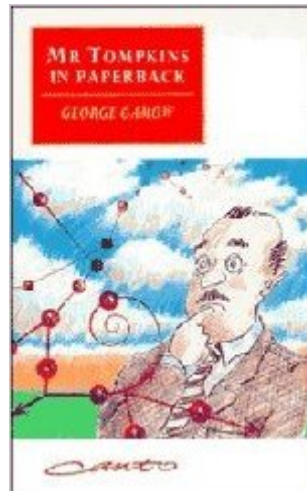


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# Mr. Tompkins In Paperback



## Synopsis

Mr Tompkins has become known and loved by many thousands of readers (since his first appearance over fifty years ago) as the bank clerk whose fantastic dreams and adventures lead him into a world inside the atom. George Gamow's classic provides a delightful explanation of the central concepts in modern physics, from atomic structure to relativity, and quantum theory to fusion and fission. Roger Penrose's new foreword introduces Mr Tompkins to a new generation of readers, and reviews his adventures in the light of current developments in physics today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am simply delighted to have the new edition of "Mr. Tompkins in Paper Back" by George Gamow available for sale. My father, George Gamow, created the lovable character Mr. Tompkins in 1938, when I was only three! So in a very real sense I am the older brother of Mr. Tompkins. I was an only child and did not need to create an imaginary friend as many lonely children do- father had created a friend for me. My father and my mother Rho escaped from the Soviet Union in 1933 and in 1934 my father became a full professor of physics at George Washington University, at the tender age of 30. As luck would have it, father was invited in 1956 to become a professor of physics at the University of Colorado where I joined the department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences in 1967. Father died in 1968, so for one year we were both professors at the same university, which I believe was and still is quite a unique situation. In 1965 Cambridge University Press combined two of father's earliest Tompkins books, Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland and Mr. Tompkins Explores the Atom, into a single book entitled Mr. Tompkins in Paper Back. As I had mentioned earlier Mr.

Tompkins was really my imaginary kid brother, a character that inspired many a high school student to study physics. Literally dozens of visitors to CU, seeing my name over my office door, attested to that. Just recently rereading father's two books I am stunned how timeless his little books really are and I also understand how he inspired a new generation of physicists. Roger Penrose wrote, in his foreword to Mr. Tompkins in Paperback, how Mr. Tompkins inspired him to go into physics. Father's books have recently inspired me to create a new series of Mr.

A lovely reprinted edition of a pearl from Gamow. The original edition has been out of print for a number of years. This 1993 edition has added commentary and a fascinating bio of Gamow. He was born in Odessa, in what was then Russia, --before the Soviet Union. The story of his escape to the West is straight out of a thriller. Only it is real! Gamow was referred to by a journalist, some time during the Cold War, as "the only scientist in America with a real sense of humor". He can take the most technical stuff and make it simple. Fun too! The book:--Intellectual treats, whimsy, but deep. Illustrated with lovely drawings by Gamow himself. Much of it can be understood by a child, and other parts might require a little concentration. All of it is great fun. Follow your imagination, and while you explore, you will learn about Einstein's theory of relativity. And in unexpected ways! You will see the wonders of physics thru the eyes of a child. With his unexpected thought experiments, Gamow has captured the imagination of generations of readers, and he has inspired a degree of curiosity that comes naturally to children. The author George Gamow started in nuclear physics, during the Golden Age of Physics, worked with Niels Bohr in Copenhagen, then later in the US, on the Manhattan Project during WWII; and after the War, he was professor in Boulder Colorado. He has a building on campus of The University of Colorado named after him! He is one of the few scientists who wrote popular books. They are precious pearls, and they have been equally popular with my parent's generation as with mine. For awhile they were out of print, but luckily some have now been reprinted in recent years!

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