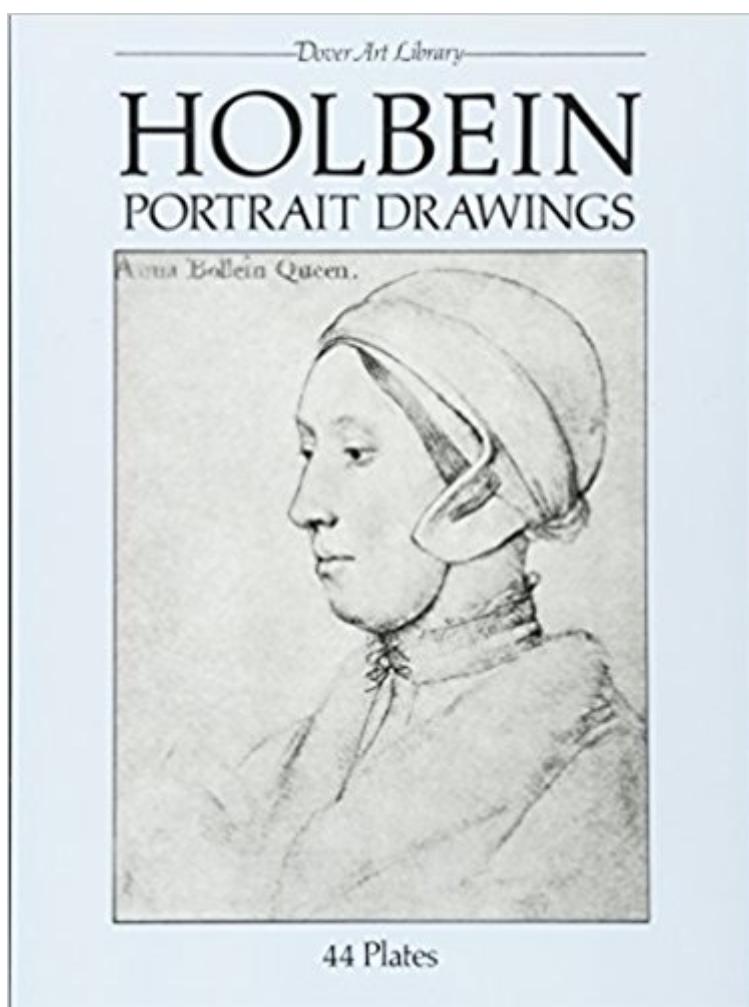


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Holbein Portrait Drawings (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



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.

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Customer Reviews

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—and anyone interested in that turbulent era and the astounding painter who helped preserve it. Dover (1985) original publication.

For the price, I suppose you get what you pay for, which are a great collection of drawings but terrible reproductions. I am in awe of Hans Holbein - his portrait drawings are brilliant and subtle - but these reproductions are so dark and muddy I'm not sure how they could be useful either for enjoyment or to learn from, unless you don't have access to the internet. I prefer good quality prints to viewing artwork online any day, but in this case, I'd go with the online versions.

Pros: Collects a large number of black-and-white plates of Holbein's portrait sketches for his paintings of Henry VIII's court. Cons: There aren't more of them. For even the least ambitious student of drawing, Holbein is a name to conjure with. His use of line and simple shapes to create powerful likeness with minimal means is unmatched by any of his contemporaries. The elegance and economy of means with which he captures likeness, often using only a few precisely-drawn shapes

to create people so real you want to have coffee with them is an act of technique that has baffled and inspired students of drawing for centuries. If you are learning to draw and copying great masters is part of your training routine, you absolutely cannot go wrong with Holbein.

I am very disappointed with the book. Holbein's drawings should be extremely delicate, but all that is lost in this book--lines are grainy and the shading simply is mostly inaccurate, since these are all black-and-white reproductions of colored drawings. They are probably reproductions of reproductions, really. Even the pictures posted on the web look better. Not worth buying, no matter how cheap it is. Recommend: "Holbein in England". Borrowed it from a library. Well written, great pictures, just expensive.

The print quality is pretty poor. It's all shadowy whereas the original sketches have so much more translucence.

Can see why he was such a sought after painter.

Great book. The drawings are not as clear as I expected, but still good reference.

The photos were of very poor quality. Not worth looking at. Waste of money, did not do Holbein justice in any way a great disappointment.

This is a beautiful and kind of scary book of amazing portrait sketches. Unbelievable for the price; a real look into the past.

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