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0521842328 - Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England

Linda Levy Peck

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## CONSUMING SPLENDOR

*Consuming Splendor* is a fascinating study of the ways in which the consumption of luxury goods transformed social practices, gender roles, royal policies, and the economy in seventeenth-century England. Linda Levy Peck charts the development of new ways to shop; new aspirations and identities shaped by print, continental travel, and trade to Asia, Africa, and the East and West Indies; new building, furnishing, and collecting; and the new relationship of luxury, technology, and science. As contemporaries eagerly appropriated and copied foreign material culture, the expansion of luxury consumption continued across the usual divide of the Civil War and the Interregnum and helped to propel England from the margins to the center of European growth and innovation. Her findings show for the first time the seventeenth-century origins of consumer society and she offers the reader a new framework for the history of seventeenth-century England.

LINDA LEVY PECK is Columbian Professor of History at the George Washington University. She has published extensively on politics, society, and culture in seventeenth-century England. She is the author of *Northampton: Patronage and Policy at the Court of James I* (1982), *Court Patronage and Corruption in Early Stuart England* (1990) and the editor of *The Mental World of the Jacobean Court* (1991).

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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*To my friends and family*

## *Contents*

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xvi
Introduction	I
1 “I must have a damasked pair of spurs”: shopping in seventeenth-century London	25
2 “We may as well be silke-masters as sheepe-masters”: transferring technology in seventeenth-century England	73
3 “What do you lack? What is’t you buy?” Creating new wants	112
4 “Anything that is strange”: from rarities to luxury goods	152
5 “Examine but my humours in buildings, gardening, and private expenses”: cultural exchange and the new built environment	188
6 “The pictures I desire to have . . . must be exquisitely done and by the best masters”: luxury and war, 1640–1660	230
7 “Rome’s artists in this nature can do no more”: a Bernini in Chelsea	277
8 “The largest, best built, and richest city in the world”: the Royal Society, luxury manufactures, and aristocratic identity	311
9 New wants, new wares: luxury consumption, cultural change, and economic transformation	346
<i>Bibliography</i>	360
<i>Index</i>	405

## *Illustrations*

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Ms. V.a. 318, f.15, Hugh Alley, <i>A Caveatt for the city of London</i> . “Cheapside,” Manuscript, 1598.   | page 4 |
| 2. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metalwork, Silver-English, London, 16th century, pair of flagons, silver gilt, H. 12 1/4 in. (1597), that belonged to the Coke and Paston families. Gift of Irwin Untermyer, 1968 (68, 141, 142, 143). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Neg. #193576.                            | 5      |
| 3. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART H-P Alb nos. 6, 8, 32, tradesmen’s tokens: Mary Long in Russell Street, Covent Garden, her half penny (recto and verso); The Seven Stars (recto and verso); The White Hart (recto and verso).  | 34     |
| 4. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Ms. Add. 727, Elizabeth of Bohemia, List of the Queen’s disbursements for the Christmas quarter, 1622, including embroideries, miniatures, scarves, and gloves. Manuscript 1622.   | 35     |
| 5. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Horology, English (London), 17th century (c. 1632–40), Simon Hackett, (act. 1630–60), watch, glass, enamel, gold, gilded brass, steel, partly blued, diam. 1–1 1/2 in. (3.8 cm). Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917 (17. 190. 1477). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Neg. #40III. | 36     |
| 6. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Ms. X.c. 49 (2), Stephen Smith. Autographed letter, signed, to Sir Hugh Smith, 14 June 1620.   | 41     |
| 7. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Textiles-Embroidered, English, 17th century, gloves (pair, leather, silk and metal thread, c. 1620, supposed to have belonged to King James I,   |        |

Cambridge University Press

0521842328 - Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England

Linda Levy Peck

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Illustrations</i>	ix
with thistle), Rogers Fund, 1929 (29.23.13–14). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.	43
8. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART Vol. D86, no. 1 Wenceslaus Hollar, <i>Byrsa Londoniensis . . . The Royall Exchange of London</i> , 1644.	44
9. Worcester College, Oxford, Inigo Jones, The New Exchange, drawing of 1608. Reproduced by permission of the Provost and Fellows of Worcester College, Oxford.	48
10. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metalwork-Silver in Combination, English (London), Chinese, 16th century (c. 1585) ewer, porcelain, silver gilt, one of set owned by William Cecil, Lord Burghley, H. 13 5/8 in. (34.6 cm), Rogers Fund, 1944 (44.14.2). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.	49
11. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Abraham Bosse (1604–76), “Gallery of the Palais Royale,” etching, Rogers Fund, 1922 (22.67.16). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.	54
12. The Folger Shakespeare Library, 141–042q, Antonio Neri, <i>The Art of Glass</i> , trans. Christopher Merrett (London, 1662), title page.	79
13. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Textiles-Tapestries, English, c. 1650–70, Francis Cleyn (1582–1658), Mortlake Tapestry <i>The Seizure of Cassandra by Ajax</i> , 1653–60, with arms of Henry Mordaunt, 2nd Earl of Peterborough. Gift of Christian A. Zabriskie, 1937 (37.85). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.	84
14. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART BOX S895, no. 3 Jan van der Straet, from his <i>Vermis sericus</i> . Antwerp, 1600?, engravings of silk works and silk making.	86
15. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART BOX S895, no. 6 Jan van der Straet, from his <i>Vermis sericus</i> . Antwerp, 1600?, engravings of silk works and silk making.	88
16. The Folger Shakespeare Library, STC 22249, Olivier de Serres, <i>The Perfect Use of Silk-Wormes and their Benefit</i> , trans. Nicholas Geffe (London, 1607).	94
17. The Folger Shakespeare Library, STC 22249, 02r, Olivier de Serres, <i>The Perfect Use of Silk-Wormes and their Benefit</i> , trans. Nicholas Geffe (London, 1607).	96
18. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Silver, English (London), 17th century (1697–98), Isaac Dighton, goldsmith	

- (act. 1673–1707), chocolate pot, silver H. 7 3/4 in.  
 Gift of George O. May, 1943 (43.108 a,b,c). Photograph,  
 all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 117
19. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metalwork-Silver, English  
 (London), 17th century, sugar box, silver, L. 8 in. (20.3 cm)  
 (1673–74). Gift of Irwin Untermyer, 1968 (68.141.161).  
 Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan  
 Museum of Art. 118
20. The Folger Shakespeare Library, SB 450 P2 F7 1615 Cage.  
 Crispijn van de Passe, *Jardin de fleurs* (Utrecht, 1615)  
 (flower picked out for engraving). 120
21. The Folger Shakespeare Library, SB 450 P2 F7 1615 Cage.  
 Crispijn van de Passe, *Jardin de fleurs* (Utrecht, 1615)  
 (flower picked out for engraving). 120
22. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART 230514, Wenceslaus  
 Hollar, Prospect of the Inner Part of Tangier (London, 1673). 150
23. The Folger Shakespeare Library, 154794, John Tradescant, Jr.,  
*Musaeum Tradescantianum* (London, 1656). 158
24. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Painting m11, King James I.  
 Miniature, c. 1620? 165
25. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Painting m12,  
 Anne of Denmark. Miniature, c. 1620? 165
26. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Painting m13, Peter Oliver,  
 Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales. Miniature, early 1610s. 166
27. The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, Jan Brueghel I and  
 Hieronimus Frucken II, “Archdukes Albert and Isabella  
 Visiting a Collector’s Cabinet,” c. 1621. 173
28. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART 25435, Wenceslaus  
 Hollar, *From his set of etchings Muscrum scarabeorum . . . varie  
 figure*, 1646. Butterflies in the collection of Thomas Howard,  
 Earl of Arundel. 182
29. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments  
 (England), London, Inigo Jones, The Banqueting House. 189
30. Inigo Jones Gate, commissioned by Lionel Cranfield,  
 now part of Chiswick House. 194
31. The Folger Shakespeare Library, STC 22235, f. 25v,  
 Sebastian Serlio, *Architecture* (London, 1611). 198
32. Worcester College, Oxford, Inigo Jones, The Queen’s House.  
 Reproduced by permission of the Provost and Fellows  
 of Worcester College, Oxford. 210



<i>Illustrations</i>	xi
33. The Royal Institute of British Architects, “The Front of Bath House: Sir Foulke Gryvelles: in Houlborne 1619,” sketched by Smythson. Reproduced by permission of RIBA Library Drawings Collection.	213
34. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART 249058, Isaac de Caus, <i>Hortus Penborchianus</i> (Garden at Wilton), (Cologne, 1655).	227
35. The Folger Shakespeare Library, J147, woodcut of a coffeehouse from <i>A Broadside against Coffee</i> (London, 1672).	238
36. The Folger Shakespeare Library Ms., V.a. 428, Travels Through France, Italy, Naples, Sicily, Malta. Manuscript, 1647–49.	242
37. The Folger Shakespeare Library, 291113 William Cavendish, 1st duke of Newcastle, <i>Methodie et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux</i> (Antwerp, 1657).	245
38. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART 232571, P. Lombart, engraving after Van Dyck, portrait of Lady Anne Carr, c. 1650.	249
39. The Folger Shakespeare Library, ART 250011, Wenceslaus Hollar, furs, muffs, gloves, hats, and lace. Antwerp, 1647.	271
40. Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Blessed Ludovica Albertoni, San Francesco a Ripa. Scala/Art Resource, NY, ART 70182.	281
41. The Courtauld Institute, Conway Library, London, All Saints, Chelsea, Tomb of Lady Jane Cheyne.	283
42. The Courtauld Institute, Conway Library, London, All Saints, Chelsea, figure of Lady Jane Cheyne by Antonio Raggi.	299
43. The Courtauld Institute, Conway Library, Little Gaddesden (Herts.) Bridgewater Monument.	305
44. A study in the house of John Flamsteed, Astronomer Royal, next to the Greenwich Observatory, from an engraving in <i>Historia Coelestis</i> (1712). Science Museum, London. Snark/ART Resource, NY, ART 180595.	308
45. The Folger Shakespeare Library, 207232, pl.4, John Stalker and George Parker, <i>A Treatise of Japaning and Varnishing</i> . (Oxford, 1688.)	313
46. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Map L85c no. 1, Wenceslaus Hollar, <i>A true and exact prospect of the . . . City of London . . . before the fire [and] Another prospect of the sayd citty . . . as it appeareath now, after the sad calamitie</i> (1666).	341

Cambridge University Press

0521842328 - Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England

Linda Levy Peck

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

*Illustrations*

47. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metalwork-Silver, English (London), 17th century (1683–84), William Fowl (act. 1681–84), toilet set, 1 mirror, 2 casket, 7, 8 candlesticks; toilet service with scenes of chinoiserie, presented by Charles II to Duchess of Richmond, 1680s. Fletcher Fund, 1963, (63.70.1, 2, 7, 8). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 349
48. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Metalwork-Silver, English (London), 17th century (1687–88), Maker: D., London (c. 1682–97), toilet set, 15 pin cushion, 13 scent bottle, 16 snuffers, 17 tray for snuffers, Fletcher Fund, 1963 (63.70, 15, 13, 16, 17). Photograph, all rights reserved, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 350

## *Acknowledgments*

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Cambridge University Press  
0521842328 - Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England  
Linda Levy Peck  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*Acknowledgments*

xv

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I, of course, remain responsible for the errors that remain in this volume.

Cambridge University Press

0521842328 - Consuming Splendor: Society and Culture in Seventeenth-Century England

Linda Levy Peck

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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## *List of abbreviations*

Add. Mss.	Additional Manuscripts
BL	British Library
<i>CSPD</i>	Calendar of State Papers Domestic
<i>CSPV</i>	Calendar of State Papers Venetian
Folger	Folger Shakespeare Library
HEH	Henry E. Huntington Library
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission
PCC	Prerogative Court of Canterbury
PRO	Public Record Office
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>