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# Natural Histories: Extraordinary Rare Book Selections From The American Museum Of Natural History Library



## Synopsis

For the first time, *Natural Histories* allows readers a privileged glimpse of seldom-seen, fully illustrated scientific tomes from the American Museum of Natural History's Rare Book Collection. Forty essays from the museum's top experts in a variety of natural science disciplines, from anthropology to zoology, enhance and discuss each rare work's unique qualities and scientific contribution. Packaged with 40 extraordinary prints suitable for framing, this deluxe edition will fascinate both natural science and art lovers alike.

## Book Information

Series: *Natural Histories*

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## Customer Reviews

"...a truly stunning collection of rare prints covering a litany of topics. Whether readers choose to focus on the 40 prints just begging for frames that are included in the box or the often breathtaking images in the book itself, they'll quickly find themselves sucked into this fantastically assembled and informative work of natural and human history . . . armchair naturalists, archeologists, and anthropologists will have a field day with this lovingly curated collection. Remarkable for its editing as well as its breadth of scope (even the binding of Victorian natural history books is studied), this gem of a book is one of the best in its class." —*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)"...this collection from the AMNH is sure to please. It presents rare essays and artwork about the natural sciences along with a selection of prints for display." —*TIME* magazine —*Baione* (dir., American Museum of Natural History Lib.) examines book

illustrations found in the library of New York City's American Museum of Natural History. The volume also gathers 40 essays written by the museum's librarians, researchers, curators, and administrators. They discuss woodcuts, etchings, engravings, and lithographs from books published between the 16th and early 20th centuries on topics in the natural sciences. The book presents many full-page, color reproductions of illustrations of insects, sea animals, birds, and mammals, accompanied by historical descriptions. Also included is a 19th-century astronomical atlas and a collection of portraits of Native Americans. The museum has published many books that discuss its collections...Baione's is the first to focus on book illustrations. It is packaged with 40 frameable prints. VERDICT - Combining well-chosen reproductions and interesting essays, this book would be a great choice for readers of National Geographic and the like. —*Library Journal* . . . a beautiful boxed set that includes a softcover book of essays and illustrations and 40 loose plates housed in an illustrated clamshell box. The plates are frame-worthy copies of some of the illustrations used in the essay volume. The writing style is directed to a general reading audience, and is appropriate for undergraduates looking for introductory information. The short essays are informative and excite interest in further study. —*Choice*

Tom Baione is the Harold Boeschstein Director of Library Services in the American Museum of Natural History's Library and oversees all aspects of the library's functions. An active member of the Grolier Club, Tom divides his time between Manhattan and Long Island.

As I have told my students in the past (I am now retired), knowledge of the workings of our universe does not come easily or without error. We live in a quite remarkable world and those not totally jaded by the misery of the daily news are aware of it. Now the American Museum of Natural History has published illustrations from their extensive library of rare natural history books in a rough chronology that covers much of the history of the emergence of our modern concepts of the natural world. "Natural Histories: Extraordinary Rare Book Selections from the American Museum of Natural History Library" is, as noted in the title, quite extraordinary, including the 40 prints taken from the 40 texts reviewed by the multiple authors (each chapter is written by a different authority). The illustrations range from Gesner's natural history of 1563 to the designs of Seguy in the first half of the Twentieth Century. More and more accuracy in the depiction of nature (for the most part) reflects the increasing empirical understanding of the workings of the natural world. For the most part botanical illustration is neglected, but the zoological and astronomical parts of natural history illustration are magnificently reproduced. Each of the 40 prints, included separate from the book,

would serve as a neat framed example of the art. For the price this is a wonderful introduction to the work of numerous researchers and compilers of knowledge and a great review of the development of natural history illustration. I recommend it without reservation.

This gorgeous cover is actually the front of a big textured box that contains a paperback book that has selections and essays from some of the rare books from the American Museum of Natural History's Rare Book Collection. As if that weren't wonderful enough, you will also find included in the box 40 separate prints that show some of the rare and beautiful illustrations - and honestly they are so beautiful you could frame each and every one of them. The enclosed book is 176 pages and has over two hundred illustrations and has essays from such notables as Neil deGrasse Tyson. The scope and variety of selected books is impressive, and the subjects vary from every kind of flora and fauna to stories about people and places. And more. Highly recommended. I would've thought I would've had to pay way more than this to get something of this quality. It's that nice.

Wow! If i could give this book six stars, definitely i would give it. The book is a must have for every natural history collection in your bookshelf. It's not only the book, it comes with 40 beautiful prints, and i already framed a few for my room. The essays and the selection of the drawings for each great book is perfect. This is an amazing value! This book can cost about three times more and still be worth it (i think i shouldn't have said that) If you love natural history, and by the way, natural history art like me, then don't think twice and buy this book.

This is a perfect gift. I love everything about it, the Art prints, the book and the box everything comes in. Super!

Awesome, amazing collectable! The box cover contains numerous prints, (that my husband and I framed) as well as a beautiful book inside. All nature related, whether by land or sea. Don't pass on this one!

Beautiful item...this is a hard-cover book-shaped box that holds a paper book and some loose papers. It is a little odd and unconventional in presentation. Nevertheless it is lovely on a table.

A fabulous book with great illustrations and incredible pictures that deserve to be framed. There are

more in the series too.

Lovely presentation and glorious examples of natural history artwork. Worth far more than the price and I recommend to anyone who is fascinated by this visual content.

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