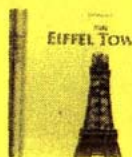


NON-FICTION SECTION

BEST ON THE SHELF



**THE EIFFEL TOWER BY GUSTAV EIFFEL (Taschen-\$39.99US)
162 pages**

Without question, the Eiffel Tower, is one of the most magnificent free-standing structures in the world. For more than a century it has stood like a silent sentinel in Paris. THE EIFFEL TOWER, the book, is just as interesting as the Tower itself, in that it is a reproduction of a book printed around the turn of the 20th century.

It originally was published in a limited edition of 500 copies, called THE THREE HUNDRED METRE TOWER. Gustav Eiffel created the book, which offers an overview of all that went into the making of the Tower, along with mathematical design. It tells how the foundation was created, as well as the metal sections.

The text in the book is printed in English, German, French and Japanese, but the text is sparse, though the pictures and actual blueprints tell the true story. Gustav Eiffel was quite the genius, and that shows in the construction and design.

The Tower was not originally welcomed with open arms. Le Temps newspaper in 1887, had a story of famous artists protesting the Tower being built. They were defenders of the beauty of Paris, believing the Tower was in poor taste. They said vicious things about the building of the Tower, but Gustav turned a deaf ear to them, believing in its creation.

At any given time, there were not more than two hundred workers. They built the foundation within six months, while the metal structure took twenty-one months. Onlookers watched in awe as it neared completion. Originally, it was meant to be in operation until 1910, at which time, the lease Gustav signed would expire, and it was actually scheduled for demolition. But its popularity proved it was there for the long-term.

The book shows why it captured the attention of millions the world over, who continue to come to Paris to view it. Readers can see all that went into the building of the Tower, and still remain in awe of it.

RATING: 5 BOOKMARKS