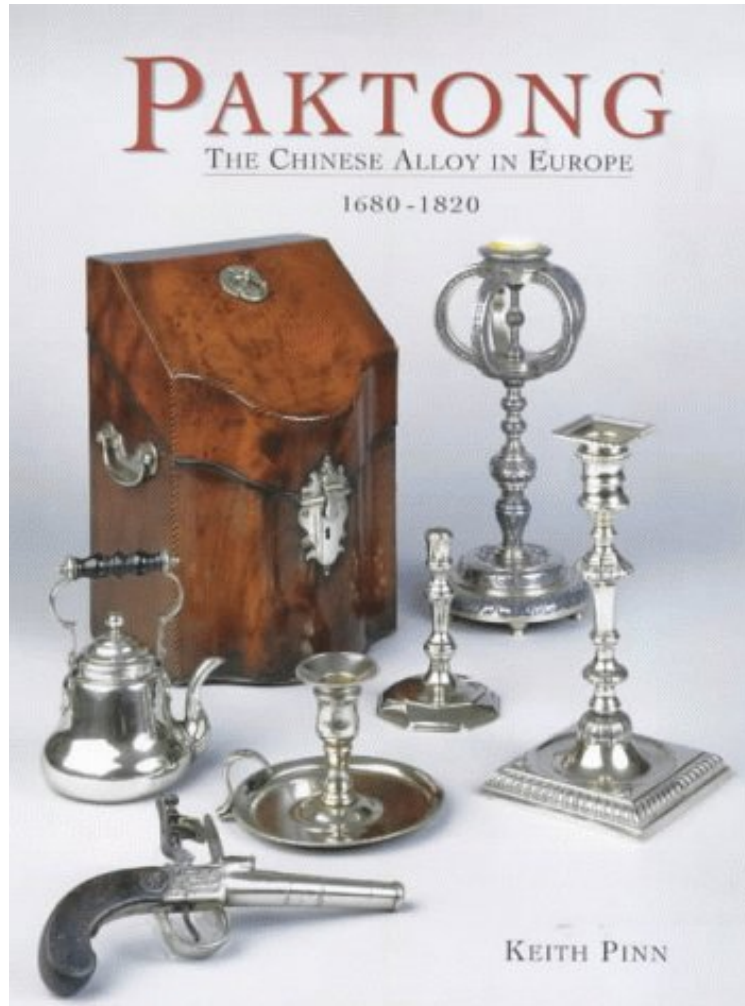


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## Paktong: The Chinese Alloy in Europe 1680 - 1820

*Keith Pinn*

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**Keith Pinn : Paktong: The Chinese Alloy in Europe 1680 - 1820** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paktong: The Chinese Alloy in Europe 1680 - 1820:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very Informative By Deborah Abernethy Keith Pinn, author of Paktong: The Chinese Alloy in Europe 1680-1820, inherited a collection of Paktong from his father to which he has added pieces and done extensive research resulting in this book. Paktong, a rare Chinese alloy of copper, zinc, and nickel, was imported during the 18th century and used by European craftsmen to make wares in imitation of silver. It was not until around 1820 that successful attempts to copy Paktong resulted in what is now known as German silver. This book analyzes the Pinn Collection to identify and understand objects made from Paktong and how these differ and can be recognized from those made of German silver.

Paktong, a rare Chinese alloy imported in small quantities during the eighteenth century, was used by European craftsmen to make domestic objects in imitation of silverware. This metal has been shrouded in mystery since it was first recorded by Western travellers in the seventeenth century. The vital silver-coloured ingredient, nickel, was not identified in the West until the second half of the eighteenth century, and it was to be a further fifty years before scientists were able to perfect a viable imitation of paktong. In more recent times the mystery of paktong has lain in the lack of documentary evidence concerning its use in the Georgian period. This has given rise to many myths and speculative theories about the metal. Now, at last, the author's research among contemporary records has enabled the history of paktong in eighteenth century England to be pieced together. A well-illustrated study and discussion of more than 100 paktong pieces will help readers identify and understand objects made