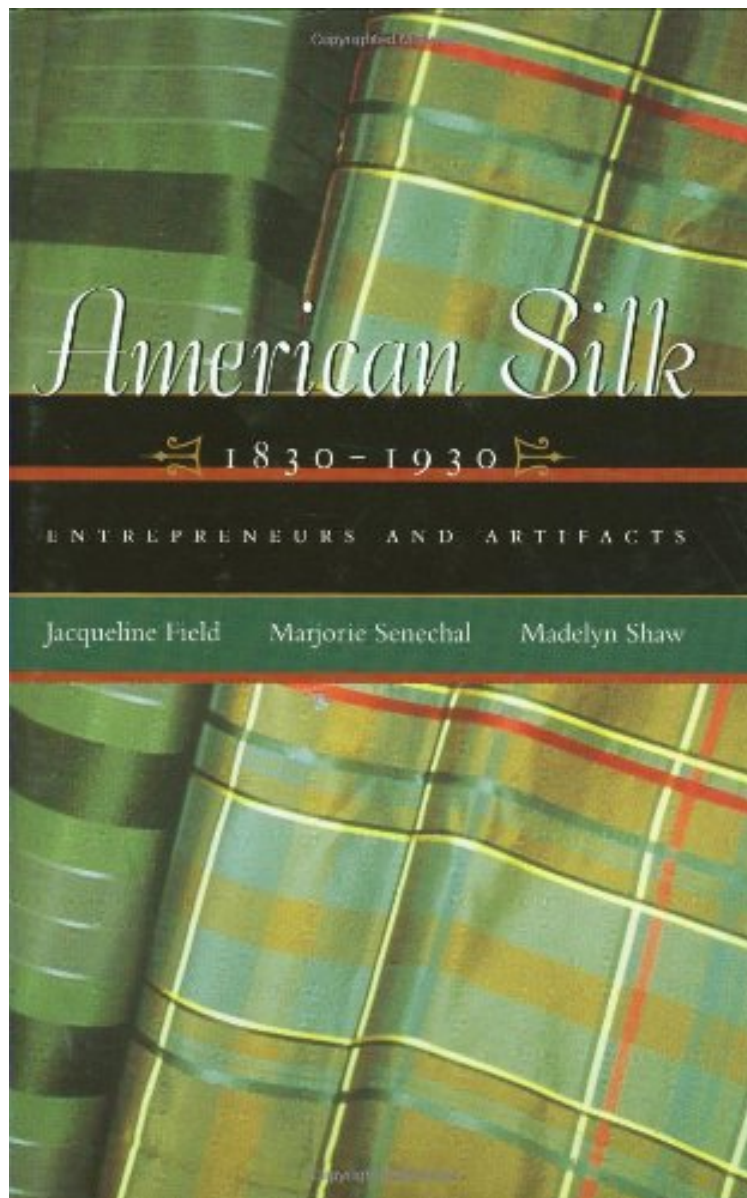


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American Silk, 1830-1930: Entrepreneurs and Artifacts (Costume Society of America Series)

Jacqueline Field, Marjorie Senechal, Madelyn Shaw
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Jacqueline Field, Marjorie Senechal, Madelyn Shaw : American Silk, 1830-1930: Entrepreneurs and Artifacts (Costume Society of America Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Silk, 1830-1930: Entrepreneurs and Artifacts (Costume Society of America Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A key college-level title
By Midwest Book Review
Co-authored by a former costume curator, a professor of math and science history, and a costume curator, three top authors create a high-quality scholarly analysis of an industry in AMERICAN SILK 1830-1930: ENTREPRENEURS AND ARTIFACTS. At one time America's silk industry was the largest in the world, so even though it hasn't nearly the stature today, it's an essential piece of American and business history. Here three case studies of silk company production mills span the heyday of the silk industry era and cover the technological and social issues surrounding silk. A key college-level title for any holding serious about American and American business history.
6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. American Silk - New Family History
By Benjamin E. Haskell
I went right to the middle section of this book to read about The Haskell Silk Mills in Westbrook, Maine. Why? Because my Great Grandfather Edwin Haskell was the founder. Excellent research by the author and her obvious love of the subject matter gave us, the Haskell descendants, an incredible look at the success and subsequent failure of this local business. I learned much more about my forebears and the operation of the mills than I had picked up anecdotally all these many years. If you have an interest in the textile industry in New England or in fact, anywhere. This is a wonderful read about the days before the synthetics came to town.
Ben Haskell
Brewer, ME
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. informative
By Carol Franklin
If you are interested in the textile industry in the USA this is a great book that gives you the background of early entrapanuers trying to make this country independent of foreign goods. Well written

At one time America's silk industry was the largest in the world. Silk was late to be industrialized, well after cotton and wool. Nonetheless, nineteenth-century American entrepreneurs rapidly built a silk industry with levels of production once unimaginable. American Silk, 1830–1930 traces the evolution of the American silk industry through three compelling and very different case studies: the Nonotuck Silk Company of Northampton, Massachusetts; the Haskell Silk Company of Westbrook, Maine; and the Mallinson Silk Company of New York and Pennsylvania. The mills specialized in different products, from sewing-machine twist and embroidery threads to mass-produced plain silks and high fashion fabrics. The case studies span the development of the U.S. silk industry from its beginnings in the 1830s to its decline in the 1930s. Starting in the 1920s with the growth of rayon, the first of the synthetic imitators, the market share for silk shrank, and silk gradually returned to being a luxury at the top of the hierarchy of fabrics. But, for a time, American technological innovations and entrepreneurs succeeded in bringing the pleasure and aesthetic of silk within the reach of more people than ever before.

American Silk, 1830-1930: Entrepreneurs and Artifacts by Jacqueline Field, Marjorie Senechal, and Madelyn Shaw was announced as winner of the 2008 Millia Davenport Publication Award at the Costume Society of America annual symposium in New Orleans on May 23. Through case studies of three pivotal companies, American Silk tells the little-known story of an American industry that thrived for a century and whose death knell was sounded only by the advent of rayon, the first of the silk-like synthetic fibers. (TechAnnounce 7/8/08) "Part of the Costume Society of America Series, this book represents a major step toward involvement in the broader field of textile history." -- Laurence F. Gross, Technology and Culture Fall 2008
About the Author
Jacqueline Field is a former costume curator and professor of textiles and design at Westbrook College. Her recent published articles on dress and textiles include "Dyes, Chemistry, and Clothing; The Influence of World War One on Fabrics, Fashions, and Silk." A professor of mathematics and history of science and technology at Smith College, Marjorie Senechal is the author of several books, most recently Silk Unraveled!
Madelyn Shaw curates the Costume and Textile collection at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. Her most recent publication is "Silk in Georgia, 1732–1840: From Sericulture to Status Symbol."