

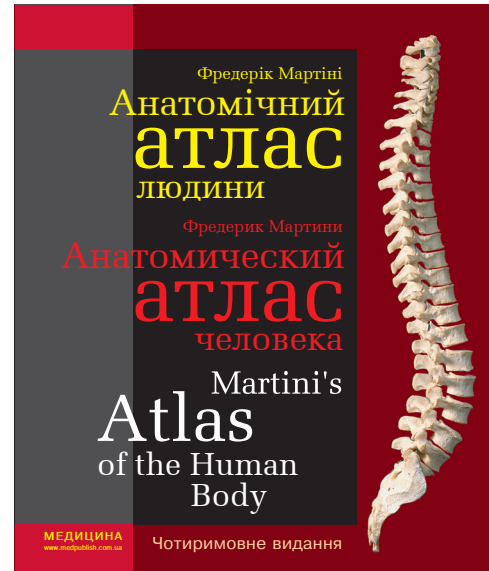
Фредріх Мартіні «Анатомічний атлас людини» пер. з 8-го англ. вид. – 3-е вид., – Медицина, Київ

While attending the 26 BOOK FORUM in Lviv in September, 2019 (mostly because of introducing our joint book on stress with prof. Zayachkivska), a flashy, shiny book cover it caught my eye "Martini's Atlas of the Human Body", published by Medicina, Kyiv, 2019. Although I have several anatomy textbooks & atlases, I purchased this book immediately... The two main reasons for my immediate attractions had been the quality of illustrations & the four languages used to designate body parts: Ukrainian, Russian, English & Latin.

The value of quality of illustrations is very important in anatomy textbooks. The clarity of pictures, the details & the back background make this book outstanding. Furthermore, these are not just drawings of human bones & organs, but most of the illustrations originate from cadavers, - thus, making it more realistic for future physicians. Namely, as growing up as Hungarian minority in former Yugoslavia, all my education was in Hungarian in elementary & high schools (gymnasiums), with Hungarian textbooks, but when I went to medical school in Belgrade, everything was in Serbo-Croatian – but the most widely used anatomy textbook was the "Atlas of Anatomy" by Prof. Kiss (then head of Anatomy Department in Budapest). It was a very popular book, also translated into several languages, but the drawings, most of it in color, were far cry from the "Martini's Atlas of the Human Body". Most of the European, like the Thieme Verlag's "Anatomy: An Essential Textbook" & the famous Gray's Anatomy, as well as the well-known Nettle's atlases & textbooks contain virtually only drawings or photographic illustrations.

The four-language feature of the current textbook under review is also unique. Most of the traditional anatomy atlases used Latin designations, esp., since Latin is the traditional "Lingua Franca" of medical sciences & diseases, that is now replaced in good part by English. By adding Russian & Ukrainian names & Cyrillic letters that are readable in many Eastern European countries, (e.g., Belarus, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia) could make this translation & edition of "Martini's Atlas of the Human Body" one of the most popular & widely used anatomy textbooks in Europe.

But as any textbook, this can be also improved. This is the translation of the 8th edition of the original Martini's text, which is now in 10th edition sold in the USA, published in 2014. True, there are not many changes in "anatomy" as such, but other English-language anatomy textbooks now incorporate X-ray, CT (computerized tomography) & MRI (magnetic resonance images), making these texts more realistic to the diagnostic & visual words new physicians face.



Sandor Szabo
*Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy,
American University of Health Sciences,
Signal Hill/Long Beach, CA,
Departments of Pathology and Pharmacology, School of
Medicine, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA*