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The Complete History Of Costume & Fashion: From Ancient Egypt To The Present Day



Synopsis

From the first fashion style of the Egyptians to the emergence of "haute couture in the 20th century

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Checkmark Books; Reprint edition (February 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816045747

ISBN-13: 978-0816045747

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 9.7 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #221,634 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #152 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Fashion > History](#) #227 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Textile & Costume](#) #536 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Fashion Design](#)

Customer Reviews

Now a multibillion-dollar global obsession, fashion from clothes and jewelry to makeup and grooming has reflected both individual identity and cultural mores since the beginning of history, declares Bronwyn Cosgrave, an editor at British Vogue. The Complete History of Costume & Fashion: From Ancient Egypt to the Present Day is a well-written, lavishly illustrated resource that, the author maintains, corrects many of the errors found in previously published references. Fashion-magazine devotees will enjoy flipping through this beautiful, engaging book just as much as serious students of the subject will relish poring over it. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The book is pretty old and it is in a good condition as can be expected.

The book came in excellent condition as I was told. There was a considerable range of time when the book could have shipped. I contacted the vendor via email and asked if they could ship it as early as possible since it was needed for a class which had started already. They had it shipped the next day.

This book is a truly dazzling feast for the eyes and would be a perfect addition to anyone's coffee table collection. I bought this book thinking that it was more like a textbook and have found it to be much much more. Full size colorful illustrations make for very interesting and stimulating viewing.

I have a couple of fashion history books and each one offers little tidbits that the others don't. This is a great book for reference and easy to read.

Although I knew it would be a little worn because it was used, I was a little disappointed. Pages are perfect, however the sides of the book are stamped because it belonged to a library. The cover is taped on and cannot be removed without ruining the book, which is what I was a little disappointed with. I would prefer that the book look a little more worn that have the plastic cover on it. It would have been nice to have a better description of the condition of the book.

So, I gave this book 3 stars because I couldn't figure out how to do 2 1/2. Mixed feelings. On the plus side, I really enjoyed the pictures and some of the book was informative. On the minus side, I feel that the author may have just peiced this book together too quickly without doing her research. Some of her dates for different eras were wrong. And while she may have an interest in fashion, part of fashion history is HISTORY, which she doesn't seem to have a grasp on. This was evident in the beginning right from the chapter on egypt. I kept cringing every time she confused Nefertiti for Nefertari, it made me wonder what else in the book she got wrong. I definately would not recomend this book to anyone that already has a lot of knowledge of fashion history, her inaccuracies will probably piss you off (and her partiality to Byzantium). I also would not recomend this book if you are just getting started in studying fashion history because why start out with misinformation. But if you are like me, neither an expert or compkete novice, you don't work in the industry, like me you are just obsessed with clothes, and if you find this book on sale for less than 5 dollars, have at it (really, don't pay more than 5).

Book I received was pretty beat up and no cover but the inside was in good condition for what will be used as a reference book on my shelf. It doesn't go in depth about all the topics, just general paragraphs of fashion topics in the different time periods. If you can find this book it will be a good addition to your costuming library.

Always on the lookout for any new costume reference, I waseager to leaf through this one.

Unfortunately, it was nearly a waste of time. I say "nearly", because Cosgrave provides quite a few helpful illustrations, though the objects depicted are often mislabelled and period paintings are seldom fully cited. In general, I found this volume to be shallow and badly researched. It's full of bad generalizations and misused terminology. Cosgrave makes numerous statements which are at odds with everything I've come to know about historical costume. Seldom are these bald statements backed by sources discussed in the text. She also has a 'thing' about Byzantine costume. Everything worn in any other place or time suffers in her constant comparisons. One of my favorite absurdities is that her entire discussion of medieval jewelry is a dismissal of the same as "crude". (Though she does allow that the Irish did some nice work. And, of course, it suffers by comparison to Byzantine jewelry.) Another example: The caption regarding a painting of people in Burgundian Court Dress urges the reader to "Note the Byzantine influences". Huh?!! In general I'd recommend that the re-enactor or Costume History student look at the pictures and ignore the text.

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