The SS Totenkopf Ring: An Illustrated History from Munich to Nuremberg by Craig Gottlieb

Outstanding

Using modern tools not available to previous authors on this subject, Craig Gottlieb paints a comprehensive picture of the Totenkopf Ring and the man who was behind it - Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler. Gottlieb draws on a body of over 200 examples to document currently believed notions about the ring. He offers never before seen photos and documents, and even develops many new well-reasoned theories about the Totenkopf (Death Head) ring. The book also covers the pre-history of the Totenkopf ring, placing its appearance onto the SS Scene in historical context. Also covered are design background, construction techniques, and an in-depth analysis of the physical characteristics of rings. Gottlieb also includes sections on award documents and frames, ring shipping boxes, and provides many never-before-seen photographs of rings in wear. Finally, he brings rings to life with an extensive personality profile chapter in which he illustrates several famous rings.

My Personal Review:
A book written for collectors by a collector expertly traces one of the Third Reich's highly prized awards, the Totenkopf Ring.

The author has documented 200 of these rings, which he has observed, and makes the assertion that if 20,000 were actually issued then the survival rate is about 100th of 1 per cent. This truly makes this award one of the rarest for collectors today.

Beautifully illustrated with large colour close up photos, the book examines the ring basics, award documents, presentation boxes, Rings by date and the Structure and significance and regulations.
One of the very interesting sections is the one titled personality profiles which covers such persons as Herman Priess and the ring awarded to him which shows in the wonderful photos the ring he received.

As this is a book for collectors it also covers the Bain of any serious collector - reproductions.

The book is printed on fine glossy paper for excellent photo reproduction and at a little over 170 pages makes for fast reading.

There is no other book out there that compares to this one, on what is a very specialized field of collecting. (Dare I say expensive!) A well researched and informative piece of writing, and if you are considering buying one take this particular book with you.

I have a reproduction ring, award box and award document, so I was fascinated to learn what the various symbols, dates, and engravings actually signify.

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