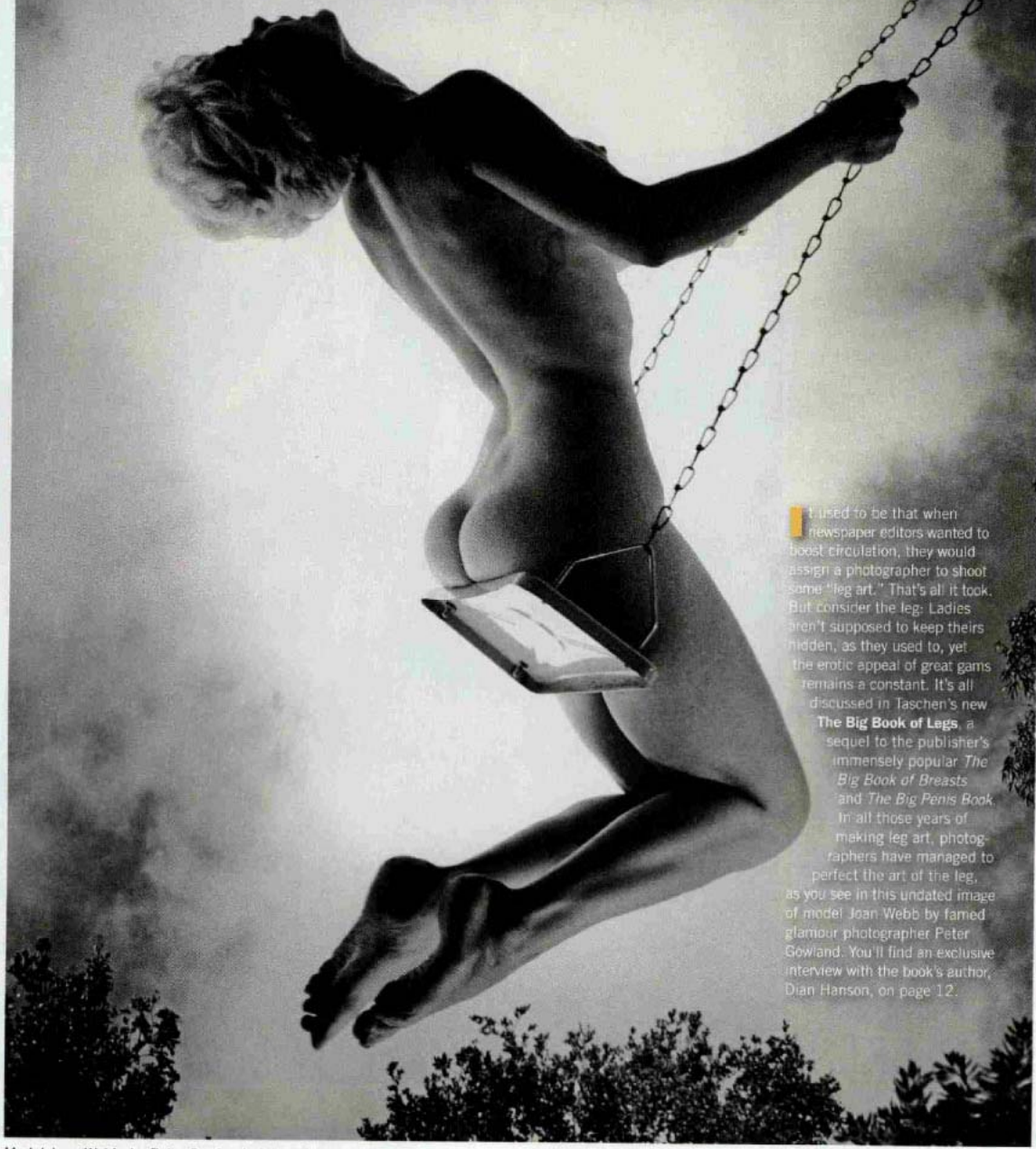


PETER GOWLAND/ARTIST/TASCHEN BOOKS

INSIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY



If used to be that when newspaper editors wanted to boost circulation, they would assign a photographer to shoot some "leg art." That's all it took. But consider the leg: Ladies aren't supposed to keep their hidden, as they used to, yet the erotic appeal of great gains remains a constant. It's all discussed in Taschen's new **The Big Book of Legs**, a sequel to the publisher's immensely popular *The Big Book of Breasts* and *The Big Penis Book*. In all those years of making leg art, photographers have managed to perfect the art of the leg, as you see in this undated image of model Joan Webb by famed glamour photographer Peter Gowland. You'll find an exclusive interview with the book's author, Dian Hanson, on page 12.

Model Joan Webb, by Peter Gowland, date unknown

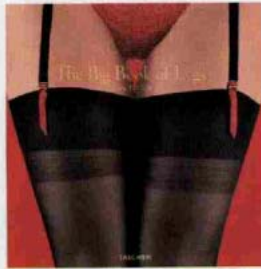
popphoto.com

Models Charlotte Stewart and Margot Sweet, photographer unknown

For those who value artful, well-produced erotica, Dian Hanson is a celebrity. As the so-called "sexy book" editor of Taschen Books, she has produced two best-selling volumes, *The Big Book of Breasts* (2006) and *The Big Penis Book* (2008). Her newest entry in the series, *The Big Book of Legs* (\$60) examines a subject whose appeal is more complicated.

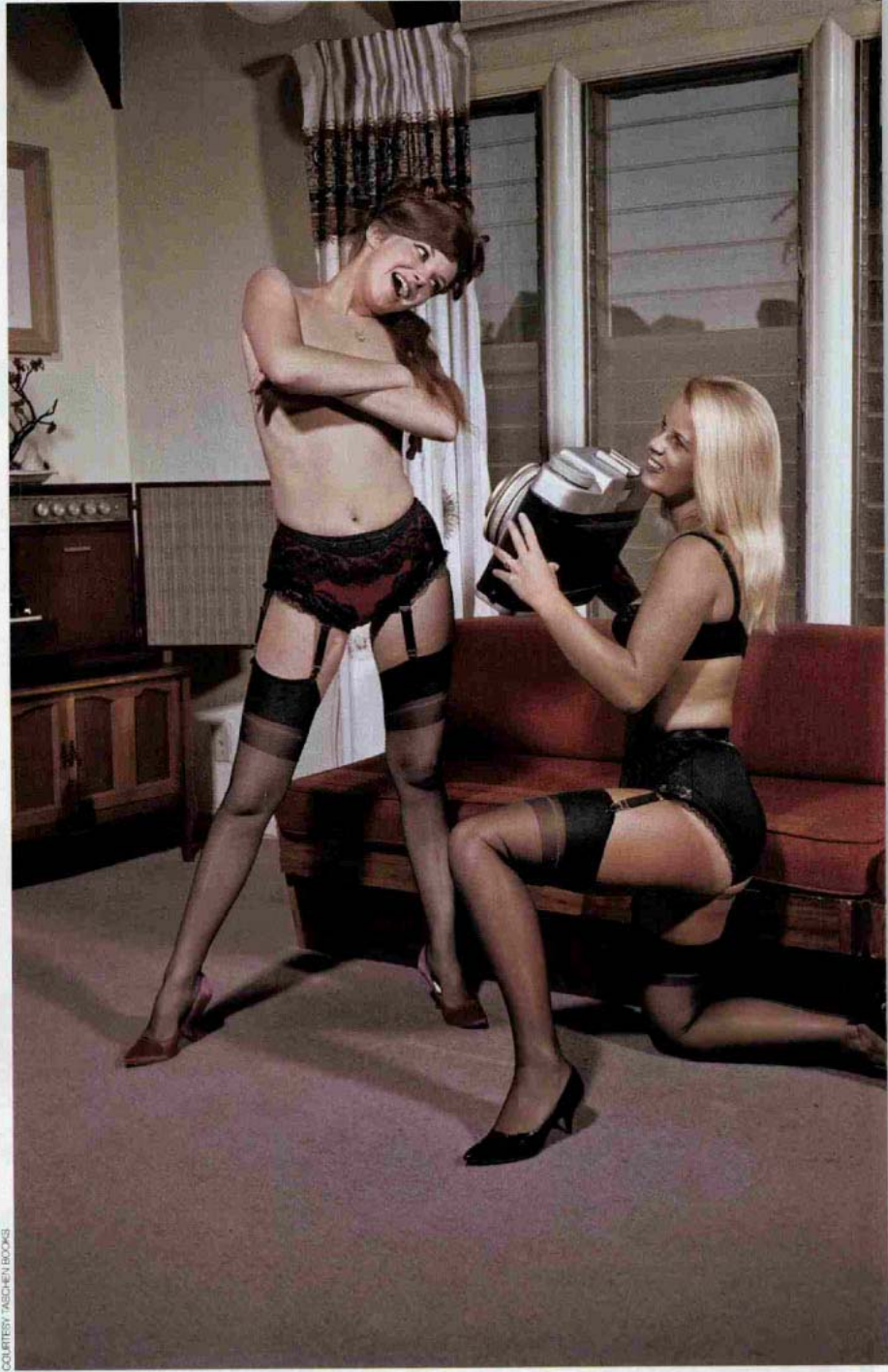
"There was a study done in England that showed that men who like breasts tend to be outgoing and sporty," says Hanson. "Men who like legs and butts tend to be more bookish and shy and intelligent. They were more obsessive and successful."

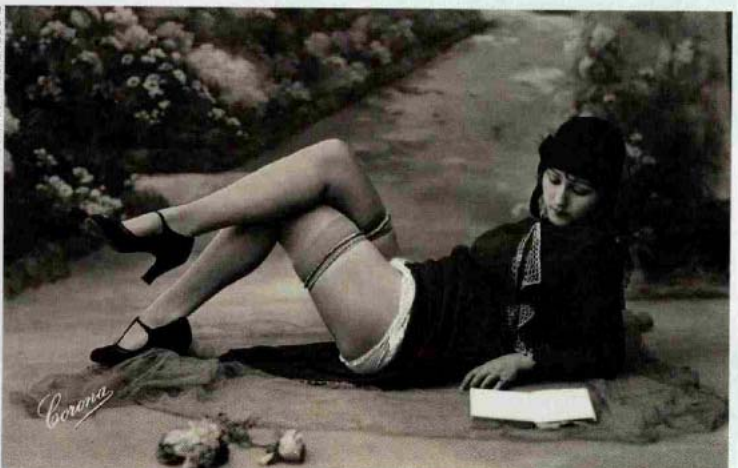
Pop wisdom aside, the insights are typical of Hanson, who approaches her subjects with scholarship and enthusiasm. Her previous work, as editor of magazines such as *Juggs* and *Leg Show*, provided her with first-hand knowledge of her



NEW BOOKS LEG ART

COURTESY TASCHEN BOOKS





Left: Betty Grable by Frank Powolny. Below: Photographer and date unknown.

readers' desires. (She also edited a magazine called *Big Butt*, so there may be another sexy book on the way soon.)

Hanson says there was never a plan to do a series of books on body parts—it just sort of happened. "I knew the breast book would do well, just based on men's reactions to the photos," she says. "I showed them to guys around the office, and they blushed and became giggly and turned into 12-year-old boys. We're now into our seventh printing, and Benedict [Taschen] said we should do all kinds of body parts. Penises are popular—but they have to be big, like breasts."

Legs are different, Hanson notes. You might say they're more of a specialty item that attracts a more fetish-friendly crowd.

"It all started with Elmer Batters," says Hanson. Batters first experienced the lure of pinup photography while serving on a U.S. Navy submarine. His first magazine, *Man's Favorite Pastime*, was launched in 1957. "Elmer told me that men who love legs had cold mothers," says Hanson. "They were left on the floor and they clung to their mothers' legs."

The leg has been a staple of erotic photography dating from the turn of the century. Hanson says the loosening morals of the 1960s made that decade the heyday of the leg. By the 1970s, it was all over. "Once magazines started showing [women's private parts], everyone focused on the crotch. Legs are the only female body part that is more erotic when it's dressed up." —MICHAEL KAPLAN

For the full interview with Dian Hanson, go to PopPhoto.com.