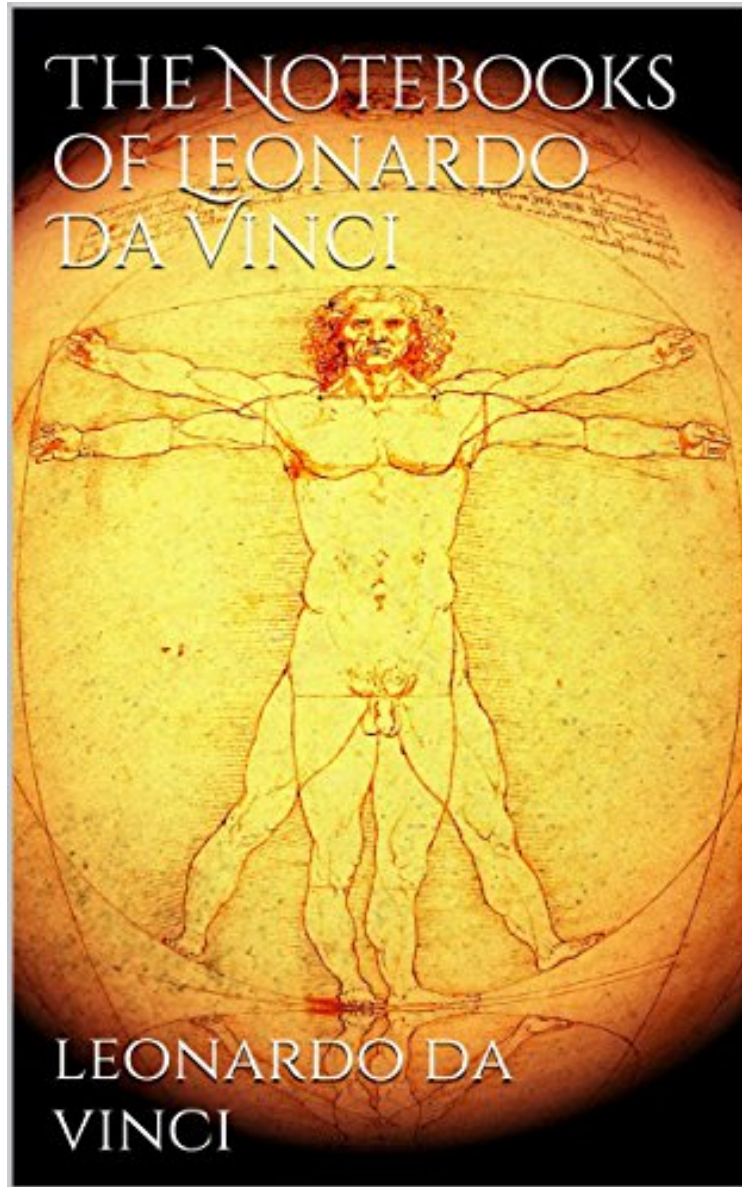


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## The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci

*Leonardo da Vinci*

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**Leonardo da Vinci : The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci:

192 of 197 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly, but difficult to readBy C. G. KingCopious footnotes included within the text overwhelmed this work. I was hoping for the translated notes from Leonardo as he wrote them, with occasional drawings. No drawings are included, although they are described verbally. The notes have been sorted into an order the compiler thought meaningful, but I'd have been happier to see the random thoughts closer to

the order Leonardo jotted them down, since to me that would also have provided a glimpse into his thinking patterns. I guess they've been sorted numerous times in the past and perhaps the original order isn't available anymore. Having not read other compilations, I can't say this version is better or worse, but I found it unsatisfying. It seemed there were more footnotes and explanations within the text than actual notes from Leonardo. It was as though someone found an ancient religious text and instead of just presenting a translated version for personal interpretation, rearranged all the verses and then interjected explanatory notes between every phrase. Since the added notes in this work are in the same text type as Leonardo's words, it's almost impossible to read for his words alone. There is no Table of Contents and perhaps this is just not an ideal work for the eBook format. While obviously, a tremendous amount of work went into this compilation and there is certainly value to a DaVinci scholar, for someone who just wants to get a flavor of his thoughts and perspectives in his own words, I found it too difficult a read to be rewarding. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as volume 1, but still good. Be careful when purchasing this volume as there are several versions out there that do not include the pictures and diagrams. You'll need to email the specific seller to ensure you are getting the right product. While this is a nice compilation it is not as easy to get into as Volume 1. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's a really thick book filled with great text and information. By Gemini 1.1 It's really kind of misleading as a book of the notebooks of Leonardo. It's a really thick book filled with great text and information, but not too many images and they are small. There is a much larger and better book than this one, unless you like to read a lot of speculation about his work. The other book (same title) that has 14x11 prints and the book while being 300 pages; every page is a large print of one of his sketches!

A singular fatality has ruled the destiny of nearly all the most famous of Leonardo da Vinci's works. Two of the three most important were never completed, obstacles having arisen during his life-time, which obliged him to leave them unfinished; namely the Sforza Monument and the Wall-painting of the Battle of Anghiari, while the third—the picture of the Last Supper at Milan—has suffered irremediable injury from decay and the repeated restorations to which it was recklessly subjected during the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Nevertheless, no other picture of the Renaissance has become so well-known and popular through copies of every description. Vasari says, and rightly, in his *Life of Leonardo*, "that he laboured much more by his word than in fact or by deed", and the biographer evidently had in his mind the numerous works in Manuscript which have been preserved to this day. To us, now, it seems almost inexplicable that these valuable and interesting original texts should have remained so long unpublished, and indeed forgotten. It is certain that during the XVIth and XVIIth centuries their exceptional value was highly appreciated. This is proved not merely by the prices which they commanded, but also by the exceptional interest which has been attached to the change of ownership of merely a few pages of Manuscript. That, notwithstanding this eagerness to possess the Manuscripts, their contents remained a mystery, can only be accounted for by the many and great difficulties attending the task of deciphering them. The handwriting is so peculiar that it requires considerable practice to read even a few detached phrases, much more to solve with any certainty the numerous difficulties of alternative readings, and to master the sense as a connected whole. Vasari observes with reference to Leonardos writing: "he wrote backwards, in rude characters, and with the left hand, so that any one who is not practised in reading them, cannot understand them".

About the Author Richter, Jean Paul, 1847-1937