



The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects

By Richard Kurin

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The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects By Richard Kurin

The Smithsonian Institution is America's largest, most important, and most beloved repository for the objects that define our common heritage. Now Under Secretary for Art, History, and Culture Richard Kurin, aided by a team of top Smithsonian curators and scholars, has assembled a literary exhibition of 101 objects from across the Smithsonian's museums that together offer a marvelous new perspective on the history of the United States.

Ranging from the earliest years of the pre-Columbian continent to the digital age, and from the American Revolution to Vietnam, each entry pairs the fascinating history surrounding each object with the story of its creation or discovery and the place it has come to occupy in our national memory. Kurin sheds remarkable new light on objects we think we know well, from Lincoln's hat to Dorothy's ruby slippers and Julia Child's kitchen, including the often astonishing tales of how each made its way into the collections of the Smithsonian. Other objects will be eye-opening new discoveries for many, but no less evocative of the most poignant and important moments of the American experience. Some objects, such as Harriet Tubman's hymnal, Sitting Bull's ledger, Cesar Chavez's union jacket, and the *Enola Gay* bomber, tell difficult stories from the nation's history, and inspire controversies when exhibited at the Smithsonian. Others, from George Washington's sword to the space shuttle *Discovery*, celebrate the richness and vitality of the American spirit. In Kurin's hands, each object comes to vivid life, providing a tactile connection to American history.

Beautifully designed and illustrated with color photographs throughout, *The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects* is a rich and fascinating journey through America's collective memory, and a beautiful object in its own right.

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Editorial Review

Review

Publishers Weekly (starred):

"Kurin [has] done a masterful job. Even... well-known items have surprising and significant back stories. Unexpected selections... make the book even more engrossing, and... can make for some emotional reading. Kurin does a terrific job of expanding upon the story of each object, whether it's a pair of slave shackles or a damaged door from one of the New York City fire trucks that responded to 9/11. This humanistic approach to storytelling makes for immersive, addictive reading."

Kirkus Reviews:

"Smithsonian Undersecretary Kurin's tales are abundant, so much so that it seems almost a shame to stop at a mere 101 items....A well-conceived and well-illustrated pleasure to read, combining narrative history and keepsake volume."

Library Journal:

"A guide like this is all the more useful since such a small percentage of the Smithsonian's holdings can ever be on exhibit. The book is much more descriptive than analytical, as Kurin sets each object, beautifully photographed, in its historical and institutional context."

About the Author

Richard Kurin serves as the Smithsonian Institution's Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture, with responsibility for most of its museums and many of its educational programs. He is an anthropologist and cultural historian, a former Fulbright fellow with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is the author of several books, including *Hope Diamond: The Legendary History of a Cursed Gem*, and his scholarship and museological work have been recognized by the International Council of Museums, UNESCO, and Harvard's Peabody Museum. Awarded the Smithsonian Secretary's Gold Medal for Exceptional Service, he represents the Smithsonian on the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the White House Historical Association, and numerous other boards.

Users Review

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Kenny Grant:

This The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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John Rivera:

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