



Feast: A History of Grand Eating

Roy Strong

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Sharing a grand meal has always been a complex social event. Feasts have been used to celebrate significant occasions, to parade rank and hierarchy, and to flatter and influence people. There has always been a theatrical element to the feast as well—from the nude dancers who entertained dinner guests in ancient Greece to the restrained rigors of the Victorian dinner party.

Sir Roy Strong examines this cultural phenomenon with knowledge, wit, and style—beginning with the ninth century B.C., when a Babylonian emperor discreetly invited seventy thousand guests for a ten-day celebration, and ending early in the twentieth century, by which time feasts had become somewhat more modest. Always attuned to how these celebrations mirror the societies that hold them and to the way they reflect shifts in power and class, this beautifully illustrated book offers a lively and illuminating history of grand eating.

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