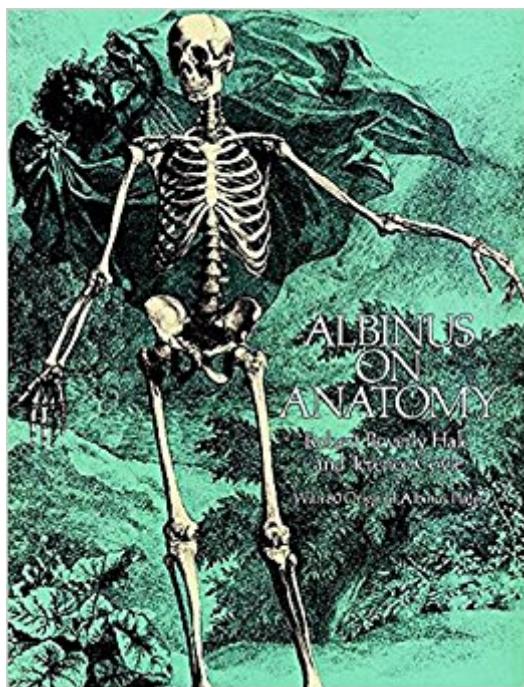


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# Albinus On Anatomy (Dover Anatomy For Artists)



## Synopsis

This beautiful, enthralling book represents the rarest of human achievements: a work of great scientific merit that is a magnificent work of art as well. Bernard Siegfried Albinus was the greatest descriptive anatomist of the eighteenth century. Over a period of twenty years, he produced two volumes of drawings, *Tables of the Skeleton and Muscles of the Human Body* and *Tables of the Human Bones*, that have long been revered for their beauty, skill, artistry, and anatomical accuracy. This finely made edition makes them available to the general public at an easily affordable price for the first time since their publication in 1747. All 80 of the original copperplate engravings, containing over 230 individual illustrations, have been painstakingly reproduced for this edition. The muscles and bones of the human body are rendered individually and in related groups from varying perspectives, enabling art students to compare the forms; to analyze their size, shape, direction, and attachments; and to observe with absolute clarity the shape and position of bodily forms. Eighty modern diagrams matching each plate identify each bone and muscle in the most common medical terms. The eminent medical historian Charles Singer praised Albinus' brilliant accomplishment: "He introduced a new standard of accuracy into practical anatomy and of accuracy and beauty into anatomical illustrations." Singer adds: "These illustrations, with their finely wrought ornamental backgrounds, were intended for artists as well as for physicians, and no finer work of their type has ever been executed." Introductory essays by the well-known artist and art educator Terence Coyle — including a new introduction to the Dover edition — engagingly explore Albinus' life and work. Following these, Robert Beverly Hale, one of America's best-known teachers of figure drawing and anatomy, brilliantly appraises Albinus' technique and demonstrates how artists today can use his anatomical studies to draw from life, a special feature that makes this magnificent book truly indispensable for artists and art students at every level.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This beautiful, enthralling book represents the rarest of human achievements: a work of great scientific merit that is a magnificent work of art as well. Bernard Siegfried Albinus was the greatest descriptive anatomist of the eighteenth century. Over a period of twenty years, he produced two volumes of drawings, *Tables of the Skeleton and Muscles of the Human Body* and *Tables of the Human Bones*, that have long been revered for their beauty, skill, artistry, and anatomical accuracy. This finely made edition makes them available to the general public at an easily affordable price for the first time since their publication in 1747. All 80 of the original copperplate engravings, containing over 230 individual illustrations, have been painstakingly reproduced for this edition. The muscles and bones of the human body are rendered individually and in related groups from varying perspectives, enabling art students to compare the forms; to analyze their size, shape, direction, and attachments; and to observe with absolute clarity the shape and position of bodily forms. Eighty modern diagrams matching each plate identify each bone and muscle in the most common medical terms. The eminent medical historian Charles Singer praised Albinus' brilliant accomplishment: "He introduced a new standard of accuracy into practical anatomy and of accuracy and beauty into anatomical illustrations." Singer adds: "These illustrations, with their finely wrought ornamental backgrounds, were intended for artists as well as for physicians, and no finer work of their type has ever been executed." Introductory essays by the well-known artist and art educator Terence Coyle, including a new introduction to the Dover edition, engagingly explore Albinus' life and work. Following these, Robert Beverly Hale, one of America's best-known teachers of figure drawing and anatomy, brilliantly appraises Albinus' technique and demonstrates how artists today can use his anatomical studies to draw from life, a special feature that makes this magnificent book truly indispensable for artists and art students at every level.

Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1697 - 1770) was a German-born Dutch anatomist which probably explains why even in the eighteen century, his drawings were so accurate. This anatomy book is a compilation of work from two books he wrote at that time, *Tabulae Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani* (Tables of the Human Body) and *Tabulae Ossium Humanorum* (Table of the Human

Bones). When I first saw work of Albinus, it was in Drawing Lessons from the Great Masters. There's a skeleton posing in front of a grazing rhinoceros. And on the cover of this book, there's a cupid over a skeleton's shoulder, trying to throw a cloth over it. How cool is that? Apparently, the drawings were actually copperplate engravings created with the help of Jan Wandelaar. He's the guy who added the decorative background art. It's great foresight to use long lasting engravings instead of print. The reproduction in this book is brilliant because of that, being able to retain all the details not lost to any degradation. You can still see clearly the intricate cross hatches that wrap onto the surface of muscles and bones. The content is presented with both the original anatomy illustration together with an outlined line art with labels. There are also close ups on the specific parts, which are a marvel to look at. It's comprehensive enough but nothing is mentioned on how the muscles work or body functions. Overall a pretty useful and definitely interesting anatomy reference book. (More pictures are available on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

Albinus's anatomical illustrations are incredible: accurate and beautifully rendered. As an art student, this book has already been very useful as a reference both in and out of figure drawing classes, and Albinus on Anatomy will certainly be coming with me to grad school. I received this book a few days earlier than I expected. There was some cosmetic wear on the spine, but the pages were in excellent condition. I would certainly buy from this seller again if the need arises.

This book is a treasure for those who are interested in history, whether of medicine, anatomy or art, and rescues the material of the great anatomist Bernhardus Albinus (1653-1721). The quality of the material he published, in particular the study of muscles is still current today. I would recommend this book even for undergraduate students to the study of muscular anatomy, as the board in black and white can be colored, creating a mnemonic feature. Very good. This material does not exist in my country and quickly arrived at my house. Worth it.

This is the best atlas of anatomy I know. The successive muscle layers, from the front and back, are shown accurately and in great detail. Because the entire body is depicted, the relationships between regions offer novel views even for the seasoned anatomist. The editor is to be commended for bringing back to life this work of science and art..

The book came immediately and has great information! I need this for my figure drawing class and it helps out tremendously to understand the human anatomy. The book did come stained and with

dinged edges, which caused me to only give four stars.

The figures are shown in beautiful elegant movement. Just as we move when our bodies are balanced. The layers of muscles also clear. Also the figures are connected to nature and world rather than just shown alone as most contemporary anatomy books.. That demonstrates how connected homosapiens are to everything thing else. We are not separate bags of ego with bones and muscles. Superb and accurate illustrations.

Beautiful historical drawings of Albinus/Wandelaar supplemented by modern matching diagrams with anatomical terminology. Excellent reference for artists, beautifully presented in large format, slightly larger than 9x12.

I received this in a hasty matter which I appreciate so much. I highly recommend this book to artist who want to brush up on their anatomy or those who appreciate the human form inside and out! Get it while you can :)

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