



**BEAUTY AND
COSMETICS
1550–1950**

Sarah Jane Downing

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Beauty and Cosmetics 1550–1950 (Shire Library)



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Exhibiting enormous power or inspiring incredible devotion, throughout background beauty has been women's chief asset. Each age group has required its own standard - a gleaming white brow through the Renaissance, the dark eyebrows considered captivating in the early 18th century, or the slim lips thought attractive to the Victorians. From Queen Elizabeth I who used dangerous quantities of white lead to give her complexion the illusion of a youthful lustre, to Marilyn Monroe who blended 4 tones of lipstick to emphasise her perfect pout this book will examine some of the more unusual cosmetic methods contemplated in beauty's name. From the color of the hearing to the transparency of one's teeth the benchmark for every aspect of beauty has been collection and women - and some guys - have applied themselves wholeheartedly risking their lives using poisonous chemicals, their fortunes at the risk of blackmail, or the wrath of God, to reach the desired targets. Ours isn't the only age group when beauty can be celebrated but also judged and quantified. For those naturally blessed, their beauty could ensure an excellent marriage, offer social mobility, fame or notoriety whereas those without such apparent gifts would holiday resort to any ends to achieve an illusion of beauty.



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Nicely done, thank you Sarah Jane Downing Pleasant little book which includes illustrations from historic times to 1950. What made this book even better where the examples through paintings and photos of how the author described each period. I just wished there was more info. Very enjoyable. Perfectly done, thank you Sarah Jane Downing! Love the pictures good background book. Great content! Quite simply I WANTED MORE, this means it was very amusing and fun. I still appreciated reading it. A significant quick read, particularly if you are considering information on only a particular era, as the publication is organized chronologically. Not dry and boring, but well written historical perspective. Additionally it is interesting to learn how the public's attitude towards the usage of artifice evolved through time. Five Stars Very good. Very slim and doesn't have a whole lot of pages. Helpful for research or general interest. Great information, well crafted and interesting... Great book if 1 is thinking about beauty history, the annals of what women have done throughout the age groups to create themselves 'pretty'. Interesting read, and worthy of your time.. However, the information presented is normally interesting and sparked a desire to have more reading. This is an extremely concise text. I browse it cover-to-cover in about two hours and was wishing it would be a bit more extensive. Not bad at all. It's a good, simple read but is still informative and engaging. At times the content seemed rushed plus some quotes, pictures and stories lacked deeper context. Enjoyed it but I was left curious about more! ? Wonderful book I loved reading the history of cosmetics and beauty designs I had simply no idea about until now! Discovering the odd stuff women (and sometimes men) did for beauty, in the 1500s especially, will probably be worth the read alone! Quick read filled with content. Fun little book and a good read. An excellent little book! I was a little bit underwhelmed when I found the size of the book. Five Stars This is an interesting read. Some myths are busted in this. Love the images and illustrations in it. Definitely worth it if you love make-up, beauty and background. An excellent little book - I was amazed by it's small size.. Lots of high-quality photos to break up the text, as well.



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