



Church Rock in Dove Dale. Engraving from drawings made by Joseph Farington RA. From *Britannia Depicta: A series of views (with brief descriptions) of the most interesting and picturesque objects in Great Britain. Part 6, containing thirty-one views in Derbyshire* (1818)  
East Midlands Special Collection Oversize X, Der1.D28FAR



SKETCH OF A DARO-TREE AT THE BOTTOM OF TARANTA.

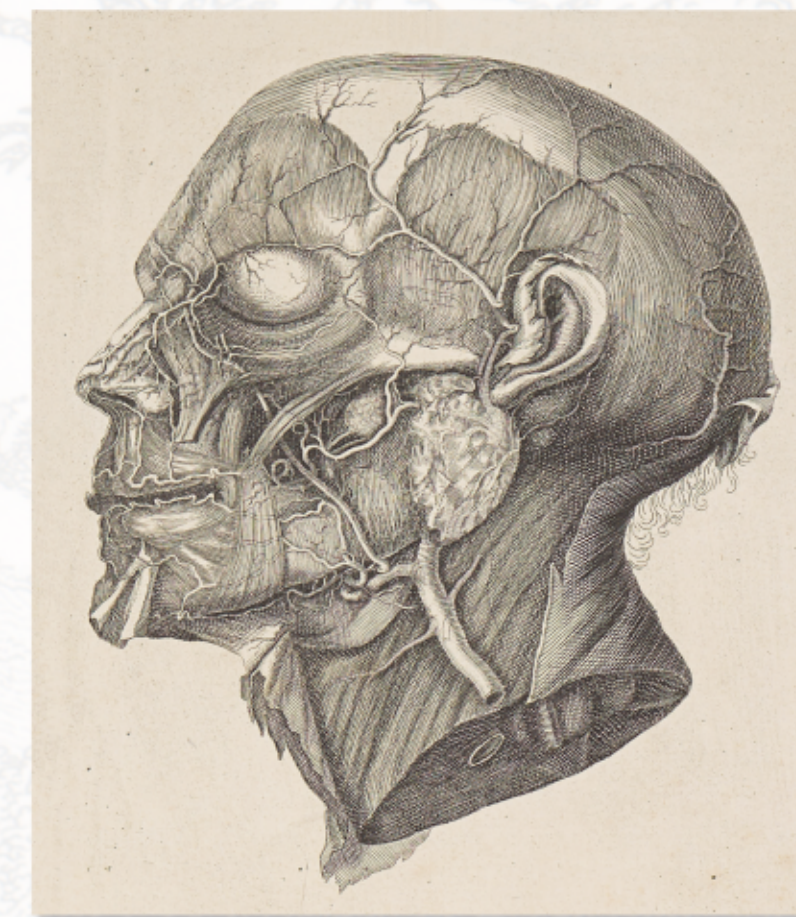
Sketch of a Daro Tree at the bottom of Taranta. Engraving by Charles Heath in *A voyage to Abyssinia* by Henry Salt (1814)  
Travel Collection Oversize X, DT377.S2

## Natural Sciences

This case explores representations of the natural sciences in the Romantic era, in particular how human bodies, plant life, and local natural landscapes were depicted.

The anatomical diagrams in this case reflect the era's advanced understanding of the body. Innovations in scientific technology such as the microscope assisted Romantic-period practitioners' familiarity with both human and animal anatomy. However, such in-depth technical knowledge of the human body came at a price. Instances of grave-robbing escalated to supply medical demand for cadavers, which led to increased public anxiety about the fate of human remains. The 1832 Anatomy Act gave licensed medical practitioners the right to dissect unclaimed bodies at prisons, hospitals and workhouses. However, the practice of medical dissection was in itself troubling to a society which strongly associated the human body with personal identity, raising issues to do with the material afterlife of the body and the nature of the self.

The growth in overseas travel and the publication of explorers' accounts of their voyages led to greater familiarity with plant and animal life across the globe. The general public were able to see what grew and roamed in the wild, far away from home. These were not imagined creatures and landscapes, but as real as the familiar sights of the British Isles, and increasingly as available to peruse in books and images as local landscapes.



Anatomical diagrams from *Tables of the skeleton and muscles of the human body* by Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1749)  
Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society Library Oversize XX, WE17ALB