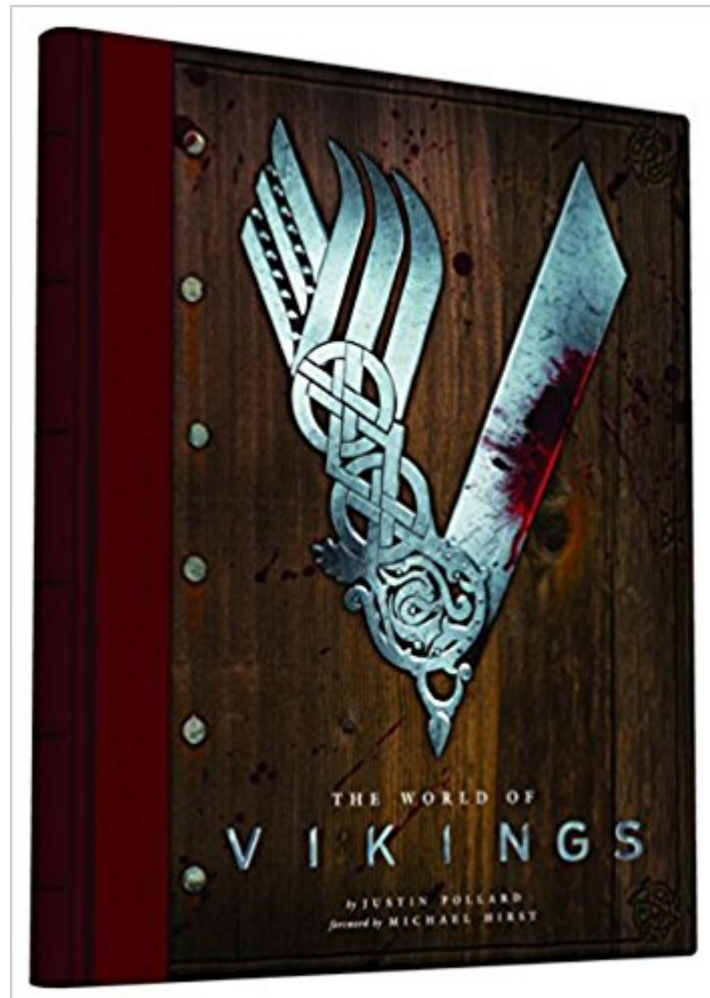




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The World Of Vikings



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Synopsis

MGM's hit show Vikings on the History Channel has drawn millions of viewers into the fascinating and bloody world of legendary Norse hero Ragnar Lothbrok, who led Viking warriors to the British Isles and France. Covering the first three seasons of the series, this official companion book delves into the real history as well as the behind-the-scenes stories. Viking historian Justin Pollard explains shipbuilding and navigation, Norse culture and religion, and the first encounters between Viking warriors and the kings of England and France. Interviews with cast and crew reveal the process of dramatizing this gripping story, from reviving the Old Norse language to choreographing battle scenes and building ancient temples for human sacrifice. This spectacular package is a must for fans of the show and history buffs alike.

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (November 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452145458

ISBN-13: 978-1452145457

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.6 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #212,322 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia #833 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television #3771 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts

Customer Reviews

"This is a whole new way of learning about vikings. This book is full of the legends and the lifestyle, with pictures to boot. It is a great read for any proud Scandinavian."-Grand Forks Herald Holiday Gift Guide Pick -Forces of Geek"a gorgeous companion book to the hit series...The World of Vikings is an excellent piece for the avid Vikings fan. I highly recommend it."-Geeks of Doom

Justin Pollard has been historical advisor on such films and shows as Elizabeth, Atonement, The Tudors, and Vikings. He lives in Dorset, England. Michael Hirst is one of the leading historical storytellers in the industry. He created and wrote every episode of the Emmy-nominated Vikings and the award-winning The Tudors. He lives in Oxfordshire, England.

I bought this as a joint Christmas gift to all of The Vikings series addicts in my family, all seven of them! Over the next few weeks we will be passing it along so we will all have read it before Season 4 begins. I got my hands on it on Christmas Day evening and was able to read the first three chapters. Love it so far! Photos are outstanding, as are the insights and comments by cast, producer, director, etc. Definitely worth the \$\$ - especially when pro-rated among seven people.

A really gorgeous book that combines what is known of historical Vikings and behind the scenes from the show. The creators lay out how hard they try for authenticity. Overall it's really informative and the photos are beautiful.

Very cool book for fans of the Vikings show. It does a good job of explaining the creators' vision as well as the historical background.

A great clean reference for those curious and for the legion of vikings fans. Covers Characters, Costumes and Behind the Scenes with tight layout and great pictures.

This book is a great companion to the TV show. Any History buff will love the source material and bibliography they detail at the very beginning. I also like how they use the characters to explain certain elements. The descriptions of building the sets was awesome. I also liked how they were upfront about changing things from the Historical record for continuity reasons.

Let's see if I can do this without going on one of my rants. Descending from Irish & Norwegian immigrants I grew up on the Hollywood horse-puckey of the sixties. I find it very refreshing to see filmmakers finally catch up to actual historical fact. Were the people of Scandinavia dirty, filthy, savagely crazed butchers who only burned, raped & pillaged? The History Channel website offers an interesting primer as an answer (see below) to many of these popular myths. Most were farmers, artisans, traders, merchants & renowned boat builders. As to this hardcover companion, it offers a wonderfully concise look at the first three seasons of Vikings. It's a pretty even blend of informative text & striking photography. There are a few illustrations, and since this listing currently offers no "Look Inside" option, I offer the following contents in chapter & subsection;-----005 | Foreword by Michael Hurst007 | Introduction by Justin Pollard008 | SourcesPart 1: Scandinavia (Viking

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ever discovered is decidedly horn-free. Painters seem to have fabricated the trend during the 19th century, perhaps inspired by descriptions of northern Europeans by ancient Greek and Roman chroniclers. Long before the Vikings' time, Norse and Germanic priests did indeed wear horned helmets for ceremonial purposes.⁰² Vikings were known for their excellent hygiene. Between rowing boats and decapitating enemies, Viking men must have stunk to high Valhalla, right? Quite the opposite. Excavations of Viking sites have turned up tweezers, razors, combs and ear cleaners made from animal bones and antlers. Vikings also bathed at least once a week—much more frequently than other Europeans of their day—and enjoyed dips in natural hot springs.⁰³ Vikings used a unique liquid to start fires. Clean freaks though they were, the Vikings had no qualms about harnessing the power of one human waste product. They would collect a fungus called touchwood from tree bark and boil it for several days in urine before pounding it into something akin to felt. The sodium nitrate found in urine would allow the material to smolder rather than burn, so Vikings could take fire with them on the go.⁰⁴ Vikings buried their dead in boats. There's no denying Vikings loved their boats—so much that it was a great honor to be interred in one. In the Norse religion, valiant warriors entered festive and glorious realms after death, and it was thought that the vessels that served them well in life would help them reach their final destinations. Distinguished raiders and prominent women were often laid to rest in ships, surrounded by weapons, valuable goods and sometimes even sacrificed slaves.⁰⁵ Vikings were active in the slave trade. Many Vikings got rich off human trafficking. They would capture and enslave women and young men while pillaging Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Slavic settlements. These Æthralls, as they were known, were then sold in giant slave markets across Europe and the Middle East.⁰⁶ Viking women enjoyed some basic rights. Viking girls got hitched as young as 12 and had to mind the household while their husbands sailed off on adventures. Still, they had more freedom than other women of their era. As long as they weren't thralls, Viking women could inherit property, request a divorce and reclaim their dowries if their marriages ended.⁰⁷ Viking men spent most of their time farming. This may come as a disappointment, but most Viking men brandished scythes, not swords. True, some were callous pirates who only stepped off their boats to burn villages, but the vast majority peacefully sowed barley, rye and oats—at least for part of the year. They also raised cattle, goats, pigs and sheep on their small farms, which typically yielded just enough food to support a family.⁰⁸ Vikings skied for fun. Scandinavians developed primitive skis at least 6,000 years ago, though ancient Russians may have invented them even earlier. By the Viking Age, Norsemen regarded skiing as an efficient way to get around and a popular form of recreation. They even worshipped a god of skiing, Ullr.⁰⁹ Viking gentlemen

preferred being blond. To conform to their culture's beauty ideals, brunette Vikings usually men would use a strong soap with a high lye content to bleach their hair. In some regions, beards were lightened as well. It's likely these treatments also helped Vikings with a problem far more prickly and rampant than mousy manes: head lice.¹⁰ Vikings were never part of a unified group. Vikings didn't recognize fellow Vikings. In fact, they probably didn't even call themselves Vikings: The term simply referred to all Scandinavians who took part in overseas expeditions. During the Viking Age, the land that now makes up Denmark, Norway and Sweden was a patchwork of chieftain-led tribes that often fought against each other when they weren't busy wreaking havoc on foreign shores, that is.

Well-written book about Vikings, written by creative crew, and historians, who created the "Vikings" television series.

Great insight into the show and the Sagas that were incorporated into the show! Great resource!
Great show!

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