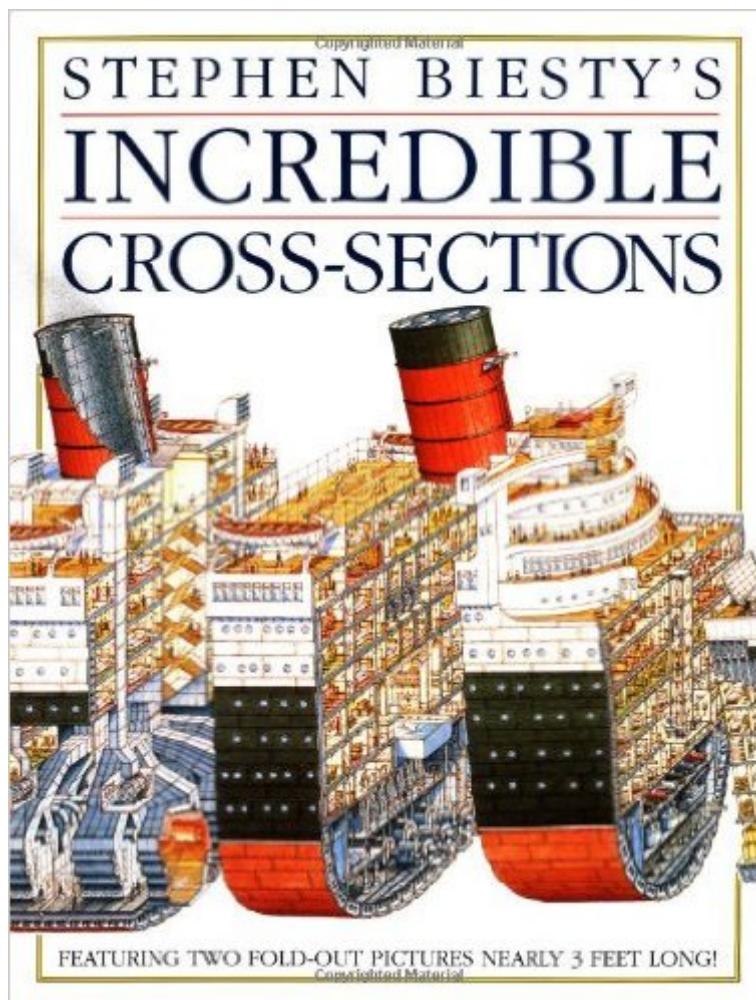


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Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections



Synopsis

The original and still the best, the IRA Children's Choice Book *Incredible Cross-Sections* is available again--now at a lower price! Spread after spread of amazing, original cross-section drawings take readers inside 18 of the world's most fascinating structures--from the Empire State Building to the Hale Observatory. And two of the remarkable illustrations--the Queen Mary and the Flying Scotsman steam train--fold out to a length of nearly three feet!

Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf (July 7, 1992)

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Product Dimensions: 14.2 x 10.9 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ [See all reviewsÂ](#) (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #76,714 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work #160 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference #4968 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Customer Reviews

I must say that this is one of the most interesting books to look at. Not only does it give interesting facts it gives you great pictures. This book takes structures and cross-sections them so you can see everything inside. A medieval castle shown to you from all angles, the rooms and information on it. Everything you can think of from a castle, cathedral, and opera house to a observatory, car factory, and space shuttle. This is definitely a must have.

Who of us can't remember the excitement of looking at some wonderful building or structure and wondering *what was going on in there*? Stephen Biesty deserves an entry in Who's Who for thinking of this wonderful format for readers who wonder. This is a wonderful and exciting book for older kids and adults who are curious about how things work behind-the-scenes. While it can be tricky for younger children to envision how the objects go back together, there will be ample material for others to enjoy. Eighteen human-made objects are cross-sectioned: a castle, an observatory, a

galleon, ocean liner and submarine, a coal mine, military tank, oil rig, cathedral, jumbo jet and car factory, a helicopter, an opera house, a steam train and a subway station, a fishing trawler, the Empire State Building and the space shuttle. The sections are filled with defining activity, and Richard Platt's accompanying text is informative and amusing. First published in 1992, this book is also a fascinating testament to the breathtaking pace of change we experience. Many of the objects have changed a great deal in the past decade, so this is more a snapshot of one era's mechanisms than a blueprint of state-of-the-art technology. For that reason the book succeeds spectacularly with historic objects such as the castle and galleon, and only slightly less so with outdated items like the tank and helicopter. If you are interested in how things work, these unique views of engineering marvels in operation will thrill you.

I don't know how or why books like this are allowed to go out of print. At one time, cutaway drawings were a staple of magazines like Popular Science and Popular Mechanics and could be found in many textbooks. For some reason, their use seems to have declined over the years. Personally, I have always found them enthralling. Stephen Biesty is an artist who specializes in cutaway drawings and he is marvelously talented. In this book, he dissects 18 things common to us as their enclosed wholes, such as a galleon, space shuttle, passenger ships, trains, even a castle. We know what these things look like from personal experiences or photos. But Biesty takes us inside them! My grandson was fascinated as we explored the innards of a Spanish galleon (which were certainly ghastly places to spend months) and of 1930s era passenger ship (an astounding feat of engineering). Of course, my fascination was no less than my grandson's, abetted by the memory of having shared this same book with my son so many years ago. All of the books in this fascinating series appear to be out of print. If you can obtain them used or from your library, do so: they are an excursion into a disappearing art form. Jerry

What can I say? This book is a classic of my childhood. It's such a pleasure to look at the details in each illustration and imagine myself walking in each nook and cranny of the cross-sections with my mind's eye. A wonderful book for those with great imagination and a desire to learn and for the naturally visual learner (such as myself). I've enjoyed this book as a child and now as a 25 year-old adult. The book itself was in okay condition, little dirty, a small rip on one page--but it was used and the seller did inform me of its condition. In conclusion, this book is a must!

These books were one of my childhood staples (child of the '70s and '80s), and I am eagerly

awaiting this book to arrive. For those who love miniatures and incredibly detailed miniature drawings, these books are a must.

I've had this book since I was a kid, and even convinced my parents not to toss it while cleaning out the house. The detail of the book is amazing, and they hide some clever and funny "easter eggs" among the many educational parts. For example, if you look closely, almost every scene has someone on the toilet and/or in the shower. Also, one of the soldiers in the tank is cross sectioned as well and his intestines are on display. Great book for people who love seeing how things work.

I remember begging my mom to buy me a copy of this book when it first came out, and I'm not ashamed to admit that I just bought my third copy of it a few months back. This book pretty much single-handedly started my lifelong fascination with cross-section artwork and discovering the inner workings of buildings and machines. Each of the 18 illustrations featured in this book is big, incredibly detailed, historically and technically accurate, and loaded with little human vignettes that bring them to life. Stephen Biesty set a standard for this type of artwork that hasn't been matched since, and he isn't afraid to show the reality of life under difficult circumstances, or to depict politically incorrect subjects such as a Soviet T-34 tank or a World War II German U-boat. This is really the ultimate children's book for boys; the subjects depicted range from a medieval castle, to a Boeing 747, to a modern day oil rig. All of Biesty's work is worth owning, but even if this was his only book, I would still consider him one of the great children's book illustrators.

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