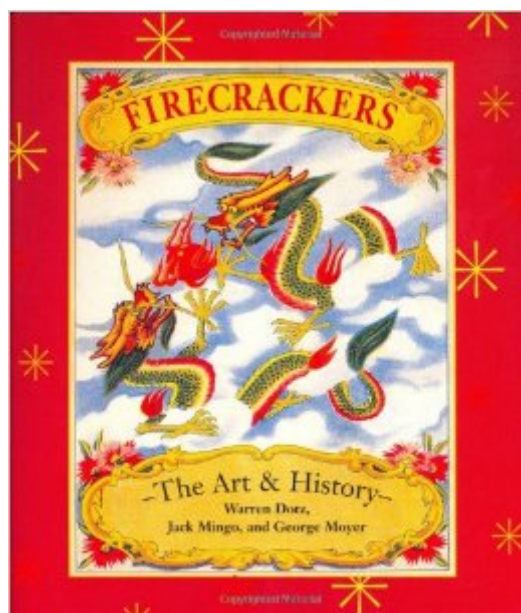


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# Firecrackers: The Art And History



## Synopsis

Universally popular, uncommonly loud, a pyrotechnic spectacle that inspires laughter, delight and a healthy dose of frayed nervesâ€”what else but the firecracker! These little sticks of paper and powder have captured the imagination of cultures the world over since the Chinese invented them centuries ago. As practical, chemical developments in firecracker production proceeded apace, the popular art form of label design flourished, leaving us with a remarkable visual record of the myths and cultural attitudes of the Chinese manufacturers and their markets. FIRECRACKERS explores the art form in detail, linking it to history and exploring its relevance in the various cultures that ceremonialize this peculiar bang. Includes reproductions of over 100 full-color labels, as well as tips on finding and saving firecracker art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(As noted in the last pages of this book, firecrackers are now politically incorrect, suffering the wrath of do-gooders, safety mavens and law enforcement. For those of us old enough to remember a pre-"nanny state" summer, this book brings back wonderful memories. By the time I was old enough to get real cherry bombs, they were outlawed. But I could tell a few stories...)I always wondered how even today, firecrackers in their millions could be produced. The answer, documented in his book, surprised me. This book reveals the fate of the companies whose names appeared on the labels I saw in the 1960s. Ever wonder what happened to Kwong Hing Tai? The authors reveal how the firecracker trade developed in China and made its way to the United States. Even some of today's

importers are mentioned. Technically speaking, the book is well printed and the illustrations are crisp and sharp, not bad for paper originals that may be most of 100 years old. Although not exhaustive, there is good reference for collectors. I'd recommend you to get a copy of this book while it is still available. I look forward to many hours of pleasure leafing through my copy.

This book shows great insight into the history of the firecracker and the intricate artwork involved with the packaging of them. The clarity of the illustrations are wonderful, it's hard to believe some of the labels are as old as they are. I highly recommend this book to anyone who can remember the excitement of being able to "set off" these firecrackers on the 4th of July, without worrying about breaking the law. Those of you who were not as lucky to experience this thrill, will definitely find this book fun.

Just received this stunning book, "Firecrackers: the Art and History" by Warren Dotz, et al and George Moyer. It has brought back a flood of memories of the "good ol days" of my youth. Although I fondly recall blowing off "Black Cat" and "Red Devil" crackers, I had no idea that there were so many other beautiful brand labels produced by so many countries. The images of exploding crackers are reproduced in such vibrant color that you almost have to cover your ears. The authors have apparently gone to great lengths to include archival quality illustrations that really bring to life the historical lineage of firecrackers, from "bursting bamboo" to "atomic bombs". I wholeheartedly recommend this book!

Bright, colorful pages packed with color illustrations and photos chart the art and history of the firecracker, from their construction and advancement to the making of labels and items promoting them. Beautiful drawings pack an illustrated history which invites leisure browsers as much as researchers, and which is very highly recommended for general library collections.

Gorgeous photographs in both color and archival sepia tones. This well-researched book covers the beauty of firecrackers in both celebration and label art. Definitely a worthwhile read for anyone who's interested in Chinese culture, pyrotechnics or graphic design. A marvelous book, one of a kind. Very well done!

Anything that promotes that which is clearly an important part of American History should be applauded. The pictures are great, information good and overall a very enjoyable read. Definitely

something to share with the whole family!

I'm not a big fan of firecrackers (though I LOVE fireworks). I got this book b/c it looked interesting when I saw it at a Firecracker museum. I'm only 1/2 way through reading it, but I am very pleasantly enjoying this book. The historic photos of people, culture and manufacture of fireworks are well chosen and add a lot of depth to the content of the book. Add to that, the printing is beautifully done and high quality (I've seen that from Bicycle Press before). Finally the firecracker art itself is lovely to behold. So far I've learned a lot and it's way more interesting and engaging than I expected. The writing style is inviting and it seems the content was deeply considered. It's a charming and beautiful book. If I happen to change my mind when I'm done reading the book, I'll come back and edit this. I don't think that's going to happen though. I've looked ahead a bit. 11/3/2014 - I finished reading this book and my enthusiastic endorsement stands. As an additional note of interest, the last chapter is all about tips on collecting and resources to pursue the hobby. Also there is a nice glossary AND an index - both of which I consider an appreciated "added value" to any book.

My husband was looking for a book on firecrackers and I tried the local book stores, i.e. Barnes and Nobles, Bookmart, Books a Million, but no luck. I browsed the internet and the reviews on firecracker reference materials were few and far between. Finally I came across this book on and took a chance it would please him.....he's quite picky about his reference library. This soft-cover book is GREAT! It is packed with beautiful, vibrant full color photos of the common labels all the way up to the very rare. The book layout is dotted with photos and the glossary is helpful to even the intermediate collector. The section "Interview with a Collector" gives a nice insightful look into the pursuit of fireworks labels. The history of firecrackers is also discussed, giving the collector a great back-story to the industry. No price guide, but that is fine with my husband, as it tends to date a book after a couple of years. This is an informative addition to the Hubby's library.....he's happy and I'm glad.

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