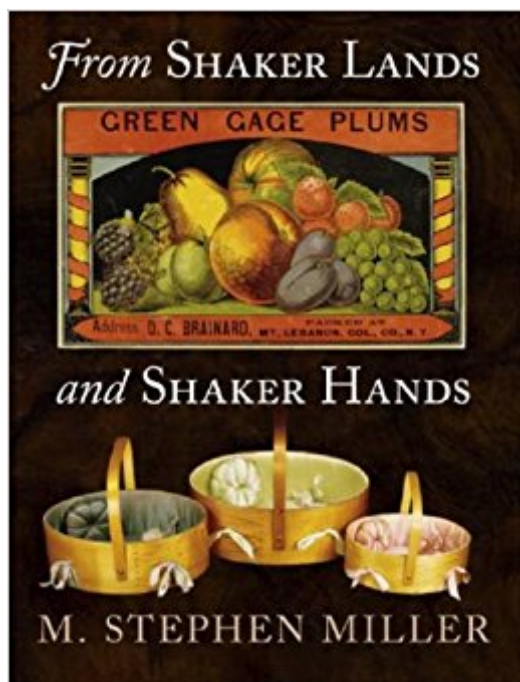


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From Shaker Lands And Shaker Hands: A Survey Of The Industries



Synopsis

Shaker communities grew and thrived during a period of tremendous social and cultural changes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century America. While the Shakers have traditionally been seen as standing apart from these developments, more recent scholarship has emphasized the degree to which the Shakers were actively engaged with the world and times. One of the most vital areas of intersection was the economic realm, where the Shakers produced and marketed a wide variety of products. From Shaker Lands and Shaker Hands documents the surprising breadth and depth of the industries pursued by the Shaker communities, from the well-known Shaker chairs to seeds, herbal medicines, textiles, and foodstuffs. While much has been written about Shaker philosophy and its manifestation in their material culture, scant attention has been paid to the vibrant economic life needed to support their communal way of life. As this collection shows, each community engaged in a broad range of commercial activities, astutely marketing not only the products of their farms and craft shops, but also establishing a level of quality widely associated with the word "Shaker." This lavishly illustrated, full-color book documents the products, their sophisticated packaging, and the marketing strategies employed by the Shakers over a span of two hundred years. In addition to essays written by Miller, Gerard C. Wertkin, Director Emeritus of the American Folk Art Museum, and historian Stephen Paterwic "placing the Shakers and their commercial activity in appropriate cultural and historical context" the book includes a unique statement of belief from the remaining Believers at Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A new publication takes a look not only at the wide variety of products the Shakers manufactured but also at the economic history of a sect whose business acumen and high standards created success after success." — "Magazine Antiques" Readers of this fascinating book will discover the breadth and depth of the Shakers' other commercial undertakings, some of which, like their postcard printing and winemaking, are little known even to Shaker collectors and connoisseurs." — "Maine Antique Digest

M. STEPHEN MILLER is one of the foremost collectors of Shaker ephemera. He was the guest curator in 1988 for the Marketing Community Industries 1830-1930 at Hancock Shaker Village. He has edited and contributed to many books and articles about the Shakers and their products. Presently, he serves on the Board of Directors at Canterbury Shaker Village, New Hampshire.

A fantastic book about Shaker products. So much information! Tons of photo's, many collected paper items shown...great information on the herbal medicine industry which is of interest to me. I can't put it down...honestly, it really feeds my interest in Shaker goods.

There are multiple books out there about Shaker design and their communities. This book focuses on the history of Shakers as business people and producers of many successful products in their time. As a micro business person with a home based business reproducing traditional American crafts, I found this book inspirational and instructive. I think it would be an interesting read for anyone interested in 19th century American life but for me it is a real treasure.

I really needed this book fast so I could get research done! It arrived very quickly and it is full of details!

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