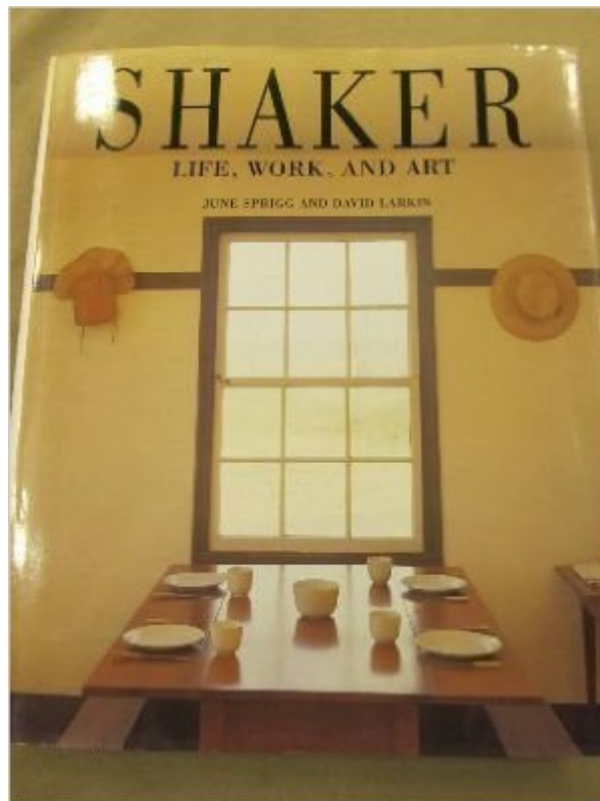


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# Shaker: Life, Work, And Art



## Synopsis

Today few Shakers are left, but their legacy--the beautifully proportioned buildings, the exquisite baskets and the classically crafted chairs--lives on in their creations--and in *Shaker*, the first comprehensive book on this remarkable society. 200 full-color photographs.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Stewart Tabori & Chang; 1st edition (September 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556700113

ISBN-13: 978-1556700118

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 9.5 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #933,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Shaker](#) #484 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mixed Media](#) #2019 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers](#)

## Customer Reviews

*Shaker: Life, Work and Art* is a beautiful book. I first saw a copy several years ago and was disappointed to learn that the hardcover version was out of print. The book has short narrative sections that provide insight into Shaker history, work, and communal and spiritual life. One section captures a "typical" day in the life of the Brethren and Sisters. The enlarged font is easy on the eyes and the top of each narrative page is headed by the famous Shaker wall pegs. The narrative sections are separated by numerous pages of high quality, well-captioned color photographs of Shaker crafts, furniture, and architecture. Lots of beautiful pictures! The Shakers legacy still seems to have a profound impact on our contemporary lives in spite of (or perhaps because of) the simplicity of their work and their unusual communal way of life. Although this book does not present a comprehensive history of the Shakers, it does an admirable job of providing an insight into the lives of these interesting people. This book is deserving of any coffee table and should get a lot of attention in your household. END

I have had a life long fascination with the Shakers, visiting the museums in Harvard, Massachusetts

and Canterbury, New Hampshire since early childhood. Reading this book gave me the same sense of calm and comfort as touring those lovely buildings and grounds. The photos are really wonderful and the reason why I bought the book, but I am also very pleased with the text. If you are at all interested in the Shakers, or even just photography or simplicity, I recommend this book.

June Sprigg's great introduction to the Shakers has happily been reprinted. It is a most beautiful book. It's rare that something that looks at first glance like a "coffee table book" that should be admired largely for its pictures but that also contains such a thoughtful and illuminating text. There is no other book that shows as clearly how the Shakers connected practicality and simplicity with elegance and harmony of design. The photographs are subtle, understated but quite lovely to linger over. It's easy to dismiss the Shakers as a fringe group, and few of us would embrace their doctrine of celibacy. But June Sprigg documents the appeal of their fundamental values: Do all your work as if it was to last for 1,000 years, but live your life as if you knew that the Judgment Day was coming tomorrow. Her ability to articulate this apparent paradox makes this a spiritually moving book. Buy it as a gift for anyone interested in design, or with a serious interest in religion. And be sure to order two copies--you'll want one yourself.

Beautiful photographs and description of the complex, dynamic simplicity of Shaker work and way of life. Oddly, many resonances with Zen Buddhist and Japanese aesthetic, and some overlaps with American Zen Convert Buddhist communities of the 1970s.

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This is a very good book on the Shakers, but I wished for more text. We live near 3 Shaker villages in the northeast, and i would have liked a bit more insight.

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