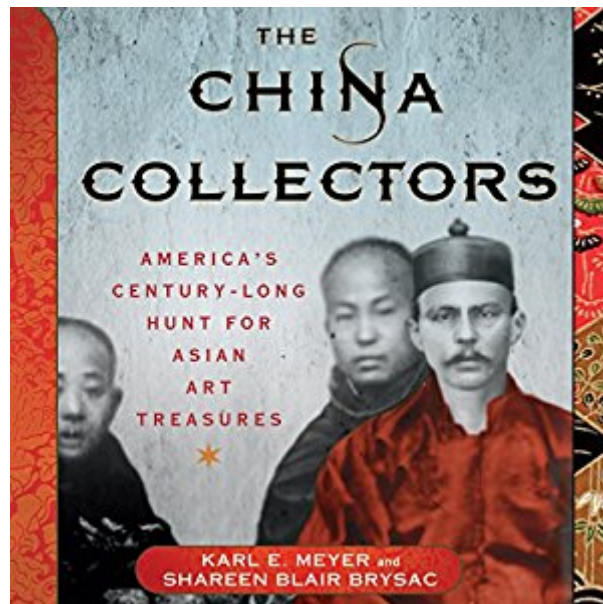


The book was found

The China Collectors: America's Century-Long Hunt For Asian Art Treasures



Synopsis

Thanks to Salem sea captains, Gilded Age millionaires, curators on horseback and missionaries gone native, North American museums now possess the greatest collections of Chinese art outside of East Asia itself. How did it happen? *The China Collectors* is the first full account of a century-long treasure hunt in China from the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion to Mao Zedong's 1949 ascent. The principal gatherers are mostly little known and defy invention. They included "foreign devils" who braved desert sandstorms, bandits, and local warlords in acquiring significant works. Adventurous curators like Langdon Warner, a forebear of Indiana Jones, argued that the caves of Dunhuang were already threatened by vandals, thereby justifying the removal of frescoes and sculptures. Other Americans include George Kates, an alumnus of Harvard, Oxford, and Hollywood, who fell in love with Ming furniture. The Chinese were divided between dealers who profited from the artworks' removal and scholars who sought to protect their country's patrimony. Duanfang, the greatest Chinese collector of his era, was beheaded in a coup, and his splendid bronzes now adorn major museums. Others in this rich tapestry include Charles Lang Freer, an enlightened Detroit entrepreneur; two generations of Rockefellers; Avery Brundage, the imperious Olympian; and Arthur Sackler, the grand acquirer. No less important are two museum directors, Cleveland's Sherman Lee and Kansas City's Laurence Sickman, who challenged the East Coast's hegemony. Shareen Blair Brysac and Karl E. Meyer evenhandedly consider whether ancient treasures were looted or salvaged and whether it was morally acceptable to spirit hitherto inaccessible objects westward, where they could be studied and preserved by trained museum personnel. And how should the US and Canada and their museums respond now that China has the means and will to reclaim its missing patrimony?

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hours and 10 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: August 11, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B012H5HMEM

Best Sellers Rank: #152 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Art #4608

Customer Reviews

This is a thoroughly fascinating book about Chinese art -- and more about men and women from America and Europe who collected it (sometimes through looting, especially in the early times) and brought it to collections and museums in the United States. We read about the adventurers, diplomats, curators and others who entered China a century ago and discovered Chinese art that was not recognized in the West. Famous collectors, like J.P. Morgan, Charles Lang Freer and the Rockefellers play important roles, as do Chinese counterparts and suppliers of art like C.T. Loo. We learn about how major museums in Boston, New York, Kansas City, Washington, DC, and elsewhere -- developed what now constitute major collections of Chinese and other Asian art. We also learn about how the Freer Gallery, and later its pair the Sackler Gallery, on the National Mall came about (one of the most entertaining chapters focuses on the life of Arthur M. Sackler). All of this placed in an historical context: the two World Wars, the Great Depression, and naturally Mao's revolution in China all greatly influenced the collecting of Chinese art by Westerners and the commercial and cultural exchanges more broadly. I took a long time reading this book. Partly, it was because I didn't always find the appropriate time to focus on the book (instead, I found myself reading a number of novels in between). Partly it was because I often felt the need to look up particular cultural periods or art works in a reference volume (for this I used Michael Sullivan's gorgeous *The Arts of China*, Fourth Edition). But partly it was also that some of the book was a bit tedious. In particular, I found the early parts of the book on the Boston Brahmins and Harvard in the late-1800s a tad unnecessarily detailed.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The China Collectors: America's Century-Long Hunt for Asian Art Treasures Golden Shores: Treasures Lost, Treasures Found, The Welcoming Clover Hunt: Hunt for real four-leaf clovers The Landscape Painting of China: Musings of a Journeyman (Cofrin Asian Art Series) Rice Cooker Recipes - Asian Cooking - Quick & Easy Stir Fry - Low Sugar - Low Sodium: Bonus: Trader Joe's Ingredients Asian Style Recipes (Rice Rice ... - Healthy Eating On a Budget) The Asian Kitchen: Fabulous Recipes from Every corner of Asia [Asian Cookbook, 380 Recipes] Racial Ambiguity in Asian American Culture (Asian American Studies Today) 18 and Submissive: Amy - Video Gamer Girlfriend Picture Book (Korean Coed, Asian Babe, Cute Japanese Teen, Hot College Competition, Games Console, Young Amateur Pics) (Amy Asian Teen 4) Perfectly 18: Kila - Asian Schoolgirl Slut

(Picture Book, Asian College Coed Babe, Homemade Amateur Pics) Asian Girls: Hot Sexy Asian
Lingerie Girls Models Pictures The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable
Future (Asian Connections) Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century
Collectors Encyclopedia of Hall China, 3rd Edition Collectors Encyclopedia of Homer Laughlin China
Collectors Encyclopedia of Flow Blue China Chinese History Stories Volume 2: Stories from the
Imperial Era (Treasures of China) Picturing the True Form: Daoist Visual Culture in Traditional
China (Harvard East Asian Monographs) Asian Pickles: Sweet, Sour, Salty, Cured, and Fermented
Preserves from Korea, Japan, China, India, and Beyond China Goes Global: The Impact of Chinese
Overseas Investment on its Business Enterprises (The Palgrave Macmillan Asian Business Series)
Empires of Coal: Fueling China's Entry into the Modern World Order, 1860-1920 (Studies of
the Weatherhead East Asian Institute)

[Dmca](#)