



Navajo Silversmithing

Arthur Woodward



Navajo Silversmithing:

A Brief History of Navajo Silversmithing Arthur Woodward, 1946 **Navajo Silversmiths** Washington Matthews, Among the Navajo Indians there are many smiths who sometimes forge iron and brass but who work chiefly in silver When and how the art of working metals was introduced among them I have not been able to determine but there are many reasons for supposing that they have long possessed it many believe that they are not indebted to the Europeans for it Doubtless the tools obtained from American and Mexican traders have influenced their art Old white residents of the Navajo country tell me that the art has improved greatly within their recollection that the ornaments made fifteen years ago do not compare favorably with those made at the present time and they attribute this change largely to the recent introduction of fine files and emery paper At the time of the Conquest the so called civilized tribes of Mexico had attained considerable skill in the working of metal and it has been inferred that in the same period the sedentary tribes of New Mexico also wrought at the forge From either of these sources the first smiths among the Navajos may have learned their trade but those who have seen the beautiful gold ornaments made by the rude Indians of British Columbia and Alaska many of whom are allied in language to the Navajos may doubt that the latter derived their art from a people higher in culture than themselves Navajo Silver, 1973 **Navajo Silversmiths** Washington Matthews, 2019-11-25 In *Navajo Silversmiths* Washington Matthews meticulously chronicles the artistry and cultural significance of Navajo silverwork detailing the intricate techniques and tools employed in crafting these remarkable pieces Through a blend of descriptive narrative and analytical discourse Matthews situates the silversmiths within the broader tapestry of Southwestern culture highlighting how their work reflects both tradition and innovation The text serves not only as an artistic commentary but as an anthropological study capturing the spiritual and communal dimensions inherent in the art of silversmithing Matthews adopts a clear accessible literary style while maintaining an authoritative voice yielding a book that resonates with both lay readers and scholars alike Washington Matthews primarily known for his contributions to ethnology and anthropology brought a deeply empathetic perspective to the study of Navajo culture His extensive fieldwork among the Navajo people and their crafts provides him with an authenticity that enriches his analysis Matthews was not just an observer his dedication to understanding and preserving Native American traditions allowed him to illuminate the nuances of Navajo craftsmanship in a way that few contemporaries achieved This work is highly recommended for those intrigued by Native American culture art history or anthropology *Navajo Silversmiths* not only offers insights into the technical expertise of silversmithing but also reveals the profound cultural narratives woven into each piece Readers will gain a greater appreciation for the artistry of the Navajo people and the enduring significance of their traditions In this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience A succinct Introduction situates the work's timeless appeal and themes The Synopsis outlines the central plot highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists A detailed Historical Context immerses you in the era's events

and influences that shaped the writing A thorough Analysis dissects symbols motifs and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings Reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work s messages connecting them to modern life Hand picked Memorable Quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance Interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read [A Brief History of Navajo Silversmithing](#) Arthur Woodward,200? *The Beauty of Navajo Jewelry* Theda Bassman,1997 An elegant array of museum quality pieces are showcased illustrating the marvelous creativity and artistry of Navajo jewelers The book features the fine photography of noted photographer Gene Balzer Detailed descriptions accompany each piece photographed **Navajo** D. L. Birchfield,2003-07-03 A discussion of the history culture and contemporary life of the Navajo Indians *The Navajo and Pueblo Silversmiths* John Adair,1944 Probably no Native American handicrafts are more widely admired than Navajo weaving and Navajo and Pueblo silver work This book which is now in its third large printing contains the most important and complete account of Indian jewelry fashioned by the Navajo the Zuni the Hopi and other Pueblo peoples With the care of a meticulous and thorough scholar the author has told the story of his several years investigation of jewelry making among the Southwestern Indians says The Dallas Times Herald So richly decorative are the plates he uses that the conscientious narrative is surrounded by an atmosphere of genuinely exciting visual experience John Adair is a trained ethnologist who has lived and worked among these Indians To prepare his book Mr Adair made an exhaustive examination of the principal museum collections of Navajo and Pueblo silver work both early and modern in Santa Fe Colorado Springs Chicago New York and Philadelphia He visited trading posts in the Indian country and examined and photographed silver on the pawn racks and in important private collections He lived for a time among the Navajo watched them make their jewelry and actually learned to work silver himself in the hogan of one of the leading artisans Tom Burnside Many of the photographs he made at the time are used as illustrations in this book He spent months among the Indians in New Mexico and Arizona and became personally acquainted with many of their silversmiths Later as field worker for the Indian Arts and Crafts Board he studied the economics of Navajo and Pueblo silversmithing and still later he became manager of the Navajo Arts and Crafts Guild a tribal enterprise The Navajo and Pueblo Silversmiths provides a full history of the craft and the actual names and localities of the pioneer craftsmen who introduced the art of the silversmith to their people Despite its present high stage of development with its many subtle and often exquisite designs the art of working silver is not an ancient one among the Navajo and Pueblo Indians There are men still living today who remember the very first silversmiths Mr Adair gives full details as he observed them of the methods and techniques of manufacture over a primitive forge with homemade tools He tells both of the fine pieces made for trade among the Indians themselves and of the newer cheaper types of jewelry produced for sale to tourists He discusses standards and qualities of Indian silver and describes the work of the Indian schools in helping preserve traditional design in the fine silver of today His excellent photographs of some of the most notable pieces old and new

provide examples for evaluation This volume therefore will serve the layman the ethnologist and the dealer alike as a guide to proper values in Indian silver jewelry and will provide the basis for authoritative knowledge and appreciation of a highly skilled creative art Navajo Trading Willow Roberts Powers,2002-11 This overview is the first to examine trading in the

last quarter of the twentieth century when changes in both Navajo and white cultures led to the investigation of trading practices by the Federal Trade Commission resulting in the demise of most traditional trading posts **NAVAJO**

SILVERSMITHING PB. David L. Neumann,1971 NAVAJO SILVERWORK THE PRESENT NOTE DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF PRIMARILY WITH THE ORIGIN OR HISTORY OF THE SILVERSMITH S CRAFT BUT WITH ITS PRESENT DEVELOPMENT EXTENT AND PLACE IN THE ECONOMY OF THE NAVAJO

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Navajo Silversmithing Introduction

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