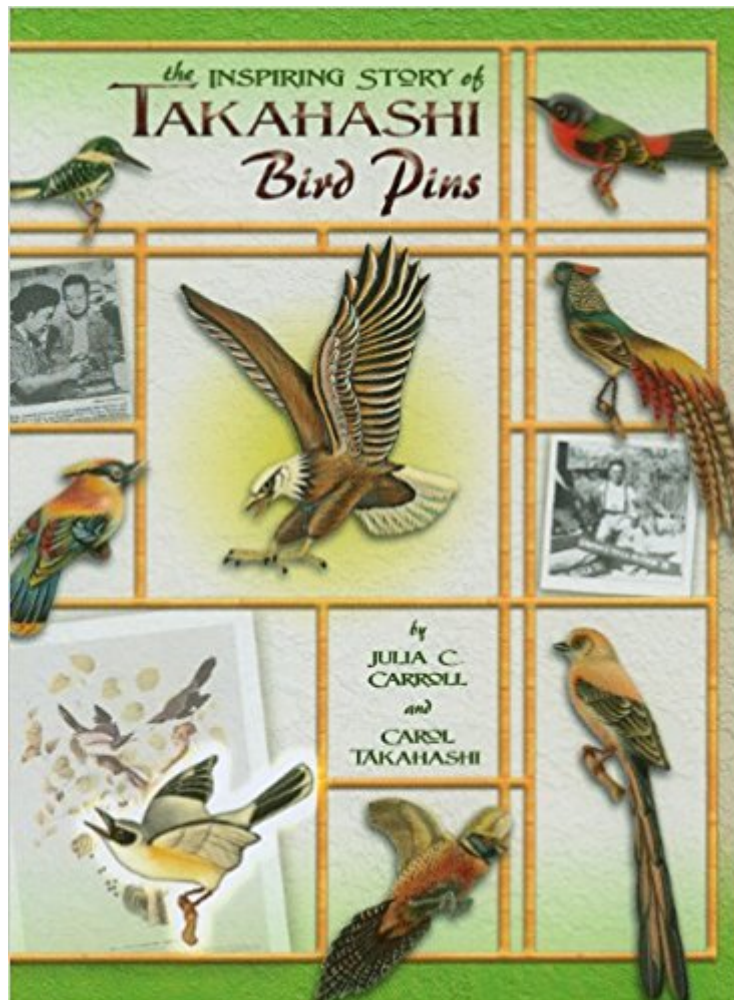




The book was found

The Inspiring Story Of Takahashi Bird Pins



Synopsis

After Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans Yoneguma and Kiyoka Takahashi and their three young sons were incarcerated at the Poston III internment camp for three and a half years. While there, the Takahashis participated in a bird carving class where they learned the art of carving and painting bird pins using meager materials scrounged from scraps left-over wood that was used to build the camp. From the beginning, the couple excelled at the craft. Upon their release, unable to find work due to the continuing xenophobic attitudes against those of Japanese ancestry, the Takahashis started a home-based business making and selling handcrafted bird pins. For 40 years the Takahashis perfected their craft. Immediately popular, the couple sold every bird pin they made, earning enough income to purchase their own home, pay for their healthcare, save for a comfortable retirement, and send all of their children to college. This book is a celebration of their lives, their legacy, their art. Lushly illustrated with 400 color photographs of rare bird pins, the pages of this book recount in detail the inspiring story of the Takahashi family. For collectors who appreciate the artistic value of the birds, specifics of the bird pins are carefully cataloged including size, signature, date, species, and value.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Julia Carroll has been collecting costume jewelry for over 12 years. She taught computer science for many years, and at that time very few published materials were available to teach young children, so she frequently wrote her own lessons. She used this skill in trying to teach others about collecting

costume jewelry.

This is such an amazing book! Like Julia's other jewelry books, she completely captivates you with hundreds of gorgeous photos, history and complete detail of how these little bird pins were made. I was not able to put the book down - the birds appear to "fly" off the pages, the close-up photos of the detail & descriptions kept you wanting to read more & more, and the history of how the Takahashis mastered this craft during their time in the internet camp was really fascinating. I enjoyed the stories of people that knew the Takahashis & also loved seeing their personal collections. I have collected some of these amazing pins over the years and know how beautiful they really are. If you are a bird lover or a jewelry collector, you will love this book!

It was helpful to learn about the making/evolution of these historic pins. The family's commitment to quality and their ability to make a living from what was a "hobby" (or perhaps a refuge from boredom and frustration in their camp life) was inspiring. I have a small collection of pins and was anxious to check their authenticity and value. This book gave me that information. The color photos are truly lovely!

Bought this book for my sister who collects thousands of buttons, and bird pins. She was very happy with this purchase.

Book was in good shape. Good read

Julia Carroll has already written three valuable reference works on jewelry, but this book, co-authored with Carol Takahashi, is an inspiring history of Carol's grandparents, Yoneguma and Kiyoka Takahashi and their creation of beautiful works of jewelry art. Incarcerated in the Poston Relocation Camp during WWII, the Takahashi's mastered the art of carving and painting wooden bird pins, and used this skill to create a successful business and a successful life for their children and family. The authors provide a backdrop of the unfair and hostile treatment of Japanese immigrants, juxtaposed with the Takahashi family history. Following these chapters are many pages describing the carving and painting techniques, detailed and clear descriptions and photos of the many handmade birds, findings, signatures, dates, as well as a discussion of the reproductions made during the 1970s. Finally there is a collection of stories from friends and collectors. Carol Takahashi's detailed memories of her grandparents add delightful color. This excellent book is not

only a great reference work for collectors, but a story for the ages of a family overcoming great challenges and achieving success and happiness.

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