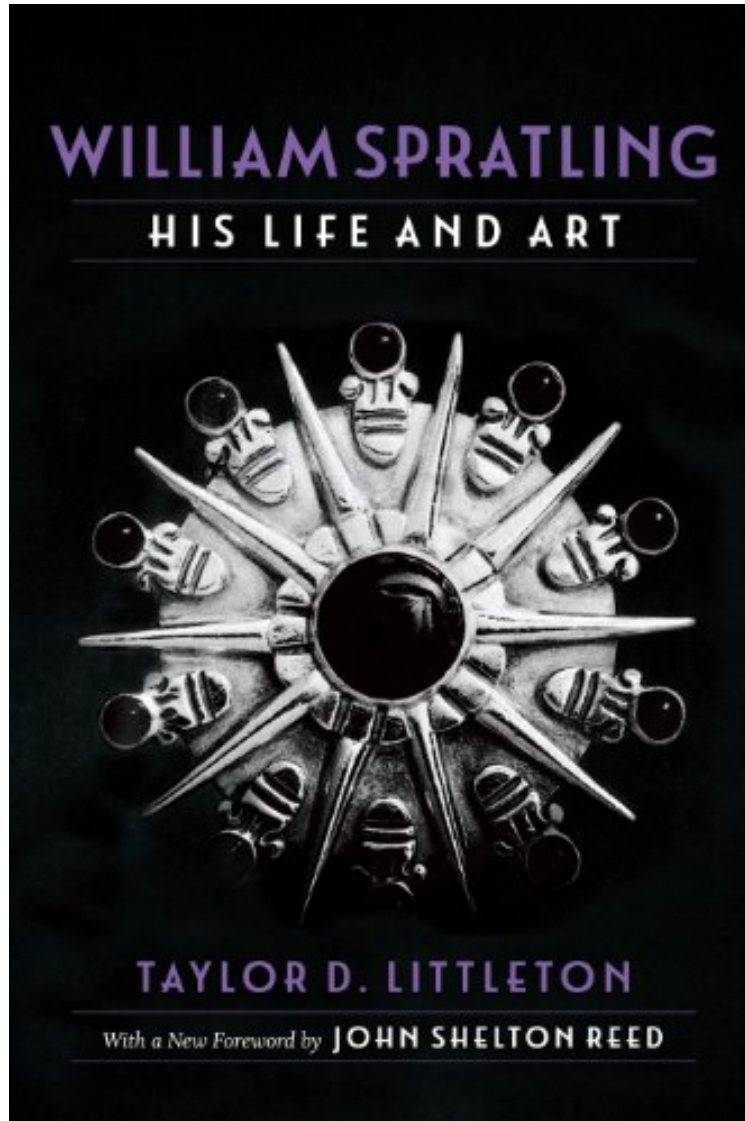


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William Spratling, His Life and Art (Southern Biography Series)

Taylor D. Littleton

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Taylor D. Littleton : William Spratling, His Life and Art (Southern Biography Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised William Spratling, His Life and Art (Southern Biography Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The silver gringo of Taxco. By rick from Boston I have had the pleasure of visiting Taxco Mexico a few times and Spratling silver is well known in the town. I knew almost nothing about him until I purchased this book on . It covers his life with particular detail focused on his years in New Orleans (and William Faulkner), and his time in Taxco Mexico. Like the other reviewer said, it is a detailed book and can occasionally be a bit dry but I'm glad I read it. If you make it down to Taxco and it's 300 silver shops you can have a

nice lunch in the actual house Spratling got started in. Now I have a better idea why he is so revered there. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good story By Ron P. A great book but very "dense." This book gives lots of detail and is great for someone who wants ALL the background.

In this lavishly illustrated biography of silversmith and graphic artist William Spratling (1900--1967), Taylor D. Littleton reintroduces one of the most fascinating American expatriates of the early twentieth century. Best known for his revolutionary silver designs, Spratling influenced an entire generation of Mexican and American silversmiths and transformed the tiny village of Taxco into the "Florence of Mexico." Littleton widens the context of Spratling's popular reputation by examining the formative periods in his life and art that preceded his brilliant entrepreneurial experiment in the Las Delicias workshop in Taxco, which left a permanent mark on Mexico's artistic orientation and economic life. Spratling made a fortune manufacturing and designing silver, but his true life's work was to conserve, redeem, and interpret the ancient culture of his adopted country. He explained for North American audiences the paintings of Mexico's modern masters and earned distinction as a learned and early collector of pre-Columbian art. Spratling and his workshop gradually became a visible and culturally attractive link between a steady stream of notable American visitors and the country they wanted to see and experience. Spratling had the rare good fortune to witness his own reputation -- as one of the most admired Americans in Mexico -- assume legendary status before his death. *William Spratling, His Life and Art* vividly reconstructs this richly diverse life whose unique aesthetic legacy is but a part of its larger cultural achievement of profoundly influencing Americans' attitudes toward a civilization different from their own.

From *Library Journal* Littleton (*Advancing American Art: Painting, Politics, and Cultural Confrontation at Midcentury*, 1990. o.p.) here provides a scholarly, detailed, and exhaustive look at the famous silversmith/designer, illustrator, writer, and preserver/interpreter of Mexican culture. Unlike Joan Mark's recent book *The Silver Gringo: William Spratling and Taxco* (LJ 2/1/00), which emphasizes Spratling's silversmithing enterprise, Littleton's effort focuses more on the man. Although little firsthand information about Spratling's formative and early adult years exists, Littleton compensates with well-ordered conjecture and cultural context based on correspondence, contemporary articles, published works, and references to Spratling's many prominent friends. Owing to renewed interest in Spratling and Mexican silver (if the prices for related auction items on eBay are any indication), this title should fill a niche--especially in academic libraries.-Rex E. Klett, Mitchell Community Coll., Statesville, NC Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Littleton (*Advancing American Art: Painting, Politics, and Cultural Confrontation at Midcentury*, 1990. o.p.) here provides a scholarly, detailed, and exhaustive look at the famous silversmith/designer, illustrator, writer, and preserver/interpreter of Mexican culture. Unlike Joan Mark's recent book *The Silver Gringo: William Spratling and Taxco* (LJ 2/1/00), which emphasizes Spratling's silversmithing enterprise, Littleton's effort focuses more on the man. Although little firsthand information about Spratling's formative and early adult years exists, Littleton compensates with well-ordered conjecture and cultural context based on correspondence, contemporary articles, published works, and references to Spratling's many prominent friends. Owing to renewed interest in Spratling and Mexican silver (if the prices for related auction items on eBay are any indication), this title should fill a niche--especially in academic libraries.-Rex E. Klett, Mitchell Community Coll., Statesville, NCCopyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. (Library Journal) About the Author Taylor D. Littleton is W. Kelly Mosley Professor of Science and Humanities Emeritus at Auburn University and the coauthor of *Advancing American Art: Painting, Politics, and Cultural Confrontation at Mid-Century and Athletics and Academe*.