
A welcome addition to the literature on the Arts and Crafts Movement in America, this publication is written in chronological order. Coverage of the subject during the years after World War II is unique to this book, especially the inclusion of the crafts of Southwest Indian arts and of the youth culture during the 1960s. This is a different approach than that taken by some major publications in the field such as: In Pursuit of Beauty: Americans and the Aesthetic Movement by Doreen Bolger Burke (Metropolitan Museum of Art; Rizzoli, 1986); Wendy Kaplan’s "The Art that Is Life": The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920 (Museums of Fine Arts; Little, Brown, 1987); and Leslie Bowman’s American Arts and Crafts: Virtue in Design (Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Bulfinch Press, Little Brown, 1990). Koplos and Metcalf offer a definitive text covering two centuries that will also become a standard reference in the field due to the book’s depth of coverage.

Within in each chapter, covering a specific decade, is useful information on the particulars of that time period, including media used, and Arts and Crafts societies and communities as well as artists’ education. The authors also explore craft’s relationship to fine arts, design and popular culture. As mentioned in the preface, the American Craft Museum’s History of Twentieth Century American Craft Project (currently unfinished) is eagerly awaited by all art librarians and specialists in American craft.

There are more than four hundred illustrations that complement the text, and the reproductions are of fine quality. The paper used is excellent and the binding is sturdy. The index is easy to read and methodical; there are extensive footnotes, but there is no bibliography. The acknowledgements section of the book does tell readers, who bother to examine such things, about a companion website: www.americanstudiacrafthistory.org. The authors state that the reader will find an expanded list of the contributors to the project. Readers are asked to refer to the web site for an extensive bibliography, a glossary, additional images and supplementary material. This reviewer, however, found the web site to be a great disappointment. Much promised material does not appear. One can only hope that the web site is still being developed. In spite of the lack of bibliography, this unique publication will be significant to all libraries that cover the American Arts and Crafts Movement.

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