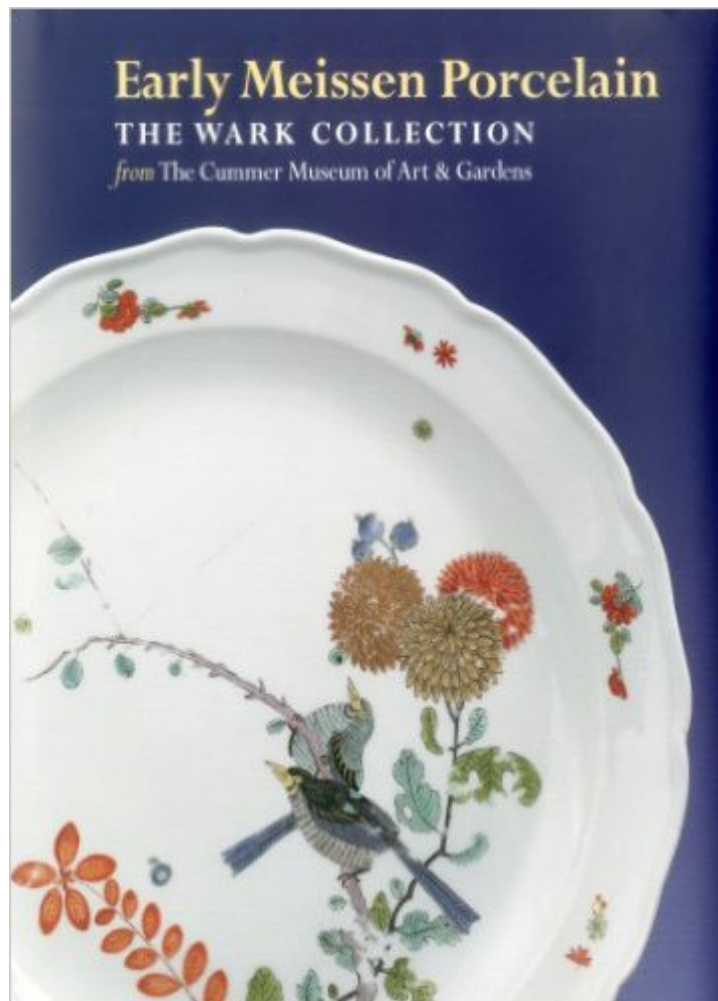


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# Early Meissen Porcelain: The Wark Collection From The Cummer Museum Of Art & Gardens



## 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 Hårdt, and dating from about 1728. Also known as the Darmstädter 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 artist's mark.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 576 pages

Publisher: GILES (May 3, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1904832792

ISBN-13: 978-1904832799

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 2.2 x 12.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #326,118 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Houseware & Dining > Porcelain & China](#) #41 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Pottery & Ceramics](#) #82 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics](#)

## Customer Reviews

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 Arnhold 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.

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.

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.

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.

Excellent

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