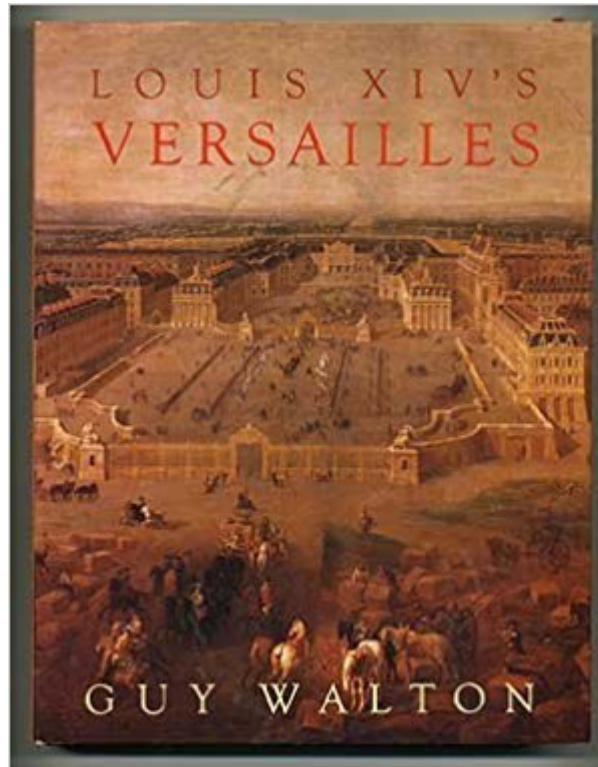




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Louis XIV's Versailles



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Customer Reviews

The nature of Louis XIV's huge household, numbering hundreds of members, was a basic reason for transforming Louis XIII's small hunting lodge into a vast palace. Versailles, pinnacle of French design, was meant to be a new Rome, a European art capital; its large art collection would serve as training ground for the whole of Europe. Louis XIV also wanted Versailles to be a triumph of technology, yet, through faulty building techniques, some walls became hollow as their soft fill settled. In this revealing architectural and social history of Versailles, New York University fine arts professor Walton shows how the omnipresent Sun King impressed his personality on his palatial residence, cutting through the red tape of architects, craftsmen and administrators. Despite the opulence intended, adhering to a budget was an important consideration. A structure built to house and feed several hundred household members, a new chapel, inlaid furniture these were added in stages in accordance with the Sun King's belief that rational planning could conquer all obstacles. More than 150 prints and photographs enliven the text. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An ambitious attempt to trace the development and meaning of Versailles during the reign of Louis XIV, from the 1660s until his death in 1715. The author has done a large amount of original research and plowed through a vast number of documents and drawings, but the subject is so enormous that most aspects or areas or subjects can only be skimmed. Walton's intent is to interpret

the meaning of Louis's great creation in terms of the political and social climate of the times, but the result reads almost like a list of headings. Unlike many studies of the subject, this is not primarily a picture book, and it does provide an excellent bibliographic summary of the detailed literature, but, ultimately, the author's reach exceeds his grasp. For large collections. Jack Perry Brown, Ryerson & Burnham Libs., Art Inst. of Chicago Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is my favorite book on Versailles. I read it annually, until I decided to buy it because it never got old. The book has a great deal of blueprints, and by that I really mean it. It was obviously extensively researched by someone very passionate about the subject, as can be evidenced by the long list of places the blueprints and paintings were found. If you already know the history of the palace, this should expand your knowledge vastly, unless you'd already consider yourself an expert. The book doesn't waste so much time on the overall history, but provides a great number of much more obscure details, such as the planning of the anti chamber l'oeil de boeuf (sorry if I didn't spell that right) and a ceiling engraving from the now demolished petit galerie. There's elevations of the kings bath, studies for ceilings, alternate designs for the walls of the hall of mirrors, elevations of the interior walls of the menagerie, and even elevations of the rooms that the petit apartment de la reine replaced! Not to mention that the book dabbled in all facets of the palace, from statues to gardens to furniture to engineering to contemporary criticisms to the rise and fall of architects and supervisors. If you want to delve deeper into the palace's history, especially architecturally, I really cannot recommend this book enough.

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