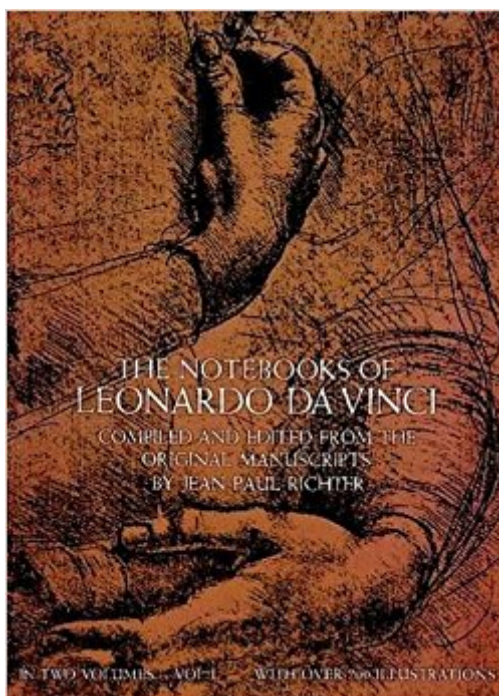


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The Notebooks Of Leonardo Da Vinci (Volume 1)



Synopsis

Scientist, painter, mechanical engineer, sculptor, thinker, city planner, storyteller, musician, architect — Leonardo da Vinci, builder of the first flying machine, was one of the great universal geniuses of Western civilization. His voluminous notebooks, the great storehouse of his theories and discoveries, are presented here in 1566 extracts that reveal the full range of Leonardo's versatile interest: all the important writings on painting, sculpture, architecture, anatomy, astronomy, geography, topography, and other fields are included, in both Italian and English, with 186 plates of manuscript pages and many other drawings reproduced in facsimile size. The first volume, which contains all of Leonardo's writings on aspects of painting, includes discussions of such basic scientific areas as the structure of the eye and vision, perspective, the science of light and shade, the perspective of disappearance, theory of color, perspective of color, proportions and movements of the human figure, botany for painters, and the elements of landscape painting. A section on the practice of painting includes moral precepts for painters and writings on composition, materials, and the philosophy of art. The second volume contains writings on sculpture, architecture (plans for towns, streets, and canals, churches, palaces, castles, and villas, theoretical writings on arches, domes, fissures, etc.), zoology, physiology (including his amazingly accurate theories of blood circulation), medicine, astronomy, geography (including his famous writings and drawings on the movement of water), topography (observations in Italy, France, and other areas), naval warfare, swimming, theory of flying machines, mining, music, and other topics. A selection of philosophical maxims, morals, polemics, fables, jests, studies in the lives and habits of animals, tales, and prophecies display Leonardo's abilities as a writer and scholar. The second volume also contains some letters, personal records, inventories, and accounts, and concludes with Leonardo's will. The drawings include sketches and studies for some of Leonardo's greatest works of art — The Last Supper, the lost Battle of Anghiari, The Virgin of the Rocks, and the destroyed Sforza monument.

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Customer Reviews

"This is an excellent selection, with a lot of breadth and depth!"--F.W. Blackwell, Washington State Univ."Excellent text for intermediate and upper level courses on the arts and man. Selections are adequate and edited well. Leonardo's ideas are difficult but the translations and brief commentaries at the beginning of each section are helpful to the student and make these ideals accessible to the average student."--Orville V. Clark, University of Wisconsin--Green Bay"Excellent introduction to one of the most complex aspects of Leonardo's art."--Norman Land, University of Missouri "This is an excellent selection, with a lot of breadth and depth!"--F.W. Blackwell, Washington State Univ. "Excellent text for intermediate and upper level courses on the arts and man. Selections are adequate and edited well. Leonardo's ideas are difficult but the translations and brief commentaries at the beginning of each section are helpful to the student and make these ideals accessible to the average student."--Orville V. Clark, University of Wisconsin--Green Bay "Excellent introduction to one of the most complex aspects of Leonardo's art."--Norman Land, University of Missouri "This is an excellent selection, with a lot of breadth and depth!"--F.W. Blackwell, Washington State Univ. "Excellent text for intermediate and upper level courses on the arts and man. Selections are adequate and edited well. Leonardo's ideas are difficult but the translations and brief commentaries at the beginning of each section are helpful to the student and make these ideals accessible to the average student."--Orville V. Clark, University of Wisconsin--Green Bay "Excellent introduction to one of the most complex aspects of Leonardo's art."--Norman Land, University of Missouri"This is an excellent selection, with a lot of breadth and depth!"--F.W. Blackwell, Washington State Univ."Excellent text for intermediate and upper level courses on the arts and man. Selections are adequate and edited well. Leonardo's ideas are difficult but the translations and brief commentaries at the beginning of each section are helpful to the student and make these ideals accessible to the average student."--Orville V. Clark, University of Wisconsin--Green Bay"Excellent introduction to one of the most complex aspects of Leonardo's art."--Norman Land, University of Missouri --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Text: English, Italian

Copious footnotes included within the text overwhelmed this work. I was hoping for the translated notes from Leonardo as he wrote them, with occasional drawings. No drawings are included, although they are described verbally. The notes have been sorted into an order the compiler thought meaningful, but I'd have been happier to see the random thoughts closer to the order Leonardo jotted them down, since to me that would also have provided a glimpse into his thinking patterns. I guess they've been sorted numerous times in the past and perhaps the original order isn't available anymore. Having not read other compilations, I can't say this version is better or worse, but I found it unsatisfying. It seemed there were more footnotes and explanations within the text than actual notes from Leonardo. It was as though someone found an ancient religious text and instead of just presenting a translated version for personal interpretation, rearranged all the verses and then interjected explanatory notes between every phrase. Since the added notes in this work are in the same text type as Leonardo's words, it's almost impossible to read for his words alone. There is no Table of Contents and perhaps this is just not an ideal work for the eBook format. While obviously, a tremendous amount of work went into this compilation and there is certainly value to a DaVinci scholar, for someone who just wants to get a flavor of his thoughts and perspectives in his own words, I found it too difficult a read to be rewarding.

Be careful when purchasing this volume as there are several versions out there that do not include the pictures and diagrams. You'll need to email the specific seller to ensure you are getting the right product. While this is a nice compilation it is not as easy to get into as Volume 1.

It's really kind of misleading as a book of the notebooks of Leonardo. It's a really thick book filled with great text and information, but not too many images and they are small. There is a much larger and better book than this one, unless you like to read a lot of speculation about his work. The other book (same title) that has 14x11 prints and the book while being 300 pages; every page is a large print of one of his sketches!

This Dover edition reprints Jean Paul Richter's 1883 translation of Da Vinci's notebooks, and provides Richter's transcription of Leonardo's notes in Italian, in parallel with the translation to English, along with many Da Vinci drawings. The printing quality is very good. Note that is

combining reviews of other, poorer quality reprints and Kindle editions of Da Vinci's notebooks, into this page for the Dover edition. The Dover edition is not yet available on Kindle. For a good quality Kindle collection, see Thereza Wells (2008) edition of Irma A. Richter's (1952) selection of Da Vinci's notes, published by Oxford University Press.

I have only skimmed these volumes so far, but it is fascinating to read such a clearly written English translation of Leonardo's notes. The subject matter is wide and varied ranging from art techniques to philosophy and includes hints of Leonardo's uncanny predictions for the future, especially his design suggestions for technology which wasn't to be developed until over 400 years later, such as flying machines and the helicopter. Volumes 1 and 2 are both included in this one Kindle edition at a very reasonable price. The text is clearly set out under informative headings and the English translation is logical and easy to follow. I would recommend this book to anyone with an interest in art, art history, or the wider genius of the polymath who was Leonardo da Vinci.

It's Da Vinci. What more do you really need?

How can you not appreciate and LOVE this book? Da Vinci was one of the true geniuses of all humanity...having this available for a free download to my Kindle through is FABULOUS. I was so happy to be able to share this so easily with my children.

Bloat of a long-winded perspective author that determines he knows what Leonardo meant when he wrote something contrary to the "experts" concept and belief. Would be better to just have Leonardo's writings rather than the author's continued diatribe of discourse. This book would be better titled "I Read Leonardo's Notes and Know Everything He Meant, But Let's Just Listen to My Interpretations".

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