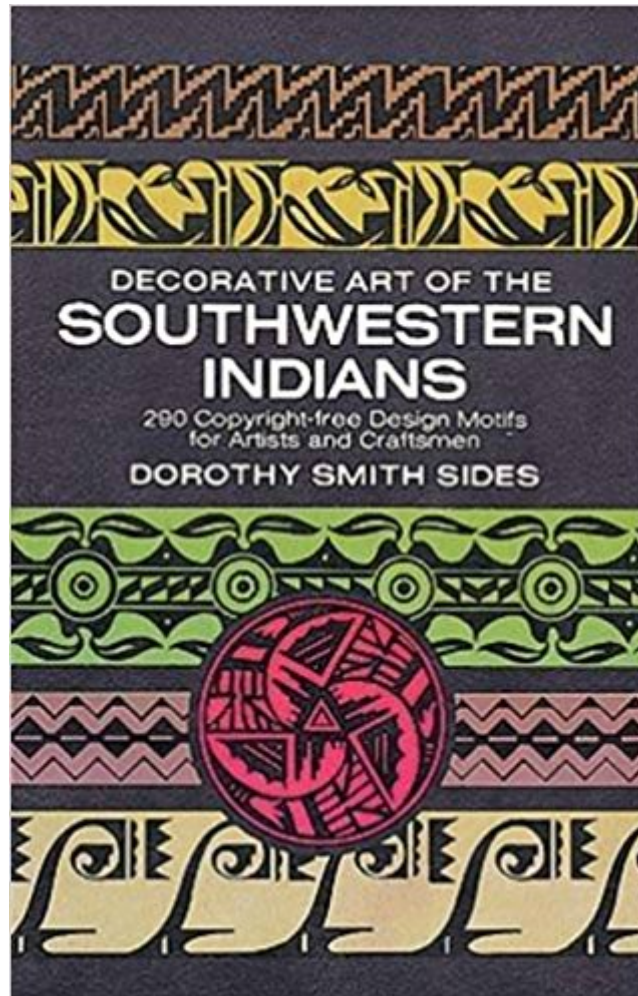




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Decorative Art Of The Southwestern Indians (Dover Pictorial Archive)



Synopsis

The decorative art of the Indians of the American Southwest has long been recognized as one of the most beautiful art traditions in the primitive world. It demonstrates a technical skill with simple materials, a symbolic richness, and a faculty for creating rich effects by the imaginative use of ornament that are all almost unique. Museums use Pueblo ceramics for display pieces, and modern artists and crafters have turned eagerly to the handwork of prehistoric Indian women for inspiration and working ideas. Mrs. Dorothy Sides, a noted artist and collector, has gathered together and redrawn in black and white nearly 300 examples of the finest authentic Southwestern Indian decoration that she has seen in a lifetime of study. She has not limited her selection to one period or style, however; to make her book as useful as possible, she has selected material ranging from the thirteenth century great geometric art of the Pueblos to the handcrafts carried on by the nomadic and Pueblo peoples of the present. The main emphasis of this volume is on ceramic decoration, and Mrs. Sides includes pieces from the rich archeological sites of Pecos, Sikyatki, the Mimbres, and modern Pueblo pottery from Acoma, Zuni, Cochiti, and the Hopi. She also includes designs and motifs from the basketry of the Apache, Pima, and Papago; beadwork from the Mohave; authentic Zuni masks; Hopi kachina dolls; and sand paintings and blanket designs from the Navajo. This broad coverage of beautiful ornament illustrates many different art styles to fit every situation: geometric designs based upon balanced mirror fields of design, symbolic figures of the thunderbird, and modern stylizations. All is beautiful and imaginative. Any crafter working with ceramics will find this book indispensable as a source of rich, easily used, powerful design; workers in wood, weavers, metal workers, and leather workers will find that it will enlarge their decorative resources considerably. It also offers unusual and eye-catching designs for commercial artists who wish to do work suggesting travel, handcrafts, the Southwest, or the social sciences. Individual drawings are royalty-free and may be reproduced without fee or permission. "Worthy of an honored place in the library of aboriginal American art." — F. H. Hodge, Director, Southwestern Museum.

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Customer Reviews

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Nice basic reference book of documented southwest native american designs, primarily focused on pottery designs. Some blanket and doll designs included as well. All renderings are black/white with reference to documentation. Great for art design projects for basic southwest decor. Designs are referenced to tribe and area and a little history included. Not a very indepth book, but a good basic starter for the southwest artist.

covered large area of designs and patent free was good.

I hadn't looked at this book for awhile, and had forgotten how well-done it is. The author went thru basically all of the old descriptive anthropology pubs from the earlier days, picked the best pottery designs (plus a few baskets), made new plates, and found a publisher -- all this back in 1936. This was a serious job of work. When I lived in Tucson, I would go down to the Anthropology Library, located in the splendid Reading Room of the old university library (now the State Museum). Besides being a great place to read, the library had (sfaict) copies of all the anthropology papers eer written on the Southwest, and that's a *lot* of paper. Great fun looking at the originals of the classics....Anyway, these are the good parts, if you're a fan of Southwest Indian pottery. The only real caveat is, these are all drawings, not photos, and some of them are pretty mechanically-drawn -- J.W. Fewkes' papers were particularly bad for this, and Kenneth Chapman's about the best. Chapman did his own drawings, imo, and was an accomplished artist. As always, Dover books are well-made and a bargain to boot -- my copy, with a cover price of \$3, is still pristine after many years. Highly recommended. Happy reading--Peter D. Tillman

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