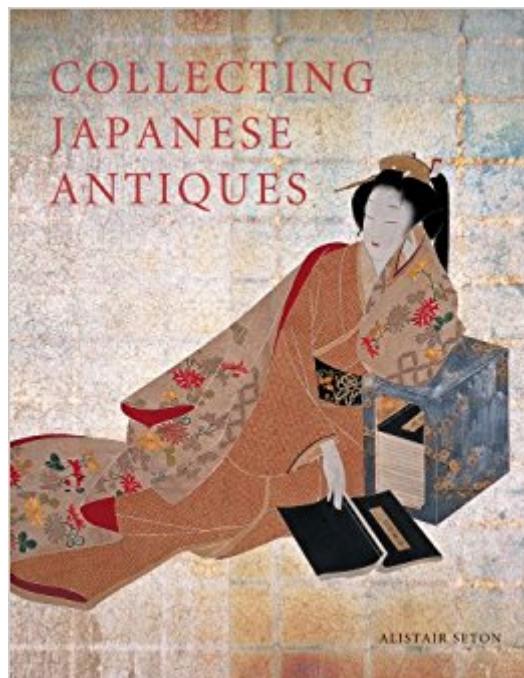


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# Collecting Japanese Antiques



## Synopsis

Collecting Japanese Antiques is an excellent overview of the uniquely Japanese aesthetic and how it relates to Japanese culture. From the time Japan started trading with the West in the sixteenth century, Japanese arts and crafts have intrigued and delighted Westerners, especially lacquer, screens, swords and porcelain. Antique hunters will benefit from the practical and cautionary advice in this book; newcomers will appreciate information on the basics of collecting Japanese antiques; while other sections might reawaken interest in experienced collectors. Striking photographs throughout make this art and antiques book a must for collectors and lovers of Japanese art. Chapters include: Japan's Art Heritage; Collecting for Fun and with Wisdom; Screens and Scrolls; Ukiyo-e and Other Prints; Sagemono; Ceramics; Furniture; Textiles; Lacquerware; Cloisonne; Sculpture and Metalwork; Swords and Armor; Tea Ceremony Utensils; Dolls; Flower Baskets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alistair Seton graduated from Oxford University and Aberdeen College of Education, and spent five years in Arab and West African countries (where he was also a collector) before coming to Japan in 1972. Since then, he has taught at various universities and was a guest lecturer for eight years at Kobe University. He is a professor at Tezukayama Gakuin University. In 1993 he founded and still edits Daruma, a quarterly magazine on Japanese antiques and art. In addition to several books on drama, songs, and Japanese vocabulary, he is the author of *Igezara Printed China*, the first study of

non-handpainted Japanese porcelain. He lives in Kobe with his university professor wife and two children.

What a wonderful insight into arts of Japan. With simple explanations about the history and culture of Japan and the influences of China and Korea this is a most comprehensive book about Japanese antiques. A good reference for the would be collector. Couldn't put it down.

If you love Japanese antiques, you cannot live without this survey, with superb photography, spectacular taste, eclectic choice, and scholarly background by the editor of Daruma magazine. All of the major collectible fields are covered with practical, informative text, and beautifully photographed select finds. The photographic choices are representative, varied and exquisite. Not merely an introduction, the work serves as a springboard to understanding and appreciating many of the accessible antiques from the Edo and Meiji periods in particular. If the book had an index of marks for each type of collectible, it would be perfection. As-is, I like the book so much that I have bought extra copies for my friends, and a new copy when mine started to get worn.

I bought this book for my husband and he loves it. Then I bought another for my son-in-law. We collect Japanese art, ceramics, furniture and other antiques from Japan. This book is helpful for evaluating what we already own and also will help in future purchases.

As promised.

An excellent, broad but not deep, coverage of a wide range of Japanese antiques. Good initial look for the beginning collector of orientalia.

Nice

This is not your typical collector's handbook listing objects and possibly briefly describing them and listing going prices. This coffee-table quality book with the title "Collecting Japanese Antiques" is a survey of Japanese art works and cultural items with sections of advice for collectors. The historical and cultural background on the different items favors what would be of interest to collectors. But it is also informative and relevant simply for its artistic, historical, and cultural material. Readers looking for concentrated information on Japanese art and culture accompanied by attractive color

photographs would find this work exceptionally suitable. For the collectors it is meant for particularly, there's sections on "Tides and Trends in Collecting," guidance in developing collections of certain items (e. g., baskets), lists of artists, notable regions and schools for certain antiques, and especially desirable objects in certain categories. Seton also moves to the technical subjects of materials, production, and workmanship which are important for collectors not only in appreciating items and assessing their value, but in making a preliminary decision about their age and authenticity. Among Seton's 13 categories of antiques are screens and scrolls, ceramics, furniture, sculpture and metalwork, dolls, and tea ceremony utensils. Seton has lived in Japan since 1972, where he currently teaches Japanese art and poetry. In 1993, he founded the quarterly magazine "Daruma" to cover Japanese art and antiques; which he still edits. "Collecting Japanese Antiques" is a work any collector or lover of Japanese art and antique objects will want for sound education and easy reference, and at times for enjoyably looking at the numerous color photos of the varied Japanese objects.

This book is a real treasure. If you buy just one book about Japanese art and antiques, this is it. Its presentation, descriptions and explanations are excellent. Reading this book is learning and pleasure at the same time. I know the author personally and one can really see in this book his love and dedication to Japanese art. For everybody who wants to learn more about Japanese art and antiques I strongly recommend the magazine "Daruma" which is edited by Alistair Seton. Markus Zenhaeusern, Kobe, Japan

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