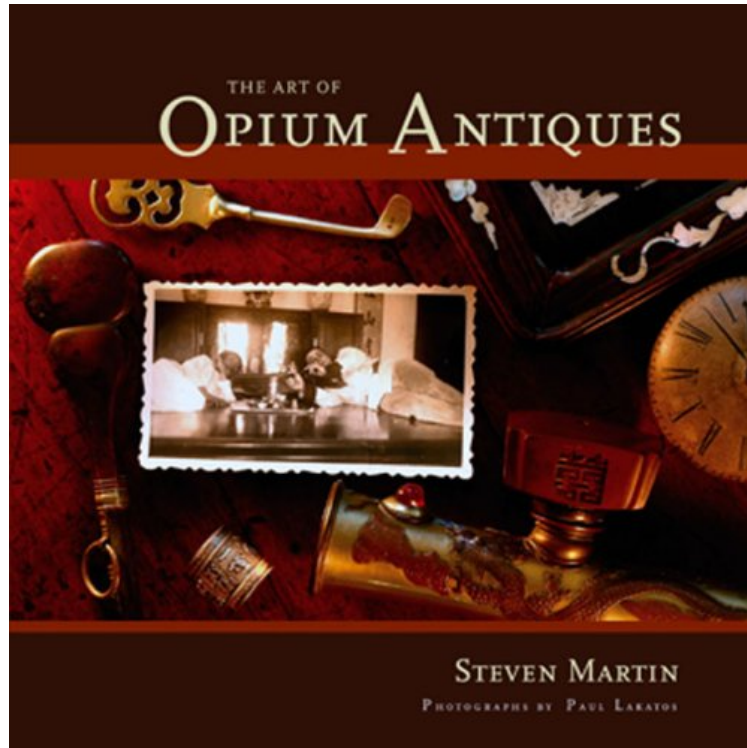


The Art of Opium Antiques

Steven Martin

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Steven Martin : The Art of Opium Antiques before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Opium Antiques:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating!By H. J. RoseSuch a great book! Instead of just relating the well-known disastrous effects of opium, the author of this book brings new insight into the history of the drug by exploring Opium paraphernalia as an art form. It works!We are brought into the mythical Opium dens of a not so distant past, with the rich illustrations of this text. A rare photo of an 1880 Butte, Montana bunkhouse "opium den" is particularly amusing. However, it is the lush photographs of the drug paraphernalia that make this work so worthwhile. The extensive captions that accompany each photograph have enabled the author to not only inform the reader about the use and artistic achievement of these artifacts, but entertain as well.The result is a more humanizing view of the addiction itself. Knowing that these beautiful instruments were the tools in which to feed a deadly addiction gives us another vantage point to view this era of history.Anyone with the an interest in the history of China, the Chinese Diaspora living in the USA in the late 18th/19th century or the history of Southeast Asia will find this book particularly fascinating. The Art of Opium Antiques will be an essential addition to your bookshelf.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good bookBy Kindle Customergood book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GREAT INFO ABOUT A TABOO SUBJECTBy JAMES L. MARTINExtremely well written. Informative, interesting and great photographic illustrations.Everyone needs to followup by reading about this subject and the author with Steven's later written book " Opium Fiend ".

The Art of Opium Antiques explores an aspect of opium that has largely been ignored – the art and accoutrements associated with opium smoking that reached a pinnacle in nineteenth-century China and in Chinese communities abroad, from Saigon to Singapore to San Francisco. For a culture as ancient and rich as that of China, it should come as no surprise that once opium smoking was introduced, the custom would develop its own uniquely Chinese paraphernalia. Over the span of four hundred years, the smoking of opium in China evolved from simple tools and techniques to sophisticated accoutrements. Richly illustrated with photographs of the author's antique collection along with rarely seen historical photographs, The Art of Opium Antiques reveals the remarkable artistry of opium-smoking paraphernalia, including elaborate opium pipes, delicate opium lamps, ornate pipe-bowls, and myriad accoutrements once used for smoking the narcotic. These visually stunning and eminently collectible relics are wonderfully evocative of the romantic Orient of old.

From the Author This is the first book of its kind. Never before has antique Chinese and Vietnamese opium paraphernalia been looked at from the perspective of art. Collectors and aficionados of Asian art will find The Art of Opium Antiques a valuable reference and the only reliable source on this fascinating subject. About the Author ART