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One Million



Synopsis

Originally published in 1970, *One Million* has been out of print for some time, and its author, the highly esteemed New Yorker editor and columnist Hendrik Hertzberg, has been prompted by fans to create a new edition. Originally, the project was inspired by the author's journalistic impulse to try to make the newsworthy, large, and rather abstract number more concrete for people. To that end, he has created a book in which each of the 200 pages features five thousand dots, but on each page, a few of the dots are called out from their place in numerical order with a little piece of statistical information that add up to really bring the concept home. Fully updated and revised, Hertzberg's book is a fascinating compendium of random statistics, but the author's trademark intelligence and wit are on display through his choices and juxtaposition.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

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Customer Reviews

How big is the quantity 1,000,000? Do you know? Okay, you know it's a thousand thousands or some other multiple or metaphor. But can you think of the quantity one million and know it? This book allows you to do that. In a world where we are bombarded with huge numbers from every side with graphs and charts that show comparisons--sometimes good, sometimes not so good--this book is a revelation. Its graphics are stark simplicity: 200 pages of an array of dots, each page has 5,000 dots; every two-page spread has 10,000 dots, all arranged in rows on each page of 100 dots per row. To keep us interested in the numbers and not numb us with visual repetition, certain dots are set aside and numbered with a particular statistic from fanciful (2: population of the Garden of Eden) to concrete for the time of the book's publication (a number in the 11,000's for the number of

taxicabs in New York City in 1970). Each page is also headed with where we are in the march to 10^6 . This is not a book you "read" so much as experience. Once you page through it and understand what One Million means you can start to generalize by going back to the first page: One billion is the same as the first fifth of the dots on the first page--where every dot represents a copy of the book. I suppose it is out of print because of the ease with which anyone could reproduce it on a personal computer nowadays and the obsolescence of some of the statistics. But as an educational artifact for those who need help with their numeracy, it is priceless. I only hope it is reprinted, or its equivalent is recreated soon for the benefit of all students of Number.

Hendrik Hertzberg's "Politics" is the best book on politics I have ever read. Period. His "One Million" is a highly original book that makes your "feel" for numbers improve by each page. Time for a revised reprint though.

The idea is perfect, but the call-outs are generally US-oriented trivia. This does not help the global reader, who probably are more for general interest reading, possibly 'light entertainment,' a la popcorn movie. Try instead Everything Explained Through Flowchart. This book follows through and finishes well on a (different) noble concept.

This book represents a very interesting way to demonstrate to students and children what one million means.

I am looking for the "One Million" book, (authored by Hendrik Hertzberg & published by Simon & Schuster) & the 211 page book with 5,000 dots on 200 pages numerical facts are at certain numbers, the dot number, has a fact of the number. 39 years ago I remember reading three numbers. I will title them as A, B & C. A: 2 - The population of the Garden of Eden. B: 186,282 - the exact speed of light, per second. C: 1,000,000 - one million dots in this book.

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