

References for Isaac Newton and His Enemies

1. On the Shoulders of Giants, a Shandean Postscript,

Robert K. Merton, University of Chicago Press, 1993

This is a delightful, extremely learned, very funny, full of amusing stories and very easy to read!

2. Never at Rest, a biography of Isaac Newton

Richard S Westfall, Cambridge University Press, 1980

This is the most scholarly, detailed biography of Newton and by far the best available. However, it is some 800 pages long, so it is not for a simple afternoon.

3. A Portrait of Isaac Newton

Frank E Manuel, Harvard University Press, 1988

A psychological study of Newton, with strong emphasis on psychoanalysis. Very interesting, quite controversial in the scholarly community.

4. Philosophers at War: the quarrel between Newton and Leibniz

A Rupert Hall, Cambridge University Press, 1980

Prof Hall is a real Newton expert. This book deals with only one of Newton's enemies but does so in great and interesting detail.

5. Science and English Poetry, a historical perspective, 1590 – 1950

Douglas Bush, Oxford University Press, 1950

All of these books are full of interesting information and none is very difficult or overly technical. There are some significant details in Westfall's book but they can easily be skipped over if burdensome (not too likely).

All of these books appear to be available through Amazon and, therefore, likely through your local bookseller as well.