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The Book Cover In The Weimar Republic



Synopsis

Roaring Jackets: The finest German publishing 1919–1933 The years between the First and Second World Wars in Germany are famed for their cultural boom. With Berlin as its epicenter, the Weimar Republic was replete with ground-breaking literature, philosophy, and art. At the heart of this intellectual and creative hub were some of the most outstanding and forward-thinking book designs in history. The Book Cover in the Weimar Republic assembles 1,000 of the most striking examples from this golden age of publishing activity and innovation. Based on the remarkable collection of Jürgen Holstein and his rare collectible Blickfang, it combines an unparalleled catalog of dust jackets and bindings with Holstein's introduction to the leading figures and particular energy of the Weimar publishing age. Expert essays discuss the aesthetic and cultural context of these precious fourteen years, in which a freewheeling spirit would flourish, only to be trampled, burned, or driven out of the country with the rise of National Socialism. From children's books to novels in translation, bold designs for political literature to minimalist artist monographs, this is a dazzling line-up of typography, illustration, and graphic design at its most energetic and daring. Part reference compendium, part vintage visual feast for the eyes, this very particular cultural history is at once a testament to an irretrievable period of promise and a celebration of the ambition, inventiveness, and beauty of the book. Text in English and German

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“It is almost impossible to do justice to the richness of this selection, which gives us a clear sense of the explosion of energy in publishing during the Weimar period. [] this book weighs two and half kilos, but every gram is worth it.” (The Times Literary Supplement)

“Last week I brought TASCHEN’s gorgeous new collection *The Book Cover in the Weimar Republic* to the art department of the publishing house where I work. I left the book out on a table and watched as my colleagues drifted over, crowded around and riffled through it. “So many ideas to rip off,” muttered one well-known book jacket designer. “Would you mind, just, leaving this here for a while?” pleaded another. An art director put it in simpler terms: “Daa-amn.” I knew I was chumming the waters. This book is, in the parlance of my profession, total eye candy. The work is stunning, and there’s a whole lot of it: over a thousand distinct (and distinctly interesting) book covers, jackets and bindings for books in a variety of genres. It turns out that Weimar, that creative caldron of philosophy, literature, painting and music, also cooked up a renaissance in the book arts, a golden age of book cover design. Who knew? The release of a monograph such as this one is a big deal for designers like us, important not only because the work that *The Book Cover in the Weimar Republic* comprises is so inspiring aesthetically, but also because these designs present a new historical context for our own contemporary covers. Reading this encyclopedia of interwar-years German books, we are introduced to the discomfiting fact that many of the tools we thought to be uniquely ours – the gestures and rhetorical flourishes we deploy on our own covers and jackets – are in fact old hat.” (Peter Mendelsund - The New York Times Book Review)

Jürgen Holstein was born in Berlin in 1936. Following an apprenticeship in an antiquarian book store he founded his own bookshop in 1966, specialized in 20th century art history and literature. Holstein’s own publications include a book on the cover designs of George Salter and the bestseller *Blickfang*, which presented outstanding examples of Berlin-based book design under the Weimar Republic. Since German reunification, Holstein has been particularly active in preserving visual culture artifacts of the former GDR. His extensive archive of artworks, objects, books, catalogs, and posters from this period is now housed in the Getty Center, Los Angeles.

Great book for graphic designers. Images aplenty as well as interesting info. I only wished that the titles of the books had been translated into English. The text is in both German and English, but the book titles are only in German.

Amazing book! The scholarship is impeccable and the illustrations for this large and very heavy volume are comprehensive. Have spent several days going through and it is a pleasure that I don't want to end.

Beautiful book. This cover art was modern before modern existed. Can't believe it only cost \$19.99. Saw it on sale at Barnes & Noble for \$69.99

Excellent!!! Essentially brand-new at a fraction of a fraction of the price that new copies sell for!

Beautiful book!

This period of the Weimar Republic was an cauldron of artistic brilliance. This book has many amazing illustrations, including many by my grandfather, the Dada and Political Genius John Heartfield.

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