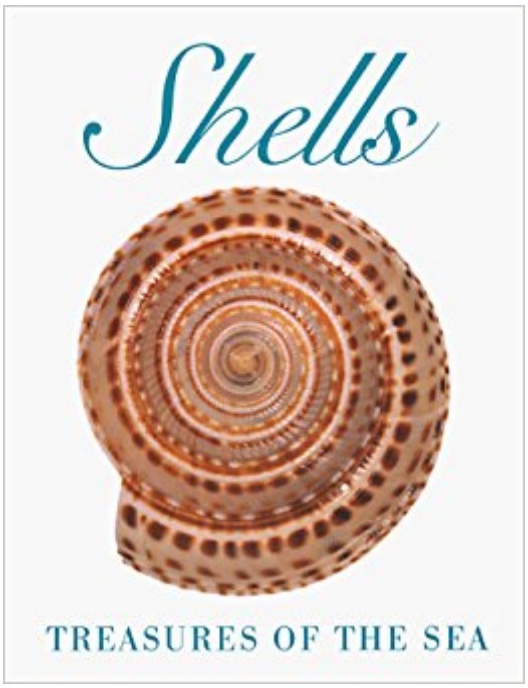
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Shells



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Synopsis

Nature has created an almost infinite variety of life in the sea, and seashells are the prize of this vast environment. From the extradordinary architectural detail of the chambered nautilus to the varied hues of the senatorial scallop, Shells: Treasures of the Sea boasts more than 300 color photographs of shells from all over the globe in all their striking diversity. 300 full-color photographs.

Book Information

Hardcover: 310 pages

Publisher: Universe; Beaux Arts Edition edition (July 28, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 088363595X

ISBN-13: 978-0883633519

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 11.5 x 14.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #855,321 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Seashells #206 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Textiles & Costume #1270 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas

Customer Reviews

Hill, a marine biologist and authority on shells, has teamed with nature photographer Pete Carmichael to produce this exquisitely lovely survey of the world's shells, combining hundreds of spectacular color photographs, many taken underwater, with a richly informative text. Beginning with mollusks' evolution from flat worms more than 600 million years ago, they explore the genetics of shell coloration and patterning, shell architecture, the biology and reproduction of mollusks. Special sections are devoted to a history of shell collecting; freshwater mussels of U.S. rivers and their close association with fish; shell money ranging from the Solomon Islands to Native American wampum; and pearls. Along with astonishing photos of exotic specimens, there are many examples of shells used in art, ritual and everyday life, for example, Victorian thimble-holders made from cut nautilus, an Ethiopian dance belt, the sacred chank shell of India, blown as a trumpet to drive away evil spirits, or 19th-century sailor's valentines, octagonal, glass-covered shell mosaics bought in foreign ports by American sailors and whalers for sweethearts back home. This book will delight shell collectors and prove to be a revelation for the general reader. Copyright 1996 Reed Business

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Few objects in the natural world rival the astonishing beauty of seashell forms, and in Hill's sumptuously oversize book overflowing with gorgeous photographs, that fact is declared in no uncertain terms. If collecting shells as art objects remains a popular pastime, the reason why is obvious after even a brief glimpse of the captivating sculptural qualities exhibited by the seashells shown here. From shimmeringly smooth to roughly ridged, with iridescent colors and mysteriously complex shapes and patterns, the glorious diversity of shells clearly merits a spectacular book such as this one. Hill's commentary provides scientific background on mollusks to further enhance the visual feast, while rare images show living creatures in their watery environment. A fine resource for collectors and naturalists alike. Alice Joyce

Disappointed, love the book, but I ordered it as it appeared in the picture, it came with a black cover, which does go with my decor and I wanted it for a table top book.

This is a spectacular coffee table book for anyone who' s the least bit interested in shells. It is enormous and packed with breathtaking photos in rich color on glossy stock. The text is as fascinating as the pictures.The book features a wide variety of shells, many I have never seen before. It has full-page close-ups of individual shells and several shell collages. It also shows the shells as living creatures in their natural habitat.Another section has many examples of shells in art including jewelry and postage stamps. There is a detailed caption for each photo. Many of these describe the life of the creature as well as the characteristics of the shell.If you can tear yourself away from the pictures, the text is equally impressive. It covers evolution, the animals inside, shell structure and classification. It also includes chapters on shell collecting and shells in human culture.

I have just started collecting shells, and this book has been a great source of knowledge about the subject. The pictures are absolutely beautiful, the paper in which they have been printed is very good and the text is mighty clear. This book is likely to be an excellent present even for non-collectors due to its beauty.

I can not say enough about this book. Open to any page and you will see something new or never noticed before. The pictures are amazing and the variety outstanding. This book is a wealth of knowledge about shells on land and in the sea.

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