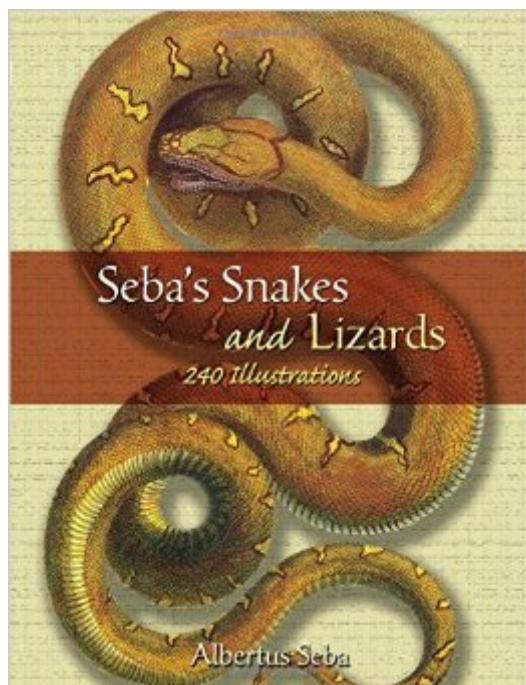


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Seba's Snakes And Lizards: 240 Illustrations (Dover Pictorial Archive)



Synopsis

From the eighteenth century's most important natural history collection--and one of the all-time greatest compilations of its kind--comes this remarkable book. Amsterdam-based pharmacist Albertus Seba (1665-1735) spent most of his life acquiring thousands of specimens of animals, plants, and insects from around the world. In 1731, he commissioned illustrations of every item in his collection. The vivid, detailed, and meticulously accurate images that appear in this volume feature: 240 full-color illustrations of reptiles A riot of brilliant colors, shapes, and sizes Magnificent reproductions from rare originals Unlimited potential as graphic and decorative elements in art, craft, and educational projects

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #713,420 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Reptiles #183 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #218 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Clip Art

Customer Reviews

Albertus Seba, born 1665, was a pharmacist in Amsterdam who offered ship captains and physicians money to bring him exotic creatures and stuff. He got rich selling worthless medicines made with them (snake oil! really! he was a snake oil producer and salesman, despite having nothing to do with the securities business) and also selling the critters to really rich guys like czars. He hired artists to produce engravings and drawings of them. While he did not produce the art himself, he was evidently very talented at managing its production, and the engravings he published were scientifically advanced then and artistically excellent then and now. While the images in this book are not nearly so thrilling as the actual engravings, they are an excellent introduction to his

work and offer examples of how these might have been colored (by hand) at the time they were published. I bought this book as inspiration for coloring some of the 1734 engravings, and they are inspiring. However, the colors are not entirely accurate. The book contains some botanical names that the engravings do not, so you can look them up on "images". That handsome guy on the cover is an emerald tree boa. The infant snakes have the brownish colors of the snake on the cover, but the adults (the cover snake shape is adult) are brilliant green. oh well, this gives me license to color them however I want.

I purchased this book to use the photographs for art in my bedroom. It was much cheaper than buying another copy of the complete plates but just as beautiful. An amazing deal!

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