



# PRIMARY ANATOMY

**EIGHTH EDITION**

**John V. Basmajian, M.D.**

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With Illustrations by Diane Abeloff



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# **PRIMARY ANATOMY**

**EIGHTH EDITION**

*To The Memory of*  
Professor H. A. Cates



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# Preface to the Eighth Edition

Why change a successful book by preparing a new edition, I have been asked, especially on a basic subject like human anatomy? In the case of *Primary Anatomy*, the answer is simple: through an almost complete redrawing of the many illustrations, the book has been renewed in a way that has not occurred for some years. Human anatomy has not changed but its teaching certainly has and this book must retain its leadership. My good fortune in being able to engage the time and talents of a superb medical artist, Diane Abeloff, was the essential ingredient. With the enthusiastic cooperation of the publishers, the book now emerges like a phoenix to serve new generations of students.

*Primary Anatomy* always has been commended for its profuse illustrations. However, many of them were drawn for me over the years by a host of different amateurs (including myself); they simply had to be replaced. However, we retained and touched up the superb drawings of a smaller number of medical artists who contributed a substantial number of drawings between the second and seventh editions.

All labels are now systematized into one style and great quantities of color are added judiciously throughout the book wherever color helps to clarify a point. This was supervised by Ms. Abeloff and carried out under the direction of editor Nan Tyler at Williams & Wilkins. Their attention to details as well as to the general guiding principles has played a major part in this book's renaissance.

In view of the massive reorganization of illustrations, I have been cautious about adding new materials. Obvious inconsistencies of nomenclature and errors of fact brought to my attention are corrected. However, the text is not larger, even though a handful of professors have recommended such additions as "histology," "physiology," "more on muscles" (although some want less), etc. Analysis of our special survey showed little concordance on how to improve the "coverage"; so we decided, with the majority, that it is "just about right." I apologize to the small minority who want it to be a much larger book, but I must also point out the existence of my companion textbook, *Grant's Method of Anatomy*, which surely is large enough. As for making it smaller: there are plenty of smaller and superficial books. *Primary Anatomy* has a unique place in the broad spectrum of anatomy books by being scientific, succinct, readable, and profusely illustrated with specially drawn figures.

My thanks once more to Diane Abeloff and Nan Tyler and their "back-ups." Dr. Norman Biggs of Baylor University School of Dentistry in Dallas and Dr. Rodney Cooper of St. Louis College of Pharmacy and a number of my students have given valuable advice. Once more I invite readers to send me corrections and suggestions to help keep this book as free of error and as useful as possible.

McMaster University  
1982

J.V.B.

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# From the Prefaces of the First to Seventh Editions

Even the most experienced teachers will never be in complete agreement as to the exact content of an elementary course. Some would omit what appears vital to others; some would include what appears unimportant to others. In this connection it should be remembered that even the beginner possesses scientific curiosity, and that it is proper to foster such legitimate curiosity provided the general balance is not lost.

This book embodies the experience of many years and it expresses certain convictions as to the questions raised; first, that a systematic approach involves the beginner in fewer difficulties than does a regional one; secondly, that discrimination must be exercised both as to the amount of detailed instruction given for each system, and as to the amount of “embryological” instruction given; thirdly, that access to anatomical material is highly desirable if not absolutely vital.

Complex illustrations, such as—very properly—are to be found in larger works, are of little help to the beginner, but simple, schematic illustrations often profitably replace the written word.

Those who are familiar with previous editions will notice the very marked increase in the use of headings and subheadings, which is in accordance with my belief that this makes the organization and study of anatomy more pleasant and the plan of the book more apparent. Many other devices have been employed to place correct emphasis on the information supplied (e.g., the

use of small type for unimportant details which need not be memorized or reread). A large number of new tables have been scattered through the text in the hope that this may prove to be useful for summary and review.

Wherever a new term is introduced, its derivation is now explained briefly—usually in one word—not necessarily for the student to memorize but rather to make his reading and learning easier and more pleasant.

• • •

Although considerable numbers of medical and dental students (and even graduates) are known to be using *Primary Anatomy* to gain preliminary concise but authoritative information, the temptation to change its character by introducing minute details has been actively resisted. At the other extreme, certain phrases and similes originally used here and there to enliven or simplify the descriptions for the dull witted, having proved unnecessary, have been largely pruned out.

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Although *Primary Anatomy* has changed greatly both in format and in content, it has never changed its basic aim. The aim is to provide non-medical university students studying human anatomy with a professional textbook of gross and functional anatomy that neither entangles them in a web of detail nor deceives them with a style so bare and basic as to be boring and misleading. There are already enough books,

both good and bad, that are loaded with details, and there are more than enough puerile anatomy books intended for the beginner which are simply awful when viewed at the university level. The growing success of *Primary Anatomy* in recent years suggests that it has filled a real need.

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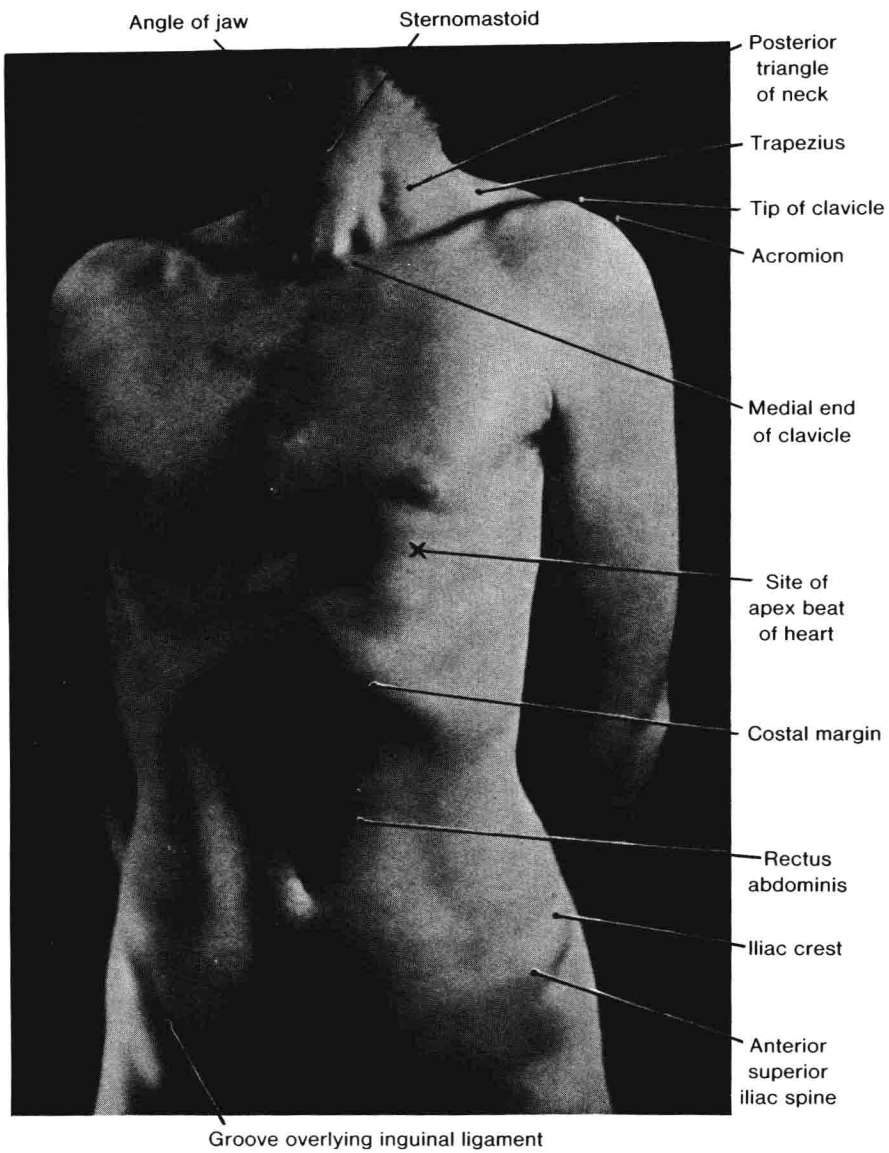
While this book is for students and not specialists, I hope that teachers of anatomy will find here new material of solid worth. As before, I count on them and on readers everywhere to provide me with their comments and criticisms. Such 'feed-back' has helped keep this book as lively a fabric as its subject, living man! Anatomy is a study of a living organism, not a cadaver—this must never be forgotten.

• • •

*Primary Anatomy* has entered an explosive phase in its growth that has surprised and gratified both its author and its advocates. We must assume that the reason can be traced to our attempt to make this textbook both as free of jargon and as scientifically sound as precise words and drawings can make it. A feature that has been unique among small textbooks always has been its profuse special illustrations. These have been augmented further with more than 50 new or revised text-figures and a 26-page color atlas.

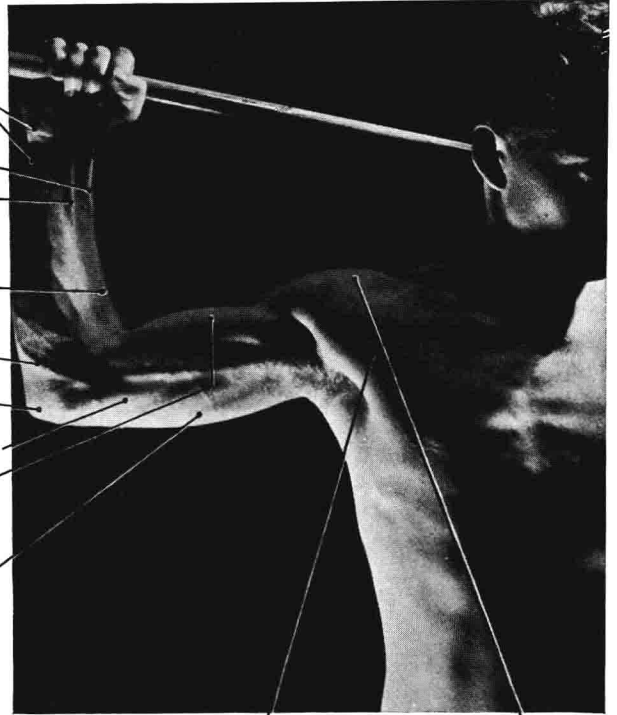
A new Chapter 16 has been written in response to widely expressed needs. This chapter is added for more advanced students than those who were the intended readers of early editions. More and more medical and dental students are now regular users—they require at least a general section on regional anatomy.





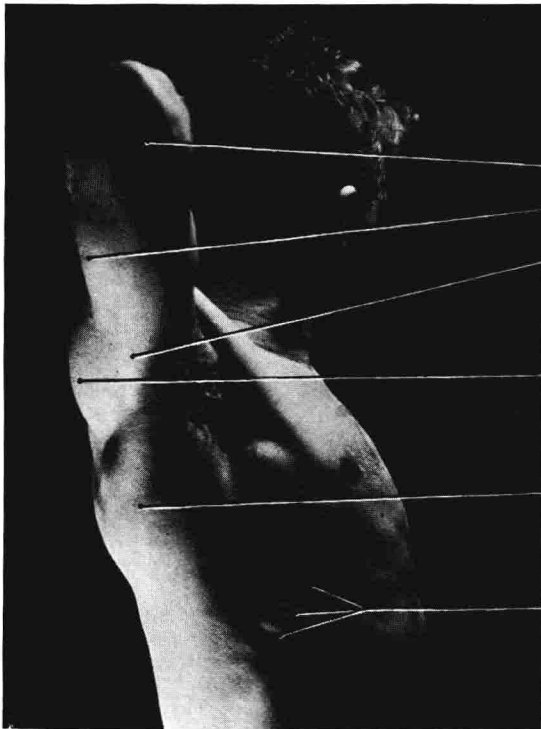
**PLATE 1**  
Surface Anatomy

Pisiform and  
flexor carpi ulnaris  
Abductor pollicis longus  
Flexor carpi radialis  
Brachioradialis  
Basilic vein  
Olecranon process  
Medial head of triceps  
Biceps  
Long head of triceps



Pectoralis  
major

Deltoid



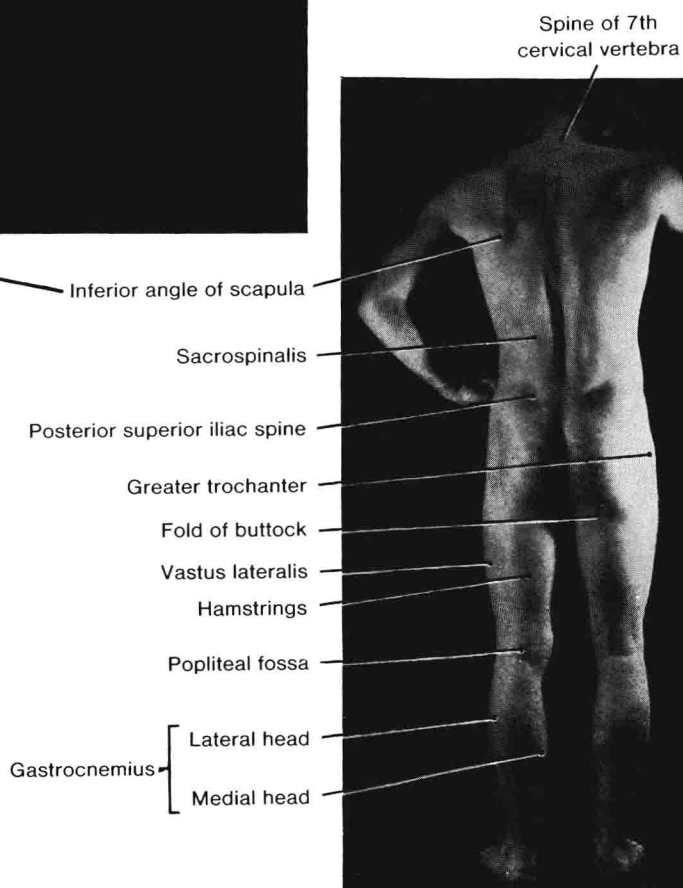
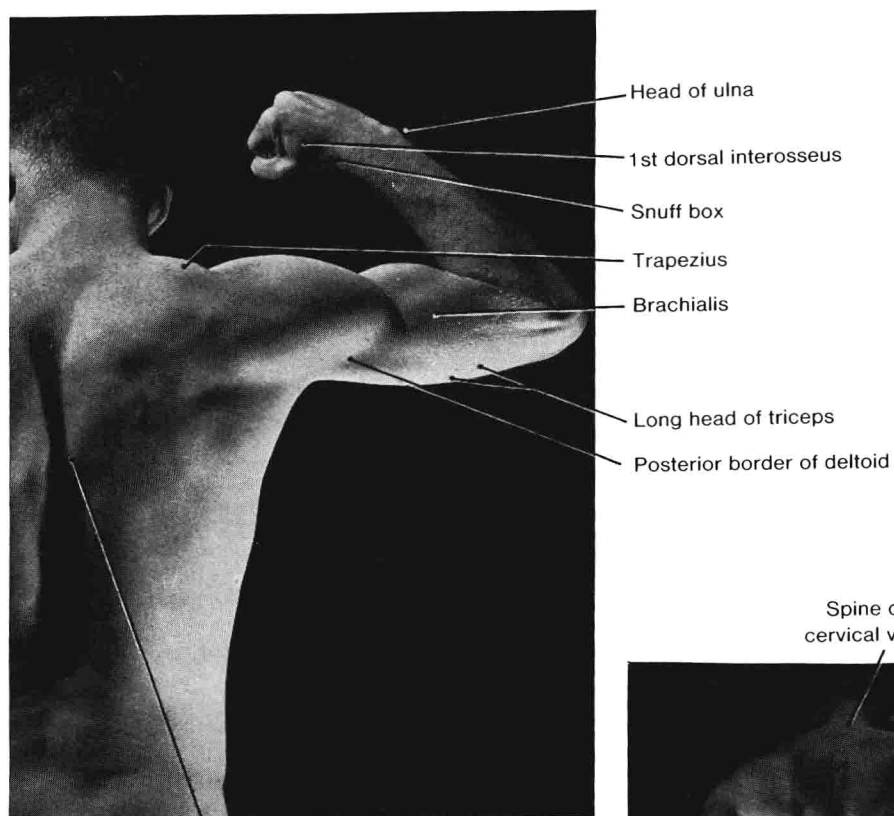
Medial head  
Lateral head  
Long head  
] of Triceps

Deltoid

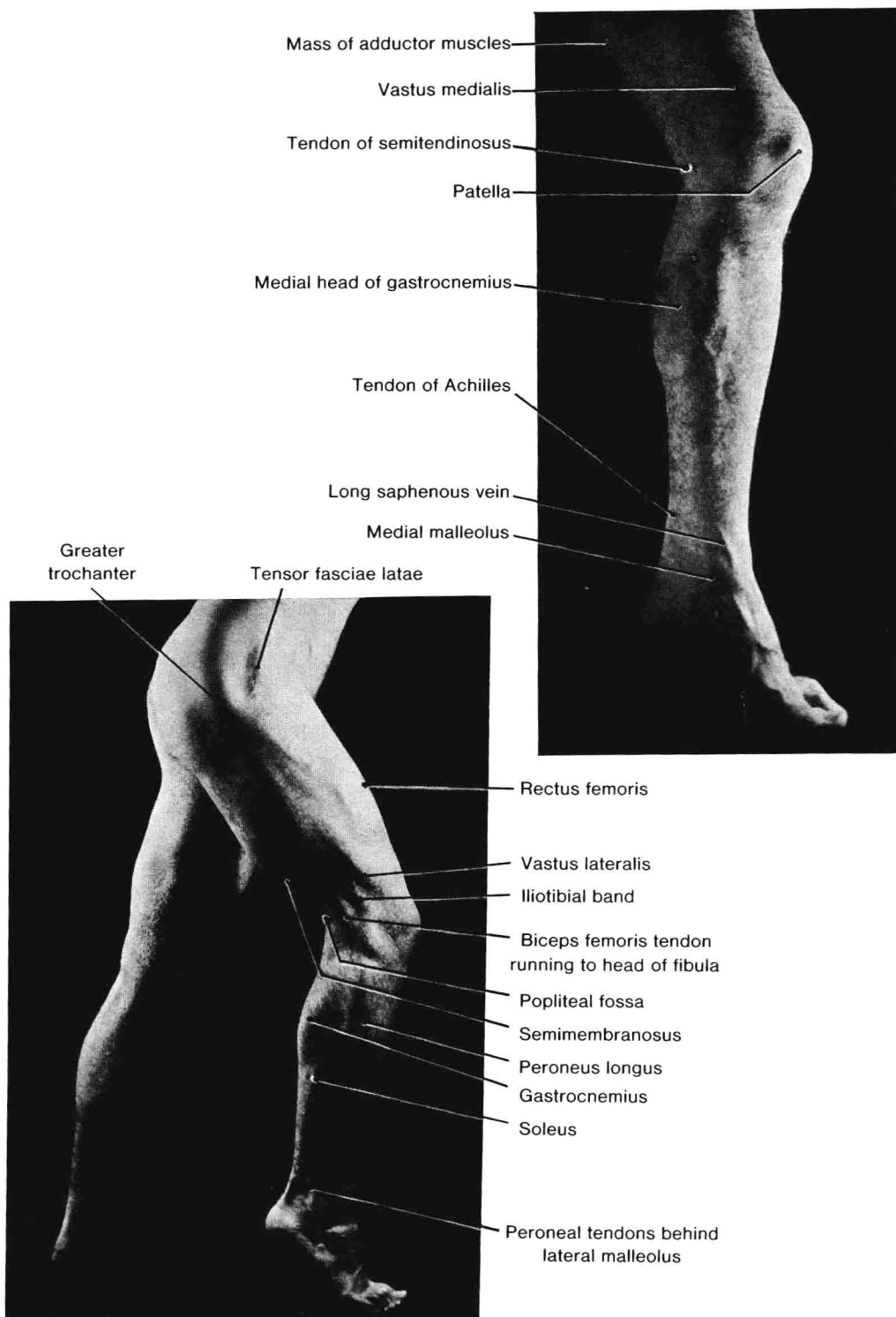
Latissimus dorsi

Digitations of  
serratus anterior

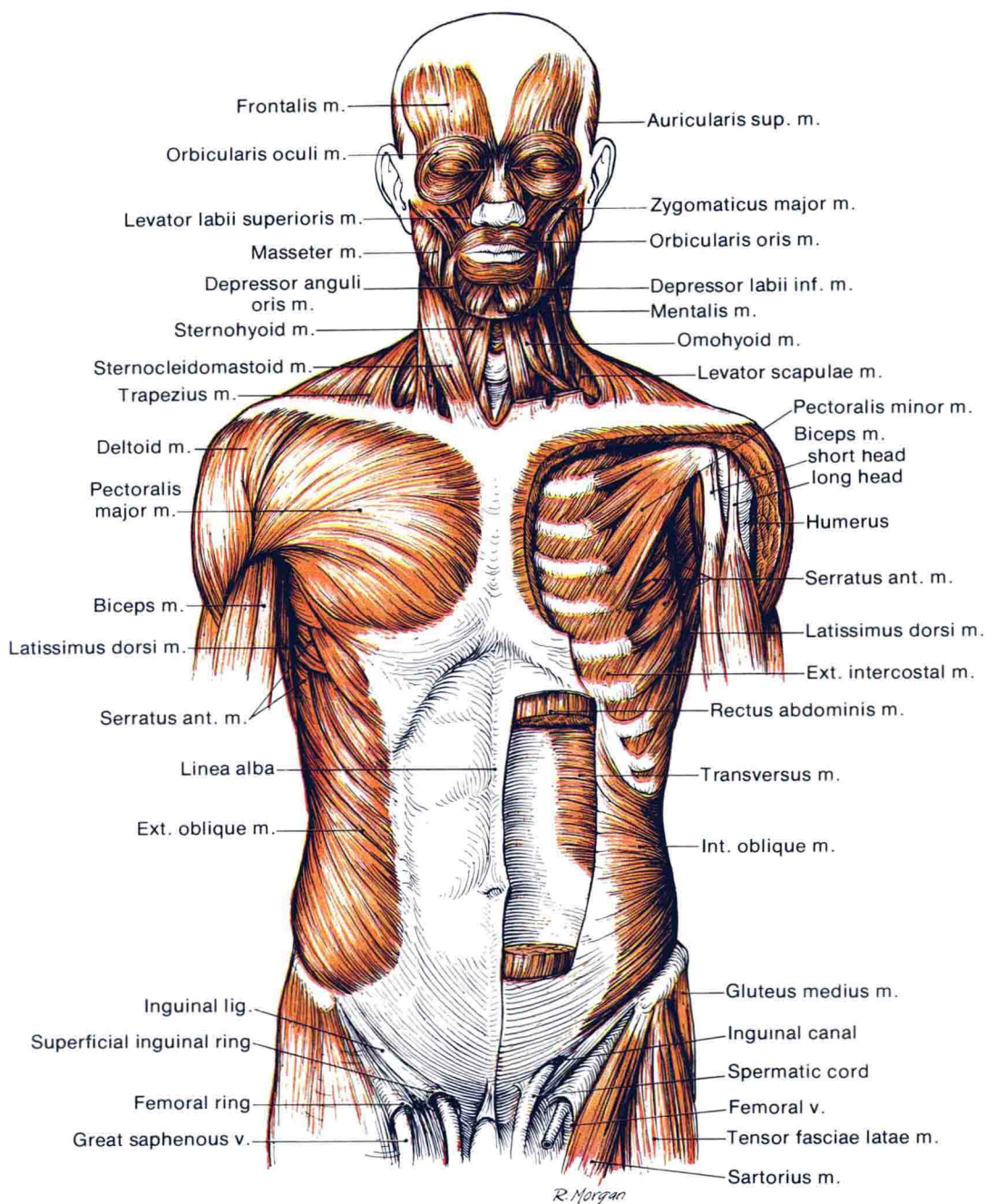
**PLATE 2**  
Surface Anatomy



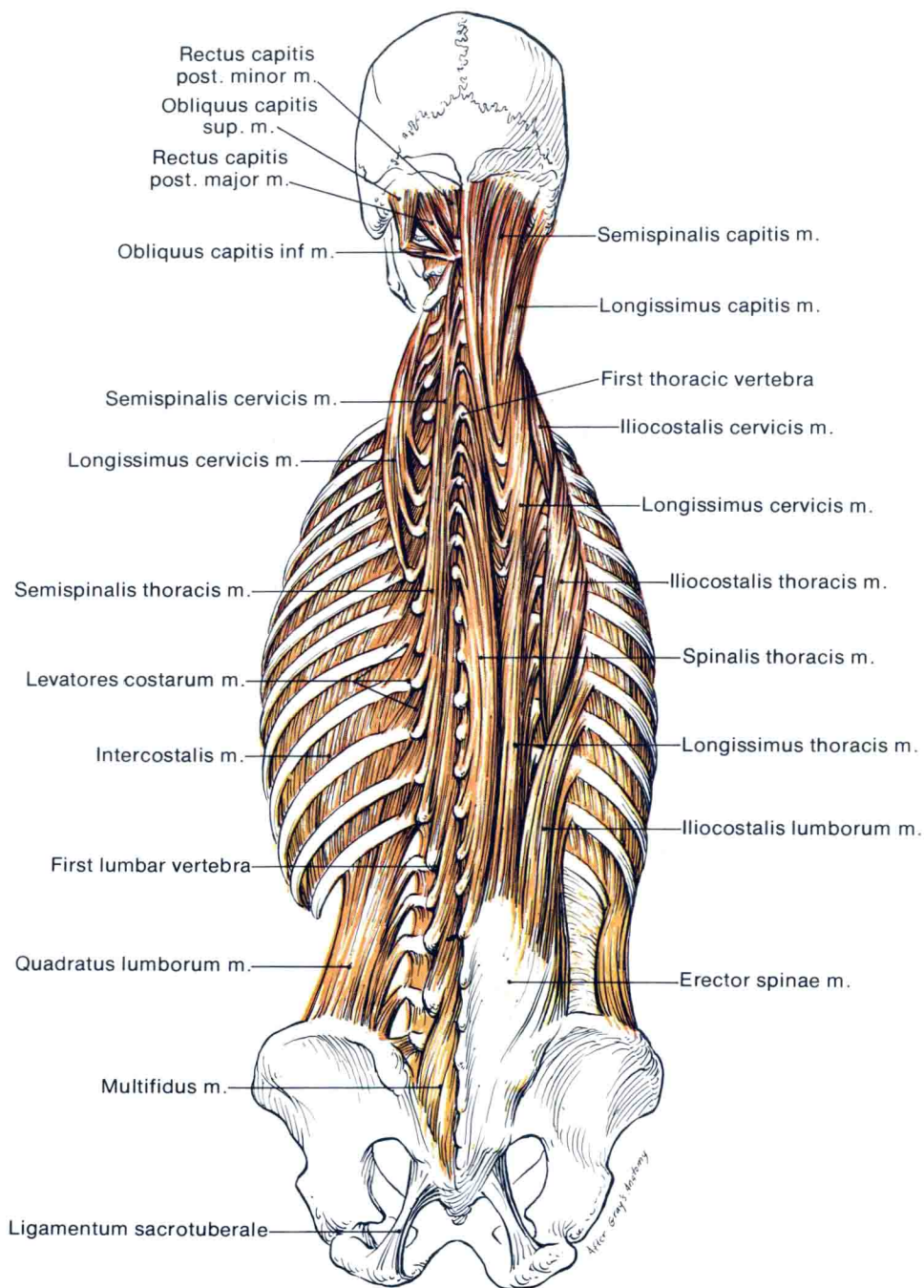
**PLATE 3**  
Surface Anatomy



**PLATE 4**  
Surface Anatomy

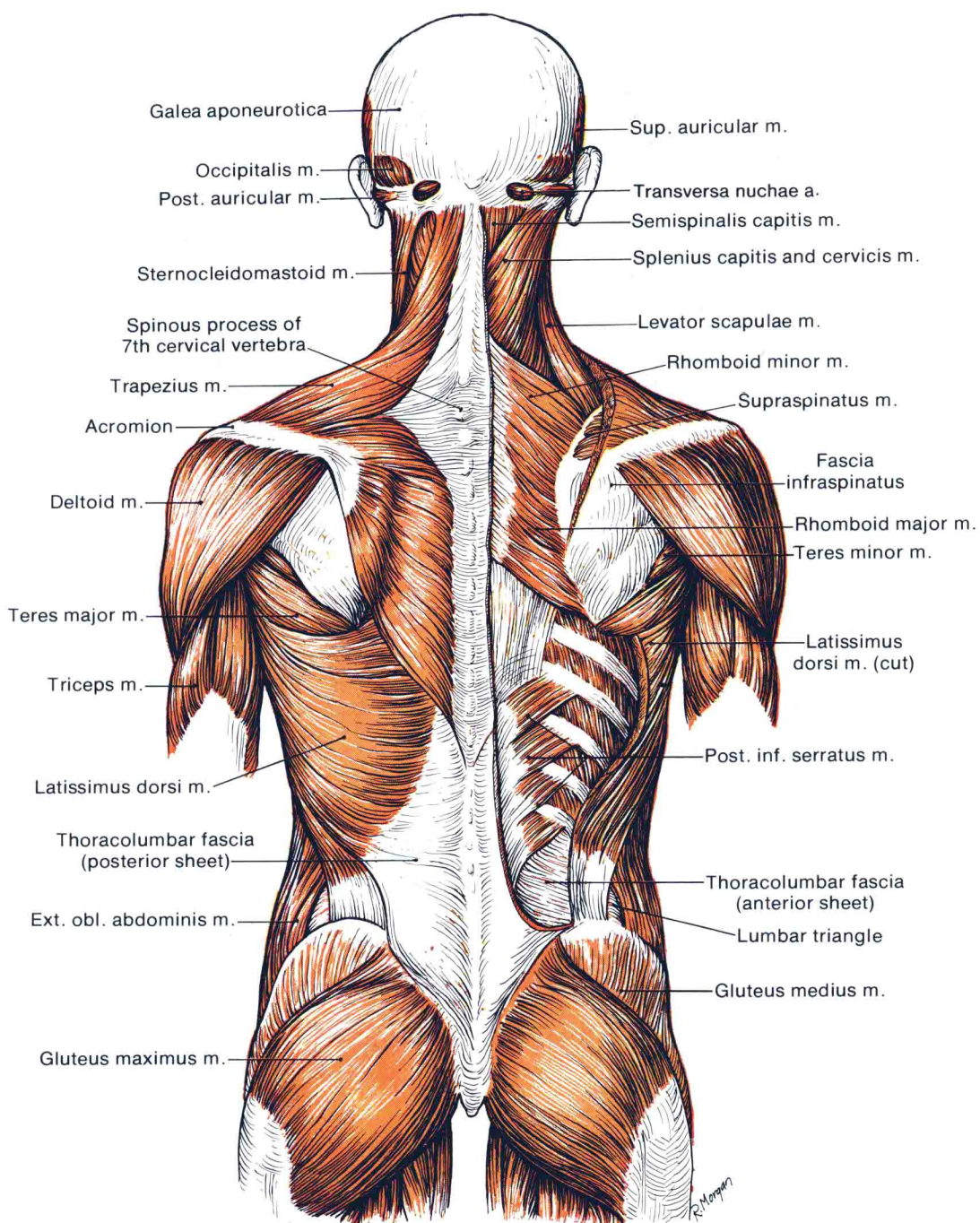


**PLATE 5**  
Muscles of Head, Neck, and Torso, Anterior View

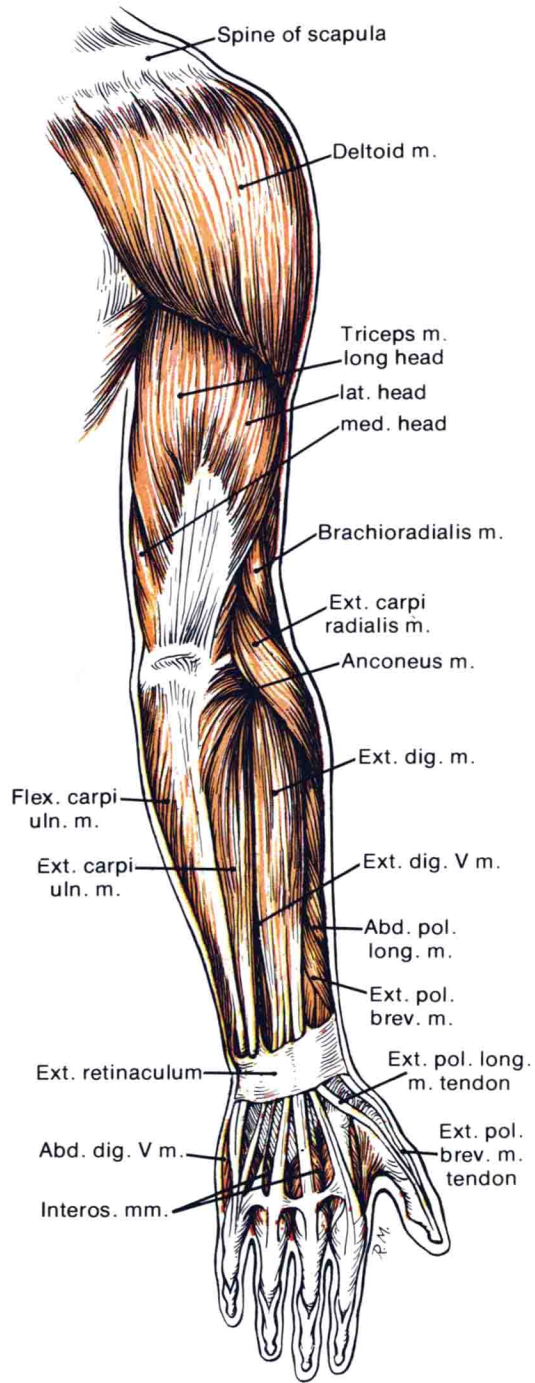
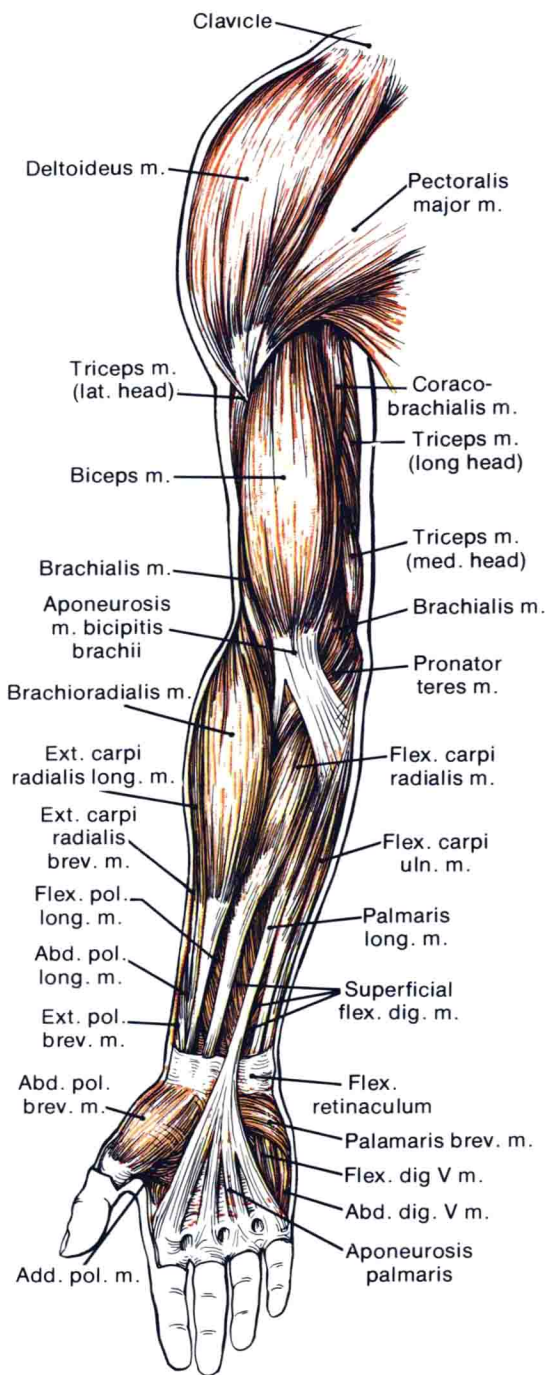


**PLATE 6**  
Muscles of Back Deep Dissection



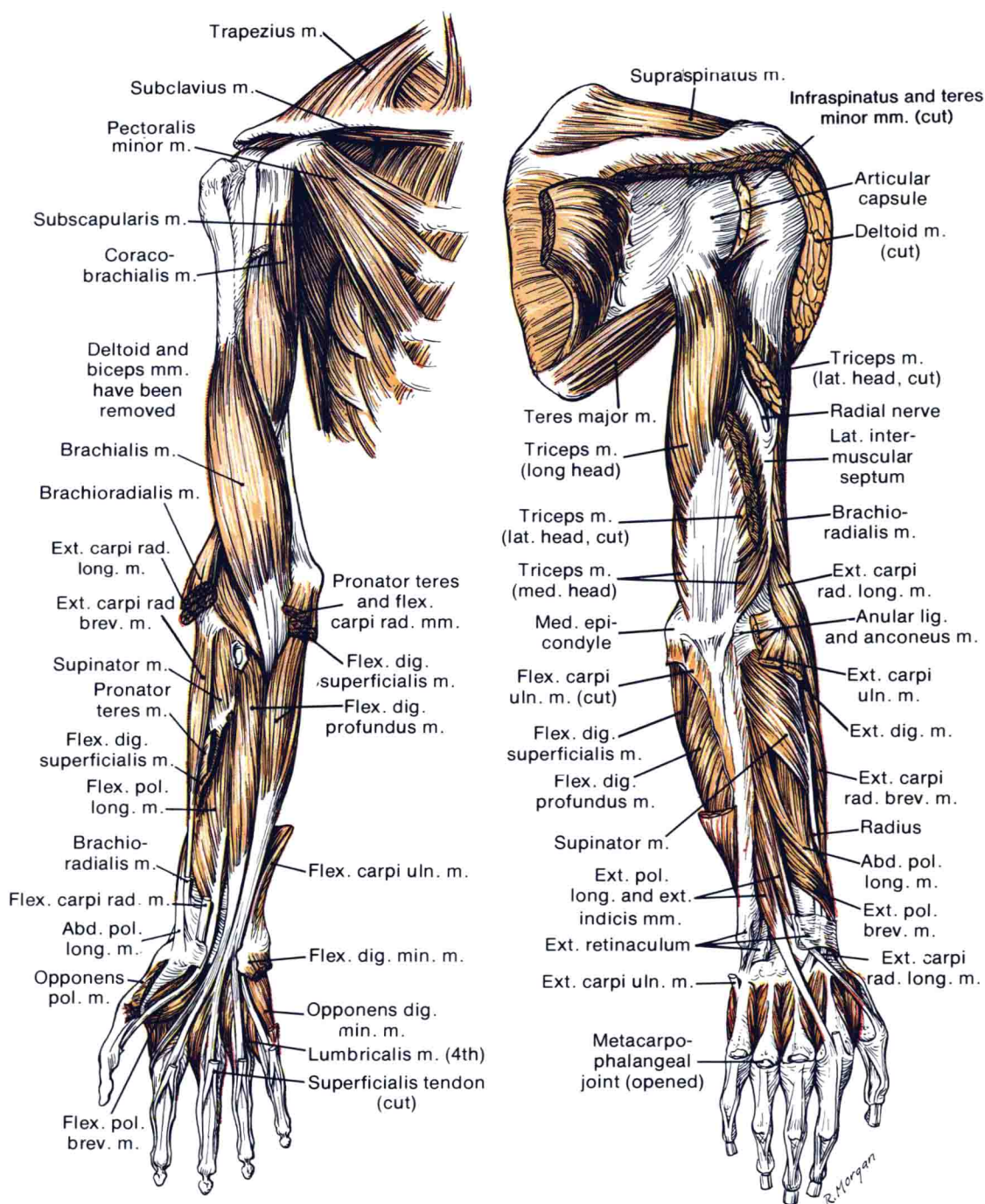


**PLATE 7**  
Muscles of Trunk, Posterior View



**PLATE 8**  
Superficial Muscles of Right Upper Limb





**PLATE 9**  
Muscles of Right Upper Limb, Deep Dissection