

The book was found

# The Book: A Cover-to-Cover Exploration Of The Most Powerful Object Of Our Time



## Synopsis

“Everybody who has ever read a book will benefit from the way Keith Houston explores the most powerful object of our time. And everybody who has read it will agree that reports of the book’s death have been greatly exaggerated.” —Erik Spiekermann, typographer

We may love books, but do we know what lies behind them? In *The Book*, Keith Houston reveals that the paper, ink, thread, glue, and board from which a book is made tell as rich a story as the words on its pages — of civilizations, empires, human ingenuity, and madness. In an invitingly tactile history of this 2,000-year-old medium, Houston follows the development of writing, printing, the art of illustrations, and binding to show how we have moved from cuneiform tablets and papyrus scrolls to the hardcovers and paperbacks of today. Sure to delight book lovers of all stripes with its lush, full-color illustrations, *The Book* gives us the momentous and surprising history behind humanity’s most important — and universal — information technology. 71 color illustrations

## Book Information

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393244792

ISBN-13: 978-0393244793

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.6 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,496 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Papercrafts, Stamping & Stenciling > Book Making & Binding #7 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General #10 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > History

## Customer Reviews

Keith Houston’s book about books — their purpose, their history, their construction — is an in-depth look at how these precious artifacts came to be, and an illustrative artwork in its own right. Created with a hard cardboard cover and classic red spine band, *THE BOOK*’s various parts are noted from front to back; such designations as “binding” and “formatter head” remind us that this is a lesson. But *THE BOOK* is as much entertainment as elucidation. It starts with the basic, first real (because portable as well as readable) example — hieroglyphs on papyrus.

Papyrus is a curious plant that, cut in thin segments, lined up and soaked (preferably in Nile water), produces a flat pliable surface that can be written on. Though the Chinese are sure that they also invented both paper and writing, they were far away from the European and Mediterranean peoples, who created what we in the West recognize as language and letters papyrus, on animal skins (parchment) and eventually on linen rags (paper). Houston humorously notes that one major barrier to the production of paper was the chronic shortage of rags due to such annoyances as the American Revolution; offers an engaging depiction of medieval monks toiling over scriptural composition with perhaps a bit of less-than-spiritual grumbling; informs us that the Gutenberg Bible was preceded by the Gutenberg schoolbook, *Ars Grammatica*; includes a brief bio of one of our best recognized illustrators, John James Audubon, who turned to bird sketching for a living after a stint in debtor's prison; and throws in a macabre account of corpse snatcher William Burke, whose skin was posthumously turned into a certain anonymous little book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Book: A Cover-to-Cover Exploration of the Most Powerful Object of Our Time  
Object Success : A Manager's Guide to Object-Oriented Technology And Its Impact On the Corporation  
(Object-Oriented Series) CORBA: A Guide to Common Object Request Broker Architecture  
(McGraw-Hill Object Technology) Visual Object-Oriented Programming Using Delphi With CD-ROM  
(SIGS: Advances in Object Technology) Distributed Object Architectures with CORBA (SIGS:  
Managing Object Technology) The Object Advantage: Business Process Reengineering With  
Object Technology (ACM Press) Reusable Software : The Base Object-Oriented Component  
Libraries (Prentice Hall Object-Oriented Series) Inheritance: How Our Genes Change Our  
Lives--and Our Lives Change Our Genes The Mind-Gut Connection: How the Hidden Conversation  
Within Our Bodies Impacts Our Mood, Our Choices, and Our Overall Health The Curiosity Shoppe  
Coloring Book: A Magical and Mad Exploration of a Most Amusing and Unexpected Assemblage of  
Novelties and Oddities The Time Garden Note Cards: Color-In Note Cards from the Creator of The  
Time Garden and The Time Chamber (Time Adult Coloring Books) Egg: A Culinary Exploration of  
the World's Most Versatile Ingredient The Enhanced Guide for Occupational Exploration:  
Descriptions for the 2,800 Most Important Jobs How to Write Powerful College Student Resumes  
and Cover Letters: Secrets That Get Job Interviews Like Magic The +77 Most Powerful Strength  
Prayers to Ask God to Lift You Up: Christian Prayer Series, Book 10 Prayer: The +77 Most Powerful  
Morning Prayers to Start Your Day Energized (Christian Prayer Series Book 1) Bible: The +77 Most  
Powerful Strength Prayers to Ask God to Lift You Up - Including Dozens of Inspirational Bible Verses  
Inside (Christian Prayer Series Book 10) Prayer: The 100 Most Powerful Morning Prayers Every

Christian Needs To Know (Christian Prayer Book 1) Bible: The +77 Most Powerful Healing Prayers to Heal You & Those You Love - Including Dozens of Inspirational Bible Verses Inside (Christian Prayer Series Book 8) Living as United Methodist Christians: Our Story, Our Beliefs, Our Lives

[Dmca](#)