

Thieme Atlas of Anatomy: General anatomy and musculoskeletal system.

Reviewer: Phillip Ebrall

Book: Thieme Atlas of Anatomy: General anatomy and musculoskeletal system. 3e. Michael Schuenke, Erik Schulte, Udo Schumacher, eds. New York: Thieme. 2020. URL <https://www.thieme.com/books-main/anatomy/product/5568-general-anatomy-and-musculoskeletal-system-thieme-atlas-of-anatomy> Australian readers can buy from Booktopia (AUD\$123.25) URL <https://www.booktopia.com.au/atlas-of-anatomy-anne-m-gilroy/book/>

Indexing Terms: chiropractic; anatomy; general anatomy; musculoskeletal anatomy.

Review

Superlatives are exhausted by writers when reviewing the publications by Thieme, especially where Anne Gilroy is involved. Her own atlas (1) is magnificent in its own right, it and this volume are lavishly illustrated by Markus Voll and Karl Wesker, and each is sumptuous with its joyous presentation of the anatomical knowledge so critical to the safe practice of conventional chiropractic.

It is reasonable to ask how each fits into the scheme of things and I would suggest that Gilroy's '*Essential Anatomy*', now in 4e, is the ideal student textbook; it has more explanatory prose and includes USMLE-style review questions, while this new edition is simply a 'must-have' in a clinician's bookcase.

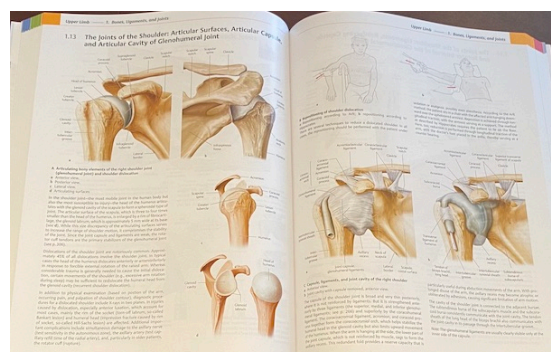
OK, why?

The pedigree underpinning this volume comes from a three volume set of which this is 1 volume. They all present a blend of clinically-oriented text within the genre of an atlas. Regarding this volume the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine described it well; '*This book is an ideal text not only for students of various disciplines studying anatomy for the first time, but it also serves as a valuable resource for faculty and providers.*' The editors have curated and refined the content that literally crams every page. Curation is an apt descriptor as there is no dross or trivia, just the best possible images and information.

The layout continues the Thieme tradition of making each opening information-dense, visually enriching yet uncrowded. While writing now I blindly opened my copy and it fell to pp. 264-5 which is '*Upper4 Limb - 1. Bones, Ligaments, and Joints*'. Here is a pic so you can visualise what I describe:

The structural anatomy is described in a functional, clinical sense on the verso (left page) with 5 generously labelled diagrams. The recto has 2 line drawings to

Quick Tap or Scan:



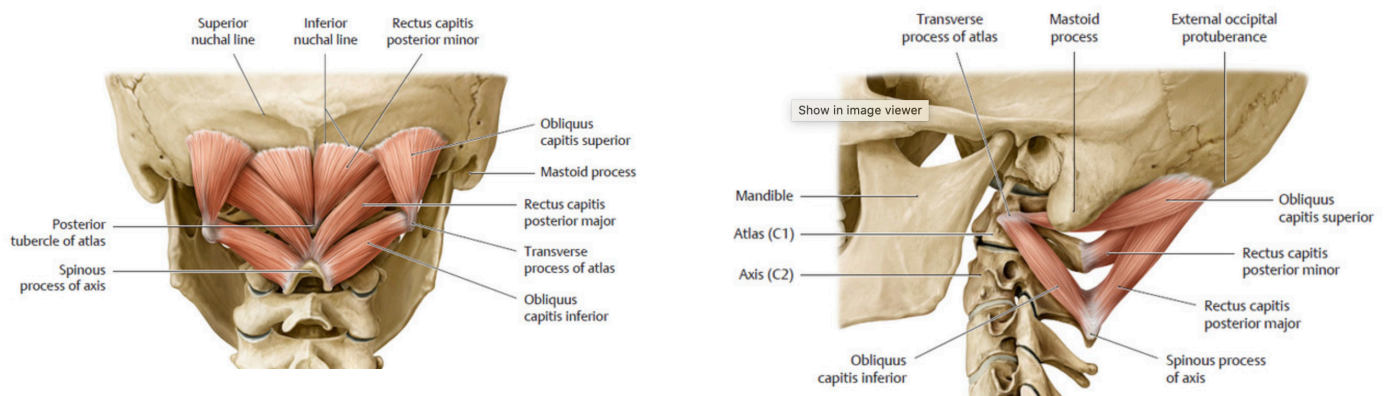
support the explanation of repositioning a dislocated shoulder, and then the capsular tissues and ligaments are given with both an overview and a cut-away image.

The following openings go into further detail including movements and and imaging before the atlas moves onto the elbow, then wrist, beautiful work in great detail on the functional anatomy. This section on the 'Upper Limb' proceeds through topical anatomy, the neurovascular systems, and finishes with two openings (4 pages) of the carpal and ulnar tunnels and anterior carpal region.

All sections follow the same pattern, presented in a logical flow that is clinically oriented on a solid anatomical foundation. Each section (ie 'Upper Limb', 'Lower Limb', and so on) is coloured in the top outer corner of each page to allow quick return to any topic of immediate interest.

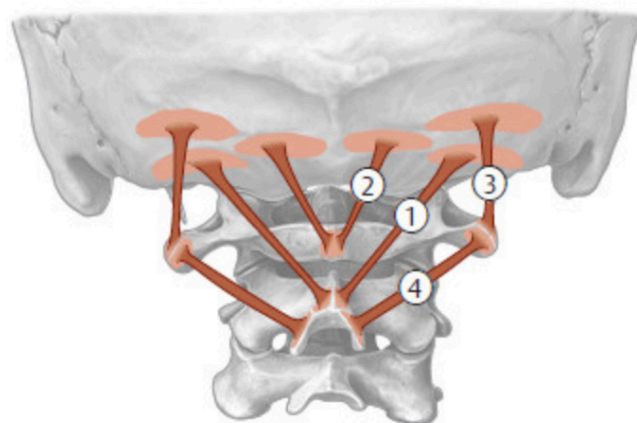
An important point is that each book has a unique code inside the front that allows the purchaser to register with *MedOne*, Thieme's comprehensive on-line resource centre. This is a valuable asset which gives access to electronic resources which can be downloaded for use in personalised patient education.

The spine is incorporated into 'The Trunk' and I have long used images from this section to inform my teaching. To demonstrate the value of the Thieme approach I show you images of the upper cervical muscular about Occiput, C1 and C2, the artwork is stunning:

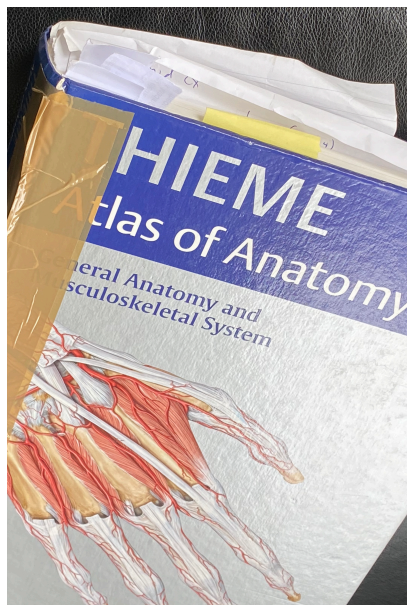


The posterior view is as expected and makes a point of clarity with efficient labelling. The lateral view makes revelatory sense by depicting each muscle in-situ to allow clear visualisation of their associated movement.

The third image is a 'simple' schematic which again greatly aids the visualisation of function.



The 'truth-test' is whether I do as I say and really use it, to which my answer is to show you a pic of my previous edition. The poor thing had such a workout that I broke the spine and had to hold it together with tape. You can see the pages of notes and the 'sticky-notes' that connected me with the book every time I turned to it.



This new edition, kindly supplied as a review copy by Thieme, will have a longer life because I promise to be more gentle with it.

My final comment is that the cost of this book is more than reasonable, it is incredibly affordable, even for a student of chiropractic. At about AUD\$130 delivered to your door, with 247 Qantas Frequent flyer points (Booktopia), it is a bargain.

Of course I love this book. It was joyous to receive it and delve into familiar territory and rediscover the magic of reading about stuff I live and breathe. I am sure you will feel the same, such is the empowering effect of a book as good as this.

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Reference

1. Gilroy AM. *Anatomy. An essential textbook*. New York: Thieme. 2015. URL <https://www.thieme.com/books-main/anatomy/product/2234-anatomy-an-essential-textbook-latin-nomenclature>