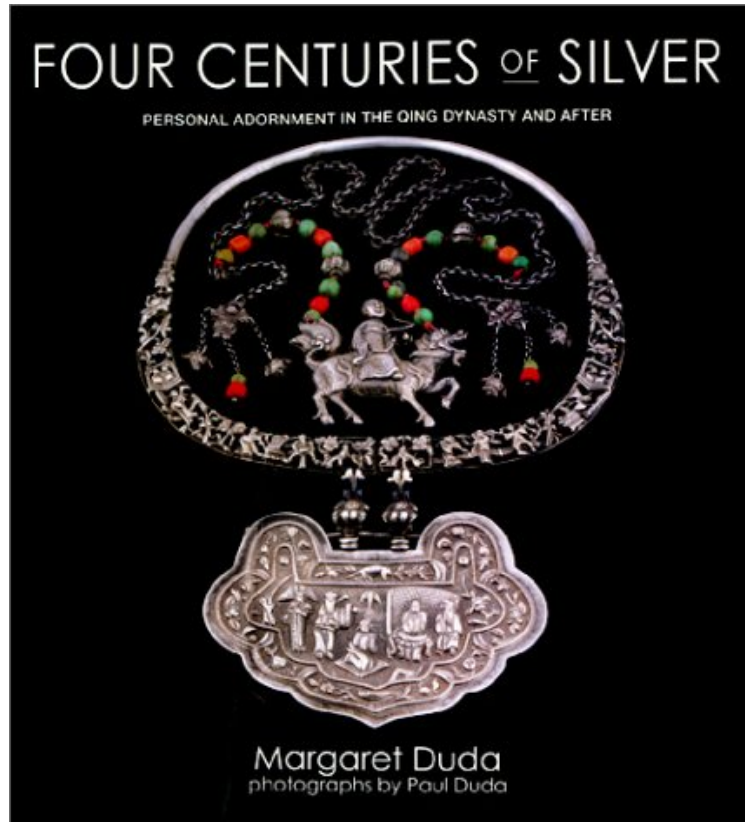


Four Centuries of Silver

Margaret B. Duda

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Margaret B. Duda : Four Centuries of Silver before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four Centuries of Silver:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun to read By jennifer Ruffell Very interesting book. Fun to read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful Wonderful book! By 100 Wishes Wonderful well written informative book with stunning photos! Many photos and highly descriptive with history. Highly recommend and worth every penny. Rate A++ 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Written with feeling; Invaluable to the collector By Mothral've drooled over and collected antique Chinese jewelry for over 30 years. Margaret Duda's book is spot-on. Clearly, she is completely in love with Chinese silver and Chinese cultural tradition. You can feel it. Although very portable, this work is monumental in terms of scope. I've learned a lot from it, and it has helped me to recognize rare pieces being sold online on Ruby Lane, Trocadero, and eBay. This book is a must-have for the collector. Although a paperback, the book is a quality publication. The binding and PHOTOGRAPHY, in particular, are excellent. I wish the photographs were larger, but believe they were reduced in size in order to increase their number while minimizing publishing costs. Despite the small images, the photography is so magnificent that the iconography and the quality of the workmanship of individual pieces is visible. One is still able to discern the different styles of the various kinds of pieces. One annoyance is the relegation of image captions to the back of the book, necessitating a flipping back-and-

forth for more information on particular pieces. However, this design decision might have been made to retain the sheer impact of stylistic variety. For example, on a single two-page spread, one is overwhelmed by the expressive potential exercised for bracelets alone. This solid array of images would have been less impressive interlaced with captions. The visual impact is preserved at the expense of the occasional inconvenience of looking up a caption in the back--ultimately, a worthwhile tradeoff. Duda beautifully and *subtly* emphasizes the custodial nature of ownership. The hundreds, possibly thousands, of pieces depicted in *Four Centuries of Silver* were created before and will hopefully outlast our lives. She clearly comes down on the side of preserving pieces in their as-found condition, without modifying the designs in any way. Most of the pieces shown were made with the silversmith's pride on the line, long before the soul-killing advent of the Anglo Industrial Revolution and the "proactive, value-added, synergistic, 'like a boss', bottom-line" American business mentality. These are living pieces many of which will benefit by continued careful use. To that end, one could support arguments favoring sensitive, quality modifications to at least some of them. *Four Centuries of Silver* is an affordable tour-de-force--a work from the heart. Many thanks to the author!

This book is a gorgeously illustrated reference guide to the beautiful silver adornments of Qing dynasty China. From talismans against misfortunes to amulets for security and success, the book reveals the beliefs and creativity of Chinese craftsmen.

About the Author Margaret Duda is a professional writer who has published hundreds of articles and short stories and three books, including articles about Chinese silver for *Ornament and Arts of Asia* magazines. When she is not writing or photographing, Margaret creates multi-cultural jewelry creations for art museum gift shops and boutiques. This book, which combines her interest in writing, photography and adornment, is the culmination of 10 years of research and nine trips to China.