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Graphic Discovery: A Trout in the Milk and Other Visual Adventures (Hardback)

By Howard Wainer

Princeton University Press, United States, 2005. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 258 x 192 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Good graphs make complex problems clear. From the weather forecast to the Dow Jones average, graphs are so ubiquitous today that it is hard to imagine a world without them. Yet they are a modern invention. This book is the first to comprehensively plot humankind s fascinating efforts to visualize data, from a key seventeenth-century precursor - England s plague-driven initiative to register vital statistics - right up to the latest advances. In a highly readable, richly illustrated story of invention and inventor that mixes science and politics, intrigue and scandal, revolution and shopping, Howard Wainer validates Thoreau s observation that circumstantial evidence can be quite convincing, as when you find a trout in the milk. The story really begins with the eighteenth-century origins of the art, logic, and methods of data display, which emerged, full-grown, in William Playfair s landmark 1786 trade atlas of England and Wales. The remarkable Scot singlehandedly popularized the atheoretical plotting of data to reveal suggestive patterns - an achievement that foretold the graphic explosion of the nineteenth century, with atlases published across the observational...



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