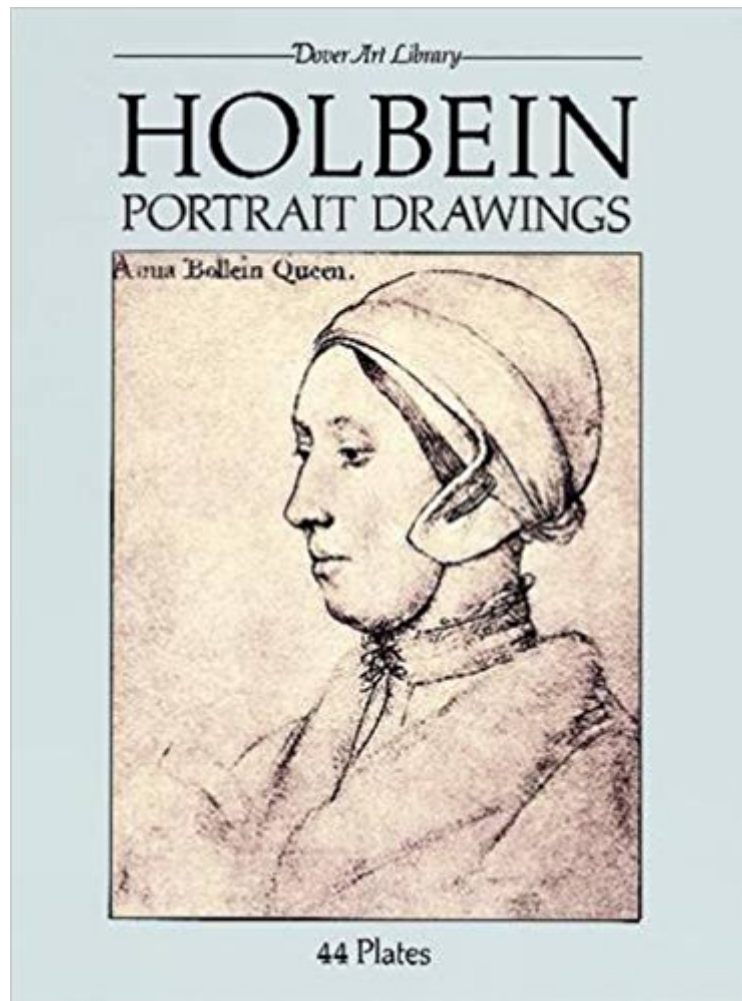


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Holbein Portrait Drawings (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



Synopsis

Hans Holbein the Younger (1497–1543) ranks among history's most gifted and perceptive portrait painters. His objectivity, realism, and superb draftsmanship have influenced artists and commanded the admiration of the world for over four centuries. This handsome volume presents 44 of Holbein's finest portrait drawings, created while he worked as court painter to Henry VIII. This artist's record of one of the world's most brilliant and tempestuous courts, in drawings and finished portraits executed with inimitable sensitivity and impeccable draftsmanship, is unique in the annals of history and art. Here are revealing, detailed depictions of a gallery of powerful personalities: Sir Thomas More; Jane Seymour; Edward, Prince of Wales; Anne Boleyn; William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Sir Thomas Wyatt; Nicholas Bourbon the Elder; and many others. Informative captions provide identification of the sitters, dates, dimensions of the drawings, and notes on the media. Today the original drawings can be seen only in the collection of the Royal Library at Windsor. This inexpensive Dover edition makes them widely available to all art lovers. Moreover, every effort has been made to retain the quality of the originals — subtleties of tone and shading, fine detail, and telling nuances of expression. The drawings comprise a priceless archive of important personalities in Henrician England, a record of great value to historians, scholars, costume and cultural historians — anyone interested in that turbulent era and the astounding painter who helped preserve it.

Book Information

Series: Dover Fine Art, History of Art

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (October 1, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486249379

ISBN-13: 978-0486249377

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #677,316 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #247 in Books > Arts &

Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Human Figure #369 in Books > Arts &

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Catalogs & Exhibitions

Customer Reviews

The slender volume of "Holbein Portrait Drawings" published by Dover books contains 44 portrait drawings by Hans Holbein (1497-1543). The pages are 8 by 11 inches. Unlike many collections of drawings (for example, those in the "Master Draughtsman" series) the captions of most drawings state their actual sizes. The reproductions in the book are somewhat smaller. For example, the portrait of the "Unknown Lady" that appears on the cover is said to be 281 x 192 mm. The reproduced image is roughly 222 x 151 mm. The images are monochrome. The original drawings are said to be done on pink paper with black and colored chalks. One can certainly find pink versions of the images on the web, but I haven't found any versions that documented their authenticity and it isn't clear whether the online versions are just monochrome images that have been digitally modified. Colors in digital photos can appear different on different computer monitors, so the question of what is an "authentic" reproduction is complex. Furthermore, as noted below, the book states that the original drawings have been "touched up" by people other than Holbein. Virtues and limitations of the book are given in the Publisher's Note and a note to the Publisher's Note. Some excerpts from these are the following: "The Dover edition, first published in 1985, is a selection of works reproduced in Johann Holbein | Le Livre de Portraits a' Windsor Castle | Choix de Cinquante Dessins | en Fac-simile', second edition, published in 1927 by Braun & Cie, Editeurs d' Art, Paris. as the second volume in the first series of Dessins et Peintures des Maitres Anciens. A new Publisher's Note has been written specially for the Dover edition.

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