

Briscoe, M.H.: **Preparing Scientific Illustrations**. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. - Springer, New York - Berlin - Heidelberg - Barcelona - Budapest - Hong Kong - London - Milan - Paris - Santa Clara - Singapore - Tokyo 1996. ISBN 0-387-94581-4. 204 pp., DM 44.00, GBP 20.50, FF 39.50.

Six years after publishing the book "A Researcher's Guide to Scientific and Medical Illustrations" (for review see *Photosynthetica* 28: 184, 1993) another book of the same author appeared under a changed title. It is introduced as a second edition. Because I have not been able to find out if in the meantime a first edition of this second book has appeared, I shall compare here these two books.

The volume of both books is similar, but while the old one recalled lecture notes for students, the new one is of a smaller size and a much better typographic quality. Some former chapters merged (former chapters 1 and 2 into new chapter 1, former chapters 7 and 8 into chapter 6). The number of illustrations increased from 172 to 206, and few examples were changed. The text was updated by adding information on modern topics, materials, and technics, namely on digital acquisition of images (p. 35), programs for molecular graphics (pp. 56-57), on open reading frame maps, helical net diagrams, analysis plots, and protein structure wheel (pp. 60-65), stick-and-dot model (p. 68), on software for molecular graphics (pp. 71-72) and general graphing software (pp. 101-102), on preparing word slides (p. 125), on programs for making slides and overheads (pp. 128-129), on scanners (pp. 163-164), and new kinds of paper for prints (pp. 167-168). Some new figures were added, e.g., those on human anatomy and microanatomy (pp. 161-162). Other parts of the text were only revised, e.g., by changing the sequence of paragraphs which improved book readability. Addresses of firms manufacturing and selling special computer programs were added to some chapters. Surprisingly, the information on transfer labels and labelling machines (pp. 174-176), that are used only rarely nowadays, remained.

The book is a useful tool for every student and young scientist and thus it should be available in every university library. Nevertheless, the amount of changes and amendments is not so large that I would recommend its buying to those who already possess the manual published in 1990.

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