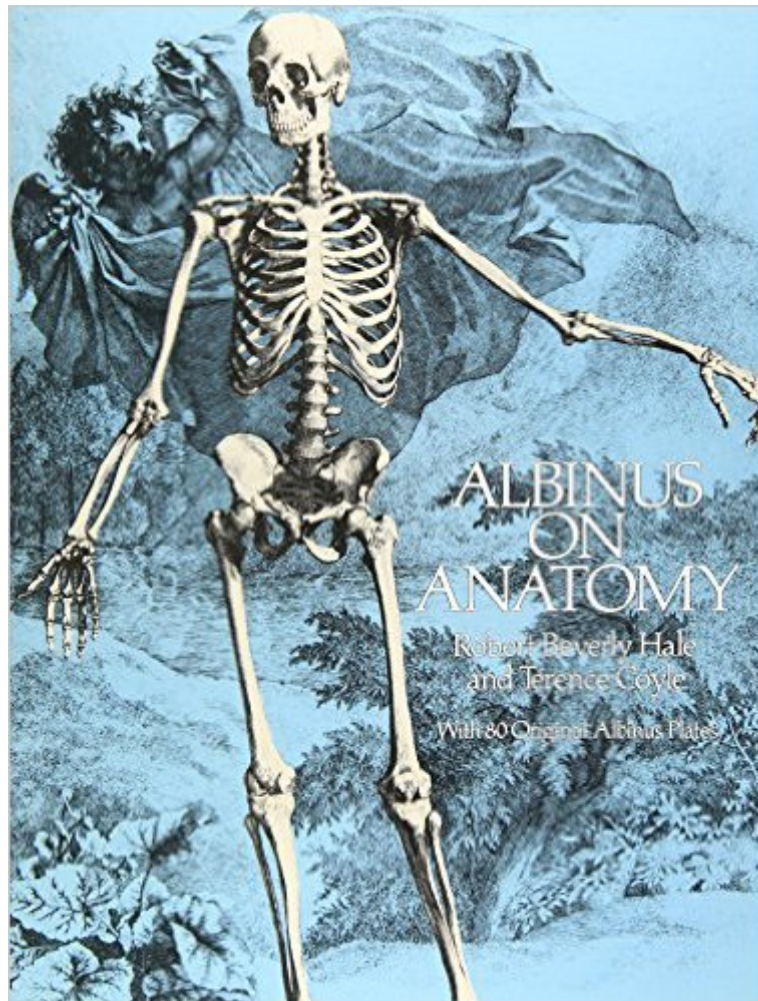


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# Albinus On Anatomy (Dover Anatomy For Artists)



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This oversized book contains over 200 illustrations of the human body, posed so as to be of use to the artist studying the human form. Beautiful and highly accurate, the book can be a valuable tool for the artist wishing to improve his skill through a better knowledge of human anatomy. Albinus himself is not solely responsible for the engravings. He collaborated with an artist who did the drawings and finally the copper plate engravings of the figure. In the meantime, Albinus arranged the poses and oversaw the process from rough sketches to the manipulations of the printing press, ensuring that the accuracy and quality of the images were preserved. The figures are represented with various layers of tissue exposed, first the nude model, then the outer layer of muscle, the next layer of muscle, the organs, down to the bare skeletons. Each layer has an anterior and a posterior view. The potential for the engravings to become a grim lesson on internal anatomy is offset by the engraving artist's whimsy. He was allowed artistic freedom with the background on each plate, and the settings range from a Greek temple to a verdant forest. In one plate a rhinoceros grazes directly behind the model. For the student of anatomy, each bone is taken individually, and the proportions, muscle attachments, and major connective tissue are shown for each in turn. A passionate introduction to drawing the human body starts the book off, and a complete index ties it together. The playful, detailed drawings make this book attractive to the artist and the art admirer alike. For its size and complexity, this book is a great buy.

Length: 0:28 Mins

Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1697 - 1770) was a German-born Dutch anatomist which probably explains why even in the eighteenth 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 on Anatomy is a great book. I am a printmaking student; My teacher introduced this book to me when I asked her about detailed etchings of the human figure. I love how intricate and delicate the lines are to create figure. They remind me of the prints of Rembrandt. For anyone interested in art, I really suggest this book. It's great for those studying to be medical illustrators, print students, the everyday sketchers.....ANYONE! It's also great for those who just love to learn about the anatomy of the body.

I bought the Kindle version to have an anatomy reference on my pad and phone. I forgot that Kindle pictures can't be enlarged like regular Web graphics by spreading two fingers, so it's impossible to read the names of the muscles in the diagrams because the type is so tiny. So the book is not very useful. I wish they would change their Kindle format to allow enlarging pictures.

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.

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..

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