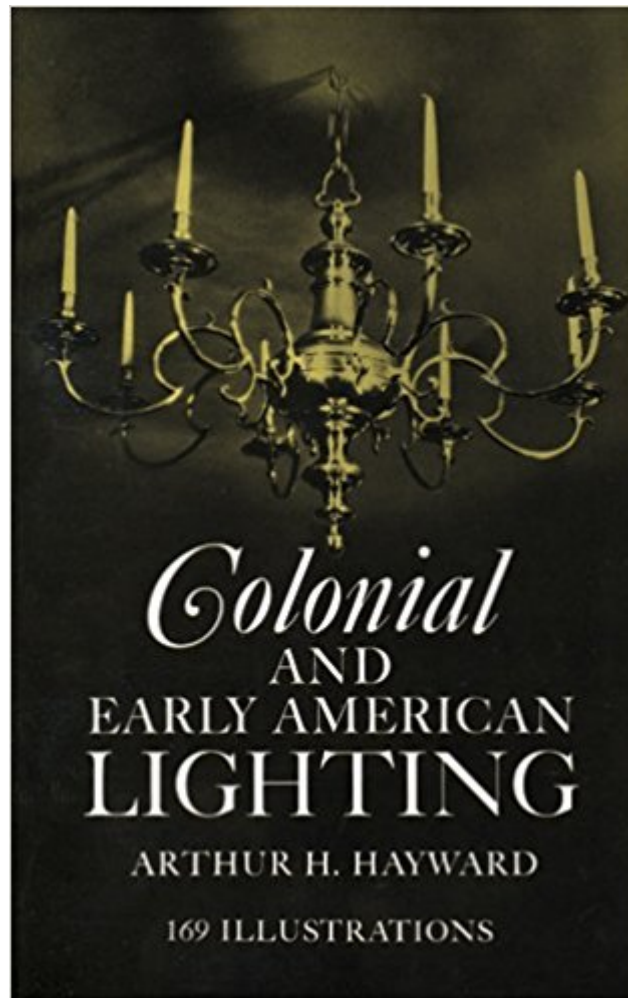




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Colonial And Early American Lighting



Synopsis

Beginning with the rushlight holders used by the earliest settlers and ranging up to the elaborate chandeliers of the Federal period, this book is a unique coverage of the fascinating story of lamps and other lighting devices in America. The selection of lighting devices from the American Colonies begins with the "Betty" lamps which were similar in function and design to the oil, wax, and fat-burning lamps of antiquity. Rounding out the material on early attempts at illumination are variations on the open wick lamp designs executed in iron, tin, pewter, and brass, together with double iron "Betty" lamps, iron trammel candle holders, wrought iron candle stands, candle molds, reflectors, and other styles. Succeeding chapters range over candelabra lamps, ship lamps, whale oil lamps, wall sconces, bull's eye reading lamps, pierced tin lanterns, candle lanterns, bull's eye reading lanterns, hall lanterns, Sandwich glass candlesticks, lamps of unusual design, glass table and spark lamps, single and double burner mantle lamps, astral lamps, Luster lamps, Bennington ware, and chandeliers made of wood, iron, pewter, brass, bronze, silver, and crystal. Although the main emphasis is on the Colonial era, work up to the 1880's is considered. Each chapter contains information on Colonial life, customs, and habits, photographs of rare lamps and their locations, hints on collecting, and much other information not available elsewhere. This volume, containing what is probably the largest selection of antique lamps ever illustrated together before, fills a long-felt need on the part of antique collectors, designers, historians, and Americana enthusiasts for a thorough-going survey of lighting in Colonial America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent source of information on colonial and early American lighting. While the text does not match the plates, it takes little effort to find the illustrations. The B&W illus. are clear enough to see enough detail. We are using this as a resource in finding accurate modern reproductions for our 1755 Dutch Colonial home.

The author gave many cutesy anecdotal examples of how lighting related to ordinary life in the 18th and 19th century, but his approach was so scattershot that the book became very hard to follow. e.g.(you might be reading on page 100 of the book and the author would refer back to a photo plate on page 10 and then to another photo on page 137). The writing is not structured along a logically progressive timeline as most people are used to following in modern research texts. Also the photographic plates yield photos of lamps and candlesticks which are quite small with difficult to determine details, due to the large number of items displayed in each plate. The plates are in black and white and the paper is not the best quality for photographic reproduction. However, on a more positive note, the anecdotes were a refreshing change from an otherwise boring treatise. I wouldn't recommend this as your first or only choice for scholarly study of the field, but as an adjunct to other texts and for some interesting background material it is fine.

Very good reference book. Lots of information. Thanks!

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