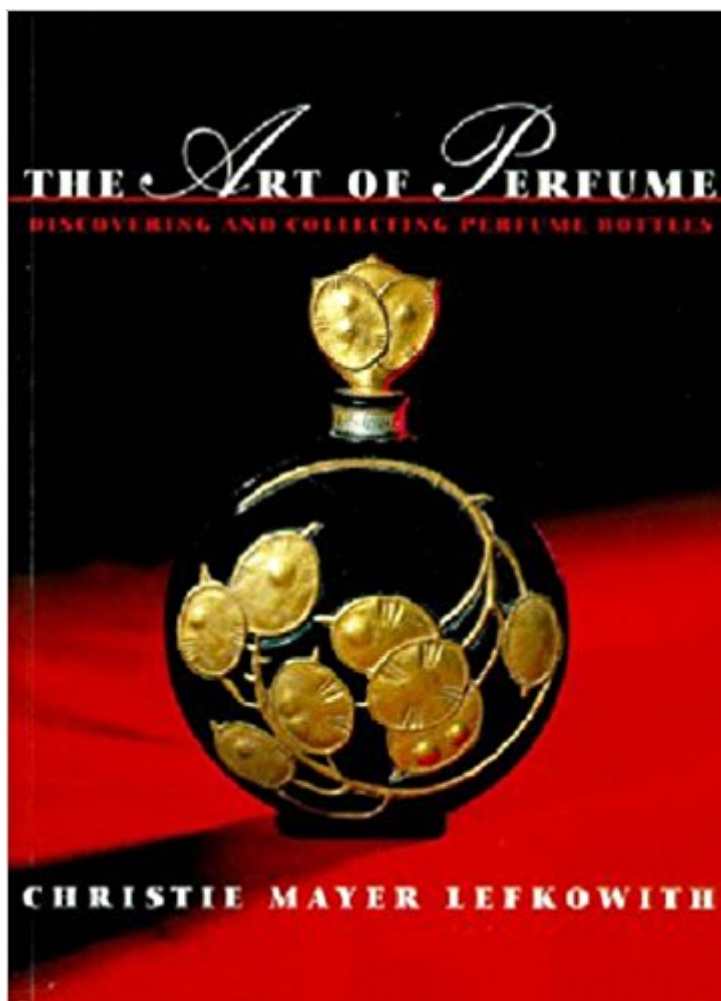


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The Art Of Perfume: Discovering And Collecting Perfume Bottles



Synopsis

Perfume bottles have been used since antiquity, but their history in modern times has been marked by the creation of exciting and original forms highlighted by equally elaborate presentations. Specially designed bottles and stoppers, labels, boxes and other unique decorative features endowed each perfume with an aura of distinction and exclusivity. This illustrated survey presents many of the most striking designs, outlines the historical and social background to their creation, and reflects the talents of leading designers (Gaillard, Viard) and glassmakers (Baccarat, Depinoix, Brosse), as well as inspired creations resulting from close collaborations between designers and leading figures in the fine art world such as Paul Iribe and Georges Lepape. A passionate collector of perfume bottles for nearly two decades, Christie Mayer Lefkowitz has pioneered the study of their history, which has now become a major area of interest for collectors. She traces the story of perfume from its elitist days as a luxury product through to the development of a mass market in the 1950s. With its research and analysis, over 200 illustrations in colour and a reference section listing over 500 major perfumers, designers and glassmakers, this book should prove to be of interest to collectors, to anyone interested in fashion and social history, and to designers of all kinds seeking imaginative inspiration.

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Customer Reviews

The hundreds of containers illustrated here, which are from the author's own collection, date from the beginning of the 20th century through the 1950s. In the art of perfumery, scent is not the only

allure. As the author points out in this detailed history, serious attention is also given to the selection of a name (which carries its own cachet), the design of the label, the bottle, the stopper, ornaments that might be affixed to it, and the box in which it is packaged. Often, this multimedia art form represents the work of well-known artists, designers, and couturiers. Although this book does not give advice on how to collect perfume bottles-which some readers might consider a drawback-it does contain a directory of hundreds of designers (past and present) with their addresses, a brief history of each firm, and the names of some of their best-known products. This would be an attractive addition to most libraries. Margarete Gross, Chicago P.L. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

By the time someone documents and publishes the history and artistry of a particular collectible, chances are that prices will be in the decidedly nonaffordable range. Be that as it may, Lefkowitz concentrates on the first 60 years of this century, chronicling the effects of fashion, architecture, and art on the development of perfume bottles. All of the creations echo well-known design influences, including art nouveau and art deco. Offering many black-and-white and color photographs, this is a fascinating education in the arts as seen through a glass lightly. Barbara Jacobs

This book is lavished with the most magnificent perfume bottles and their packaging. Full color photos of Lalique, Baccarat, and other exquisite bottles along with the histories of the fragrance companies who commissioned them. There is also an index of these companies for quick reference. I found the title misleading. The author is of the belief that the "art of perfume" died 30 years ago. All of the bottles are from the late 1800's to the 1960's and I feel that the title should have mentioned this. If you collect antique bottles or are looking for a good fragrance history book, this is a must.

As an avid collector of advertisements and literature on perfume, this is the first book I always recommend to fellow collectors. In the past ten or twelve years, many books were published to cater to the exploding popularity of perfume bottles as a collector's item. Christie Lefkowitz's book stands out because of its focus on the ART of perfume bottles (hence the title), rather than their monetary value. Bottles are viewed in the cultural context of their time, with photographs of by far THE best quality I have ever seen in perfume books. I agree with the previous reviewer, though: too bad the book ends with the fifties. There should be a sequel.

I know that the writers are savvy perfume bottle collectors. They have incorporated years of

experience into this book. That is the reason why that among all the books on this subject, this one is the most appealing. I have also used part of her materials (w/permission) to write my book (published in Chinese).

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