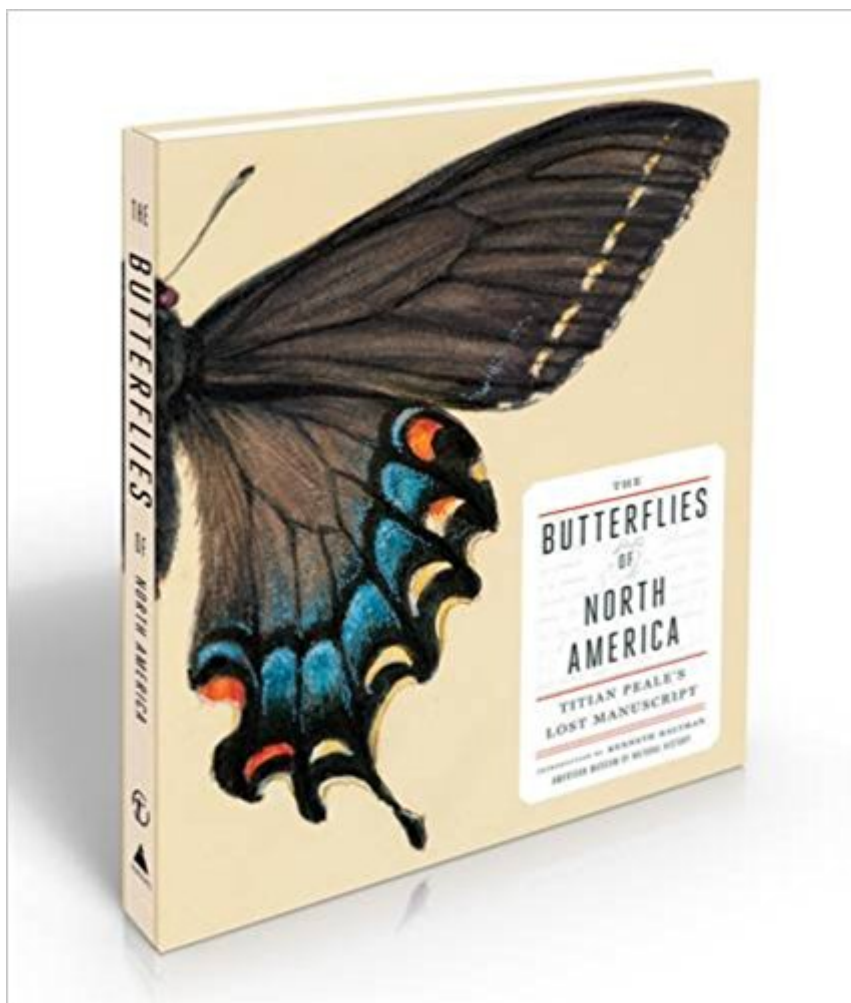


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The Butterflies Of North America: Titian Peale's Lost Manuscript



Synopsis

The American artist and naturalist Titian Ramsay Peale II (1799–1885) had a passion for butterflies, and throughout his long life he wrote and illustrated an ambitious and comprehensive manuscript. The book, along with a companion volume on caterpillars, was never published, and it resides today in the Rare Book Collection of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Now Peale's color plates, lovingly prepared for the printer by the artist more than 100 years ago, will be published for the first time in this beautiful volume. At last, Peale's life work, equivalent in scope and beauty to Audubon's Birds of North America, will be available to a wide audience. The book includes a foreword by Ellen V. Futter and text by Kenneth Haltman and David A. Grimaldi that describes the art and science Peale brought to his extraordinary work. Also see: The Butterflies of Titian Ramsay Peale Notecards (978-1-4197-1806-9), The Butterflies of Titian Ramsay Peale Journal (978-1-4197-1805-2), and The Butterflies of Titian Ramsay Peale 2016 Wall Calendar (978-1-4197-1754-3)

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Customer Reviews

"Titian Peale's lost illustrations are finally seeing the light of day after a metamorphosis lasting nearly 200 years." (The New York Times)

Kenneth Haltman is H. Russell Pitman Professor of Art History at the University of Oklahoma.

David A. Grimaldi is Curator at the American Museum of Natural History and the author of

Evolution of the Insects. Ellen V. Futter is President of The American Museum of Natural History. The American Museum of Natural History in New York is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions.

On 25 August the New York Times devoted more than half a page in its Tuesday "Science Times" to heralding the imminent release of "The Butterflies of North America: Titian Peale's Lost Manuscript." That review was positive and noted that the volume was "mainly an art volume." Even so, the illustrated review could not adequately convey what a very extraordinary book the American Museum of Natural History, working with the top-flight art publisher Abrams, has offered us at a quite reasonable price. The book's several hundred color illustrations--lost to public view for 130 years after the death of Peale--are the star of the book. Also attractive are roughly a dozen page reproductions of Peale's field notebooks and the two pages of a "Prospectus" he produced, unsuccessfully it should be noted, to sell his study of the butterflies. Lifting the book beyond a simply beautiful catalogue of butterfly and caterpillar paintings is new material added by experts, chief among them Kenneth Haltman, who provided an excellent 13-page introduction. This essay covers a history of Peale's butterfly study and a biography of the artist, as well as an assessment of his work as a naturalist and the scientific quality of the butterfly illustrations. The "Butterflies of North America" will appeal in the first instance to lovers of butterflies and caterpillars. But it offers as well valuable information regarding the plants on which the insects feed, and it should inspire all who rejoice in the natural world.

high quality printed, on matt paper. plates are sharp. colours are vivid, so closer as possible to the original paintings. didn't like the fragile unbound spine of book. the American Museum of Natural History, is to be congratulated for sharing this masterpiece with us. hopefully more gems from their unique library of illustrated works will follow.

Wonderful book Interesting binding that lets the book lie flat. Unusual in mass produced books. the content is also well done. Great reproductions with just enough explanatory text to supplement.

I love this beautiful work that should be on the shelf of anyone who loves nature, in general, and butterflies, in particular. My copy arrived with some slight damage as back book binding was pulling loose from the book.

The Binding was weak. I had to put leather ties around it to keep it together.

Excellent condition. Plus this books is bound in a really unique fashion so it would be a pretty romantic gift.

I am a direct descendant of the Peale family so it has special meaning for me. He and his brothers possessed more artistic skill than their father who was a truly remarkable man.

A beautiful book. All the plates are labeled. Each plate has the three stages of the butterfly and on the plants they prefer. This is a manuscript painted by an artist but areal scientific base. I will treasure it.

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