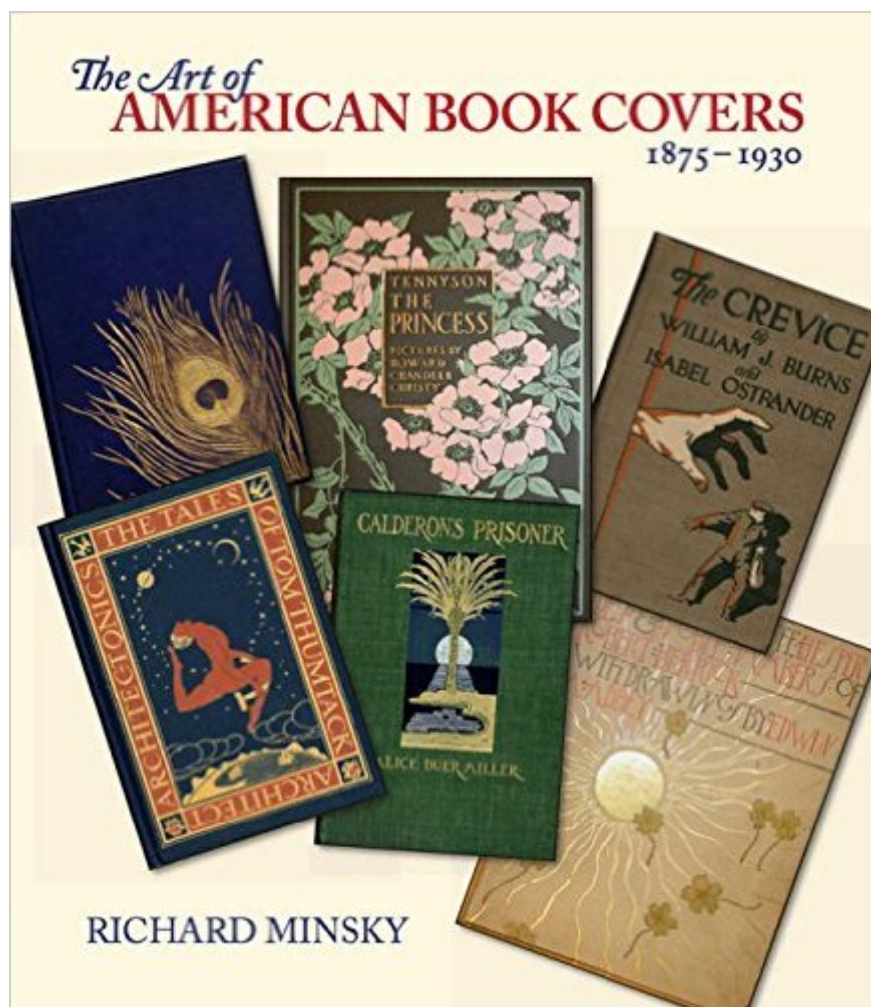


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The Art Of American Book Covers: 1875-1930



Synopsis

Now available in paperback, "this is one book you don't want to miss." "Fine Books & Collections Magazine At the turn of the nineteenth century, book covers were revered as works of art. Publishers commissioned distinguished artists such as Maxfield Parrish and Rockwell Kent to create exquisite covers appreciated by authors and readers alike. The Art of American Book Covers is an entertaining and educational retrospective, lavishly illustrated with more than one hundred full-color plates. 100 Color Illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Minsky's The Art of American Book Covers: 1875-1930 is a work that fully merits the term amazing. He covers one of book publishing's most creative periods, when covers took on some of the qualities of sculpture. Minsky is uniquely qualified to guide us through the history of a time when the book as art merged with the book as industrial object. He was a -- some would say the -- founder of the modern book art movement, whose influence inspired countless artists. He revolutionized the concept of the book by detaching it from its purely literary conventions and concentrating on the ways in which books provoke love and hate in the social milieu by their very existence. Using simple office equipment such as the inkjet printer, he also showed how the author/artist could escape the control of the industrial publishing complex and create works that were products of individual thought rather than groupthink. The Art of American Book Covers mainly consists of the covers themselves, which are shown in full color, along with brief biographical and historical information, but Minsky's introduction -- beautifully illustrated with examples -- is a

remarkably complete yet succinct history of the period, its artists and its main business and intellectual forces. He writes: "In the 1870s book cover art in the United States entered a Golden Age that lasted more than fifty years. Some of the work is startling for its prescience and can be associated with art movements that occurred decades after the books were produced. Publishers commissioned contemporary painters, architects, and stained glass designers to create covers that would grab the eye of bookstore browsers.

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