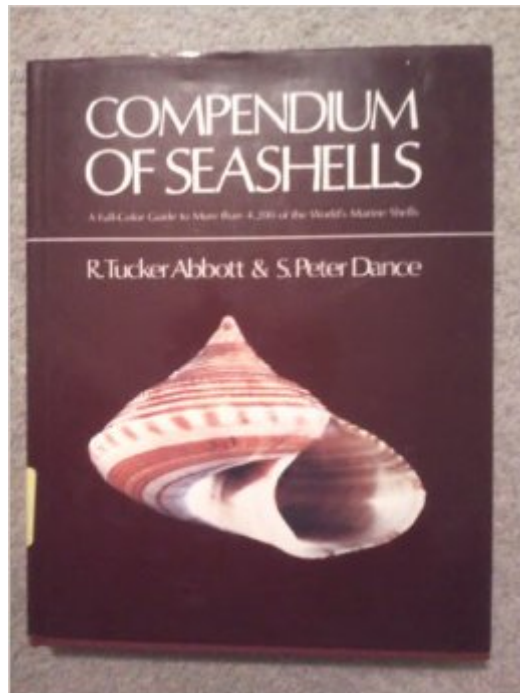


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Compendium Of Seashells: A Full-Color Guide To More Than 4,200 Of The World's Marine Shells



Synopsis

This is one of the most amazing shell books of all times and it was a phenomenal reference guide through out the many years that it remained in print. For many collectors it was the standard reference work and the first book to consult for a shell identification.

Book Information

Hardcover: 421 pages

Publisher: E.P. Dutton; 1st edition (January 1, 1982)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525932690

ISBN-13: 978-0525932697

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.3 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (27 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

There currently is no better comprehensive guide to world wide marine shells than this new edition of the 'Compendium'. If you were a budding shell collector starting a library on this subject, this would be the most important book to get. The 'Compendium' is the first book to provide a comprehensive overview of the world's amazing variety of marine shells, displaying images of over 4200 species with their common AND scientific names. This feature alone enables any collector to access the rapidly increasing information available on the subject of worldwide molluscs - for instance on the internet - by targeting a particular species directly by its scientific name. This book is not only beautiful to look at but is also a great resource of general information on the subject, providing the most useful reference to date for all advanced seashell connoisseurs and collectors worldwide.

This book is an incomparable worldwide reference for both amateur and serious shell collectors alike. Though comprehensive, it is not a complete resource for all 30,000+ species of marine mollusks; rather, the book includes a wide range of the most attractive, desirable, rare and available shells today. Much attention is given to the following groups: cones, cowries, volutes, murexes,

scallops, thorny oysters, limpets and periwinkles. The shells in this book are grouped according to species and each includes a photograph of the shell, usually in pristine condition. This is good for the buyer, though it can sometimes be confusing for collectors who acquire shells on the beach, since found specimens typically vary greatly in appearance from a gem-quality specimen. This makes identification more challenging. Nevertheless, this book is at the heart of my shell book collection; if you typically collect shells in one particular region, it would probably be a good idea to supplement this with a field guide devoted to shells in that region.

We have used the Compendium since it was first published as our primary identification reference. It is well organized, the pictures clear and colorful. It is a valued reference used by many in our museum library.

This excellent and well organized reference work contains 4,200 full colour photos of dead shells and is designed for the amateur collector. All categories of marine shells are described and illustrated from all the oceans of the world. It includes geographical and ecological information on over 180 species of cowries, 334 cones, 132 volutes and 140 scallops. It is also invaluable for anyone who is interested in identifying what they find along the seashore or see in the ocean. I have owned this book since 1992 and have not come across a superior book on the same subject. However it is in this day and age sad to see all those thousands of dead marine creatures and I would certainly not encourage anyone to collect shells as a hobby. Let's protect and preserve the marine environment for future generations... For divers or indeed budding shell collectors who are interested in seeing/identifying live shells in their natural habitat. I would highly recommend 'Nudibranchs and Sea Snails' by Helmut Debelius [over 1000 excellent colour photos of living subjects] This book focuses on the Indo-Pacific region and is the best book I have ever seen on this subject illustrating living creatures. If the people who collected shells could see the stunning beauty of the live animal I am sure they would have second thoughts about killing them either directly or by proxy.

Since childhood, I've loved the beach and seashells. In our library are a dozen or so books on shells, but this is undoubtedly the best I've ever read. Small, unimportant shells that abound on the Gulf Coast are difficult to find in ordinary books, resulting in the fact that I'd picked them up since childhood, but didn't know what they were. I know now, thanks to the "Compendium of Seashells." If a person could have only one book on seashells, this is the one to buy.

An smashing reference book that is currently unsurpassed in the UK for its comprehensive pictorial catalogue of seashells. Most of the photographs are very well presented, possibly slightly marred by them all being in 35mm X 50mm format. This is fine for the shells up to about 150mm but with the larger shells it is difficult to see any real fine detail. When this is combined with even a slightly reduced standard photograph, then the result can be poor. The inclusion of some larger format photographs would have enhanced this otherwise well laid out book both in terms of better detail but also a more pleasing appearance. Each photograph does have the shell's average size which is a helpful inclusion. The written sections are precise and succinct. S. Peter Dance's book 'Shells' published by Dorkling Kindersley and very modestly priced in the UK, has an excellent lay out and brilliant photographs, albeit smaller with 254 pages. If these two books were combined, using the latter's layout with the comprehensiveness of the Compendium, it would make the definitive all time guide.

This is an absolutely fantastic book for shell lovers! The introduction is useful and the photographs are wonderful. However, it is the scope of the book that is truly impressive. All those beautiful shells! This book is a must for any collector.

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