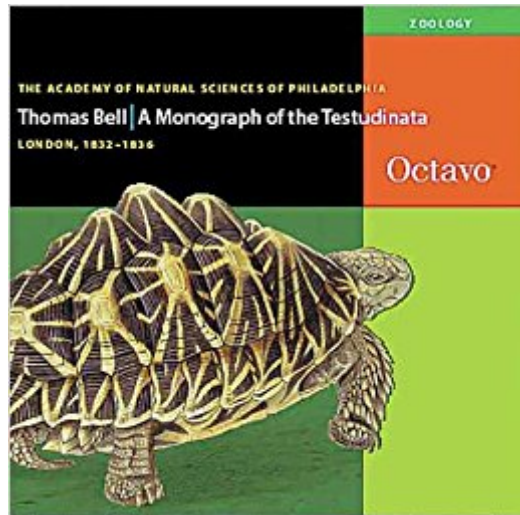




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A Monograph Of The Testudinata (English And Latin Edition)



Synopsis

Turtles—a term that includes tortoises and terrapins—are at once one of Nature's most recognizable life forms and the most generally beloved among living reptiles. Thomas Bell's rare and unfinished book, *A Monograph of the Testudinata*, represents the most ambitious attempt ever undertaken to summarize all the world's turtles, living and extinct, both in words and illustration. The book is an imposing volume, folio in size and with forty magnificent handcolored, full-color plates illustrated by the notable natural history artist James de Carle Sowerby and lithographed by Edward Lear (although better known today for his limericks, Lear began his career as a highly commended painter of birds and landscapes). These lithographed turtles are empathically pleasing and highly successful in capturing the essence of their subjects; as a collection of accurate and artistic drawings on a single group of animals, there are few other works with which to compare them. This Octavo Edition gives these remarkable drawings a well-deserved new lease on immortality and is testament to the enduring value of outstanding illustration. Few today appreciate the debt owed to the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century naturalists who first sorted out the bewildering kinds of turtles. Thomas Bell was the unrivalled authority on turtles at the time he began *A Monograph of the Testudinata* (he was also the leading British dental surgeon of his day, author of the herpetological volume in Darwin's series *Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle*, and professor of zoology at King's College in London). Given the difficulties of the period, and despite changes and clarifications, Bell's contributions to the anatomy, natural history, distribution, and history of the study of turtles have stood well the test of time, and the plates remain as fresh and vibrant as when they were first published nearly 170 years ago. Commentary by Kraig Adler, searchable live text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bell was the acknowledged authority and covers turtles the world over. Lear's lithographs create a disc with broader appeal. -- Library Journal, December 1999
Now, thanks to Octavo, anyone with a computer can enjoy priceless works. -- Time, April 5, 1999
Octavo editions give readers a firsthand experience of a milestone text: each includes page-by-page views, expert commentaries, and appropriate "marginalia." -- University of Chicago Magazine, October 2004
Octavo offers the finest presentation of digitized rare books. Bell's is the unrivaled turtle bestiary of its time. -- Whole Earth, Fall 2000
This is an exciting development. The search methods, thumbnail versions, zooming possibilities, etc., increase the value of the original publication. -- Podarcis 1(2), 2000

Imaged from the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

Octavo Press has recovered what was once the definitive monograph of the genus Testudinata, the turtles and tortoises. This exquisite digital reproduction allows everyone virtual examination of a book for which access was once limited to a select few in the rare book collections of libraries worldwide. Feel privileged as you "flip" through the heavy paper stock. Feel important as you espy gallery-worthy watercolor renditions of some of the world's best known turtle species. Feel awed by the importance and beauty this edition still illicit. Like a weathered turtle's shell, Octavo's incredible CD-rom allows us to view an age long ago when explorers were naturalists, and naturalists were artists. Don't miss the opportunity to buy this reproduction; like some of the tortoises chronicled within, you don't know how soon it too may become extinct.

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