

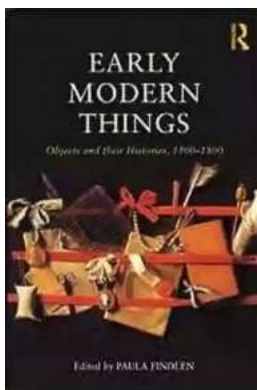
Objects And Their Histories: Exploring Early Modern Themes

Throughout history, objects have played crucial roles in shaping our understanding of the past. From ancient artifacts to contemporary items, they offer insights into the lives, cultures, and societies of the time. In this article, we delve into the fascinating world of objects from the 1500-1800 Early Modern period and explore the themes that define this era.

The Rich Tapestry of Early Modern Objects

The Early Modern period witnessed a remarkable transformation in the material culture. As societies underwent significant changes due to exploration, trade, and globalization, objects became both a symbol of status and a means of personal expression. Whether it was a luxurious portrait, a finely crafted piece of furniture, or an exotic item brought from distant lands, each object had its unique story to tell.

The alt attribute for this image should read "fine china porcelain vase from Ming dynasty"



Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500-1800 (Early Modern Themes)

by Paula Findlen(2nd Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 16911 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 479 pages

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Art and Identity

Artistic expression flourished during the Early Modern era. Artists sought to capture the essence of the period through their works, which often reflected the social, political, and cultural dynamics of the time. Portraits, for instance, became increasingly popular, serving as symbols of power, wealth, and prestige. These

carefully executed paintings not only depicted the physical appearance of the subjects but also conveyed their social standing and aspirations.

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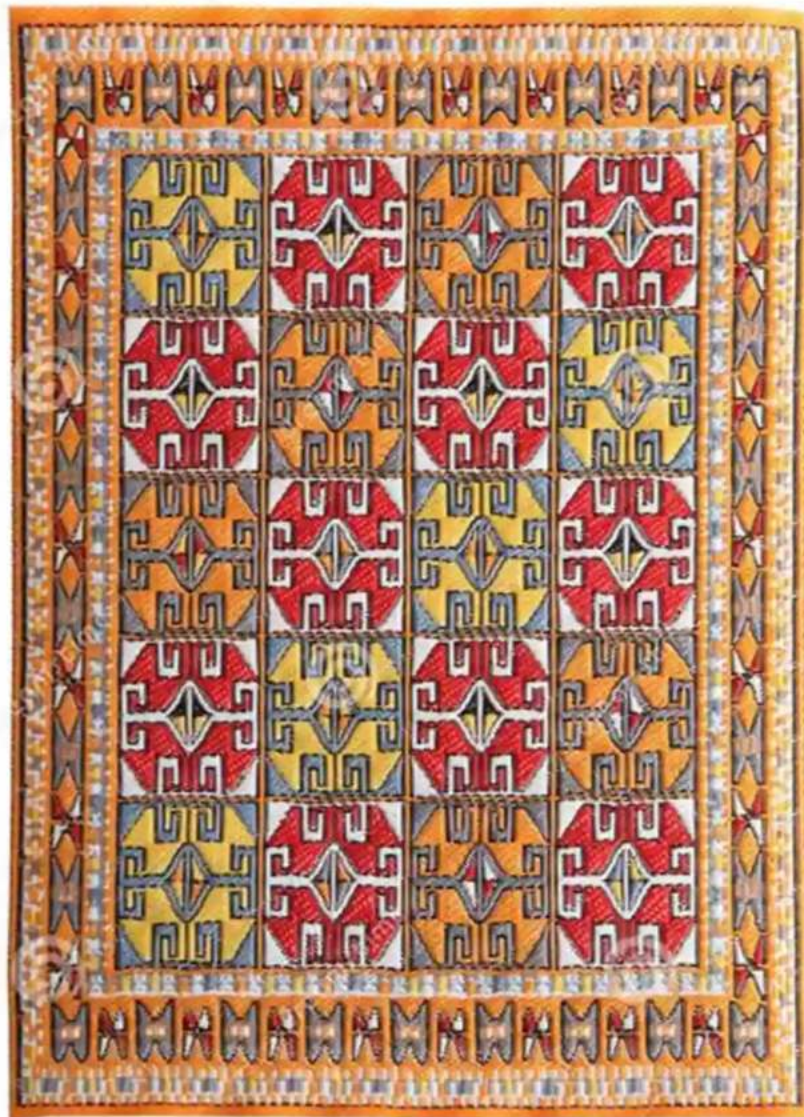


Trade and Global Connections

The Early Modern period was characterized by unprecedented trade and exploration, which brought exotic goods and materials from distant lands to

Europe. This influx of foreign objects had a profound impact on European societies, shaping their tastes, lifestyles, and perceptions. Objects such as silk fabrics, spices, porcelain, and precious metals became highly sought-after, reflecting the expanding global connections and the emergence of a consumer culture.

The alt attribute for this image should read "Arabian silk carpet"



Social Hierarchy and Luxury

Objects during the Early Modern period were often used to establish and reinforce social hierarchies. Luxury items, such as jewelry, furniture, and clothing, became markers of wealth, privilege, and power. The possession of rare and exquisite objects not only elevated one's status but also reinforced distinctions between social classes. These objects served as tangible representations of the social order and played a significant role in shaping the perception of individuals within society.

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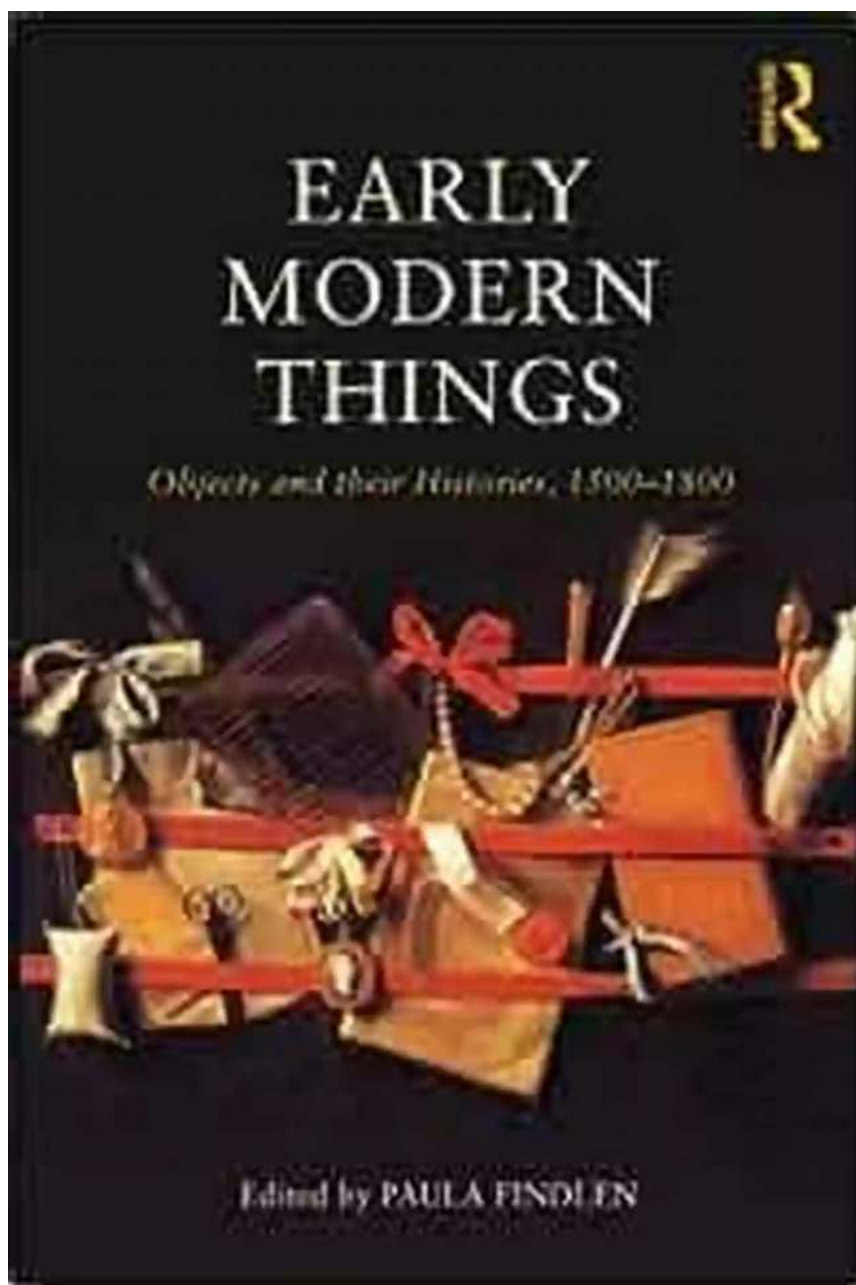


Religious and Scientific Objects

The Early Modern period was a time of significant scientific and religious advancements. Objects related to these fields served as powerful symbols and tools for understanding the world. Scientific instruments, such as astrolabes and telescopes, facilitated groundbreaking discoveries, while religious artifacts, such as crucifixes and reliquaries, were objects of devotion and spiritual contemplation.

These objects played integral roles in shaping religious practices and scientific inquiry.

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Preserving and Understanding Objects

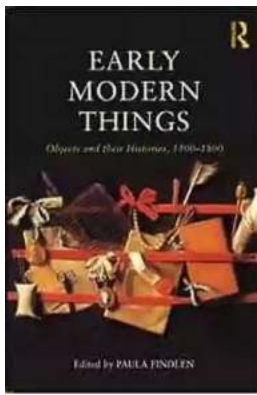
Objects from the 1500-1800 Early Modern period hold immense historical value. They provide us with unique insights into the lives, experiences, and cultures of

the past. Preserving and studying these objects is crucial in understanding our collective heritage and uncovering untold stories. Museums, historical societies, and researchers play a vital role in safeguarding these objects, allowing us to explore and appreciate the rich tapestry of human history.

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Objects from the 1500-1800 Early Modern period offer us a fascinating glimpse into the past. They allow us to explore the themes of art, trade, social hierarchy, religious practices, and scientific advancements that defined this era. By studying and appreciating these objects, we gain a deeper understanding of the historical forces that shaped our world.



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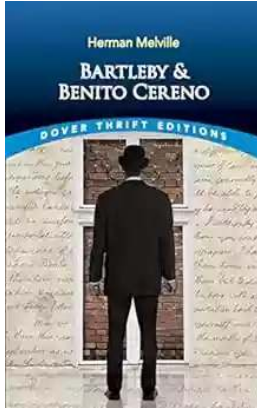
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Early Modern Things supplies fresh and provocative insights into how objects – ordinary and extraordinary, secular and sacred, natural and man-made – came to define some of the key developments of the early modern world.

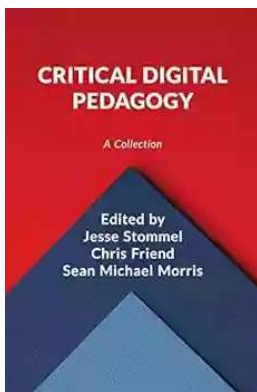
Now in its second edition, this book taps a rich vein of recent scholarship to explore a variety of approaches to the material culture of the early modern world (c. 1500–1800). Divided into seven parts, the book explores the ambiguity of things, representing things, making things, encountering things, empires of things, consuming things, and the power of things. This edition includes a new preface and three new essays on ‘encountering things’ to enrich the volume. These look at cabinets of curiosities, American pearls, and the material culture of West Central Africa. Spanning across the early modern world from Ming dynasty China and Tokugawa Japan to Siberia and Georgian England, from the Kingdom of the Kongo and the Ottoman Empire to the Caribbean and the Spanish Americas, the authors provide a generous set of examples in how to study the circulation, use, consumption, and, most fundamentally, the nature of things themselves.

Drawing on a broad range of disciplinary perspectives and lavishly illustrated, this updated edition of *Early Modern Things* is essential reading for all those interested in the early modern world and the history of material culture.



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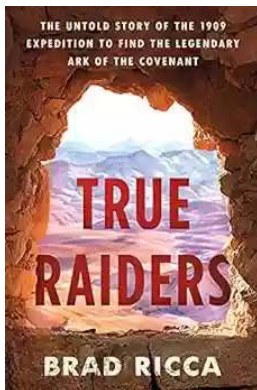
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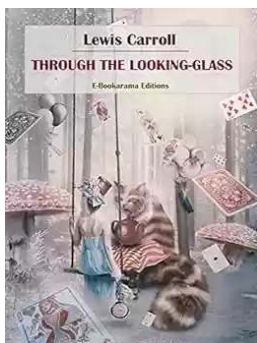
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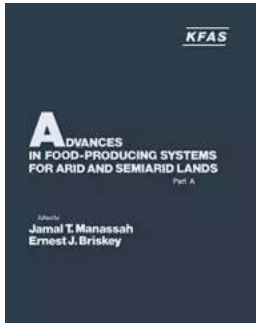
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