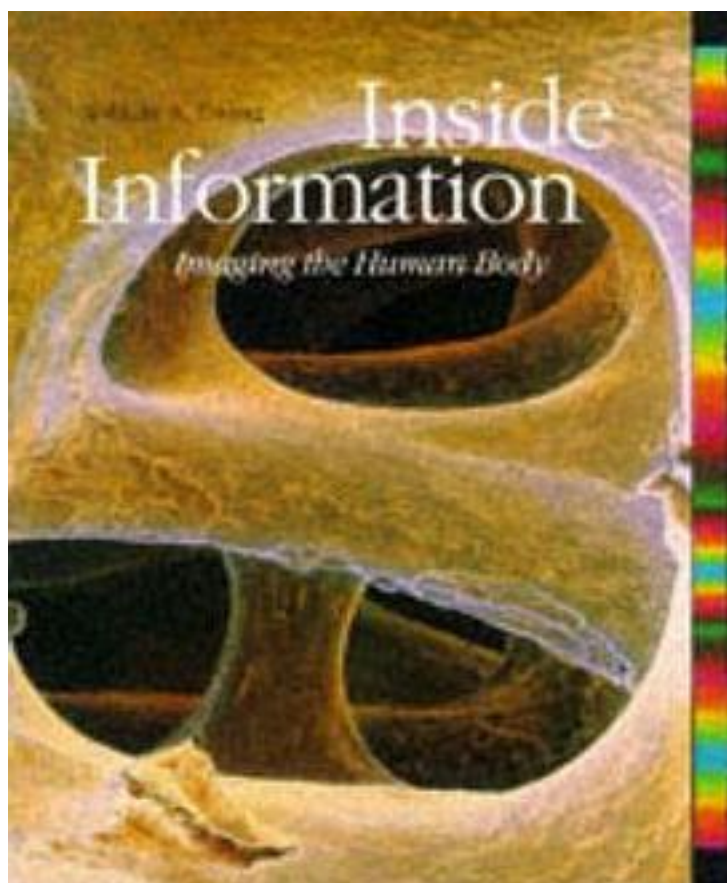


# Inside Information



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INTRODUCTION  
When Andreas Vesalius the great anatomist of the Italian Renaissance broke with the medieval tradition and taboo by systematically dissecting the human body peeling back a train of discoveries and inventions which would culminate 450 years later in the various medical imaging techniques of today.

be found on the pages of this book. Vesalius would have been astounded at the sight of this spectacular interior cosmos. For which nothing in his experience could have prepared him. He would equally have been amazed to discover that these wonders had not been revealed by the surgeon's scalpel but by superhuman though man-made eyes - eyes so powerful that they could actually scintillate individual cells their nuclei and even single atoms. Just as astonishing some of these disembodied eyes could probe the body's innermost secrets while it was alive and in good health without so much as physically touching it let alone penetrating its surface. Today with the array of scientifically derived knowledge of the body available to us it is still difficult to believe that these fascinating pictures are not out-takes from some popular science-fiction film like *Fantastic Voyage* in which a team of down-sized human beings pilot their minute craft on a perilous mission through the human body but are instead the fruits of painstaking scientific investigation coupled with ingenious technology. A 15th-century *Man in the Moon* with all their hi-tech aura however they are in one fundamental way a continuation of zodiacal signs. From Heymerichus de Veteribus of a long and venerable tradition dating back to the Renaissance: that of picturing the body as a *Busco* of *Ars computis et calcoli* 1488 body and its parts precisely and accurately with the use of naturalistic techniques. The *Figure* attributed to the circle Before the Renaissance which saw the first of this new style of representation of the body had done little to elucidate its structures and functions. During the 16th century the *Figure* of the body had done little to elucidate its structures and functions. During the Middle Ages dissecting physicians turned to the *Figure* to illuminate the mysteries of the body's interior. During the 16th century in its beginning the *Figure* was in its own studios in the belief that a proper understanding of human anatomy was essential (if the exterior of the body were to be correctly depicted. In their knowledge of the body they were often in advance of the physicians who were still dissecting animals and relying unquestioningly on the received wisdom of ancient texts. The accuracy of the new naturalistic techniques would prove so useful to medical men and scientists that it would eventually win over all but the most stubborn of their fellows. From the beginning of the sixteenth century with the growing power of the printing press illustration played an ever more important role in communicating information about the body. Artists and scientists along with their publishers were constantly thinking up inventive ways of presenting their findings. The plates in Vesalius' great text *De humani corporis fabrica* (1543) for example were so designed as to enable the reader to follow the dissection procedure step-by-step with each of the plates revealing a deeper level right down to the skeleton. Another ingenious device of the period was an instructional sheet which had superimposed flaps that could be folded back to reveal the internal organs. Over the following centuries the inner terrain of the body and charted. Yet there seemed no end to the finer and finer structures the body's probing mapped revealed in this

作者介绍:

目录: Sentinels - the surface of the body and its sense organs  
 foundations - the structure of the body, its bones, connective tissue and muscles  
 exchanges - the body's respiratory and circulatory systems  
 throughput - the body's digestive and excretory systems

controls - the brain and the body's nervous system  
defences - the body's protective and immune systems  
replication - cell division and sexual reproduction  
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