Dear Friends

At the outset of the Year of the Rabbit, we look at rabbits in eastern and western cultures, as reflected in our collections, and even in our building!

From the Blog: 
Rabbits in Asian and Western Cultures
Explore the wide and varied associations of rabbit symbolism in world cultures, prepared by Public Engagement Librarian Anthony Murisco, as we launch the Year of the Rabbit.

READ THE POST

From the Collections:
Rabbits in the 17th Century
Italian naturalist Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522–1605) of Bologna formed the first botanical garden in Europe and started to produce a massive, multivolume “history of nature.” This image of a rabbit appeared in his book devoted to four-footed animals, wild and domestic, published posthumously in 1637.

FIND THE BOOK

Color Our Collections:
Rabbits in the Ceiling
This pair of rabbits was designed for the lobby ceiling in the 1926 NYAM building. We featured the image in last year's coloring book. We had fun at #ColorOurCollections2023, February 6–10. You can still color, with almost 100 books we added this year!

COLOR OUR COLLECTIONS

Virtual Visit:
Rabbits in the Floor
If you visit the NYAM building, you’ll see these brass plaques in the lobby floor. They form part of the design scheme that emphasized medical motifs, including a rabbit munching on an herb. Check out this virtual visit exploring NYAM’s architectural heritage.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Images from the Past:
Rabbits in Trade Cards
The rabbit resting in the arms of a young girl with her dog makes for a tender, cow-her-sentimentally-sold! This trade card was for one of the most enduring patent medicines in North America, Dr. Morse’s Indian Root Pills, manufactured in New York and Ontario from 1854 through 1960.

VIEW THE IMAGE

“The Rabbit Died!”
In the October 17, 2021, Washington Post, journalist Gillian Brockell looked at the cultural overtones of a pregnancy test using rabbits that was widely used from the 1930s to the 1970s. “The rabbit died” became shorthand for a positive pregnancy test—but, unfortunately, the rabbit died regardless!

The Library is open to readers and classes by appointment. All visitors must show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and will need to be masked and socially distant. For details, see our guide to visiting the Library. For more ways to connect with our resources and services, check out the Quick Connections page.

The NYAM Library Team

NYAM’s work to ensure health for all is more critical than ever. Your support helps us preserve the Library’s treasures, share them with researchers and the public, and safeguard the history of medicine to inform the future of health.

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