

RATING: 5 BOOKMARKS



THE BIG BOOK OF LEGS BY DIAN HANSON (Taschen-\$69.99) 375 pages

When they call this **THE BIG BOOK OF LEGS**, they are not kidding. But lest you think this is just another so-called sex book, think again. Dian Hanson, Taschen's resident expert on sexuality, has compiled a book that will have leg men in their glory. But this is more than just vintage photos of legs of yesteryear.

The **CAN CAN** is featured, along with **Moulin Rouge**, which spelled the death knell for **CAN CAN** performances. There is a chapter on Betty Grable, famous actress and World War II pin-up girl, whose long legs inspired troop morale. During World War II, there was a nylon shortage, but as soon as the war ended, nylons were back in full production, 50,000 pair selling out at Macy's in six hours, triggering what was called the "nylon riots."

THE BIG BOOK OF LEGS, also profiles Bettie Page, whose legs were as famous as her black bangs. Elmer Batters is also featured, a photographer who thought legs and heels were what men really wanted to look at. Police raided his office many times, believing his photos were too risqué, taking photos, and negatives, and even his wife's stockings as evidence.

A history of high heels as well, tells us that Marie Antoinette wore towering heels to catch the attention of males and show off her importance through shoes. Because stars like Mary Hart and Brooke Shields, and music stars such as Rhianna, Mariah Carey, and Tina Turner, all have insurance policies in their legs, there is little question legs rule, as the book notes.

More than just erotic photos of legs and hosiery, **THE BIG BOOK OF LEGS** is hands (and legs) above similar books, with a nostalgic tribute to glamorous gams.

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