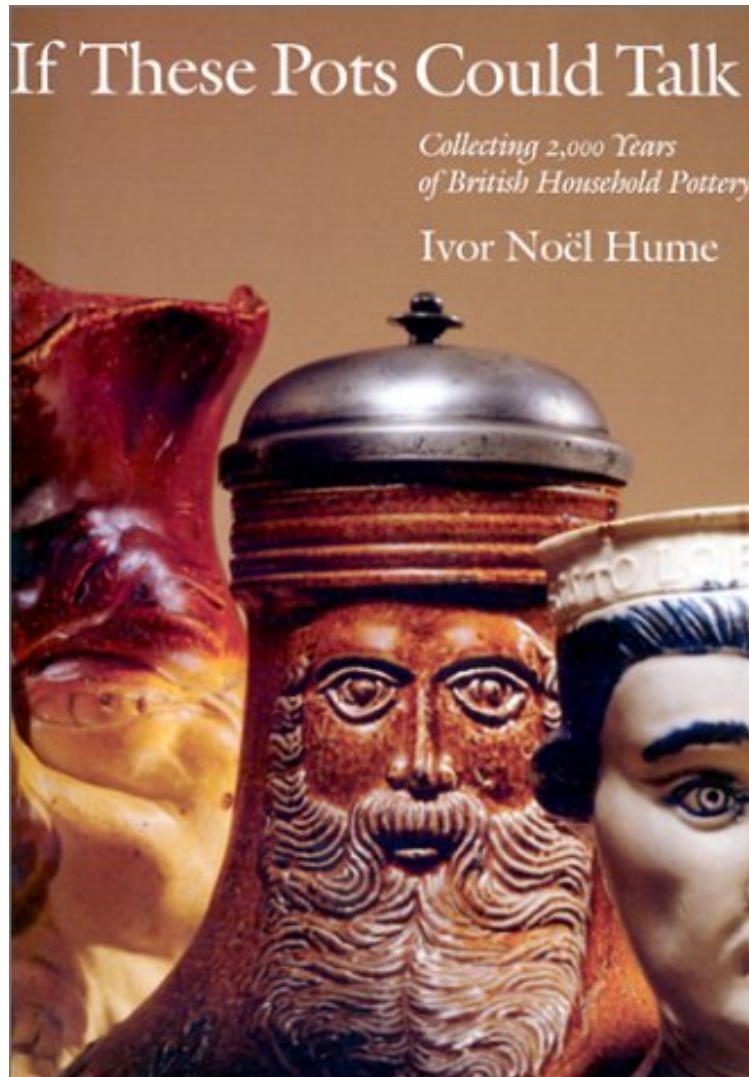


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If These Pots Could Talk: Collecting 2,000 Years of British Household Pottery

Ivor Noel-Hume

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some! "If These Pots Could Talk" is a WINNER! As a relic hunter for the past 39 years, I have personally collected thousands of pottery, and ceramic shards from all over the Charleston S.C. area. I have also pieced together and found some whole pots on my own. And this book has helped me date and identify hundreds of items in my collection. Knowing what you have found and from whence it came is what this book does best. It puts all the puzzle pieces into place and provides the answers that all collectors ask. Such answers as how old, where was it made are what makes this book stand out and shine above all others. Mr. Hume's vast knowledge and expertise in the ceramic field has no competition here. His wisdom shines as do his words, on a part of collecting that a laymen such as myself can now understand. And all because of this beautiful book. And this book is absolutely BEAUTIFUL! The photography and content are unparalleled by any other book. It has no peer, and certainly no other author could make this book's content more interesting and enlightening than Mr. Ivor Noel-Hume. He has no equal. Buy this book and enjoy. Its place in your library will be filled with a marvelous work of art. Mr. Hume has once again produced a literary masterpiece! 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An autobiography masquerading as a book on pottery. By Jonathan Rickard Being quite familiar with much of Noel Hume's previous output, I was bowled over by both the size and scope of his most recent endeavor. In addition, the quality of the illustrations and reproduction make this book one of the great values in publishing today. His stories of discovery with his late wife Audrey are tender and illuminating, both in terms of the way he has lived his life and in the way he teaches. Much of the subject matter involves areas of ceramics used in America; ceramics that, while popular, have still remained below the scope of most academic study. The photos by Gavin Ashworth add considerably to the beauty as well as the information transmitted in this essential volume. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Overview Of British Household Pottery By Claybear One of the better overviews of everyday household pottery I've come across. The author makes it like taking a lively personable tour of pieces from 2000 years ago to the present. Great ideas for potters and a nice presentation for pottery lovers as well

Archaeologist and social historian Ivor Noël Hume brings British history to life through his accessible story about the everyday ceramic objects he and his late wife collected over a 40-year period. *If These Pots Could Talk* presents "a panoramic view of pottery in Britain and her colonies from the landing of the Romans to the bad intentions of the Germans in 1939." Beginning as a novice at London's Guildhall Museum in the immediate postwar years, Noël Hume shares his passion for reconstructing lives from bits and pieces of crockery. He describes in vivid detail the common household pottery he unearthed with a bright graduate of Bristol University and the four decades of collecting (and marriage) that followed. Concentrating on earthenwares, stonewares, and porcelains commonly found in archaeological excavations but uncommonly encountered in decorative arts exhibits, his book runs the gamut from burial urns and chamber pots to wine cups and witch bottles. Cultural and even political history form the warp and weft of the narrative. Written in a personal and often humorous style, this gorgeous and hefty volume will appeal to nonspecialists and experts alike. Wonderful color photographs, largely by noted photographer Gavin Ashworth, enhance the historical and personal commentary. Part catalog, part memoir, *If These Pots Could Talk* is a beautiful tribute to the richness of collecting and the rewards of a true partnership.

From Publishers Weekly A cup for holding caudle ("A drink made from thin gruel, spiced, sweetened, and mixed with ale or wine"), a chafing dish, and even clobbering ("a crude application of heavy overglaze") are potential sources of speech in *If These Pots Could Talk: Collecting 2,000 Years of British Household Pottery*. London-born Ivor Noël Hume (Here Lies Virginia), former chief archeologist at Colonial Williamsburg, presents 648 illustrations (560 in color) of everything from a black Roman-era poppyhead beaker to a thin-walled, brown salt-glazed stoneware "gorge" from the early 18th century and beyond. Organized by use rather than chronology, the 16 chapters take readers from "Broomsticks and Beer Bottles" to "Mentioning the Unmentionables," reconstructing the objects' uses and social contexts along the way. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Written by British-born archaeologist Hume, who collected the pieces featured in this book with his late wife over a period of several decades, this volume contains a wealth of information on British pottery from earliest times to the present. Chapter titles range from "Khnum and Ptah, and the Clay of Life" to "Beyond the Gas Lamps' Glare" to "A Mug's Game," revealing both the tone and the scope of this book. Points discussed in the text are illustrated by references to specific pieces in the author's collection and by photographs of each of the forms examined. Hume discusses where production centers existed, as well as the evolution of color and shape of a given pottery. Every major form of pottery makes its appearance here, and some have a truly fascinating history. Hume goes into detail about decoration and techniques, and this book answers many questions about pottery shapes, form, and function. For all comprehensive art collections and certainly for university collections. Martin Chasin, *Adult Inst.*, Bridgeport, CT Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From the Publisher 9 5/8 x 12 trim. 648 illus. (544 color). LC 2001-001795