



Christofle

A brilliant story

Edited by Audrey Gay-Mazuel

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- Thirteen thematic essays covering all aspects of the Christofle company
- Sixty-one detailed notes on emblematic pieces, from early objects to contemporary creations
- A rich iconography featuring a number of full-page pieces
- Contributions from numerous authors
- Published to accompany an exhibition at MAD Paris, November 14, 2024 - April 20, 2025

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs has maintained close ties with Christofle since the second half of the 19th century. It is celebrating the goldsmith's creations and expertise with the largest exhibition ever dedicated to this factory, which has a rich history spanning almost two hundred years.

Since its foundation in the 1830s, this lineage of silversmiths, created by Charles Christofle and continued by Henri Bouilhet, has transformed the lines and decorations of silver to adapt them to everyday life. In collaboration with the greatest designers such as Luc Lanel, Gio Ponti, Andrée Putman and Karl Lagerfeld, Christofle is an artistic laboratory that revolutionizes traditional goldsmithing by renewing its uses and adorning it with unprecedented colors and decorations.

The rich iconography of the exhibition catalog invites us to discover some of the most remarkable pieces. In doing so, it transports us into the splendor of great restaurants and palaces such as the Ritz, and legendary trains, liners and planes, such as the Orient-Express, the Normandie and the Concorde. Moreover, it brings us into places of political power, all equipped by Christofle, ambassador in France and abroad of the art of living and luxury "à la française".

Through thirteen thematic essays divided into four chapters, this book traces the extraordinary destiny of the House of Christofle. Sixty-one notes cover the history of the decorative arts through goldsmithing, from historicism to Japonism, from Art Nouveau to Art Deco, from 1950s design to the most contemporary.

Under the direction of Audrey Gay-Mazuel, curator of the XIXe-Art nouveau collections at the Musée des Arts décoratifs. Essays by Caroline Radenac, Audrey Gay-Mazuel, Clara Villani, Étienne Tornier, Anne Dion, Virginie Desrante, Astrid Grange, Anaïs Alchus, Marie-Liesse Boquien, Julie Verlaine, Sophie Dumas, Laurence Bartoletti.