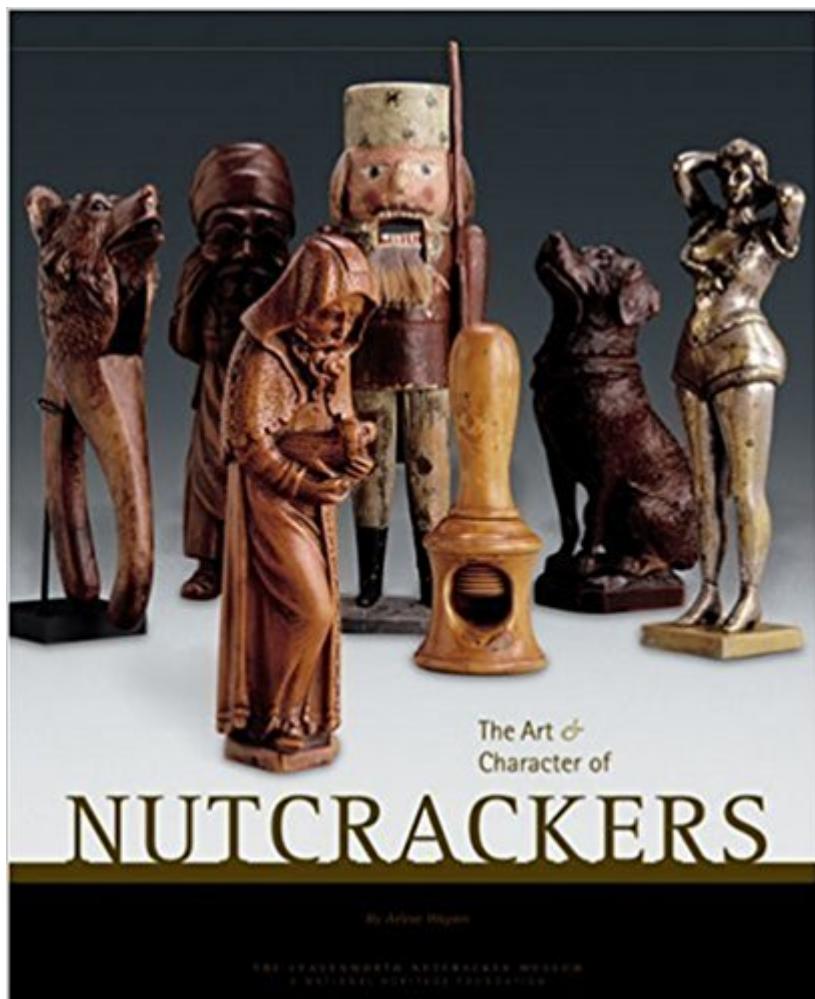


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# The Art & Character Of Nutcrackers



## **Synopsis**

Beyond visions of sugarplum fairies and wooden men with white beards, the nutcrackers featured in **THE ART AND CHARACTER OF NUTCRACKERS** are elegant, sophisticated, rustic pieces of usable art steeped in history and tradition. Beautifully photographed, rare, and valuable, these nutcrackers from around the world are collected and celebrated in one place for the first time ever. What began as an innocent purchase during a production of the Nutcracker Ballet has blossomed into a world-renowned collection almost 40 years in the making. Arlene Wagner (also known as the Nutcracker Lady) and her husband have amassed more than 5,000 pieces. Housed in the Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum, which is also a National Heritage Foundation site, the Wagners' collection is on display to the public. A status sign for royalty and the wealthy in 16th-century Europe, delicately carved, ornate pieces were intended more for show than for function, while simple, sturdy designs reflect the basic utilitarian nature of nutcrackers. Collectors and average folks alike will appreciate the beauty of the book and its subject.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Hundreds of photographs of rare and valuable nutcrackers from around the world. An introduction to and history of the nutcracker. Detailed information for each highlighted piece.

ARLENE WAGNER became interested in nutcrackers in the late 1960s when she purchased some for her dance studio. She and her husband, George, have been collecting nutcrackers ever since. In

1995 they founded the Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum, a National Heritage Foundation. She is currently president of Ms. Arlene Inc., which operates the Nussknacker Haus and Tannenbaum Shoppe in Leavenworth, Washington, where she currently resides. An accomplished dancer, Arlene has held several prominent positions throughout her career, including director of Arlene's Studio of Dance, artistic director of Ballet Les Jeunes in Renton, Washington, and president of the Pacific Northwest chapter of Dance Masters of America.

As a neophyte collector of nutcrackers, I was in for quite an education. This book was extremely helpful in my research for a presentation to my Quester chapter as I have a very small collection and definitely not as old and varied as those photographed in this book. The quality of the book, in terms of photographs, is excellent.

Excellent book cronicaly the nutcracker through the centuries.

So sorry it was not as advertised and did not meet my needs for info.

The book came in good time and perfect condition. I had a magazine clipping from 2005 that featured this book but I couldn't afford it at the time. So excited to find it at this price. My sister loved her Christmas gift.

A MUST read for anyone interested in nutcrackers and the history of them. BEAUTIFULLY detailed book with wonderful descriptions of the painting and carving done. Really really fabulous!!!

A very informative book on one of the oldest tools known to man, beside the stick, the nut cracker ruled for millennia

This is the most important book for nutcracker collectors, recommended by the president of the US nutcracker collectors club. The price on the jacket is (rightfully) \$60.00, and we bought it for next to nothing.

The Art And Character Of Nutcrackers is an artbook of nutcrackers as crafted throughout human history, from simple and utilitarian devices to whimsical novelties resembling toy soldiers to beautiful works of art, and even provocative nutcrackers fashioned in the semblance of nude women. The

text offers a brief survey of the creation, evolution, and use of nutcrackers, yet the majority of The Art And Character Of Nutcrackers is devoted to full-color photography of the nutcrackers themselves. Each photo bears a caption that lists the nutcracker's name, origin, composition, and approximate dimensions. The Art And Character Of Nutcrackers is not a price guide, yet it is a truly gorgeous resource for collectors and casual browsers alike, and a wonderful way to visually experience an artistic marriage of practical function and aesthetic value.

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