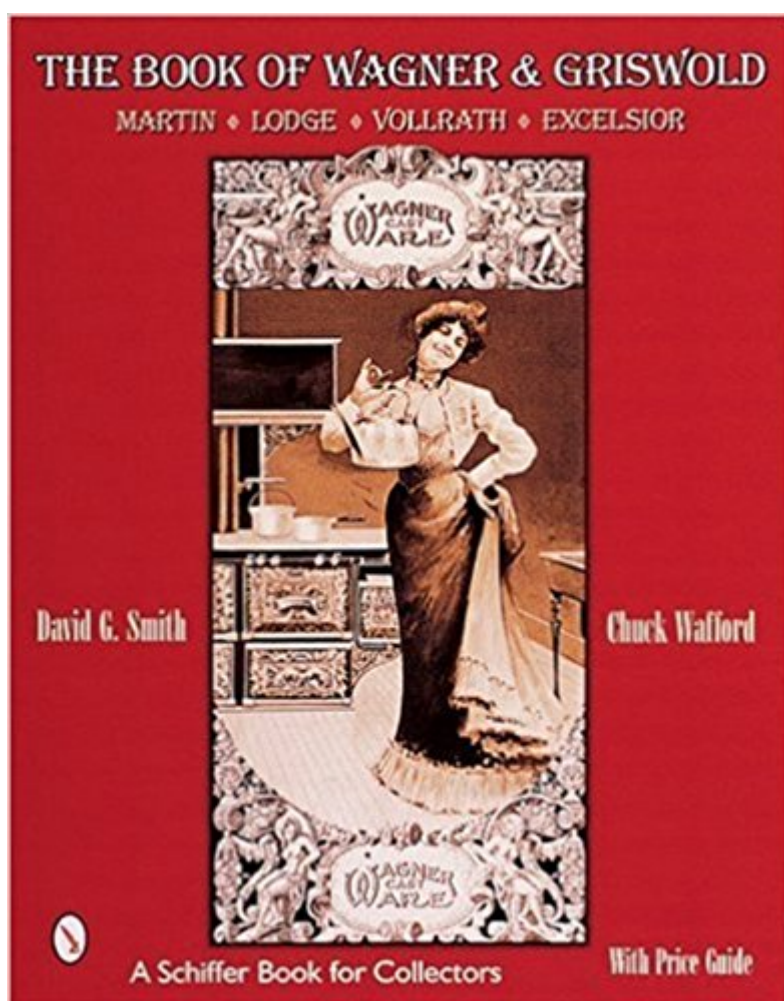


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# The Book Of Wagner And Griswold: Martin, Lodge, Vollrath, Excelsior (A Schiffer Book For Collectors)



## Synopsis

Cast iron cookware is an increasingly hot item in the antique marketplace. Collectors are scouring antique shops, shows, and flea markets searching for treasures to add to their collections; and hunting for more information about the products' history and manufacturers. In response to this growing demand, David Smith and Chuck Wafford have created another authoritative guide to collectible cast iron. This book continues where *The Book of Griswold & Wagner* left off--illustrating hundreds of items not included in the previous book. With over 845 photographs of cast iron pieces from the Wagner, Griswold, Lodge, Vollrath, Excelsior, and Martin manufacturing companies, this book delves into the histories and products produced by these manufacturers. Complete with pattern numbers, catalog list numbers, price guide, index, and much more; this book is a must-have for all cast iron cookware collectors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David G. Smith, the "Pan Man," resides in Perrysburg in western New York State. He is both a collector and dealer of cast iron cookware. Chuck Wafford, or "Cast Iron Charlie," lives in Oregon. He is a former flea market owner, nationally known Griswold collector, consultant, and appraiser.

This book is interesting. Not all pieces are listed but as many have said before, the internet is making these types of books obsolete. I was able to find more definitive answers to my Cast iron

questions online. But it is a fun guide to look through. And it looks good on the shelf.

I found this to be informative and educational as it is easy to read and to understand,

An absolute must have companion to the "Blue" book. If you can only buy two books on cast iron I'd recommend the "Blue" book first and definitely the "Red" book second. This is a nice follow up to the blue book and has lots of additional info on Lodge and other smaller cast iron foundries. Lots of great info, photos and illustrations. I'd also recommend the "peach" book on Griswold gem pans if you're serious about your cast iron.

I'm a newbie at collecting cast iron cookware and I need all the help I can get and this appears to be an outstanding reference tool in helping to guide me in the right direction, seems a bit pricey though.

Wanted background information on cast iron cookware which is in book. And it has a lovely selection of recipes.

Great book, I learned so much already! A must for any CI collector

Will known, must have for cast iron collectors.

I suppose I'm being a little unfair to write a three-star review of this volume, seeing as I only collect Griswold and only purchased this book for that section alone. A person shouldn't berate a screwdriver, for instance, because it makes a poor hammer, and when you get right down to it, the red book is primarily a Wagner price guide, not a Griswold one. But still, in their zeal to write a second guide with a low percentage of repeats from the first, the authors have presented a Griswold section that feels more like a collection of leftover snippets from the blue book than like an independent guide of its own. One of its most serious flaws in my opinion is its lack of complete price lists for referenced series. The authors show a picture of an unlabeled p/n 755 size 8 skillet, for instance (and then incorrectly attribute it to the Iron Mountain series in the caption,) but they neglect to give any pricing information for the size 9 and size 7 skillets in the same series. In the blue book, whenever they showed one size, they were pretty consistent with listing pricing for all sizes of that type. Here, they mostly just price exactly what is pictured. Being partial to the non-Griswold logo products, I'm glad that they included more pictures of Best Made, or Merit, or Good Health products,

but I wish that they had included more price ranges on those products, rather than only pricing the size that they show in that particular picture. For instance, a picture of a #10 Merit skillet is shown without giving any pricing for #s 3-9 of the same series. (Ironically enough on that note, even though Merit and Puritan skillets have the same p/n and are essentially identical skillets, his price for the Merit #10 is only about 60% of his blue book price for the same Puritan skillet. That, I don't understand - it indicates that Merit and Puritan skillets don't share common prices, but fails to fill the rift in with a complete Merit price range.) Another issue with the Griswold section is that many of the pictures shown are cast aluminum products -- again, while it's true that they aren't duplicates from the blue book, they aren't necessarily what I was expecting to compose about a third or half of the material in a Griswold price guide. I might have liked to have seen more pricing information on pre-1957 small logo cast iron, too. I realize a lot of collectors avoid it, but it's nice to know how much less it's worth than its large logo elder siblings. And, a little more editing of captions would have been nice. Here and there they call something by the wrong name (for instance, a skillet cover is called a skillet, and so on.) Maybe I'm just being picky, or maybe I was expecting too much Griswold information from a book that was published primarily as a Wagner price guide. But, speaking for the Griswold portion only, I was hoping for something a little more useful. What I got just felt like a loose grouping of everything that was left over from the first time out. It felt like the "deleted scenes" section on some DVD movies. I was expecting an out-and-out sequel. Having said that, what I've glanced at of the Wagner portion looks good. I don't collect Wagner, so it doesn't really interest me. The same is true for the other non-Griswold brands covered in this book: I can't really rate them, because I haven't really tried to use them. Overall, I'd say that this is probably an excellent guide for Wagner collectors, and an interesting if not entirely useful guide for Griswold collectors such as myself.

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