



### **Eighteenth-Century Dermatological Handbook**

Plenck's Doctrina De Morbis Cutaneis

*By Scott M. Jackson and Althea C. Ashe*

**Pub Date:** 07 April 2026

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £80.00 / \$110.00

**ISBN:** 9781839999369

**Extent:** 250 pages

**Size:** 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

**BISAC CATEGORY:** MEDICAL / History

MEDICAL / Dermatology, LANGUAGE ARTS &

DISCIPLINES / Translating & Interpreting

**BISAC CODE:** MED039000

**BIC CODE:**

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**Exclusive:** WORLD

**Presents the first English translation of Joseph Jacob Plenck's 1776 handbook, a foundational work that established the morphology-based classification system underlying modern dermatology.**

Ever wonder about what an 18th-century physician or surgeon needed to know about skin diseases? For the very first time, the 18th-century handbook, Doctrina de Morbis Cutaneis (1783 edition), has been translated into English. In an effort to distill confusing information about skin diseases into a simple system for his students, Joseph Jacob Plenck (1738–1807)—unknowingly and without any recognition—set the study of skin disease on a path toward formal specialization. Doctrina was the text that inspired Robert Willan (1757–1812) to make his own system; thus, Doctrina is the foundational text of dermatology. In the 250th anniversary of the first edition of this work (1776), it is our intent both to honor Plenck with a translation of his masterful work and to reveal its secrets to modern readers and scholars.

#### **Key selling points**

- Marks the first time this historically important work has been translated into English.
- Presents a side-by-side Latin–English text to honor Plenck's original Latin.
- Represents the first systematic categorization of skin diseases by appearance.
- Offers a translation rich in insights into early modern medicine

#### **About the Author(s) / Editor(s)**

**Scott Jackson, MD**, is a practicing dermatologist and adjunct faculty at the Alice L. Walton School of Medicine. He has authored a book on the history of dermatology titled Skin Disease and the History of Dermatology: Order Out of Chaos.

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