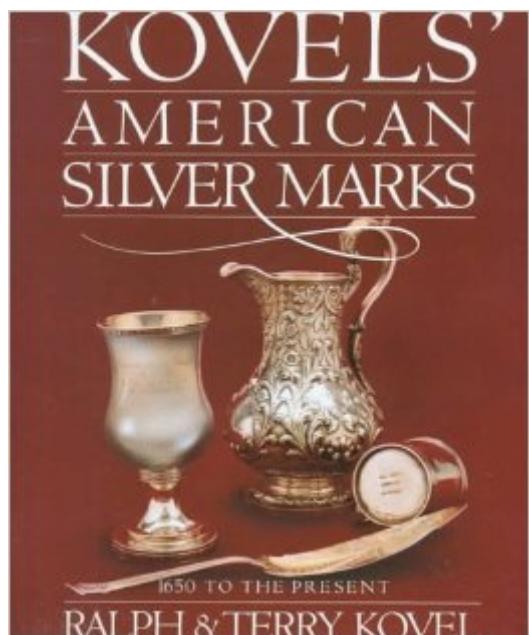


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Kovels' American Silver Marks



Synopsis

What the Kovels don't know about antiques," says House Beautiful, "isn't worth knowing." American silver -- from Grandma's coin silver spoon to Art Deco tea sets -- is becoming increasingly popular, and the Kovels have stepped in with a guide to identifying American silver marks. Before collecting another piece of silver, collect Kovels' American Silver Marks. Almost everyone owns an old piece of silver. Few know the complete history of the piece. Kovels' American Silver Marks is a simple-to-use guide to identifying marks and monograms that appear on silver. Collectors and dealers can quickly determine the maker of a piece of silver. The listings include working dates, location, mark (if known), and bibliographic references to more than 160 books and articles. Makers working from 1650 to the present are included. More than 10,000 silversmiths are listed in alphabetical order, with a cross-indexing system for monograms and pictorial marks, Kovels' American Silver Marks, like Kovels' New Dictionary of Marks -- Pottery & Porcelain, an equally scholarly and useful book, will become a standard in libraries and museums.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is probably the most widely used book on the market for American silver makers/marks; it has thousands of makers with their locations, dates, and for about half of them their marks. There are initial guides at the beginning of each letter's section (these are incomplete, but at least make a start), and simple drawings showing chronological changes in styles for several silver forms (these are problematic, but do at least give a simple framework for beginners). Many dealers use it regularly to identify their pieces. That's the good; what's the bad? It's chock full of mistakes, of several sorts. The information was mostly compiled from other publications with minimal

cross-checking, and has both mistakes from the sources and mistakes of copying over. Dates are a hodge-podge of working dates and life dates, some incomplete, some quite likely just made up by guesswork - but with no indication whether a given one is good or not. The most serious flaw is that this edition replaced the sometimes poor (but sometimes good) hand-drawn marks of the previous edition with typeset versions - so there's no chance at all of comparing different makers' similar marks. This is especially important with the (usually earlier) initial marks. I have a friend who corrects all the mistakes he finds in his copy - there are about as many corrections as there are entries! Serious collectors and dealers will have the six or so shelf-feet of original publications to check such information, and the knowledge to evaluate the different and sometimes conflicting data. I will often carry a copy of this in my backpack when going to shows, knowing that I can interpret from it and using it as a convenient "pocket" reference.

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