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American Presidential China: The Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Collection At The Philadelphia Museum Of Art



Synopsis

The china used by the First Families, both at the White House and in their private homes, reveals a fascinating story of culture and society as it has evolved in the United States since its early days. In this handsome book, which documents over 200 rare items in the remarkably comprehensive Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Collection, a beautiful display of tableware unfolds as readers learn of trends in taste, style, and modes of entertaining, from George Washington to Ronald Reagan. Among the featured objects are Washington's white-and-gold Sèvres porcelain that he purchased from a French diplomat recalled at the outbreak of the French Revolution; James Monroe's gilt-edged French porcelain service, the first state service commissioned by the White House in 1817; and John F. Kennedy's understated Wedgwood creamware used at his Georgetown home. Collectors and historians will value the information on how the pieces were commissioned, designed, manufactured, and imported.

Book Information

Series: Philadelphia Museum of Art

Hardcover: 91 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; First Edition edition (March 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300135939

ISBN-13: 978-0300135930

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.5 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #555,722 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Houseware & Dining > Porcelain & China #118 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics #532 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Individual Architects & Firms

Customer Reviews

Susan Gray Detweiler has served as Robert L. McNeil, Jr.'s curator of ceramics since 1969. Her books include *American Presidential China* (1975) and *George Washington's Chinaware* (1982). David L. Barquist is the H. Richard Dietrich, Jr., Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

NICE PICTURES

I've been collecting the Woodmere presidential china for the last couple of years and this provides a brief history that was enjoyable to read and wonderful pictures.

Collect Woodmere White House china and this is my fourth book about the distinction between White House and Presidential china that was used in the White House. Overall a very good book and enjoyed the read as well as the pictures.

Great resource for patterns of Presidential china

Wanted to find Jefferson's China pattern.

Great information in putting my detailed report together for my antique group on the history of the "White House China".

After seeing the China Room on a White House tour, and seeing the china display at the Smithsonian, I was very curious about the practice of each president selecting his own china. The book gave wonderful details and photos, and I am such a geek that I keep the book on my desk.

A superior effort here and a must have for anyone serious about White House history - I had the distinct pleasure of knowing Robert L. McNeil and being well acquainted with the exalted status of his collection - RALEIGH DeGEER AMYX. [...]

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