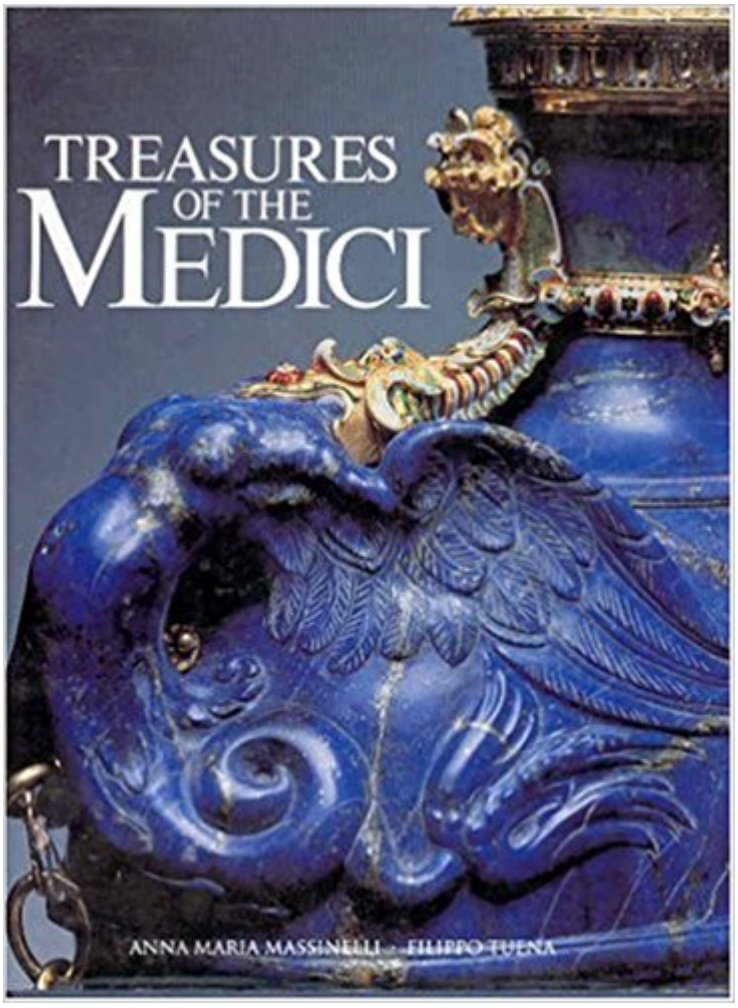
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Treasures Of The Medici



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Synopsis

A collection of aesthetic wonders from the first family of the Italian Renaissance.

Book Information

Hardcover: 239 pages

Publisher: Vendome Pr; First edition (November 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0865651353

ISBN-13: 978-0865651357

Product Dimensions: 1 x 9.2 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,585,538 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > Naples #172 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > Florence #952 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Appreciation

Customer Reviews

Patrons to three centuries of sculptors, carvers, and gold- and silversmiths, the fabled Medici family of Florence amassed an enormous collection of precious objets d'art during their lengthy reign. After the last of the Medici line died in the early 18th century, the collection suffered a series of depredations, thefts, and dispersals. Today its remains are scattered throughout several European museums. On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the patriach Lorenzo the Magnificent's death, Massinelli and Tuena have compiled this history of Renaissance art patronage and catalog of a once-grand collection whose provenance has been all but destroyed. With large color photos of the intricate objects and thorough profiles of the individuals responsible for their acquisition, this book is both a fascinating catalog of fine artesanal workmanship as well as an intriguing study of the psychology of wealth and materialism in early modern Europe. A good choice for collections needing material on antiquities and Renaissance art.- Douglas F. Smith, Oakland P.L., Cal.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Italian

The review by the Library Journal is an accurate description of this book. I found it filled with large color photos that are closeups so that you can see the workmanship. I really liked that the authors

went to various collections to reassemble what was once a single collection by generations of the Medici family. After this book, you can see why all the royal houses of Europe created their own collections and attempted to add new categories of decorative arts. The book is a visual feast with descriptions of the objects and a text recapping the history of the family members who added to the treasury with the exception of the two Medici Popes whose purchases are in the Vatican.If you enjoy the brief history of the Medici family in this book, there are a lot more details in "Medici Money" by Tim Parks. Pope Leo's activities are detailed in "White Robe, Black Robe" by Charles Mee which explains how they became the basis for Luther's Reformation conflict with him.Update 10/2013 If you like these over-the-top objects, the Hapsburgs had thousands designed by the best craftsmen in Europe. Their collection spanned centuries. I just returned from Vienna where I toured the Hapsburg Treasures in the Kunsthistoriches Museum. Some copies of items in this book and most of the items in Princely Treasures were on display. Many others were being shown. I purchased the book Hapsburg Treasures which shows many more objects in large photos. I think the 2 books compliment each other and if you like decorative arts you will want to have both.I used the zoom on my camera from 18" away to see tiny chips of ruby, emerald, etc embedded in the surface which were not visible to my naked eyes. The beauty and intricacy of many parts of these objects is breathtaking. Some ivory and glass objects are 6 ft. tall.If you can't see these in person, you can tour the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Both in Vienna and Minneapolis I noticed that children and even adults who generally don't have an interest in decorative objects were enthralled and excited. So show the book around and have some fun watching the reactions.

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