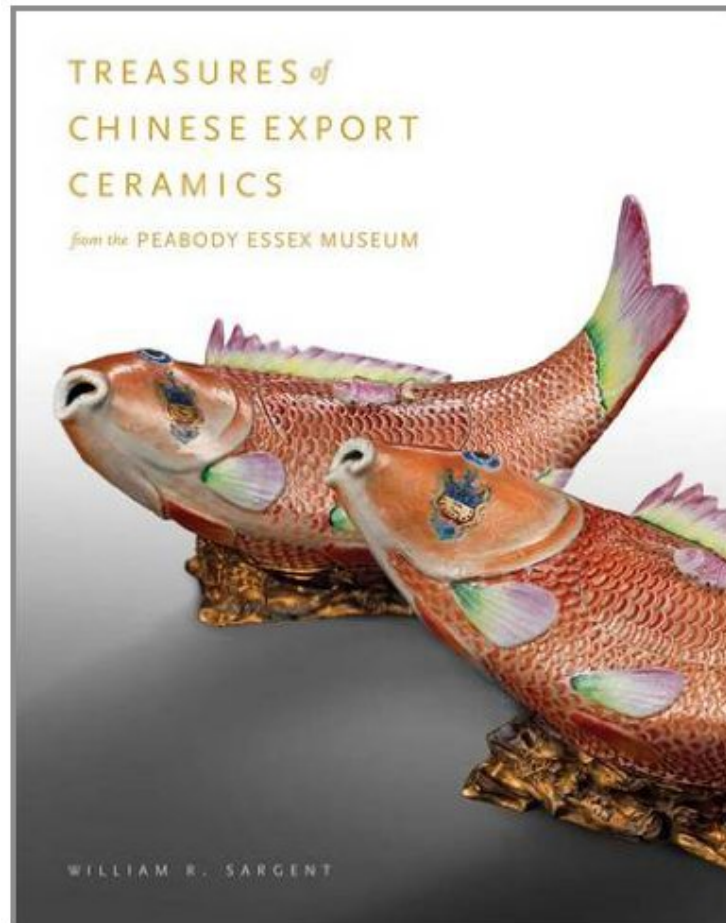


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Treasures of Chinese Export Ceramics: From the Peabody Essex Museum

William R. Sargent

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#1609572 in Books Yale University Press 2012-05-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.80 x 9.80 x 12.30l, 7.95 #File Name: 0300169752568 pages | File size: 51.Mb

William R. Sargent : Treasures of Chinese Export Ceramics: From the Peabody Essex Museum before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Treasures of Chinese Export Ceramics: From the Peabody Essex Museum:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. valuable overview of Chinese export porcelain By Ivor E. Zetler The trade in Chinese export porcelain began in earnest in the sixteenth century with the advent of sea voyages between Europe and Asia. Initially the designs were in blue and white and intended primarily for the Asian market. These wares were mainly purchased by the wealthy and royalty. The trade expanded markedly in the seventeenth century. An example given in the introductory chapter of this book describes that "by 1636 a fleet of six ships set sail from the Dutch East India Company's Indonesian headquarters in Batavia for the Netherlands carrying 259,380 pieces of porcelain". With the flourishing of the market in such goods, models and designs were sent from Europe and latterly

from America to Chinese factories to be copied and mass produced. In the west, the porcelain was expensive and highly prized. This large and weighty book showcases the highlights from the Peabody Essex Museum. This museum was founded in 1799 by sea captains and its collection of Chinese export ceramics is world renowned. After the informative introductory essays the bulk of the book consists of high quality color reproductions and descriptions of 287 examples of the museum's porcelain objects. These items come in a large variety of designs and decorative styles. Given the mass production of the porcelain, it is only fair to observe that the production standards were often quite rough and ready compared to the finest examples manufactured for the home market. This excellently presented volume would serve as a valuable reference for the neophyte (like myself) or for those with a deeper knowledge and interest in this fascinating subject. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **VERY COMPREHENSIVE** By Buys Alot Book is very well illustrated with original photos. Bibliography is exhaustive. The narrative is straightforward and concise. And very well priced. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **Breathtaking** By Jonathan Rickard This is a breathtakingly beautiful and comprehensive survey of one of the world's great collections of Chinese ceramics--in the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. The book is large and thick with images that, one after another, astonish with complex artistry and surprising humor. Mr. Sargent is the highly-respected and now retired curator of this collection. In his retirement he has made it possible through this book and through his highly informative lectures for people in far-flung parts of the world to share his passion for these extraordinary pots.

Beginning in the sixteenth century when Portuguese traders started importing blue and white porcelain to Europe, Chinese ceramics manufacturers produced goods specifically for export to the West. The industry flourished through the early twentieth century as the market for fine porcelain expanded in Europe and the Americas. Among the Peabody Essex Museum's founders in 1799 were sea captains and supercargoes involved in extensive trade with Asia, and many of the remarkable examples of export wares they brought back provided a foundation for the Museum's world-renowned collection of Chinese export ceramics. Written by William R. Sargent, a leading expert in the field, *Treasures of Chinese Export Ceramics* is one of the most authoritative sources on this topic. Its scholarly entries on 287 representative objects that date from the fifteenth to the twentieth century are divided into sections by type of ware. Although these examples only hint at the Museum's vast holding, together they encompass its broad range of Chinese export ceramics. An essay on Jingdezhen, the "Porcelain City," by Rose Kerr, a glossary of ceramics terminology, and appendix on armorials, and an extensive bibliography all contribute to making this an invaluable resource.

About the Author William R. Sargent is the former H. A. Crosby Forbes Curator of Asian Export Art at the Peabody Essex Museum. Rose Kerr is Curator Emeritus of the Far Eastern Collection of Chinese Ceramics at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.