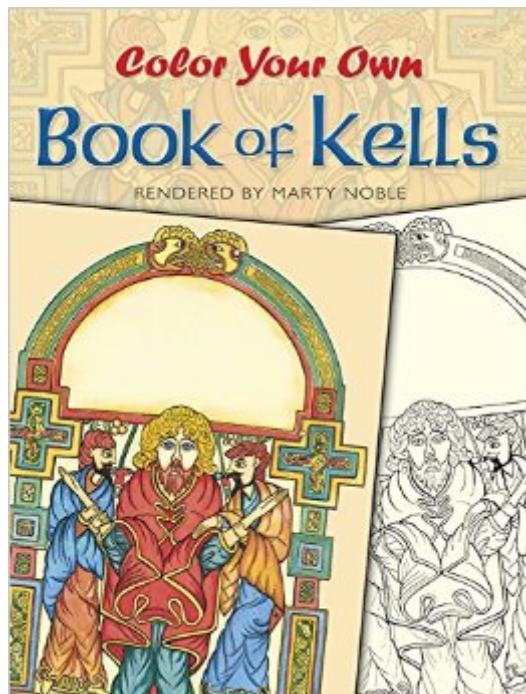


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# Color Your Own Book Of Kells (Dover Art Coloring Book)



## Synopsis

The finest of early Christian art of its kind and one of the most beautiful books of the early Middle Ages, The Book of Kells is an illuminated copy of the four gospels of the New Testament in Latin. For this striking coloring book, Marty Noble has expertly rendered 28 full-page black-and-white reproductions of the book's elaborate artistic ornamentation. Included are eye-catching borders filled with abstract Celtic spirals and interlacements, celestial figures, images of saints, members of the Holy Family, as well as Celtic crosses and other finely detailed floral, animal, human, and fantastic elements. An excellent opportunity for coloring book enthusiasts to participate directly in reproducing one of the great masterpieces of Celtic art, this collection also provides artists of all ages with hours of coloring entertainment presented in a unique format.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Art Coloring Book

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (January 28, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486418650

ISBN-13: 978-0486418650

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #238,227 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #78 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #444 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Papercrafts, Stamping & Stenciling > Papercrafts

Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Most of this coloring book is as wonderful as I expected it to be. I like the selections from the Book of Kells that were chosen to be included, and there's a good variety. The subject matter can't be beat, but I have two small complaints. One, some of the smaller knotwork details are indistinct, even missing. I realize they may be missing in the original, but for a coloring book I really feel they should have been extrapolated for completeness' sake. Second, the Latin script pages aren't translated,

and the old calligraphy is hard enough to read that I can't translate them myself. Aside from these picky details, though, this is a gorgeous, fun coloring book, perfectly appropriate for the collector, either of coloring books or Celtophilia.)

I got this book as part of a 4-for-3 offer, and I found it a poor second to Ed Sibbett Jr's "Celtic Design Coloring Book," which is also published by Dover. Marty Noble also did Dover's excellent "Medieval Tapestries Coloring Book," which I would give 5 stars. I think he had a very difficult task with the Book of Kells book; the 28 illustrations include many full-size pages, and none of these are printed as a two-page spread, which would have enabled Noble to give clearer definition to the border designs. In contrast, Sibbett's book provides 37 illustrations from the Book of Kells and depicts them more clearly as one is on a two-page spread and the others are details (even if some are large details). Seven of the 28 illustrations in the Kells book are substantially the same as in the Sibbett book, and the two books also share another 3 illustrations in common, although the Kells book presents more of the page's framing details and borders than the earlier Celtic book. The illustration of St. Matthew is double-page in Sibbett and only a single page in Noble (and the pupil is missing from St. Matthew's left eye), and most clearly illustrates the difference between the two books. I am interested in these designs for embroidery and for my purposes, Sibbett is preferable. Those who want to see the effect of a whole page may find Noble's version is better. I feel Noble's version suffers from his assignment of presenting larger designs in a smaller space than Sibbett.

I just received this and am rather disappointed. The lines are so tiny indistinct and spaces so tiny that it will not really function as a coloring book. I will probably buy fine-tipped colored pens for this, because I don't think anything else will work (and those may bleed... still not sure how to use this). I also got Sibbett's Celtic Design Coloring Book, which is much bolder and well-defined. It was what I had in mind when I ordered this one. I recommend that over this one.

I had hoped to see some of the intricate detail of the illustrations in the Book of Kells that I could study by coloring. Instead, the elaborate drawings are reduced in size to fit the book pages, and the fine details of interlocking lines and artwork are lost.

I gave this as a gift to my granddaughter, who was thrilled but then said it didn't have her favorite illumination. Not easy to color, but challenging and accurate. I would have given it five stars if the paper could tolerate watercolor or pen. Colored pencil only.

I love the Book of Kells and have been blessed with the opportunity to see the real book at Trinity College in Dublin. The copies in the coloring book are accurate to the real book and very beautiful. But they are completely impractical for coloring. The lines are incredibly tiny and I don't know how to color them and stay in the lines, even with a very sharp pencil. I was pretty disappointed.

This is a great coloring book, but it is not for the feint of heart. The images are those that appear in the Book of Kells and as such they are very intricate and detailed. This will require a steady hand and a very good sharpener. In other words, this is a book only for those that take their coloring seriously.

Like this coloring book (best with Gel pens due to intricacy of detail (most of the detail anyway) and 2-sided printing. My only complaint is that it is not detailed enough for the serious student. Many of the knotwork patterns have a "yeah whatever" feel to them as if they were done with crosshatch in a hurry to get the thing done. The knotwork is hard to follow (impossible on some as it is incomplete). I did all my coloring with a side-by-side comparison to the Blance Cirker paperback for accurate color, and some of the knotwork patterns yes were lost to fading but some were not and have that hurried look to them. Overall though, this is really nice. I've included a few examples.

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