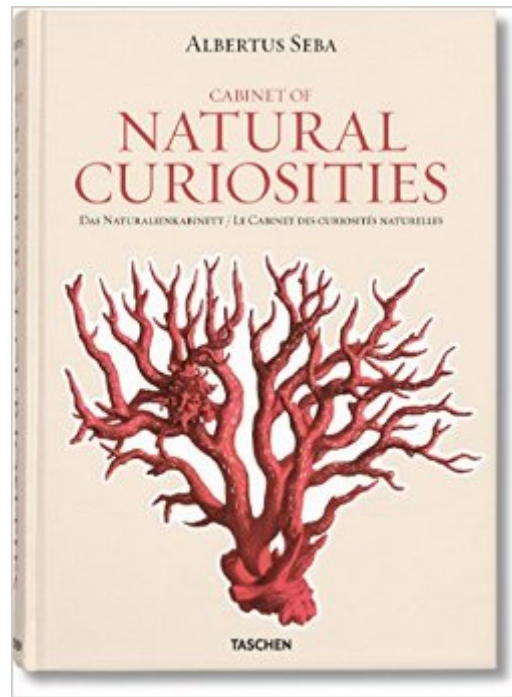


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# Seba: Cabinet Of Natural Curiosities



## Synopsis

Albertus Seba's curious creatures: A most unusual collection of natural specimens

Albertus Seba's Cabinet of Natural Curiosities is one of the 18th century's greatest natural history achievements and remains one of the most prized natural history books of all time. Though scientists of his era often collected natural specimens for research purposes, Amsterdam-based pharmacist Albertus Seba (1665-1736) was unrivaled in his passion. His amazing collection of animals, plants and insects from all around the world gained international fame during his lifetime. In 1731, after decades of collecting, Seba commissioned illustrations of every specimen and arranged the publication of a four-volume catalog "from strange and exotic plants to snakes, frogs, crocodiles, shellfish, corals, birds, and butterflies, as well as fantastic beasts, such as a hydra and a dragon. Seba's scenic illustrations, often mixing plants and animals in a single plate, were unusual even for the time. The more peculiar creatures from the collection "some of them now extinct" were as curious in Seba's day as they are today. This reproduction is taken from a rare, hand-colored original. The introduction supplies background information about the fascinating tradition to which Seba's curiosities belonged. Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (77 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The publisher Taschen has provided this classic work in several editions that differ in quality, number of color plates, amount of material and price. The book was authored by Seba and edited by Musch. This review compares the three most common editions. The most expensive is "Albert

Seba's Cabinet of Natural Curiosities", 'Taschen: first edition edition' (Jumbo) contains all four volumes and is listed on for \$499 and up with 635 pages at 17.6 lbs. Less expensive is the "Cabinet of Natural Curiosities (The Colored Plates 1734-1765)", 'original Taschen edition edition' It is listed for \$97.50 and up and has 415 pages at 6.2 lbs. The least expensive is sold as "Cabinet of Natural Curiosities/Das Naturaleinkabinett/Le cabinet des curiosites" 'Taschen: 25 edition' There are two extra authors who are not listed on the other editions. The book is a mix of English, German and French. The color plates are better described as pictures, albeit very good ones. It is listed at \$23.12 and up, 416 pages and 6.8 lbs. There are other less common editions; one is a paperback poster portfolio, another book has 14 framable prints. I would ask the seller for specific details on the book they plan to ship to you. The more expensive editions use higher quality paper, the binding is sturdier and the plates are sharper. However, reviews make it clear the book is treasured regardless of the edition people buy.

I believe the reason this book is so inexpensive is that the printing is off. The colors are very dark and brash, which just ruins the delicate quality of the drawings for me. I'm surprised there were so many good reviews - I would have sent it back immediately if it wasn't a pain to. To give some perspective I own a lot of books with botanical reproductions, and have done some printing myself - I can definitely tell that the printing does not look right.

A huge book of illustrations, including birds, insects, botanicals, coral, sea life, and more. Perfect large-scale coffee table book. Definitely a quality product for the price.

I have been wanting this book for a long time, but couldn't find an affordable copy. This edition is just gorgeous. There is an older edition that has a prettier cover, in my opinion, but this one is quite lovely for the reasonable price. This is a very large, heavy book. It's lovely on a coffee table where it's handy to through while enjoying your coffee, or you can do as I did and put it on a tabletop easel. It is, after all, like a work of art. It's easy spend hours enjoying all the interesting drawings inside. If you were in desperate need for some art for your walls, you could even (oh horrors!) cut up the book and frame some of these stunning pages. Well worth the money, I highly recommend this book.

This book is breathtaking. It's from Taschen so you know it's going to be the best illustrations, paper, covering, etc. The price is unheard of as well. This book probably originally sold for \$200 dollars, so this selling for \$26.39 with free shipping is hands down a must have. You will not be

disappointed in this book, absolutely perfect :)

I was very pleased with my purchase of this book. It is an oversized, heavy, well-bound book, with beautiful images. Being a long time admirer of the more expensive version, this more budget-friendly, condensed version did not disappoint. It contains all of the same images but instead of each image being a full page, some pages contain more than one image. The beauty and the information is not lost, there are many many full page images. I did not have issue with the coloration of the pages either. If you are buying the \$25 version of this book expecting the \$400 version of this book; you are setting yourself up for disappointment. If you are buying this book to add a beautiful book to your collection than you should be pleased!

If you like the divine , arts , culture, humanities , the curious , wonderful surprises that await inside these two covers : Taschen never lets you down. Their bookstores are wonderful and "" gets discount prices from the publisher. This book is the Albert Seba's 1665-1776 collection of natural specimens and its pictorial inventory. Take a journey back in time when "learned men" collected natural specimens and recorded them . Seba was an apothecary and collector in Amsterdam. If you want to connect with a man from 400 years ago and bridge the human gap of knowledge and delight in seeing the passions of past times you will like this book . Every plate is worthy of being framed. This is an heirloom you can pass on to your children or wait until it is out of print and sell for more \$\$ than you paid. If you like botanicals, zoology: you will enjoy this great collection of many species that are no longer on this earth.

This book holds a great arsenal of images and characters. Very inspiring for those who are involved with design, or illustration, and of course people who are just curious with what nature has to offer. The execution of the drawings is amazing, and the print quality is good. I can just stare at each page for a long time.

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