

By Donald Brian Johnson Moss Lamps Lighting The 50s Schiffer For Collectors With Price Guide Hardcover

By Donald Brian Johnson: Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s (Schiffer for Collectors with Price Guide) - A Collector's Guide

The mid-century modern design era continues to captivate collectors and enthusiasts, and a significant part of that fascination lies in the iconic lighting fixtures of the time. Donald Brian Johnson's "Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s (Schiffer for Collectors with Price Guide)" is a definitive guide to understanding and appreciating these stunning pieces, specifically those created by the visionary George Nelson and his associates at Herman Miller. This book, a valuable resource for both seasoned collectors and newcomers to mid-century lighting, provides a detailed exploration of design, manufacturing, and ultimately, value. We'll delve into its contents, examining the book's key features, its usefulness to collectors, and what makes it a coveted addition to any design enthusiast's library.

Understanding the Appeal of Mid-Century Modern Lighting and the Book's Significance

The allure of mid-century modern design lies in its clean lines, functional elegance, and optimistic spirit reflecting the post-war era. Lighting, an essential element of any interior, played a crucial role in this aesthetic. George Nelson's innovative designs, often featuring organic shapes and innovative materials, stand out as prime examples. Johnson's book, "Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s," focuses specifically on this influential period and the highly collectible lamps produced. This is not merely a catalog; it's a detailed study, offering historical context, design analysis, and practical advice for collectors interested in **mid-century modern lamps**, **George Nelson lamps**, and **vintage lighting**. The inclusion of a price guide adds significant value, providing insights into the current market for these sought-after pieces.

Key Features and Content of the Book

The book meticulously documents the various models of Moss lamps, providing high-quality images and detailed descriptions of their unique

characteristics. It explores the evolution of designs, from the initial concepts to the manufacturing processes and variations in production. This attention to detail allows collectors to identify authentic pieces and distinguish them from reproductions. Furthermore, the author effectively traces the historical context, explaining the societal influences and design trends that shaped these iconic lamps. **Vintage lighting collecting** is a passionate pursuit, and this book provides the tools to engage in it confidently. The **price guide** itself is a practical and invaluable tool, helping collectors understand the market value of different models and conditions. This comprehensive approach ensures that the book serves both educational and practical purposes.

Benefits for Collectors and Enthusiasts

"Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s" offers several tangible benefits to collectors. First, its detailed descriptions and photographs help authenticate lamps, minimizing the risk of acquiring reproductions. This feature alone saves collectors significant sums of money and prevents disappointment. Second, the comprehensive information on design variations allows collectors to understand the nuances and appreciate the subtleties of different models. This deeper understanding enhances the overall collecting experience. Third, the inclusion of a **price guide** is invaluable in determining fair market value, facilitating informed purchasing and selling decisions. The book ultimately fosters a deeper appreciation for the artistry and craftsmanship behind these vintage lights. It elevates collecting beyond simple acquisition, fostering a genuine understanding of design history and market dynamics.

The Author's Expertise and Writing Style

Donald Brian Johnson's expertise in mid-century modern design is evident throughout the book. His writing style is clear, concise, and accessible to a broad audience, ranging from seasoned collectors to those new to the field. He avoids overly technical jargon, making the information easily digestible for anyone with an interest in the subject. The book's organization is logical and intuitive, allowing readers to navigate the information efficiently. The combination of high-quality photography, detailed descriptions, and engaging writing makes "Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s" a pleasurable read, even for those unfamiliar with the specifics of vintage lighting. This makes it a fantastic resource for anyone interested in exploring the world of **mid-century lighting design**.

Conclusion: A Must-Have for Collectors and Design Enthusiasts

"Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s (Schiffer for Collectors with Price Guide)" by Donald Brian Johnson stands as a comprehensive and highly valuable resource for anyone interested in mid-century modern lighting. Its detailed descriptions, high-quality photography, historical context, and practical price guide make it an essential addition to any serious collector's library. The book's accessibility and engaging writing style cater to both seasoned enthusiasts and newcomers alike, making it a truly rewarding investment for anyone seeking to understand and appreciate the artistry and enduring appeal of these iconic lamps. The legacy of George Nelson and the Moss lamps

continues to inspire designers and collectors, and this book expertly captures and celebrates that legacy.

FAQ:

Q1: Is this book only for experienced collectors?

A1: No, the book is accessible to both seasoned collectors and those new to the field. Johnson's writing style is clear and concise, avoiding overly technical jargon. Even without prior knowledge, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of Moss lamps and their historical context. The book's structure allows readers to easily navigate the information, regardless of their experience level.

Q2: How accurate is the price guide?

A2: The price guide offers a valuable starting point for assessing the market value of Moss lamps. However, remember that prices can fluctuate based on condition, rarity, and market demand. It's crucial to consider these factors and possibly consult with a professional appraiser for a precise valuation. The guide serves as a robust reference point but shouldn't be taken as an absolute, unchanging indicator of price.

Q3: What types of Moss lamps are covered in the book?

A3: The book covers a wide range of Moss lamp models produced during the 1950s. It delves into the design variations, manufacturing details, and unique characteristics of each model, enabling collectors to identify and differentiate between various pieces. The detailed descriptions and numerous photographs greatly assist in this process.

Q4: Are there any resources mentioned for further research?

A4: While the book itself is a comprehensive resource, it might include references to additional sources for readers who wish to delve deeper into specific aspects of Moss lamp history or mid-century modern design. These could include museum archives, design publications, or online forums dedicated to vintage lighting.

Q5: How does the book compare to other resources on mid-century modern lighting?

A5: "Moss Lamps: Lighting the 50s" distinguishes itself through its exclusive focus on Moss lamps and the inclusion of a dedicated price guide. While other books might cover broader aspects of mid-century lighting, this one offers a more specialized and detailed approach, making it an invaluable tool for collectors specifically interested in these iconic lamps.

Q6: Where can I purchase a copy of the book?

A6: The book can often be found through online retailers like Amazon, eBay, and specialized bookstores dealing in design and collectibles. Checking with used booksellers and online auction sites may also yield results. It's advisable to compare prices and shipping costs before making a purchase.

Q7: What is the overall value of owning this book for a collector?

A7: The value of the book extends beyond its monetary cost. It provides invaluable insights into authenticating Moss lamps, understanding their market value, and appreciating their historical significance. This enhances the overall collecting experience and minimizes the risk of acquiring fakes or paying inflated prices. The information provided is instrumental in building a discerning and knowledgeable collection.

illuminating the Mid-Century Modern: A Deep Dive into "Moss Lamps Lighting the 50s"

The desire to own a piece of history, to possess a tangible link to a bygone era, is a powerful force. For collectors of mid-century modern design, that force often leads them to the iconic lamps crafted by George Nelson and his collaborators. Donald Brian Johnson's "Moss Lamps Lighting the 50s: Schiffer for Collectors with Price Guide Hardcover" serves as a definitive manual for navigating this fascinating world. This book isn't merely a price guide; it's a exploration through design history, production processes, and the enduring appeal of these sophisticated lights.

The book's might lies in its complete coverage. Johnson doesn't simply list prices; he offers a rich context for understanding the lamps' creation and significance. He describes the evolution of the designs, from the early experiments to the mass-produced versions that became synonymous with mid-century modern aesthetics. The narrative is engaging , seamlessly weaving together the stories of the designers, the manufacturers, and the evolving tastes of the era.

One of the book's extremely valuable aspects is its meticulous photographic documentation. High-quality images of a broad array of Moss lamps, showcasing their individual features and variations, allow readers to appreciate the craftsmanship and design nuances. This visual richness is essential for collectors, as it permits them to differentiate between genuine pieces and reproductions. The book also provides precise descriptions of the different models, including their materials, construction, and characteristic markings. This is irreplaceable for authentication and assessing condition .

Beyond the visual display , the book's profundity extends to its exploration of the historical and social setting of the lamps. Johnson illuminates how the designs reflected the social and cultural changes of the 1950s. The post-war boom, the rise of suburban living, and the growing middle class all played a role in shaping the popularity of these functional yet aesthetically attractive lamps. By understanding this background , collectors gain a deeper appreciation for the cultural meaning of the lamps.

The inclusion of a price guide is, of course, a key feature of the book. However, Johnson cautions against taking the prices as fixed values. The market is active , and the value of a specific lamp depends on various factors, including its state , rarity, and provenance. The guide serves more as a useful benchmark for collectors to orient themselves in the market, rather than a precise estimate of future values.

Furthermore, the hardcover format enhances the book's overall appeal and durability . It feels substantial and valuable in your hands – a fitting tribute to the craftsmanship of the lamps themselves. The high-

quality paper and sharp printing further enhance to the book's total superiority.

In summary , Donald Brian Johnson's "Moss Lamps Lighting the 50s: Schiffer for Collectors with Price Guide Hardcover" is beyond just a price guide. It is a comprehensive and engaging exploration of a significant chapter in mid-century modern design history. The book's combination of historical context, detailed photography, and a practical price guide makes it an invaluable resource for collectors, design aficionados , and anyone interested in the fascinating tale of these iconic lamps. It functions as both a instrument for collecting and a glimpse into a particularly elegant era of design.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q1: Is this book only for serious collectors?

A1: No, while the price guide is a valuable tool for collectors, the book's historical context and detailed photography make it appealing to anyone interested in mid-century modern design or the history of lighting.

Q2: How accurate is the price guide?

A2: The price guide provides a useful benchmark, but actual market values can fluctuate based on condition, rarity, and market trends. It's best used as a starting point for valuation.

Q3: Does the book cover all variations of Moss lamps?

A3: The book covers a significant range of Moss lamps, but given the sheer variety produced, it may not include every single model ever created. However, it provides a comprehensive overview of the most common and significant designs.

Q4: Where can I purchase this book?

A4: The book is often available through online booksellers, auction sites, and specialized retailers of design books. Checking these resources should provide you with options for purchasing.

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