This colouring book forms part of the international #ColorOurCollections week on social media 5th-9th February 2018. We invite you to colour our images and illustrate our pages and share them on social media tagging us @StrathArchives and including the tag #ColorOurCollections.

This year we have chosen to highlight the Latin manuscript of the third book of Avicenna’s Canon of Medicine. This unique beautifully crafted book bound in original oak boards and copied in 1447, is the oldest book in the University of Strathclyde library.

The text features Latin handwritten manuscript with red rubricated passages and headings added for emphasis. Owners of manuscripts often commissioned an illustrator to illuminate the text with decorated initial letters or additional flourishes in the margins, and gaps can be clearly seen in the text left to add these. So help us fill the gaps!

Become a medieval illustrator and illuminate our manuscript!

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‘Incipit liber tertius abincenne/ diction prima de vniuersis egri-/ tudinibus capitis et ij libri/ de vtilitate capitis et de/ anathomia capitis et cerebri…’

Here begins the third book by Avicenna about the ailments of the head and the anatomy of the brain...

Incipit from *Third book of the Canon of Avicenna* (Manuscript, 1447)
(University of Strathclyde: Manuscript A, Young Collection)
Index from Third book of the Canon of Avicenna (Manuscript A, Young Collection)
‘Explicit liber 3us auicennae scriptus/ et completes per me stephanum blanckart/
anno dm M° cccc° xlviij° die xi mensis/ nouembris, viz ipso die martini sancti’

So ends the third book of Avicenna written by myself Stephan Blanckart in the year 1447, 11th November, St Martin’s Day.

Explicit from Third book of the Canon of Avicenna (Manuscript, 1447)
(University of Strathclyde: Manuscript A, Young Collection)

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Aquila volans per aerem et bufo gradiens per terram est magisterium / The Eagle flying in the sky and the toad travelling by land leads to the majesty [of alchemy]

Emblem depicting Avicenna from *Symbola aureae mensae* by Michael Maier (Frankfurt, 1617) (University of Strathclyde: Maier, Young Collection)

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Portrait of Avicenna on the title page of
Symbola aureae mensae by Michael Maier (Frankfurt, 1617)
(University of Strathclyde: Maier, Young Collection)