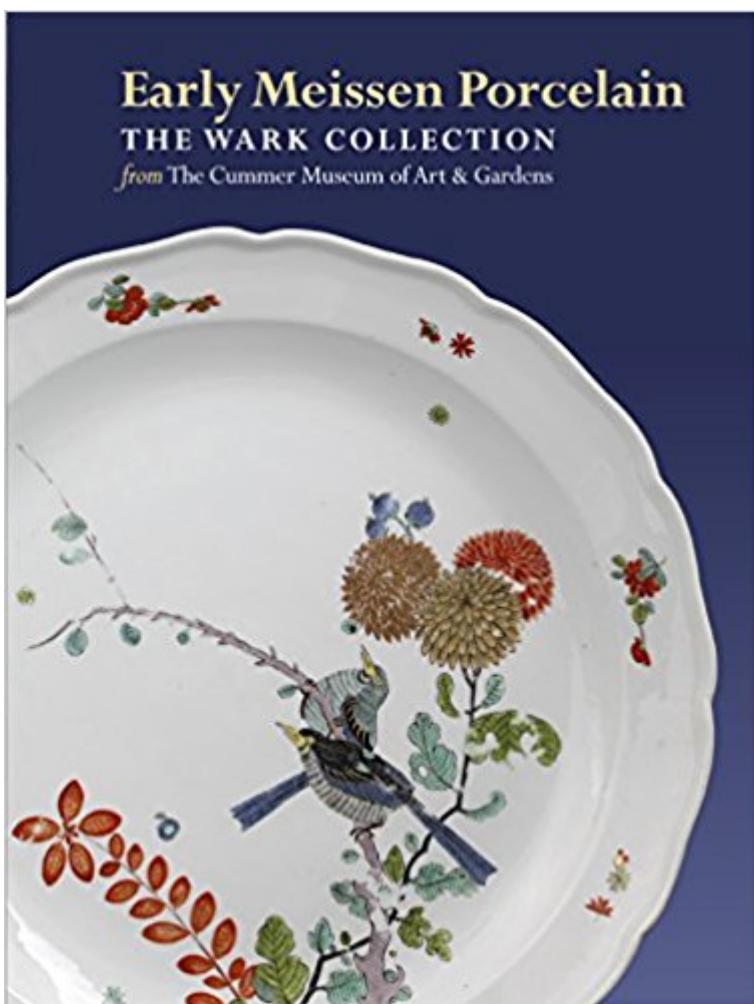


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# Early Meissen Porcelain: The Wark Collection From The Cummer Museum Of Art & Gardens



## Synopsis

Telling the story of Meissen from its establishment by Augustus II, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland in 1710, and the early experiments of the alchemist Johann Friedrich Böttger in creating the recipe for white hard-paste porcelain, this volume represents the most recent and significant scholarship on the Collection. Scholar Ulrich Pietsch recounts both the fascinating history of the foundation of the Meissen factory, and the surprising story of Wark's collection and how it survived the war in a Hamburg cellar before being shipped to America. The volume presents nearly 700 pieces of Meissen porcelain dating from the first half of the 18th century. It features examples by the leading sculptors, painters and patrons of the time including an experimental red urn from 1715 by Johann Friedrich Böttger, and a set of Augustus Rex Vases, decorated by Johann Gregor Höroldt, and dating from about 1728. Also known as the Darmstadt Vases, these represent the only known complete set of miniature vases that form a garniture or mantle decoration. Each piece is beautifully photographed, and is accompanied by a catalogue entry including, where relevant, comparable objects and details and illustrations of the artists' marks.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Art Newspaper; This new volume, luxuriously produced and beautifully illustrated incorporates much new research. The Wark Collection and its new catalogue are a fitting testimony to the attraction that the factory still exerts on collectors and scholars alike. Aileen Dawson, The Art Newspaper

Ulrich Pietsch is the director of the Porcelain Collection, State Art Collection, Dresden. A leading expert on Meissen porcelain he is the author of most recently 'Passion for Meissen: Marouf Collection' (2010) and 'Die Figuerliche Porzellanplastik Von Gottlieb Kirchner Und Johann Joachim Kaendler' (Hirmer Verlag, 2006).

This book presents the Meissen porcelain collection of Ralph Henry Wark (1901-1984(?)) which is situated at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville. Wark, born in Berlin, was a lifelong collector of Meissen porcelain. Miraculously spared during the bombing of Hamburg in 1943, the collection was transferred to Baltimore after World War 2. There are 698 items cataloged in this book. The Meissen porcelain on view dates from some of the earliest examples (i.e. from 1710) and covers the subsequent 40 years of manufacture. While I don't profess to any authority on the subject, the works are highly attractive and appear to be of superior quality. I compared this catalog with a similar publication (also from D. Giles) documenting the Arnhold Collection. The book covering the Arnold Collection is of a similarly large size, equally well printed and presents Meissen porcelain from the same era. It is however far more expensive and many of the items are unannotated. All the porcelain in the Wark collection volume are well described. The book under discussion is magnificently printed with high standard paper and excellent and generously sized color reproductions. At the present price of \$70 it is an absolute bargain and should be snapped up by porcelain enthusiasts.

Wonderful reference for anyone who loves early Meissen works of art ( and could never afford to buy such wonderful pieces even if they were available for sale) - clear detailed fantastic photography.

It's really a beautiful book, I purchased it as a gift but I shared it with gift receiver and I enjoyed it so much, with all these beautiful and amazing pictures. I do recommend this book to all Meissen Porcelain lovers.

Excellent

I agree this is a very well published and edited book - the pictures are perfect and the commentary informative and well written. The only 'however' is the collection itself. Missing are bigger, more luxurious pieces - candelabras, clocks, tables. Three quarters of the presented collections are plates, cups, teapots - beautiful tableware it is, but there is more to the fame of the Meissen porcelain.

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