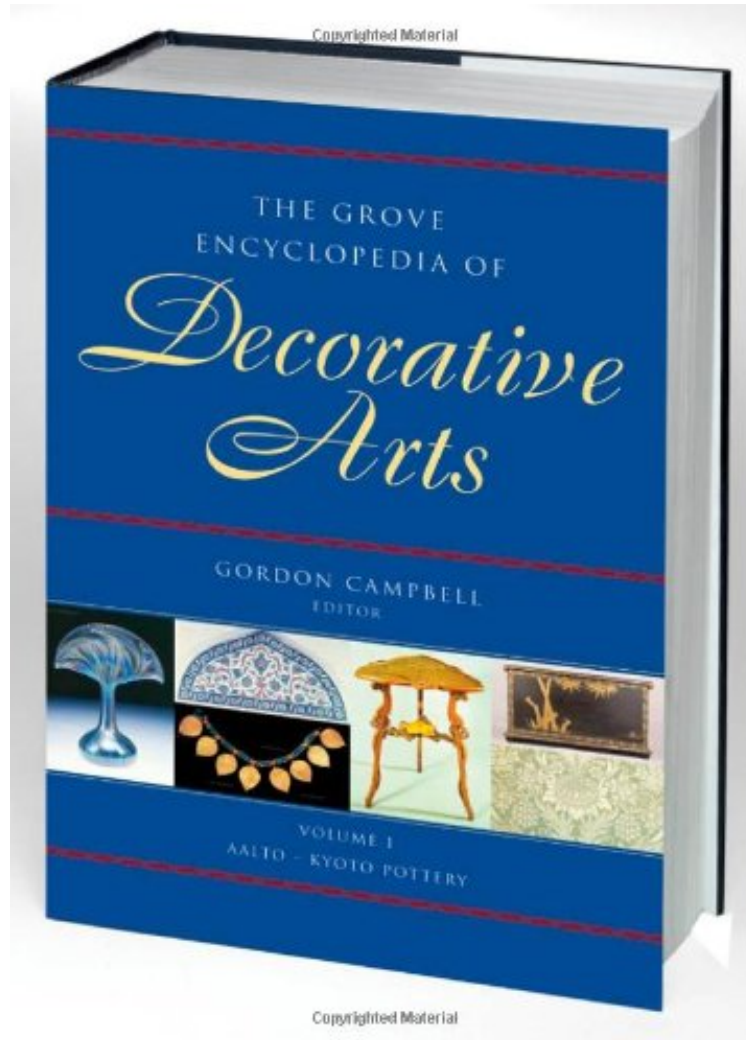


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## The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts: Two-volume Set

*Gordon Campbell*

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**Gordon Campbell : The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts: Two-volume Set** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts: Two-volume Set:

11 of 16 people found the following review helpful. review not helpfulBy FinoulaThe reviews don't inform the potential buyer whether this work is worth the price. The Booklist review states that this is the first comprehensive encyclopedia on the subject. The reviewer clearly isn't familiar with the literature. Fleming and Honour's Dictionary of the Decorative Arts, first published in 1977, is still the gold standard. It is disappointing that the the Grove Encyclopedia hasn't chosen to broaden the scope geographically from the Honor and Fleming work beyond Eurocentric. It is also regrettable that, although craft objects can be found that meet the standard of "objects found in

museums," they have apparently been given short shrift across the board. Although the editor's credentials are very impressive, they don't reflect grounding in the decorative arts as opposed to fine arts or architecture. Also, since he doesn't credit the contributors to the articles, one can't know whether the articles are informed by someone who is a decorative arts specialist. As an individual researcher, I can't tell from the reviews whether this expensive work would be a valuable addition to my library or not.

The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts covers thousands of years of decorative arts production throughout western and non-western culture. With over 1,000 entries, as well as hundreds drawn from the 34-volume Dictionary of Art, this topical collection is a valuable resource for those interested in the history, practice, and mechanics of the decorative arts. Accompanied by almost 100 color and more than 500 black and white illustrations, the 1,290 pages of this title include hundreds of entries on artists and craftsmen, the qualities and historic uses of materials, as well as concise definitions on art forms and style. Explore the works of Alvar Aalto, Charles and Ray Eames, and the Wiener Werkstatte, or delve into the history of Navajo blankets and wing chairs in thousands of entries on artists, craftsmen, designers, workshops, and decorative art forms.

From BooklistReference sources on antiques abound, but The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts is the first comprehensive, scholarly encyclopedia of the decorative arts. Campbell, professor of Renaissance studies at the University of Leicester, followed the collecting principles of the Victoria and Albert Museum to determine the scope of the work, selecting "entries on subjects that one might reasonably expect to find in a book with this title." The encyclopedia has 3,000 entries, 2,000 of which are updated versions of those in The Dictionary of Art (1996) and Grove Art Online. Contributors are listed, but articles are unsigned because Campbell wrote many of the revisions and new entries himself. The work is the first in a planned series of print reference sources based on Grove Art Online for "scholars, collectors, curators, students, researchers, and general readers." Entries range from one sentence (e.g., Airtwist, a "spiral of air bubbles used for decorative effect in the stem of a wine-glass") to more than 10 pages on Carpet, Tapestry, Textile, Tile, and Toys and games. Campbell focuses on museum pieces rather than popular or folk art; for example, the encyclopedia includes Faberge gold-and-enamel Easter eggs but not Ukrainian painted eggs. Emphasis is on western Europe. For example, the article on Arms is subtitled European Edge Weapons and excludes samurai swords. Coverage of China, India, and Japan is more extensive than that of Africa, Latin America, or Native American cultures. The index includes only four single-page references for Mexico (in Dolls, Papercutting, Rugs, and Textiles); Grove Art Online also covers Mexican gold and silver, ceramics, and furniture. New articles emphasize individuals, design groups, and materials (e.g., Bark cloth; Colt, Samuel; Lapis lazuli; Swarovski Austrian Glass Company; and Willow pattern). The set has 600 illustrations, with color plates in the center of each volume. Updated bibliographies identify books, foreign-language publications, articles, practical manuals, and local publications that would otherwise be difficult to identify. The Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts is recommended for art, museum, and other libraries supporting a clientele with scholarly or professional interest in the decorative arts or the history of art, architecture, and design. It will be of greatest interest to those who need a compact source on the decorative arts or are without access to Grove Art Online. Christine Whittington Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Covers all aspects of the decorative arts from ancient times through the present day and throughout Western and non-Western cultures...Recommended."--Library Journal About the Author Gordon Campbell is Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of Leicester. As an art historian he has written widely on Renaissance art and architecture (notably in his Oxford Dictionary of the Renaissance). He has published widely on many disciplines, including literature and history as well as art, and has a wealth of editorial experience, much of it for OUP, for which he has edited both journals (including Renaissance Studies) and reference books, of which the most recent is Renaissance Art and Architecture (2004). His scholarly work has been recognized by the award of a D. Litt from University of York and an honorary doctorate from University of Bucharest, by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and as a Corresponding Fellow of the South African Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.