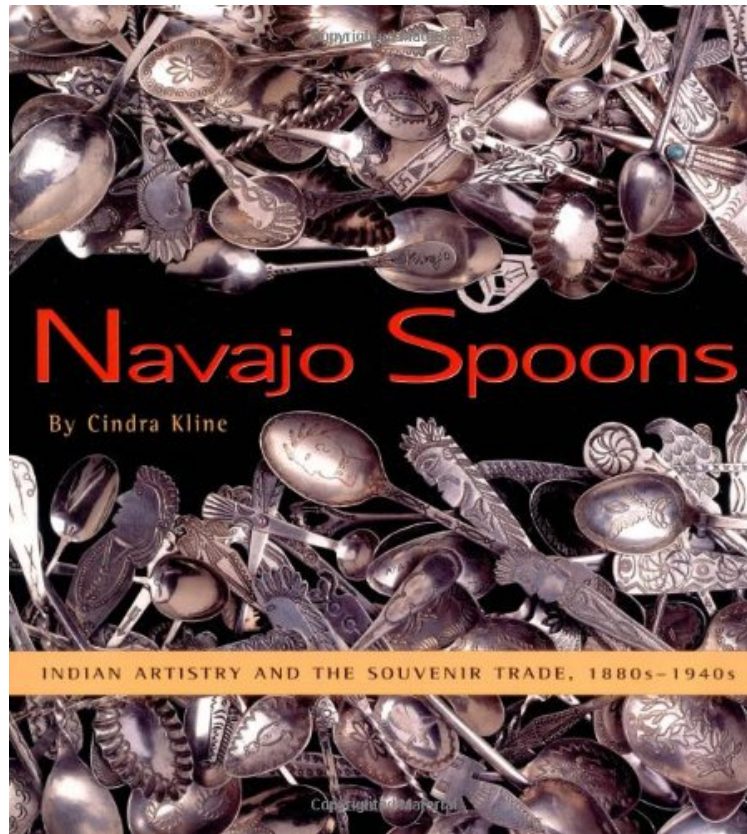


[Download] Navajo Spoons: Indian Artistry and the Souvenir Trade, 1880s-1940s

Navajo Spoons: Indian Artistry and the Souvenir Trade, 1880s-1940s

Cindra Kline

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Cindra Kline : Navajo Spoons: Indian Artistry and the Souvenir Trade, 1880s-1940s before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Navajo Spoons: Indian Artistry and the Souvenir Trade, 1880s-1940s:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ruth K.was hard to find but happy now that I have it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy anonymousFascinating book. Never knew the Navajo nation also hand crafted spoons.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important Addition to the Knowledge of Navajo SilverBy Kim MessierThis ground-breaking book was the first to thoroughly examine one very narrow aspect of southwest Indian arts and crafts. The publication of Navajo Spoons was followed quickly into print by volumes about Tesuque rain gods, Navajo saddle blankets, and Pueblo pottery figurines.Though this appears at first glance to be a book simply about spoons made by Navajo silversmiths, it isnt. Its also about one of the most interesting, and misunderstood, periods of Indian art: the tourist era. Beginning in 1880 and continuing to 1940, railroads, then automobiles, brought an influx of travelers into the southwest, and southwest Natives were encouraged to manufacture inexpensive curios for this tourist market. This era is also one scholars have ignored citing it as

producing non-authentic Native handicrafts and decrying the decline of Native arts. Now more attention is being paid to evaluating those curios in the context of the social and economic climate of the times. The research the author conducted over a five-year span is evident in the pages of the book, even if the Selected Bibliography in the back does not indicate it. What has been missing from publications generalizing Navajo silver manufacture are specifics that help collectors determine the relative age of a vintage piece of silver. By digging through numerous curio catalogs of the time Ms. Kline has revealed two important dates: the thunderbird as a design element appeared only after the Fred Harvey Company copyrighted it as a logo in 1909; and the swastika design, was eradicated from stamped Navajo and Pueblo silver beginning in 1938. Profusely illustrated with fine examples of spoons from the era and beautifully designed, Navajo Spoons fills an important niche in our understanding of Native American silver work.

Profusely illustrated with photographs of over five hundred spoons along with historical images, this book examines the production of silver spoons by Navajo artisans from the 1880s to World War II. The silversmiths brought the highest level of skill and invention to functional teaspoons, servers, and sugar shells, sought after by traders and travelers to the Southwest.