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By Ken E Meyer

Audible Studios on Brilliance, 2015. CD-Audio. Condition: New. Unabridged. Language: English . Brand New. Thanks to Salem sea captains, Gilded Age millionaires, curators on horseback and missionaries gone native, North American museums now possess the greatest collections of Chinese art outside of East Asia itself. How did it happen? The China Collectors is the first full account of a century-long treasure hunt in China from the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion to Mao Zedong s 1949 ascent. The principal gatherers are mostly little known and defy invention. They included foreign devils who braved desert sandstorms, bandits, and local warlords in acquiring significant works. Adventurous curators like Langdon Warner, a forebear of Indiana Jones, argued that the caves of Dunhuang were already threatened by vandals, thereby justifying the removal of frescoes and sculptures. Other Americans include George Kates, an alumnus of Harvard, Oxford, and Hollywood, who fell in love with Ming furniture. The Chinese were divided between dealers who profited from the artworks removal and scholars who sought to protect their country s patrimony. Duanfang, the greatest Chinese collector of his era, was beheaded in a coup, and his splendid bronzes now adorn major museums. Others in this rich tapestry...

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