

Three Centuries of Tradition: The Renaissance of Custom Sporting Arms in America

Mark Silver, Wallace Gusler
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#3155773 in Books 2003-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 .89 x 11.32 x 9.76l, #File Name: 1857592891192 pages | File size: 38.Mb

Mark Silver, Wallace Gusler : Three Centuries of Tradition: The Renaissance of Custom Sporting Arms in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three Centuries of Tradition: The Renaissance of Custom Sporting Arms in America:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Splendid overview of this tradeBy RGMacThis is the companion catalog to an important and long awaited exhibit of some of the most exquisite firearms ever made in modern times, which was held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The photography is stunning, the biographical and technical texts written by Wallace Gusler and Mark Silver are excellent and highly instructive, and the entire spectrum of decorated firearms is ably represented. Firearms enthusiasts of every inclination will find something in here that will make them mute with wonder. Anyone with the least interest in fine firearms as an art form will be very sorry indeed if he doesn't pick up a copy of this (probably soon to be scarce) volume. It belongs alongside Wilson's "Steel Canvas", and is really in some ways a more important work, marking one of the very few times that professional fine arts academia has shown a serious interest in firearms as other than oddities to be explained away politically, or shunned outright. The incredible beauty and artistic sophistication in evidence here make it plain that these firearms, and hundreds like them not available for this publication, deserve a place on the front rank of any of the decorative art forms man has produced. Not to be overlooked is the touching and entirely appropriate homage to John Bivins, who can rightly claim to have been one of perhaps five or six souls who diligently resurrected the craft of the American longrifle when it was on the very brink of extinction in the early 1960's. "First among equals", John's legacy will live forever and this book is a fitting testament to his contribution. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unbelievably good!By Happy TenI suggest you read the excellent review by R McNabb. He really gives an

outstanding summation of this incredible book. I noticed the prices of the book are higher than when it was published. While I normally hate to see prices above the originally published price, this book might be the exception...it's just that good! I'm a stickler for good photography and whoever did the work on this book is the benchmark for outstanding photos. The reproduction and printing are also outstanding. Of course, it didn't hurt that the photos are of some of the most amazing firearms out there. Highly recommend this book!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Classic!

By Phil Shoemaker

One of the best books ever in the field of custom firearms? Fantastic photos of the very best antique and contemporary guns and rifles.

The art of custom gun-making has always been an important part of European and American decorative arts, with its unique combination of woodcarving, silver and gold work, ornamental ironwork and inlay. Taking influences from the spectacular hunting arms that were both symbols of status and taste for European nobility, this tradition continued in the US throughout the early 19th century. In the 1950s, the craft experienced a new renaissance, spurred on by the nostalgia for the earlier sporting arms; the result is a wealth of styles made between 1640 and 1940. Published to coincide with the exhibition opening at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 2003, this title illustrates some of the most impressive and artistic examples of sporting arms made between the 17th and 20th centuries. Each piece is reproduced in full colour, alongside details that focus on particularly intricate parts of the sporting arm's design. With an informative and accessible text, this volume serves as an essential, historical, stylistic and technological guide to the art of gun-making.

About the Author

Mark Silver is a custom gun-maker, specialising in American, British and Continental sporting and high art fire arms from the late 17th century to the 20th. Wallace Guslar is Master Gunsmith at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.