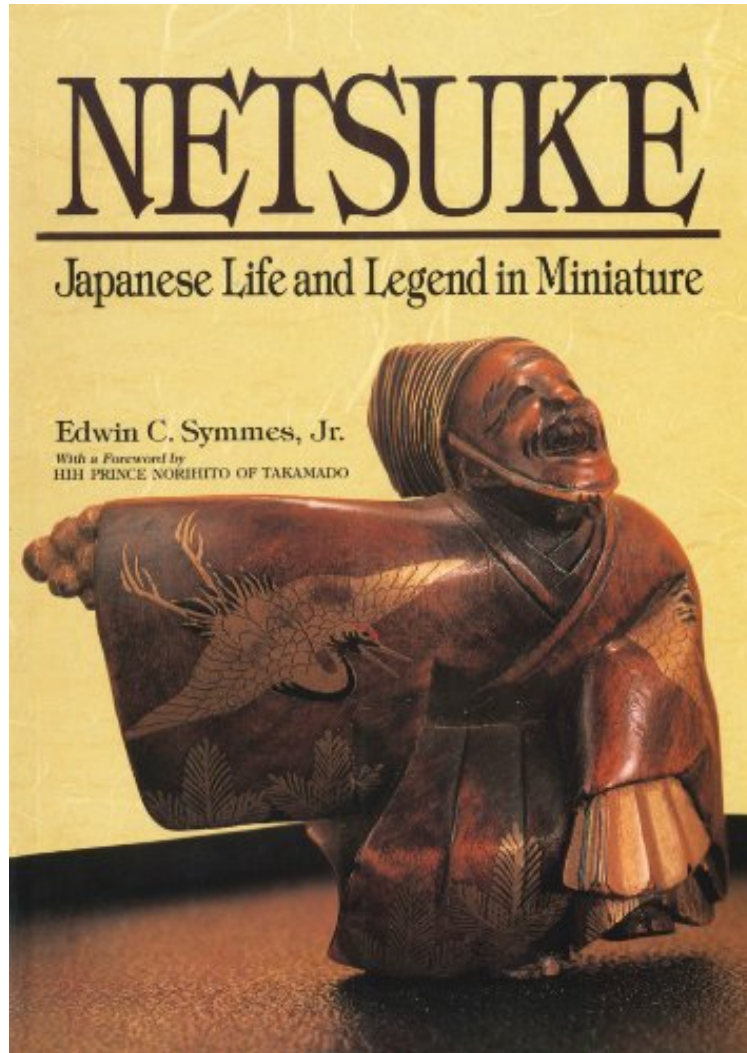


(Download) Netsuke Japanese Life and Legend in Miniature

## Netsuke Japanese Life and Legend in Miniature

*Edwin C. Symmes Jr.*

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**Edwin C. Symmes Jr. : Netsuke Japanese Life and Legend in Miniature** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Netsuke Japanese Life and Legend in Miniature:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Biased Review ---By Ed SymmesOK, you might notice that my name looks remarkably similar to the author's name. Actually, I am, so this is a biased review. The purpose of the book is to give anyone who picks it up an insight into Japanese culture by looking at the full page photos, reading the brief text about the technical details such as who carved it, what material, when it was done and the actual size. Then there is a half page story that delves into the history behind the carving or the subject of the carving. Tuttle did a beautiful job of producing the book. It was recommended by the Library Journal magazine. The editor and production were working in Japan. I am in the USA. My only tiny criticism is that a couple of the stories were changed without my knowledge to facilitate production scheduling. The editor volunteered at the Japan Society, where he met the Royal patron of the

netsuke carver's association. HHH Prince Takamatsu very generously, and gratefully to me, wrote the foreword for the book. It took 7 years to photograph and write.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy alixExcellent book, great pictures. Lots of information on this art form.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. not so badBy norman mizunoi was hoping to see more samples of old netsuke with better photos of the netuske not the background.....it is good for a coffee table book

Featuring dozens of Japanese netsuke masterpieces and extensive commentary, this Japanese art book is a treasured collector's item.Netsuke are superb miniature carvings, usually less than two inches high, that have been created by Japanese artists for over three hundred years. During that time, they have portrayed almost every aspect of life and culture in Japan.These tiny carvings were traditionally used to prevent the cord attached to a gentleman's medicine box or tobacco pouch from slipping through the belt of his kimono. Today they are highly collectible works of art.Netsuke: Japanese Life and Legend in Miniature presents over seventy full-page color photographs of netsuke in enchanting settings. The accompanying text gives technical details about the netsuke as well as interesting commentaries relating the pieces to Japanese life and legend. Information on the carvers has also been provided whenever possible.

From Library JournalNetsuke are Japanese miniature carvings originally designed to hold a purse or a set of nested boxes ( inro ) in place on the obi, or belt, of a man's kimono. The purpose of this absolutely delightful book is to "illuminate Japanese culture through photographs of netsuke with accompanying text." Symmes, the author/photographer, illustrates 72 netsuke and inro from the early 18th century through 1990, provides some technical detail and describes the legend behind each, and gives brief information on the artist, if known. The color plates are unusual in that the netsukes are photographed in appropriate settings (e.g., cranes in water near lily pads), enhancing their beauty without sacrificing detail. Short introductory chapters describe the history of netsuke and the art of netsuke carving. This work could serve as an introduction to Japanese life and culture for YAs or general readers, yet scholars will be interested in the high-quality illustrations. Highly recommended.- Patricia R. Hausman, Coll. of William Mary Lib., Williamsburg, Va.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorEdwin C. Symmes, Jr., has been interested in Japanese culture since his early teens, when he discovered the art of bonsai. He has written one book on bonsai and produced four others, including the Guidebook to the National Bonsai Collection of the American National Arboretum. Mr. Symmes is also an award-winning designer and photographer whose work has appeared in publications worldwide. He has held one-man shows in Amsterdam and Washington D.C., as well as in other major cities.