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Carlo M. Cipolla

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Clocks and Culture

Carlo M. Cipolla : Clocks and Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clocks and Culture:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **CLOCKS, CULTURE AND MORE!**By Larry CThought I reviewed it already. In any event, the book has stood the test of time.(Sorry) Professor Cipolla's book covers both Asia and Europe and takes the reader well beyond mere clocks covering everything from Jesuit scientists, if you will, in Japan China (including the Imperial Palace) to Jewish Clockmakers in Catalonia, Spain; and, of course, the always present European Astronomers and scientists and impact on the Culture of the times and places. In sum, it is both an easy and fascinating 120 page (before notes/appendices) read. Larry C1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent overview of the technology, cultural differences, trade in and factors affecting clock productionBy YodaDr. Cippolla, one of the 20th century's leading economic historians, presents a very well researched history of the clock between 1300 and 1600 in this relatively short book (about 120 pages in length). His coverage of the topic is multi-faceted. He not only does an excellent job at discussing the progress of the technology, per se, in this field, but covers many other aspects of involving clocks in this period. He covers the diffusion of this technology from northern Italy through France and then Switzerland, Germany the Lower Countries and England. He provides an explanation of why the technology (or at least production) did not take root in the Ottoman state at all and why it only occurred in only tiny areas of China and Japan. He discusses trade between these regions in the technology. He also discusses, quite importantly, cultural differences in the views held of clocks between these regions though the stress is between Western Europe and the Far East. He also provides a hypothesis as to why clock making advanced in the West but not in just about any other part of the world (i.e., the existence of an upper middle class market, an adequate supply of

skilled artisans, international mobility of that workforce, the growing importance of timekeeping and its importance in the West versus other parts of the world). All and all a very well researched book that is, simultaneously, well written and very entertaining. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not for washonistsasBy manuel santiagoNo for watch aficionado, excellent historian

How did a time-keeping device affect the growth of crafts guilds and the scientific research that led to the Industrial Revolution? *Clocks and Culture* is a brief history of the changes wrought by and on Europe over four hundred years due to technological advances in timekeeping and the rise of a time-aware culture. In his introduction, Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History at Princeton University, puts this classic book in perspective.

Cipolla has a sharp eye for the heaven in a grain of sand. He takes a prosaic piece of hardware and uses it as a path into some of the central themes of history.... Imaginative and wide-ranging. The Economist Brilliant.... Demonstrates the economic and technological development by which the continent thrust into the forefront of civilization. The Listener About the Author Carlo M. Cipolla was the author of *Before the Industrial Revolution* and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He died in 2000.