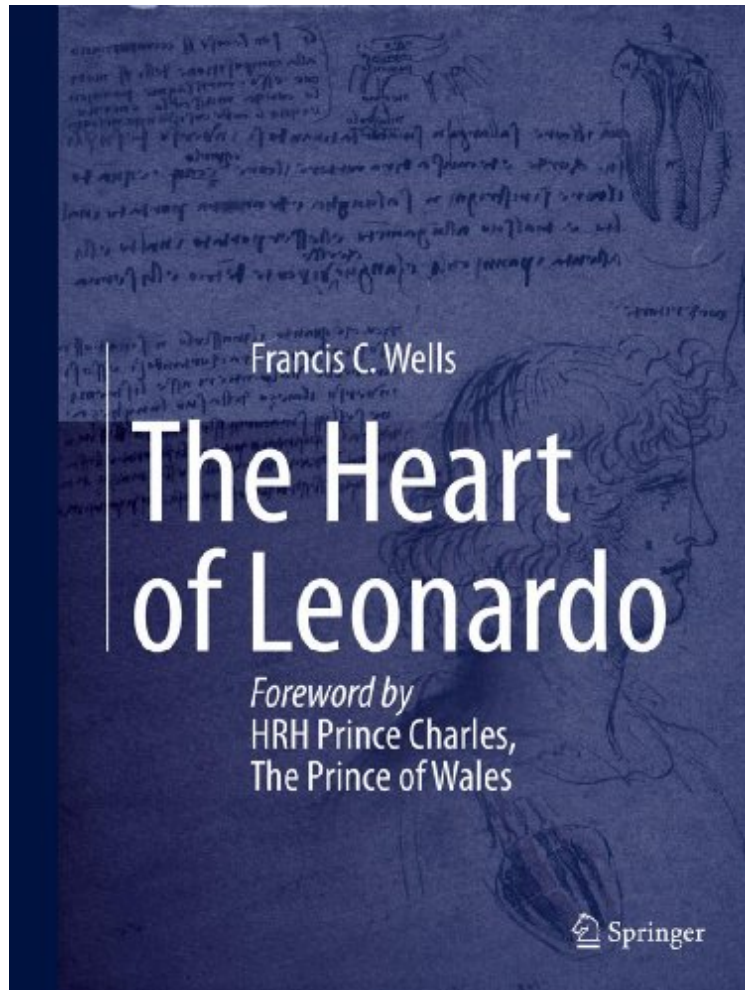


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Francis Wells

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Francis Wells : The Heart of Leonardo: Foreword by HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heart of Leonardo: Foreword by HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales:

This book contains all of Leonardo Da Vinci's drawings on the heart and its physiology, accompanied by re-translations of all of the associated notes. All Leonardo's drawings have been interpreted in the light of modern knowledge by a practicing cardiac clinician and anatomist. The veracity of his work is proven against contemporary dissections of cardiac structure and comparison of his illustrations with contemporary images generated by Magnetic Resonance scanners and high definition ultrasound will astound the reader. Perhaps the most interesting element is the

re-dissection of the Ox heart set against Leonardo's own drawings. His place in the greater scheme of anatomical development will be put into context with his ideas of man's place in the microcosm/macrocosm continuum.

From the book reviews: Selected as "Highly Commended" at BMA Medical Book Awards for 2014. It will be of interest to many others and I hope it reaches the audience it deserves. This is a lovely book. Those few who are specifically interested in Leonardo's work on the heart will find much of value and I hope it is read by artists, art historians and surgeons, who will find that the encounter with Leonardo's work is intellectually stimulating. (BMA Medical Book Awards, September, 2014)

From the Back Cover: The dynamic nature of heart action and the ever changing demands on its output and power make it an organ that can only be understood by integrating form with function at every level. Our contemporary understanding of the human heart and its workings is at the cutting edge of modern medical and biological research but, even in the current era of advanced molecular biology, mathematics and engineering, we still struggle to fully decipher the complexities of the normal and diseased heart. Leonardo's heart studies represent the pinnacle of his anatomical endeavours. In his work on the heart, his use of ingenious diagrams as well as detailed representational drawings is cleverly combined with carefully crafted verbal descriptions of complicated physiological concepts. Some of his thinking, developed through drawing, was so advanced that only now with the advent of accessible technology and advances in modern knowledge of the heart, it is possible to re-interpret Leonardo's conclusions and to point out how accurate his logical reasoning and pure observation really was. Several of his ideas continue to sit well alongside our modern understanding of cardiac physiology and heart function. This book will feature all of Leonardo's drawings on the heart and its physiology, accompanied by translations of his accompanying notes. The veracity of Leonardo's work is proven against contemporary dissections of cardiac structure and wherever possible, his illustrations are compared with contemporary images generated by magnetic resonance scanners and high definition ultrasound. It represents the only modern interpretation of Leonardo's works by a practicing clinician and anatomist in a way that is meaningful to cardiologists and medical specialists as well as art historians, and the general public.

About the Author: Mr Francis Wells is a cardiothoracic surgeon at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, the United Kingdom's largest specialist cardio-thoracic hospital and most reputable cardiac centres. Mr Wells is a recognized world leader in the field of mitral and tricuspid valve surgery. He has the largest experience in mitral valve reconstruction in the UK and amongst the largest in the world, with over 3,000 cases completed. He achieves a near 100% repair rate for fixing leaking mitral valves with mortality at less than 1.0% for first time procedures. His aim is to achieve a normally functioning valve. He is also an accomplished artist with a specific interest in Leonardo Da Vinci's drawings of the heart.