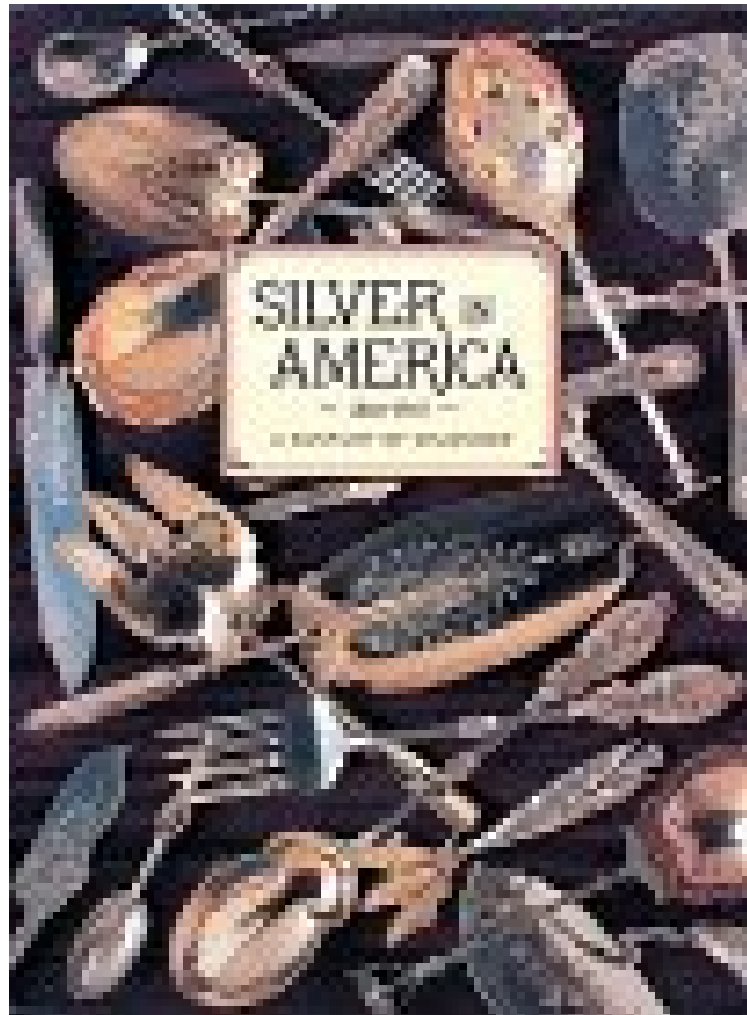


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Charles L. Venable

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Silver in America, 1840-1940: A Century of Splendor

Charles L. Venable : Silver in America, 1840-1940: A Century of Splendor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silver in America, 1840-1940: A Century of Splendor:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding book on American silver, a must for your libraryBy Nunya InctFascinating history of the United States spills out of this book. I am a small silver collector and was astounded as to the developments throughout this hundred year period that effected the production and influence of silver. The expansion and contraction of economic markets influenced design, production and sales in a way that silver manufacturers had to really innovate to survive. Styles were influenced by other countries, the discovery of different tombs resulted in Egyptian revival, the aesthetic of the Japanese caused our own Japanese styles in the US. The hallmark system in Europe kept European silversmiths in lockstep with tradition while the absence of a hallmarking

system led to mixed metals here, and we innovated. Interesting vignettes of how American firms acquired foreign designers and how they would go from one firm to another. The tariff act of 1842 was a watershed for silver production in this country. If you like history, this book is a meal. If you love silver, this book is a banquet. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reading and reference book. By jafb. Authored by Dr. Venable, a foremost expert on the subject, this well-written book details the history of silver making from the mid-19thc. It is an excellent reference on the subject. It documents and traces the evolution of design during this period. A fine addition to any library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By carlah. This book is very informative!

This volume explores the history and development of the American silver industry. It chronicles the work of firms such as Tiffany, Gorham, Meridian Britannia, and Reed and Barton, along with that of makers such as Whiting, Wendt, Wood and Hughs, Scheibler, and Gale.

From Library Journal. Published in conjunction with a display at the Dallas Museum of Art, this work explores in detail the dramatic development of the American silver industry. Curator of decorative arts at the Dallas Museum, Venable begins his study of America's passion for silver in 1840, when the nation became the largest producer and consumer of flatware in the world. By 1878 Tiffany's had passed its European competitors, winning the "grand prix" at the Paris world's fair, and the popularity continued on until 1940, when World War II almost totally halted silver manufacturing. In nine lavishly illustrated chapters, the author examines the production, marketing, use, and design of 100 years of silver luxury. Venable (*American Furniture in the Bybee Collection*, Univ. of Texas Pr., 1989) includes biographies of American silversmiths and offers insight into the elaborate dining and social rituals and gift-giving practices of the 19th century. Highly recommended for both reference and circulating collections. ?Joseph Hewgley, Nashville P.L. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist. To a subject commonly dismissed as household paraphernalia, Dallas Museum of Art curator Venable has brought an uncommon scholarship and a new appreciation of American-made silver for the home and the table. Based on an exhibition opened late in 1994, the narrative covers 100 years of artistry in the U.S. Unlike other, more expensive tomes centered on a museum show, this focuses on the personalities, players, and artistry involved in transforming a family-oriented industry into a major business seeking new technologies, new markets, and new customers. The black-and-white and color photographs, rather than standing alone, enhance the text; when, for instance, U.S. silver companies such as Gorham and Tiffany develop the moresque and Russian styles, the intricate, interlacing scrollwork and textile imitation of the respective styles are captured in pictures. An elegant, well-researched tribute to yet another industry made in America. Barbara Jacobs