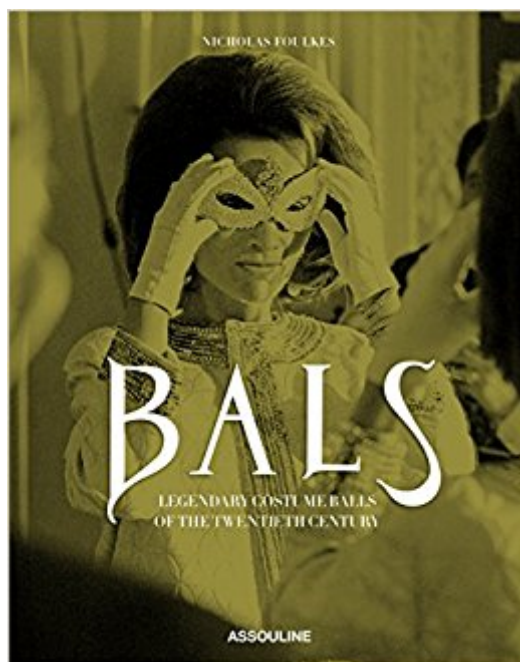


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Bals: Legendary Costume Balls Of The Twentieth Century (Legends)



Synopsis

From the twilight of the Romanov dynasty through les annees folles of Art Deco Paris to the jet-set seventies, *Bals* explores the nine most exceptional private costume parties of the twentieth century, in the most beautiful book ever produced on the subject. In addition to social commentary from (or about) colorful characters—including Paul Poiret, Truman Capote, and Cecil Beaton, who immortalized these extraordinary balls—Jacqueline de Ribes, Helene David-Weill, and Marisa Berenson share their vivid souvenirs in first-person narratives. This is the ultimate book on such a unique and captivating theme.

Book Information

Series: Legends

Hardcover: 307 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #724,538 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #177 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Lifestyle & Events > Lifestyle](#) #960 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Photography](#) #3381 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

Nicholas Foulkes is a British historian, author, and journalist who has written books on subjects as diverse as James Bond, porcelain, and the trench coat. He is best known for his critically acclaimed trilogy of nineteenth-century histories: *Scandalous Society*, a biography of Count d'Orsay; *Dancing Into Battle*; and *Gentlemen and Blackguards*. In addition to *Bals* and *High Society*, he has written four other books for Assouline. Foulkes is luxury editor of *British GQ*, co-founder and editor-in-chief of *Finch's Quarterly Review*, and a contributing editor of *Vanity Fair*.

Bals is about the history of costume balls. Beginning with the bals of the 17th century, the book

takes a look at this lost tradition of costume balls, which peaked in the time of Café society in the 1950's. It covers the most famous balls (aka parties) from Paul Poiret's 'two thousand and one night's ball,' Truman Capote's 'Black and White' Ball in the 1960's and some of the later and earlier less know parties. The book steps back in time to a period where people spent weeks preparing for parties and showed up in costumes that rival any modern day opera. It is filled with inspiration for designers and people interested in that period in time. The book is very large - more of a 'coffee-table' size. It comes in a cardboard pocket. The only reason my rating is not 5 stars is that ,when I placed my order for this book - probably because of the weight- I received a few copies with crushed sides, before I finally got a 'clean' copy. The book is a definite 5 stars plus, the packaging would be 2 stars less. If you love disappearing into a lost time of beauty and imagination, this is the book for you.

I love this book - a good record of times past. Balls like these are no longer possible - it's not about money, but style, elegance and the interesting people of the time. Highly recommend.

A very obscure and forgotten subject, this marvellous book brings back to life memories of an incredible time gone by, a time that most likely we won't see ever again. Extremely well documented with wonderful pictures that will fill your eyes with wonder, it's the perfect book for bon vivants and people that transcend the vulgarity of modern times. Just open it and you will make treasure forever of a quote from Guy De Rothschild - "Man is capable of marvelous inventions, but sometimes he forgets to breathe life into them"

This was a gift for my niece for Christmas that she specifically asked for. The book was beautifully done and she was thrilled.

Book just as described. very prompt service. very satisfied!

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