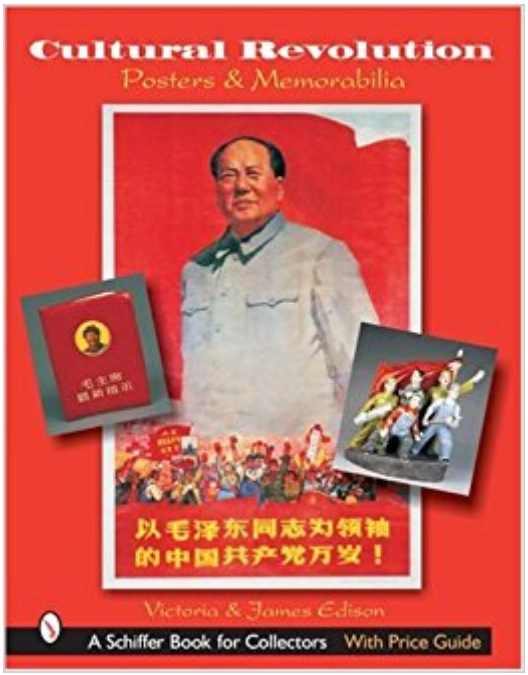
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Cultural Revolution Posters & Memorabilia (Schiffer Book For Collectors)



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Synopsis

The Cultural Revolution in China was a time of upheaval and change. Millions of lives were disrupted and much effort was spent by the government and the Party to "reeducate" the populace through a great propaganda campaign. Posters, ceramic statues, Red Books, pins, and a myriad of other means were designed to get the message across. Now, after the opening of China to the West, these things are finding their way into the collector’s market. In this remarkable volume, the history of an era and the material culture that it generated are shown in over 450 color images. They include 180 posters that set the tone as art and as propaganda. The iconography of the posters was used to rally the people around the programs and personalities of the Maoist regime. In addition there are hundreds of ceramic statues, "Little Red Books," awards, ration coupons, wall hangings, prints, and many other objects included that promoted the Cultural Revolution and sought to influence the Chinese people. For graphic artists, collectors, and Sino-historians, these items have growing importance. With its concise and informative history and beautiful color illustrations, this book provides an introductory guide to the meaning and value of a variety of the most common posters and artifacts to be found in markets in China and the West, along with brief explanations of their historical background and their current value.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in the People’s Republic of China, Victoria Edison came to Los Gatos, California, as a high school exchange student and stayed to complete college. An avid collector of Chinese political memorabilia and vintage and antique items, she now has owns De Sino Gallery in Berkeley,

California. James Edison hails from southern California. First intrigued by the events of the Cultural Revolution in college, James took a teaching position in China in the late 1980s to learn more about the country. Now he assists Victoria with her business and works as a land economist.

This is a fascinating book. The range of Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution (GPCR) memorabilia from China is amazing. Well printed and full of well photographed images.Altogether good value.

Over the past few years I have started to see more and more cultural items from China appearing in the United States. The Buddhas and other religious artifacts are familiar to me, but I have noted other items from time to time, such as propaganda posters or statues depicting some sort of Chinese scene that didn't make any sense to me. This book has provided me invaluable information on what those items mean, both in isolation and in the context of Chinese history. I am glad that I bought the book before I saw the review by "Collector". His/her criticisms suggest that he/she did not read the entire book, or not carefully. The authors are careful to point out that there is a large problem with fake Cultural Revolution items (the Chinese have proven adept and making replicas of Ming vases that fool the large auction houses, so that's no surprise) and that because even the authentic ones are of recent vintage so it is very difficult, and perhaps impossible, to know for certain that a particular item is authentic. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, both the pictures and captions that describe each item and the text that provides historical context on their meaning and contemporaneous events in China. I did not expect the book to be an exhaustive guide to how to determine the authenticity of items, and enjoyed the overview of Chinese history and the item explanations immensely. I finished the book immensely informed, and I will recommend it to my friends and no doubt consult it in the future when new items pique my interest.

It has to be pointed out that Peter Wain, the noted scholar of Cultural Revolution porcelain, wrote of this book that 'all of the illustrated ceramics are fake. A few were made from the original moulds but the majority are newly modelled figures ...'. Wain also says 'The record has to be put straight before this book and others in a similar vein are given credibility by the passage of time'. [Orientations, May 2006, p.90]

Another wonderful book from Schiffer!Wonderful photos and good printing in a hard cover format. My favorite part of the book was the research of the authors in the communist symbolism of the items, described with a very intelligent and neutral approach and presentation. Their comments

make you think, understand and get familiar with many details, peeking inside the party intrigues and describing this difficult and controversial time in ChinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s history. A good book about art does exactly that - helps us understand the importance of a time period and how the art fits in.Additionally, the book gives a general orientation about the price of these CR pieces. Although the subject matter of some of the items is troubling, I take them as a combination of kitsch and historically interesting items (the balance of those two in the eyes of the beholder).The book has a big value, not only because gives information about the prices from the ex-communistic world, but it reminds us of the value of unique items and shows things from China that are not just mass-produced products offered in Wal-Mart for dirt cheap.

I fully agree with the comments of "Collector". To be a useful reference/guide book for the general collectors, techniques on how to distinguish authentic and new reproductions are of great importance. But this book obviously fails to do so. Besides, offering a reference price for the collectibles are always misleading in particular for the volatile cultural revolution relics market. A "star" system according to the rarity of the items would be much more useful in this respect. If you are not interested in collecting CR relics, you may still buy this book to enjoy its colorful pictures though. No harm at all but no gain either!

I have for many years been collecting Mao memorabilia, however there is so little information available on what was available or the value of the items. This book is the only one I ever came accross this so much information and pricing. Well documented, good descriptions and pictures.

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