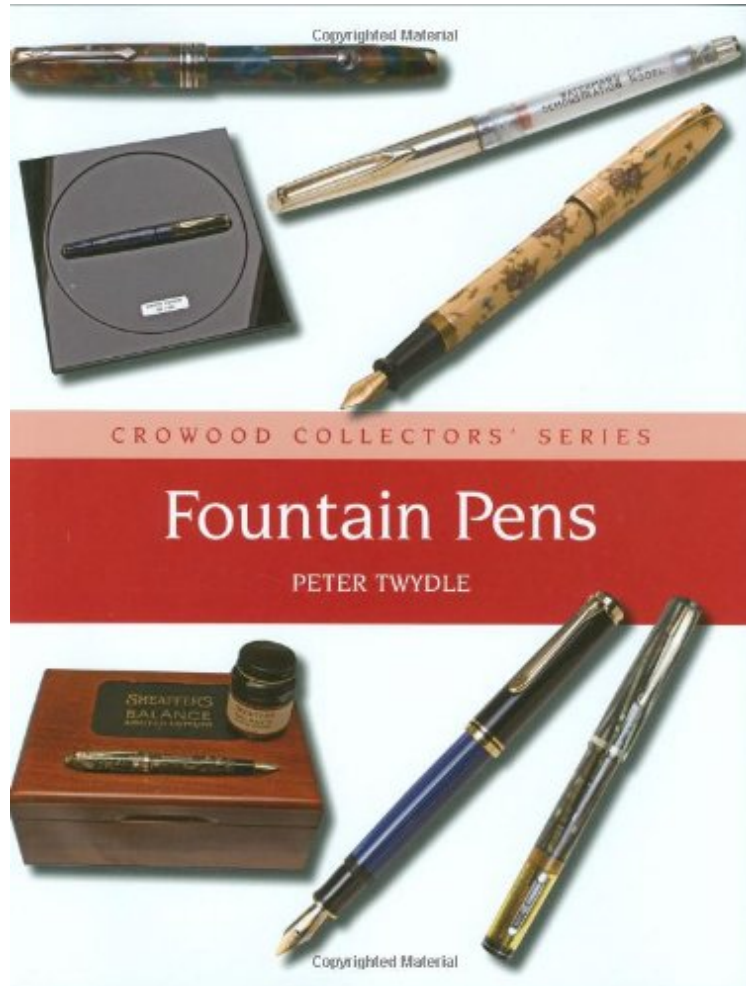


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Fountain Pens: A Collector's Guide (Crowood Collectors')

Peter Twydle

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Peter Twydle : Fountain Pens: A Collector's Guide (Crowood Collectors') before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fountain Pens: A Collector's Guide (Crowood Collectors)':

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A strong contribution. By Jack Apple As a collector of fountain pens for nearly thirty years, I own numerous books on fountains pens, the history, collecting, repair, etc. I must say, there has yet to be written the definitive tome on fountain pens. Peter Twydle's book takes a giant leap in the right direction. Well written with many handsome depictions of fountain pens and old print ads, many historical references, a reliance on vintage manuals, the author also shares the knowledge handed down from his father, Arthur Twydle, a fountain pen historian, to whom the book is dedicated. In fact, the book is a bit of a gift to his late father, a long-time pensmith (selling, restoring, collecting) and founder of (the first?) pen museum. There is a heartfelt biography in the appendix, recounting his father's life. The link between the author (himself a pensmith) and his father is quite warm and

humanizing. That alone makes this book different, and more engaging, from the rest. Some of the book's highlights come via Arthur Twydle, the father, who was opinionated and unequivocal in matters concerning pens. The best fountain pen, according to Arthur, is the Pelikan M800 Souveran (generally agree but also have very high regard for several Japanese brands, Namiki/Pilot and Nakaya, in particular); Montblanc has long shown excellence in branding but has an inferior filling system that makes their writing instruments prone to leak they've known this and refuse to address it (I discovered this nearly thirty years ago); we are living in a disposable world, so pens are no longer made to last if you're shelling out good money on a fountain pen, the first rule, says Arthur: it should work. And the company should stand behind it. Common sense . . . not so common. The book includes a glossary, many lovely line drawings and diagrams depicting the inner working of pens and filling systems. The real breath of fresh air comes with the sharing of opinions, long-held impressions of specific companies and the industry, and how it's all changed. There is a short section on how to navigate on eBay, how to buy at auction, how to value your pen collection, how to care for your pens, and suggestions on how to build your collection. One sore point for me, was that the author, in describing Montblanc, refers to the company logo as "a star." I understand that it is commonly referenced, incorrectly, as a star, but the white mark atop a Montblanc pen is meant to replicate the snow-capped mountain, Mont Blanc, for which the pen is named, just as the "4810" engraving on the nib references the height of the mountain in meters. Nevertheless, glad I have this book. Have already read it cover-to-cover. And will again.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the Pelikan m800 is the perfect pen, i wish he went into detail and ...By Ben TanI found myself flipping through ads and reading past marketing information. The only thing i got from this book is; according to the author, the Pelikan m800 is the perfect pen,i wish he went into detail and compared it to other pens like Visconti, Omas, Pilot , etc. I bought this used but I don't feel i got my money's worth I might as well done the research myself.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Useful book for beginners, clear and enthusiasticBy Bill yTwydle's short book provides enough detail for a beginner. It is not a definitive book but gives the highlights of important pen manufacturers, explains the basic mechanics of fountain pens, some of their history and some interesting photos. One picture is even a bit racy, showing that even pens can be made exciting. I would have liked to see a bit more about the instruments surrounding antique pens, such as ink wells, blotters, etc. This book is worth the money if you are just starting out.

The fountain pen as we know it today developed over thousands of years, from the simple stylus used for cutting marks into clay tablets, to the brush, through the reed, the quill, and the steel-nib dip pen, and finally to the self-contained fountain pen. The advent of electronic communication of the written word has failed to dim the appeal of the fountain pen, and names such as Parker, Waterman, and Sheaffer remain household names. Covering the complete history of the fountain pen, this guide offers useful advice on how to build a collection and where best to look for fountain pens, from car trunk sales to the internet.

About the AuthorPeter Twydle, the son of master pensmith Arthur Twydle, has been selling, restoring, and collecting fountain pens for more than 40 years. At 18, he took over the running of his father's shops. He then went on to help his father run his Pen Museum and launched the Pen Museum website, from which he began selling pens for the collector's market.