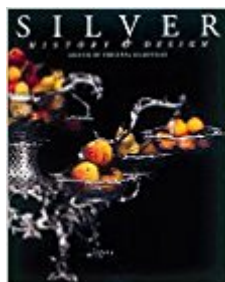


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Silver History & Design



Synopsis

Book by Glanville, Philippa

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; 1st edition (February 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810944715

ISBN-13: 978-0810944718

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.8 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Currently curator of metalwork, silver, and jewelry at London's Victoria and Albert Museum and author of *Silver in England* (Routledge, 1988) and *Women Silversmiths* (LJ 11/15/90), Glanville is eminently qualified to present an overview of the social history of silver. This collection of well-crafted essays by Glanville and his museum colleagues, offers an enlightening discussion of silver as mark of wealth and position, symbol of purity, and as sought-after object of collectors. The essays and the beautiful illustrations also outline the evolution of silver design since medieval times and describe the crafting of silver. In addition to further readings, Glanville includes a helpful list of appropriate museums and galleries. Despite a few minor overlaps in the essays and the lack of a glossary, this title belongs in most public and academic libraries. —Rex Klett, Mitchell Community Coll., Statesville, N.C. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A whirlwind tour of everything silver since humanity started tinkering with metal leaves readers breathless yet sated for the moment, because an incredible volume of information is packed into a slim tome. Victoria and Albert Museum curator Glanville and colleagues conduct overviews of 10 different design periods, an investigation of the craft, and, curiously, attitudes toward silver. But the most interesting minutiae are crammed into maxisidebars, two pages in length, devoting a few

paragraphs to the subject at hand and the rest of the space to illustrations and photographs. In these sidebars, the learning never stops, starting with their titles: "Spoons as Universal Luxury" and "The Arrival of the Dinner Service," among others. The only issue, but one to be expected, is that the design, innovations, and smitheries after World War II are given short shrift; we lose sight of contributions from Taxco (Spratling et al.) and Denmark (e.g., Georg Jensen). Nonetheless, a remarkable feat. Barbara Jacobs

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