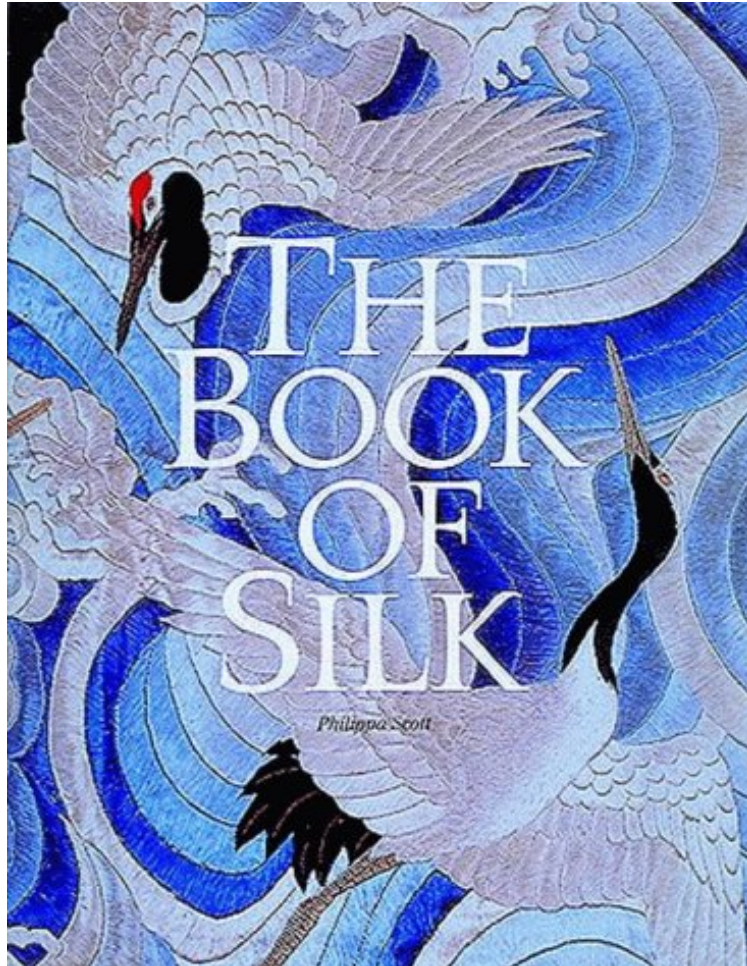


(Free) The Book of Silk

## The Book of Silk

*Philippa Scott*

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**Philippa Scott : The Book of Silk** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Silk:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The book of Silk By tricat Very informative on the history of silk from all parts of the world and periods. A lot of pictures, but would have liked to have seen them all in color in order to appreciate the design more. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best book out there. By FRANKLYMYDEAR Comprehensive, global in scope, this beautiful book maps the landscape, cultural history, and material history of silk. Compared to Mary Schoeser's silk book, which focuses more on contemporary fashion and future uses for silk, this one seems more useful for gaining a deeper understanding of the larger context of silk in the world. The glossary and silk collection directory are particularly valuable.

Luxury, beauty, refinement, sensuality, elegance - silk is synonymous with all of these. No fibre - natural or manmade

rivals its versatility. Silk is light but strong, smooth and soft, supremely adaptable. It can be made wonderfully warm or deliciously cool. It can be dyed with infinite subtlety or boldness. When worn or draped, its fluidity is spellbinding. This book follows the story of this remarkable material through the ages, reproducing hundreds of fabrics, furnishings and garments from all parts of the world. From ancient China, where the secret of reeling silkworm cocoons was first discovered, the narrative leads by the legendary Silk Routes to Byzantium and the Islamic world, to Ottoman Turkey and India - and on to the Renaissance, baroque and rococo silks of western Christendom. In modern times the fashion industry yields a wonderful array of silk designs, from Fortuny and Balenciaga, Poiret and Schiaparelli. At every stage, silk's status as the most prized fabric of all ensured that it commanded the most creative talents of each period, from anonymous Chinese masters to the celebrated dressmakers of France and Italy. A selection of illustrations, many drawn from private collections, reveals silk's omnipresence in couture and decoration, carpets, embroidery and even painting. As traveller, writer, exhibitions organizer and collector, Philippa Scott has been fascinated by silk all her life. She studied textiles at Leicester Art College and is contributing editor of "Hali".

From Library Journal Now that washable silk garments are widely available to the average shopper, there should be interest in the complex history of this luxurious fiber. Textile specialist Scott, herself a collector, has gathered into one volume photographs of more than 200 examples of exotic silk fabrics from all cultures and ages since antiquity. Following the Silk Road from China and Japan through Asia into Europe, the story is as variegated as the rich colors, weaves, and embroideries that were used for the ceremonial or everyday accoutrements of the wealthy and powerful. Brief mention is made of silk usage in the United States. With so much information crammed into a single book, occasional stylistic monotony may be forgiven, but the omission of maps and dynastic chronologies is unfortunate. Included are a useful glossary of terms and techniques, a concise guide to collecting, care, and conservation, and museum and collections lists. This visually appealing book will please curators and costume and textile students. Appropriate for large public and academic collections. - Therese D. Baker, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This book could not exist if not for the sericulture of the *Bombyx mori*, and its ancestor, the *Bombyx mandarina* Moore. For more than 5,000 years, this flightless Chinese moth has spun a cocoon whose fine thread has been called the most remarkable of all natural creations. Unrivalled by any other fiber or fabric, this wonder of strength and versatility is, of course, silk. Throughout the millenia, from its origins in China and Japan to traveling the Silk Road and finally on to Western Christendom, silk has been a symbol of "the best, most royal, most holy, and treasured as an honored gift." This all-encompassing journey traces silk from its origins to contemporary fashion and the French and Italian couturiers. Scott has gathered a captivating selection of illustrations that show silk's versatility for use in clothing, embroidery, and carpets as a painting surface. Coupled with an inclusive text are a detailed reference section of silk terms and techniques; undoubtedly an important offering, this tome is essential to any fine arts collection. Janet Lawrence A sumptuous account. -- Interior Design [S]o richly engaging that its only disadvantage is that it's too big to read in the bathtub. -- Washington Post