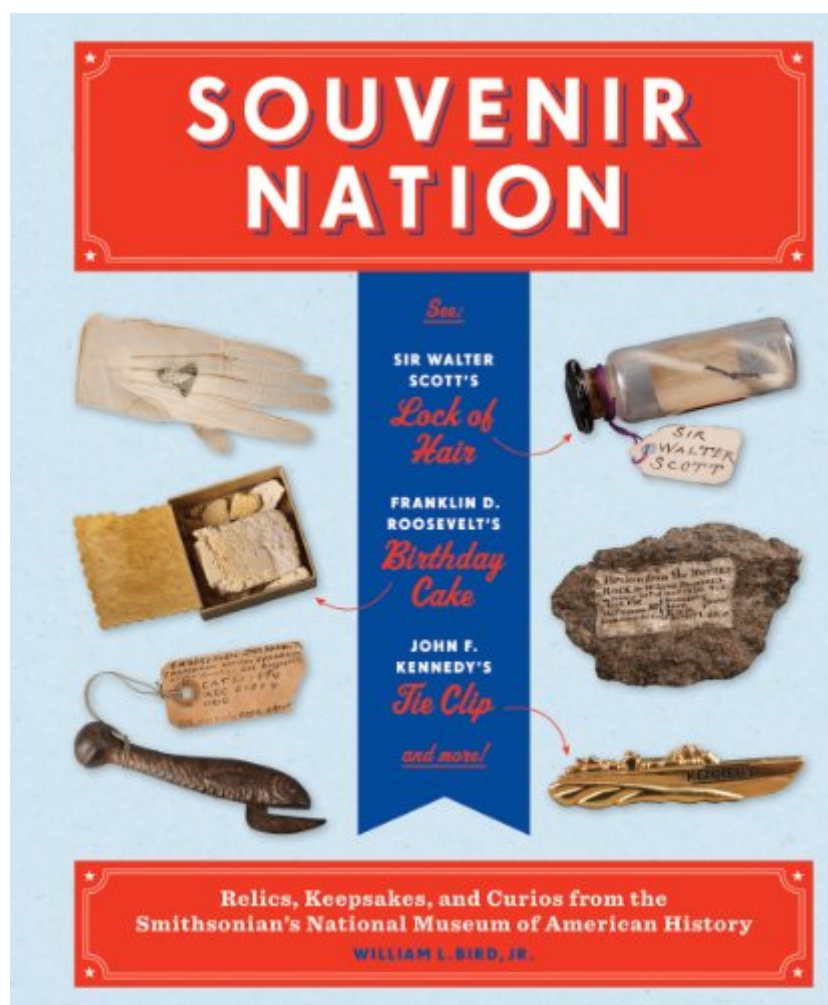


The book was found

# Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, And Curios From The Smithsonian's National Museum Of American History



## Synopsis

Buried within the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History exists an astonishing group of historical relics from the pre-Revolutionary War era to the present day, many of which have never been on display. Donated to the museum by generations of souvenir collectors, these ordinary objects of extraordinary circumstance all have amazing tales to tell about their roles in American history. Souvenir Nation presents fifty of the museum's most eccentric items. Objects include a chunk broken off Plymouth Rock; a lock of Andrew Jackson's hair; a dish towel used as the flag of truce to end the Civil War; the microphones used by FDR for his Fireside Chats; and the chairs that seated Nixon and Kennedy in their 1960 television debate.

## Book Information

File Size: 43490 KB

Print Length: 176 pages

Publisher: Princeton Architectural Press; 1 edition (October 22, 2013)

Publication Date: October 22, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00FTDID2K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #221,961 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana #15

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Art > Museums & Collections #78

in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana

## Customer Reviews

William Bird's SOUVENIR NATION is an appealing look at American history, specifically RELICS, KEEPSAKES AND CURIOS FROM THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY. Bird examines over 50 such 'souvenirs,' detailing their history and how they came to find a home at the Smithsonian. A 2013 Princeton Architectural Press release, SOUVENIR NATION is a wonderfully entertaining journey through our history, "revealing who we are through the things we

have saved."Bird divides his topic into broad chapters such as 'The Cause of Freedom,' 'The Immortal (George) Washington,' 'Foreign Guests,' 'Presidential Pieces,' etc. Each object gets a one-page write-up with an accompanying, color photograph on the facing page. Included are such fascinating items as a piece of the original Plymouth Rock, a cane made from a floor joist from Independence Hall, a Washington Monument cornerstone fragment, a napkin used by Napoleon, a vase made from a USS Constitution timber, the table and chairs used by Lee and Grant at Appomattox, a framed lock of Andrew Jackson's hair, FDR's Fireside Chat microphones, a JFK PT-109 tie-clip and so on. I greatly enjoyed SOUVENIR NATION. Reading about how those 50-odd relics originated and then, eventually, ended up at the Smithsonian made for fascinating reading. And, seeing them in full-color is a hoot. William Bird's book is an educational - and fun - survey of one (small) part of American history. Recommended.

Anybody who thinks history is boring should read this super-fun book. The title echo of Sarah Vowell's Assassination Vacation is deliberate, I suspect, since both books share the same viewpoint that history is endlessly fascinating and often humorous. The eccentric objects in this book bring even old history lessons to life with panache and style. Great summer reading, especially for a trip to D.C., especially to our nation's attic, the Smithsonian, where all these odd curios seem to come out in the wash.

I really enjoyed this tour of the nation's attic. It is also interesting what a rocky start the collection endured, since it has been such a jewel during our lifetimes. As the title says, seeing the color pictures of each item is necessary. That is the point of mementos, getting to see it oneself, if one cannot touch.

This book is a light and very enjoyable read. The collecting of souvenirs has always been a tradition by people everywhere and throughout time. The best point of view with this book is showing how to legitimize such collecting by doing basic academic research to flesh out the meaning of the various objects., especially understanding them in the historical context.

It is worth while to read what we have saved and why we have saved these items. The past is important so we will know how to react in the future.

Good quick read on some unusual items from many sources. Nothing deep and detailed. It is

amazing what we value as historic

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Souvenir Nation: Relics, Keepsakes, and Curios from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Collectible Souvenir Spoons Identification (Collectible Souvenir Spoons: Identification & Values) Landscape Wallcoverings (Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution) Smithsonian Handbooks: Insects (Smithsonian Handbooks) American History: The People & Events that Changed American History (People's History, American, United States of America, American Revolution, Patriot, United States History Book 1) Books of Breathing and Related Texts -Late Egyptian Religious Texts in the British Museum Vol.1 (Catalogue of the Books of the Dead and Other Religious Texts in the British Museum) The Copan Sculpture Museum: Ancient Maya Artistry in Stucco and Stone (Peabody Museum) Five Centuries of Hanukkah Lamps from The Jewish Museum: A Catalogue Raisonné (Published in Association with the Jewish Museum, New York S) The Nation's Hangar: Aircraft Treasures of the Smithsonian Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory in Islam The Wanderings of the Grail: The Cathars, the Search for the Grail and the Discovery of Egyptian Relics in the French Pyrenees Asteroids: Relics of Ancient Time Make Your Own Ideabook with Arne & Carlos: Create Handmade Art Journals and Bound Keepsakes to Store Inspiration and Memories Poems for Greetings, Gifts and Keepsakes: For your Hobby Craft, Card Making and Scrapbooking Projects Buddhist Origami: 15 Easy-to-make Origami Symbols for Gifts and Keepsakes Crafts and Keepsakes for the Holidays: Christmas with Martha Stewart Living Smithsonian Civil War: Inside the National Collection Every Stamp Tells a Story: The National Philatelic Collection (Smithsonian Contribution to Knowledge) A souvenir. The Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River from Kingston and Cape Vincent to Morristown and Brockville. With their recorded history from the earliest times ... Profusely illustrated .. National Electrical Code 2002 (softcover) (National Fire Protection Association National Electrical Code)

[Dmca](#)