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Collectors Encyclopedia Of Fiesta



Synopsis

This ninth edition of the Huxford's Collector's Encyclopedia of Fiesta has been heavily revised and updated with new finds. This book has long been considered the best reference for collectors and dealers. Introduced in 1936 by the Homer Laughlin China Company, the colorful Fiesta dinnerware was redesigned in 1969, withdrawn in 1973, and reissued in 1986. This encyclopedia showcases this vibrant dinnerware line, featuring over 1,000 colorful pieces, including coverage of the increasingly popular new lilac color as well as other colors in the new line. There are many new photos that will aid in identification, including several never before seen pieces. In addition to the regular line of Fiesta, this all in one resource includes the other popular lines of Harlequin, Riviera, and Kitchen Kraft. Also featured are experimental items from the Homer Laughlin morgue, as well as the historical information so many collectors crave. In addition, there is a pricing breakdown on the original Fiesta price list. Gorgeous color photos, accurate information, and current values - what more does a collector need? 2001 values. AUTHORBIO: After writing their first book, *The Story of Fiesta*, published in 1974, the Huxfords became pottery editors for Collector Books and in that capacity wrote several other books on various Ohio potteries: *Roseville Pottery*, *McCoy Pottery*, *Brush-McCoy Pottery*, *Weller Pottery*, and *Roseville Pottery, Volume II*. Since 1982 they have been editors of *Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide*; *Schroeder's Collectible Toys*; *Antique to Modern*; *Garage Sale & Flea Market Annual*; and *Wanted to Buy*. REVIEW: Full-color plates and suggested values in a range format are a great trading tool in the secondary market while informational pages provide an armchair education in Fiesta. The book includes identification of trademarks, design and color, as well as dating codes and English measurements. The story of Fiesta takes collectors back to the beginning and the value guide reviews all Fiesta-related dinnerware such as Kitchen Kraft, OvenServe, and new (post 1986) Fiesta. -Brimfield Antique Guide

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I must agree with several of the reviewers below. This is the book you hate to love. On the one hand, it has an exhaustive amount of information on the various Fiesta pieces available. On the other hand, the whole mixup with regards to the medium green color is a real problem (plate #52 on page 43 was incorrectly captioned.) However the information provided makes up for this problem, no question. The book covers a history of the pottery, including the famous "radioactive red", it shows the four most common backstamps, it describes ways to definitively identify Fiesta (as opposed to some look-alikes), and gives explanations of the dating codes and the various measurements. As well, the book is chock-full of good photos of the various pieces in all their colorful glory. I especially like the section on the Harlequin line, as it seems to be rising in collectibility. The only other quibble I have is with the prices shown, but that's a problem with every reference book out there these days, as the online auctions have thrown everything for a loop. So if you're looking for a good, general reference on Fiesta, this is the one to get.

It's definitely the best Fiesta book out there, but their attention to detail diminishes their product. There are at least two mislabeled captions. I don't know enough to detect others. The one glaring one is a page that shows the often-confusing range of green colors (chartreuse, medium green, light green and forest green.) Unfortunately, they MISLABELED this! This error further confuses collectors who are trying to identify the rare medium green Fiesta. This is an inexcusable error. What really bothered me as well is that in their price guide, they include older versions of this book! They proclaim that the book itself has become very collectible. I don't know about that, but I found it unprofessional. As the best book out there, you have to get this if you want a Fiesta book, but they should be more careful with editing. The caption errors are inexcusable. By the way, I find that most books by Collector Books suffer from this poor quality control.

This is the definitive guide to HLC China and related ephemera. The major focus is on Fiesta, but most, if not all, identified lines of dinnerware are listed and discussed to some extent. In addition to

the lengthy section on Fiesta, the sections on Harlequin, Century/Riviera, and decorated Mexican lines are especially informative as is the section discussing HLC's contribution to the 1939 NYC World Exposition. I hope that the Huxfords are researching the lines not so fully discussed so that future updates become more comprehensive. The authors' writing style is folksy, occasionally silly, and quite accurate other than a half-a-handful of errors in labelling the illustrations, which are marvelously colorful except for a few dark examples which should be redone for the 9th edition (which I am eagerly awaiting). While the listed values provide a general guideline to pricing, I would say that many, perhaps most, items are underpriced - at least compared to the prices that I have encountered in TX, WV, MD, and LA. Overall, the book is informative, well-written, beautifully illustrated, and worth the read for HLC dinnerware collectors, admirers, and the like.

As a new collector, I found this book invaluable as well as extremely interesting!! I would like to clear up one thing though for future readers of the review section on this book. MY review refers to the NINTH Edition. . .several reviews before mine, though listed under the NINTH Edition are actually referring to the EIGHTH Edition especially in reference to the mix up and mislabeling of the ever confusing "greens". In the NINTH Edition, on page 36 Plate #64. . the authors CLARIFY the error that appeared in the EIGHTH edition and using the same photo, have now labeled it correctly. I also agree with some of the previous reviewers that perhaps in the TENTH edition (if there is to be one) the authors could spend a little more time and detail on identifying unmarked pieces. Otherwise, I found this book facsinating!!

This has been a great reference book for years, but hasn't been getting better, instead getting filled with more and more errors. The new 'Fiesta, Harlequin, and Kitchen Kraft Dinnerwares: The Homer Laughlin China Collectors Association' book has more detailed and better pictures than any other book. I'd buy them both, but use this one the least.

The title of this book "Fiesta" can be a little misleading to the novice or seasoned collector. Beyond actual Fiesta and Fiestaware by Homer Laughlin the author's detail company history by delving into Harhequin, Riviera, Mexican lines, Kitchen Kraft, even promotional items and advertising. For Fiesta identification pieces the pictures and Plate descriptions are very good. Pictures, specifically are very clear and concise while the page quality is excellent. In particular, this book will provide a very wide range of history and the wide variety of products offered by Homer Laughlin Co. over many years. Although the title suggests a book on Fiesta, this portion is limited. If your looking for price

comparisons or rule of thumb the book is weak in this department, it does not effectively handle all colors preferring to provide information strictly on the "hot" collector pieces such as 'medium green.' Of course, prices quoted in books are strictly "guides" as the internet, antique malls and live auctions mix up values on a weekly basis. Current research and personal perspective will be the true guides for market value at any given time. Fiesta is covered in the first 73 pages of this book (pre/post 1986) and then moves on other topics or products produced. This book would be a fine starter for the novice but additional resources will need to be added for a complete library on Fiesta and Fiestaware.

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The Collector's Encyclopedia of Fiesta: Plus Harlequin, Riviera, and Kitchen Craft, 7th Revised & Updated Edition
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