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The Wooden Bowl

Robin Wood

foreword by Richard Raffan
This is the first authoritative account of the history of the wooden bowl. It details evidence of the turners craft dating back 4000 years, and looks at the development of lathe technology, as well as the tools and timbers used. The author has been given unprecedented access to study and photograph important collections, many of which have never appeared in print before. The superb photographs show priceless, gold-adorned vessels buried with Saxon Kings, Tudor bowls from the wreck of the Mary Rose, and even a bowl which some claim to be the Holy Grail.

Hardcover: 192 pages
Publisher: Stobart Davies Ltd (December 31, 2005)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0854421300
Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.7 x 12.1 inches
Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â· See all reviews (4 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,266,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Houseware & Dining > Kitchenware #1192 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Antiques Care & Reference > Reference #1871 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects

This is an interesting retrospective about kitchenware, specifically wooden bowls, authored by Robin Wood, the well known pole turner who resides in the UK. Mr. Wood has done a good job with the very small number of fragments and whole artifacts that date from Early Modern Europe. The book covers methods of turning a wooden bowl on a human powered lathe in several regions of the world, it is well illustrated with very clear photos, and he discusses bowl and craft turning in the British Isles in both the past and in modern times. He also included a section in the back of the book that shows how he turns bowls and plates out of trees that he sources locally. An excellent book for those interested in the history of lathes and wood craft, advanced woodworkers, and also of interest to archeologists, historians and reinactors.
Book is excellent - explains complete history of wooden bowls and objects describes turning and laths and gives great pictures so you can see what they looked like at different periods of production. I particularly enjoyed seeing the objects found on the Mary Rose that sank in the 16th century.

A fascinating treatment of the topic of wooden bowls and their place in history and daily life. Worth it for the photography alone, but the book delivers on all counts and is a worthy addition to any woodworker or historians library!

Very good, thanks.

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