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Martyn Gilchrist

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Martyn Gilchrist : Whistles (Shire Library) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whistles (Shire Library):

The lives of most people have probably been touched by a whistle, whether a fine antique protected by a cabinet, or an inexpensive toy now lying half-forgotten in a drawer. A fascination for whistles can be found in the astonishing range of different types made in a wide variety of natural and man-made materials. Although known from prehistory, it is only since the Victorian era that the vast majority of whistles have been made for so many diverse purposes. Whistles are included in many areas of interest such as sport, the countryside, transport, the armed services, the police, ceramics and toys. The role of the whistle falls broadly into three categories: as an alarm, as a working instrument and as a novelty item. They are enduring sound-makers still required by a demanding public. This book covers all major types and gives a general introduction to the wonderful world of whistles.

About the Author Martyn Gilchrist's enthusiasm for whistles began in the mid 1980s when confronted with a boxful whilst searching one out for his daughter at the Saturday street market in Lymington, Hampshire. His desire to know more led to a programme of original research covering Britain's major collections and institutions. He is now probably the foremost expert in the field and has appeared on television and radio.