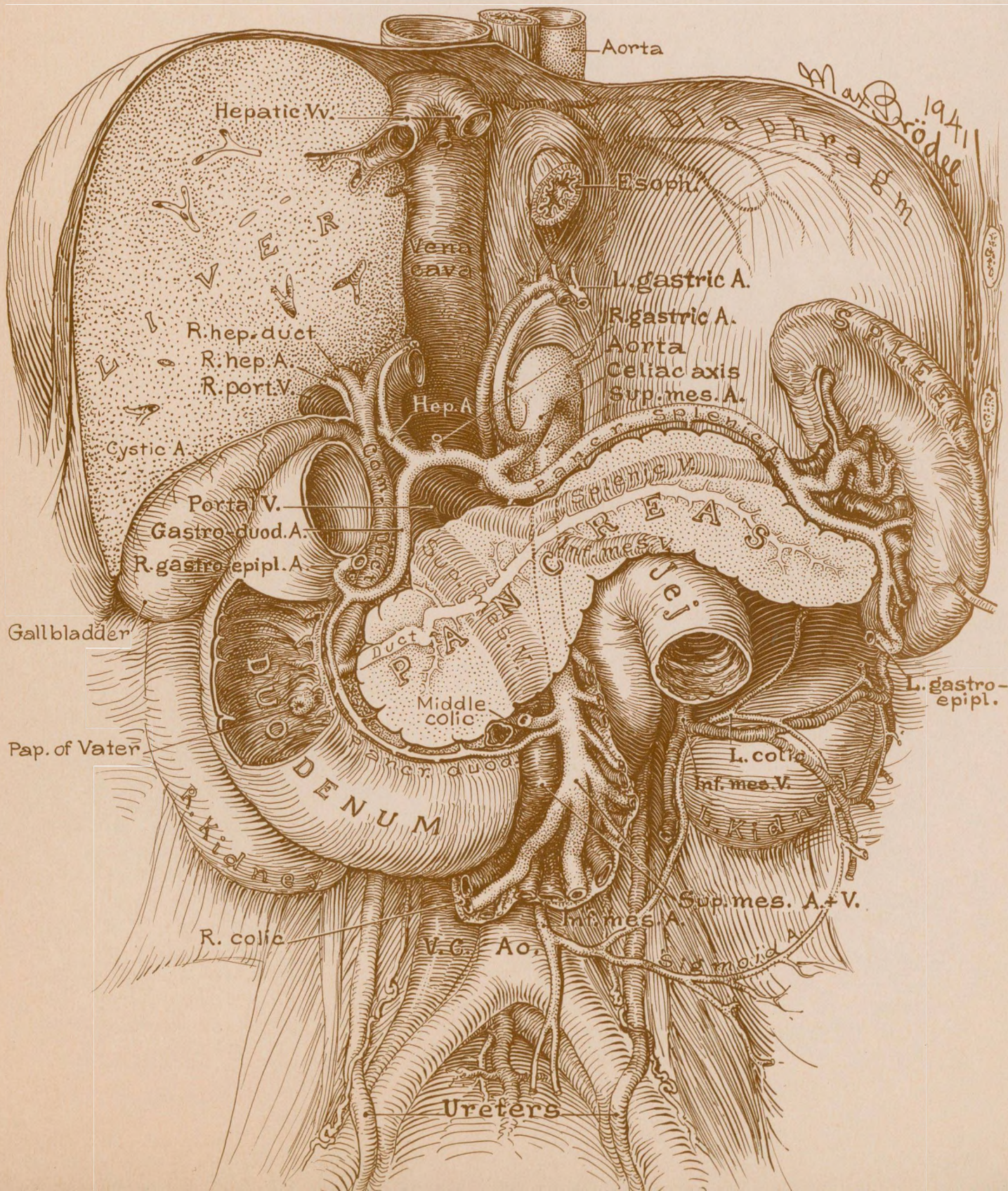




Max Brödel  
rec.

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Admitted to the Johns Hopkins Hospital on the tenth of October, 1941, to undergo surgery, Max Brödel died quietly on the Sunday night of October 26. Diagnosis: Carcinoma of the pancreas. Some say that he had diagnosed his own terminal illness.

The following month Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics (73:711-22, 1941) published an article by I. Ridgeway Trimble, MD, John W. Parsons, MD, and Claude P. Sherman, MD, vividly illustrated by Max Brödel and entitled "A One Stage Operation for the Cure of Carcinoma of the Ampulla of Vater and of the Head of the Pancreas."

This article contained the illustration of the normal topography of the upper abdomen shown on the opposite page. It also contained the now famous continuous tone drawing of the anatomy of the ear (Three Unpublished Drawings of the Anatomy of the Human Ear, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1946). Both illustrations are dated 1941 and are the last medical drawings of Max Brödel.

I have been asked what, if anything, is stylistically different in the art of Brödel's latter years. I believe that a gradual transition can

be seen in the decreasing emphasis on graphic skill and the heightened attention to imaginative uniqueness of factual presentation. Although his hand was unconsciously elegant in rendering, eventually his intrepid stylistic approach left him impatient with extraneous detail. Penciled guide lines remained unerased, and he ignored the irregularities of lettering strokes. More and more frequently he nestled all labeling close to or upon related structures so that the eye perceived images and words simultaneously. Increasingly his great artistic seductiveness came from the intermingling of the optically realistic with the diagrammatic. Yet never was scientific accuracy compromised.

One might sense from the more expeditious styling of Max Brödel's last illustrations an urgency foretelling his own impending death, as well as his responsiveness to the ever increasing pace of medical research.

The three pen and ink illustrations appearing in the article by Trimble et al, having been done after Brödel's retirement in September 1940, are the property of I. Ridgeway Trimble, MD. With his kind permission and interest the accompanying drawing is reproduced.