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Netsuke: A Guide for Collectors

Mary L. O'Brien

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NETSUKE A GUIDE FOR COLLECTORS

by Mary Louise O'Brien

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Mary L. O'Brien : Netsuke: A Guide for Collectors before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Netsuke: A Guide for Collectors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By william webster Good service and very good book
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Everything in line with expectations
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Disappointment By Donamia The content was boring and not very informative. A waste of money! Should have looked for it in a library first.

Featuring dozens of Japanese netsuke masterpieces and insightful commentary, this Japanese art book is a classic collector's item. Netsuke: A Guide for Collectors approaches the subject of Japanese netsuke from the point of view of the amateur collector rather than that of an owner discussing his own accomplished collection. Ever since Japan's emergence a little over a century ago from her long period of seclusion under Tokugawa rule, netsuke have exerted an almost irresistible attraction for Western collectors. These tiny carvings—exquisite in detail, charming in conception, and delightful for the sheer tactual pleasure to be experienced in handling them—captivated admirers of Japanese art and craftsmanship. Basically, netsuke were utilitarian in purpose, for they were designed to serve as pendants or toggles to support medicine boxes, writing cases, smoking equipment, and similar articles worn suspended by a cord from the obi—a practical device since the kimono had no pockets. At first quite primitive in design, they soon became more and more sophisticated, and their carvers turned increasingly to the legends of Japan and China for inspiration and subject matter. This fascinating book is a wonderful introduction to this classic Japanese art and will be

invaluable for both professional collections and amateurs alike.