

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ANATOMICAL DRAWINGS BY

G A M E L I N

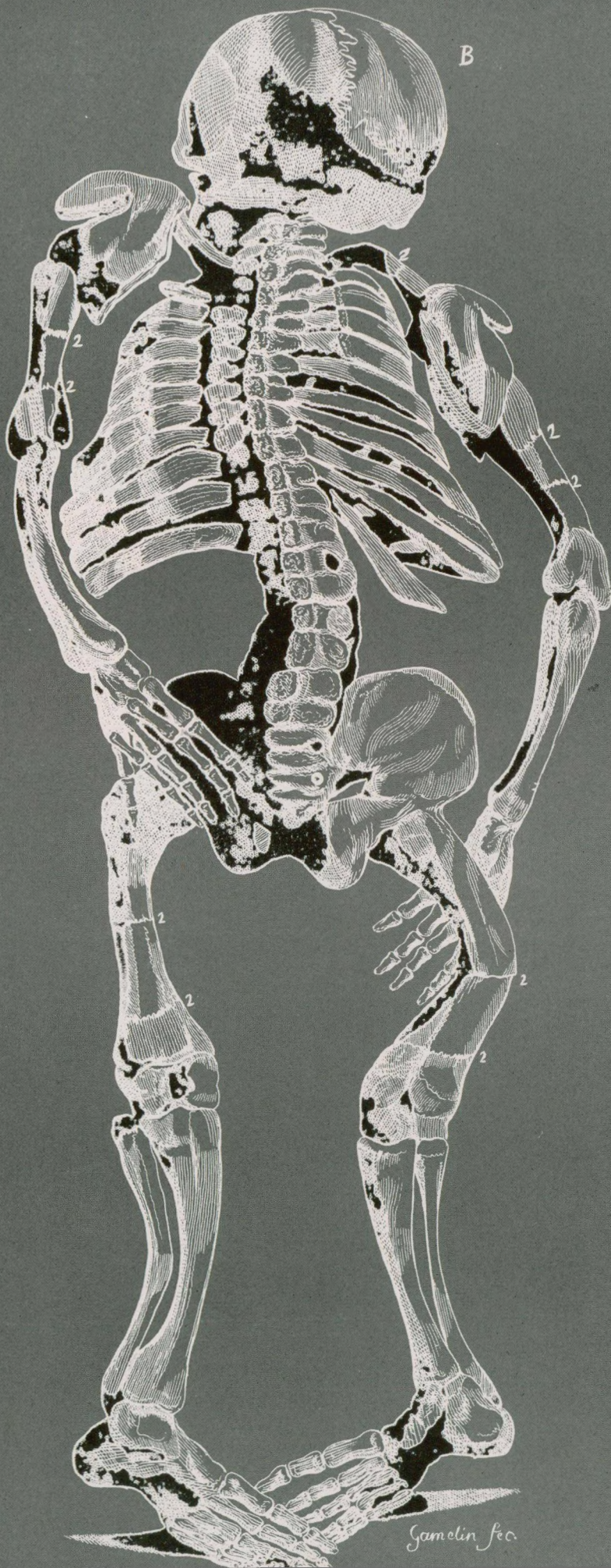
Turning from portrait painting to anatomy, Gamelin produced an atlas containing the most vital anatomic figures in existence. Many of the plates are routine and uninspiring and could be matched by numerous medical artists. However, there is a small number of engravings of surpassing beauty and genius. ¶ Jacques Gamelin (1738-1802), of Carcassonne, France, was apprenticed to the clothing trade. Sponsored by the Marquis de Puymaurin, he studied art. In sequence, he became a professor in Rome and Court Painter to Pope Clement XIV. After his return to France, he completed in two years his beautiful atlas of bones and muscles. ¶ Many artists have produced flayed muscle men, either writhing in their supernudity or calmly holding their hide in one hand and the skinning knife in the other. Gamelin's muscle men and skeletons have the whole pose and attitude normal to life. A dissected head, while the muscles may be slightly awry to the anatomist,

would have to be called a speaking likeness. One thumbs through atlases before or since to find this life quality. Today, even with the perfection of color printing, there is no confusion with life.

¶ The most remarkable illustrations could be labeled articulated skeletons and cadavera dissected to display muscles. Yet the plates do not show cadavera, but rather copper engravings of a great actor playing one of his finest roles—that of a dissected cadaver.

As for the skeleton, Gamelin, like Ezekiel and Vesalius, breathed the breath of life into the dry bones; his skeleton is *actively* dead; one could say, with the *spark* of death. ¶ Besides the figures in Vesalius and Gamelin, only in the skeleton fragments mounted by the method of Hans Virchow (Rudolph's son) and in the bones of some roentgen films is there found this same dynamic repose. ¶ Here we have a unique combination—an academic artist with such a zeal for anatomy that he spent his entire inheritance on the preparation of an anatomic atlas. Too bad that more artists have not been practicing anatomists, or that one or two anatomists have not been great artists.





NOUVEAU RECUEIL
D'OSTÉOLOGIE
ET
DE MYOLOGIE.

DESSINÉ D'APRÈS NATURE

PAR
JACQUES GAMELIN de Carcassonne, Professeur de Peinture, de
l'Académie de Saint Luc de Rome.

POUR L'UTILITÉ
DES SCIENCES ET DES ARTS,
DIVISÉ EN DEUX PARTIES.

D É D I É

A. M. G. Baron de FURMAYAN, des Académies Royales des Sciences, Inscriptions
 & Belles-Lettres de Toulouse & de France, &c. &c. de la Société des Arts de Montpellier.

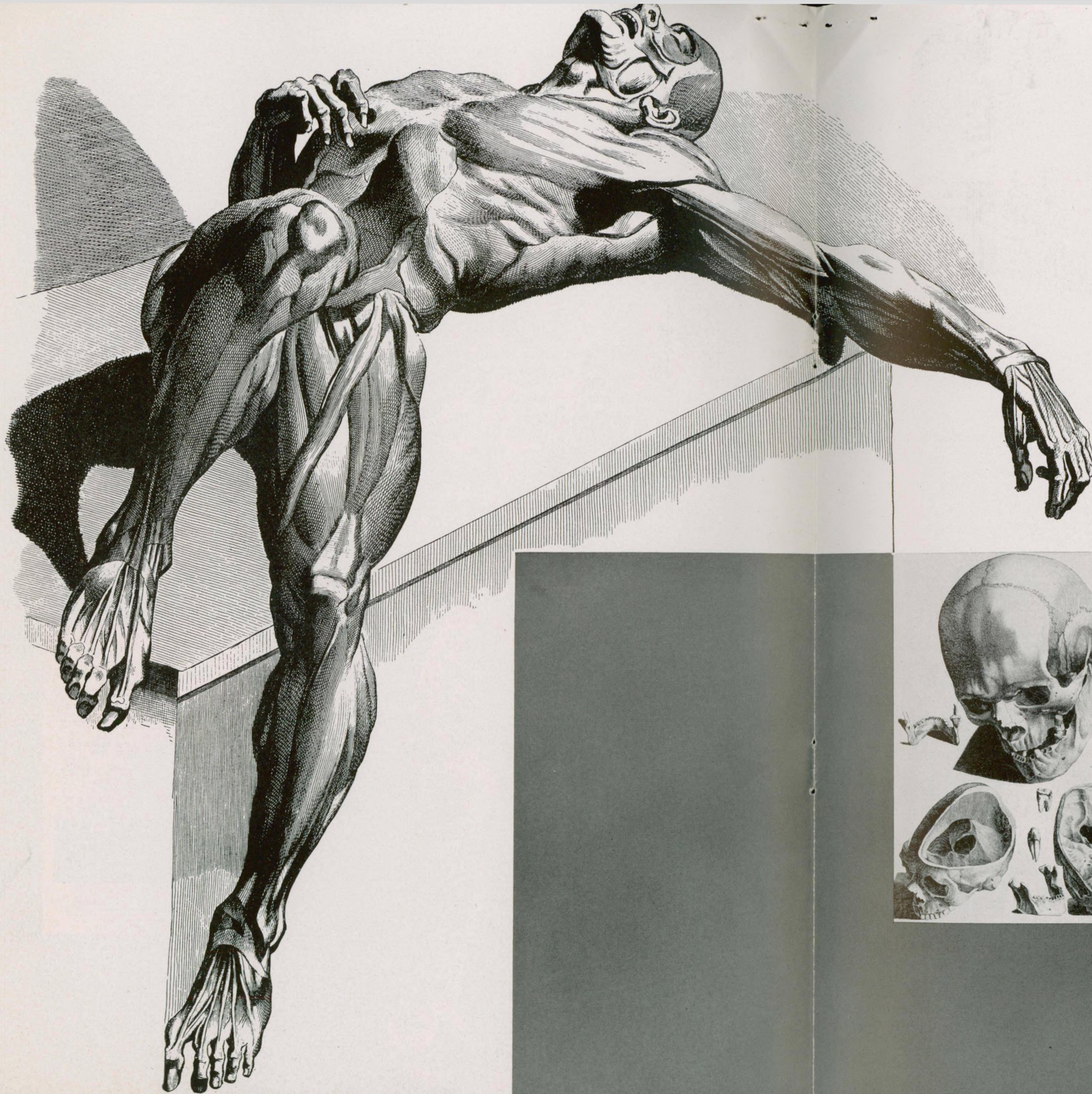


À TOULOUSE.

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Gamelin fec.



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 Gamelin plates from The Archibald Church
 Library, Northwestern University Medical School.

