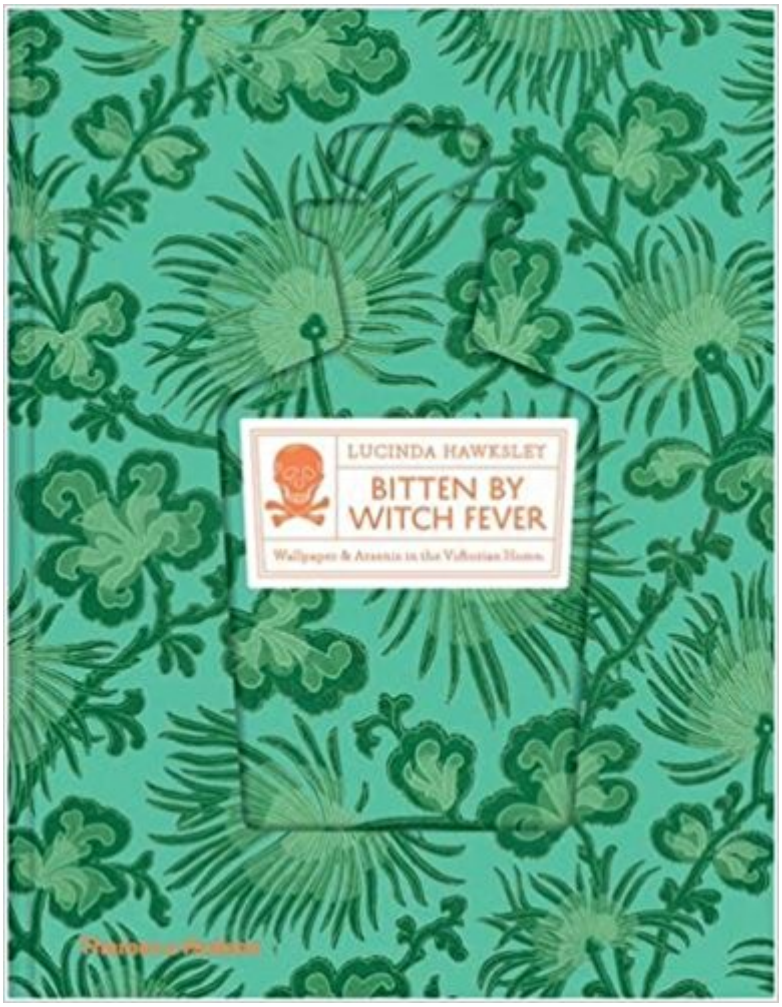
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Bitten By Witch Fever: Wallpaper & Arsenic In The Nineteenth-Century Home



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Synopsis

The shocking story of a deadly trend in Victorian wallpaper design, illustrated by beautiful and previously unseen arsenic-riddled designs from the British National ArchivesIn Germany, in 1814, Wilhelm Sattler created an extremely toxic arsenic and verdigris compound pigment, Schweinfurt greenÃ¢â ¬â œknown also as Paris, Vienna, or emerald greenÃ¢â ¬â œwhich became an instant favorite amongst designers and manufacturers the world over, thanks to its versatility in creating enduring yellows, vivid greens, and brilliant blues. Most insidiously, the arsenic-laced pigment made its way into intricately patterned, brightly colored wallpapers and from there, as they became increasingly in vogue, into the Victorian home. As its use became widespread, commercial arsenic mines increased production to meet the near-insatiable demand. Not least of which was the UKÃ¢â ¬â„¢s largest mining plant, DGC whose owner was William Morris, originator of the British Arts and Crafts movement and arguably the finest wallpaper designer of his generation.Bitten by Witch Fever (MorrisÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own phrase to dismiss arsenic- and- wall-paper-related public health concerns in 1885) tells this fatal story of Victorian home dÃƒÂ©cor, building upon new research conducted especially for this book by the British National Archive, on their own samples. Spliced between the sections of text are stunning facsimiles of the wallpapers themselves. 350+ illustrations, 250+ in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Replicates the papersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ hues and texture, with meticulous color-matching and

heavyweight stock, interspersing color-themed sections with booklets that relate the history and uses of the poison.Ã¢â ¬Â• - The Wall Street JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“FascinatingÃ¢â ¬Â¦ Perhaps the ultimate answer as to why arsenic-laced wallpaper continued to proliferate the market for so long lies in their undeniable aesthetic appeal. Dangerously beautiful yes, but with an allure that stands the test of timeÃ¢â ¬â ¢and should serve as an enduring warning for all.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Vogue.comÃ¢â ¬Å“Tells the story of the extensive use of arsenic in the 19th century [and] includes pictures of objects and artworks made from substances that incorporated arsenic, and advertisements for arsenic-filled products for Victorian women, such as soap with a doctorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s certificate to ensure its harmlessness.Ã¢â ¬Â• - The Atlantic.comÃ¢â ¬Å“An unnerving account of an unexpected killer in the elaborately decorated homes of Victorian England: arsenic-laced wallpaperÃ¢â ¬Â¦The bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gorgeous wallpaper facsimiles give no hint of their toxicity; they beautifully evoke Victorian style with their ornate patterns and rich, vivid colors, illustrating why these papers, and specifically their green shades, were so popular.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Publishers Weekly

Lucinda Dickens Hawksley is the author of three biographies of Victorian artists: Lizzie Siddal, Kate Perugini (nÃƒÂ©e Dickens), and Princess Louise. Lucinda is a regular lecturer at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Beautiful book,, amazing printing and excellent writing

Absolutely beautiful book of lovely Victorian wallpapers with an historically interesting story. Perfect condition.Thank you

Absolutely sumptuous.

Love the history and images. Even my non-design motivated husband enjoyed it. Clever title and fascinating context.

Perfect!

thank you

Beautiful book

The prints in this book absolutely beautiful. Full page prints make up the bulk of the book and there are little booklets throughout that detail the history of arsenic and arsenic based dyes. If you like this book and want more information on arsenic use in the Victorian era I would recommend The Arsenic Century by James C. Whorton (also available on).

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