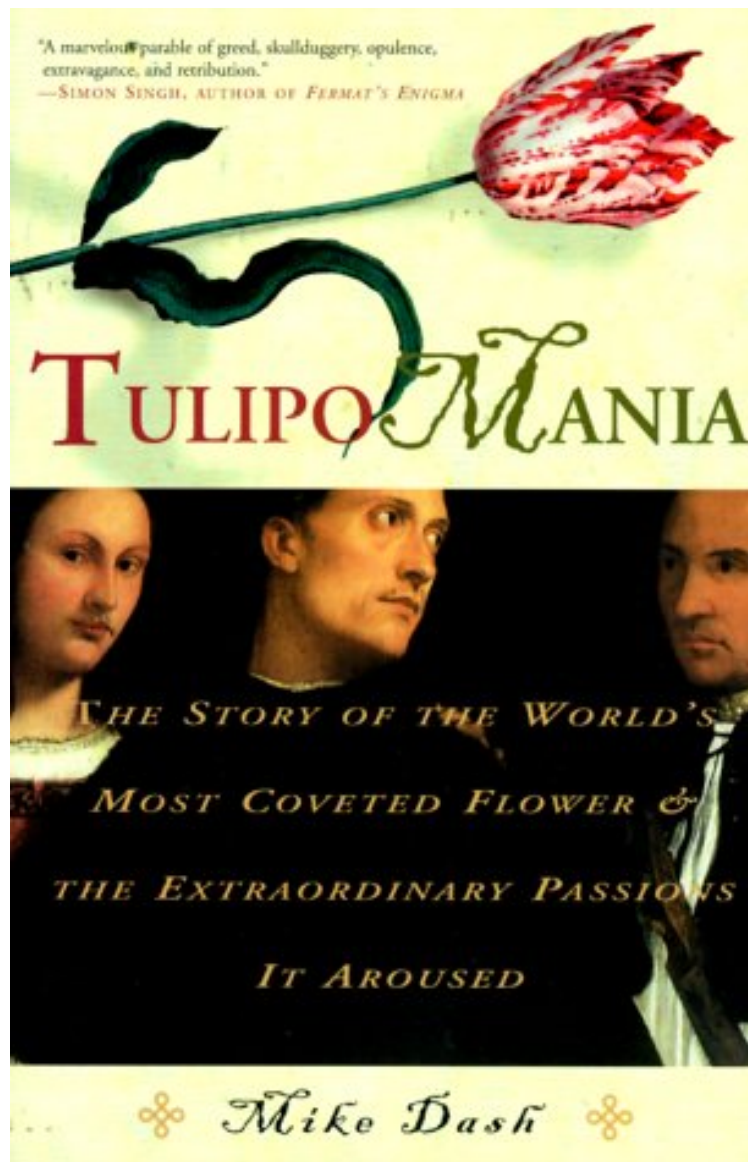


(Free pdf) Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused

Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused

Mike Dash

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Mike Dash : Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. Gives a geographical and botanical history of the Tulip as well as the Dutch financial bubble. By Bayard B. A really detailed history of both the flower and the economic bubble that occurred in 1636 - 1637. I have read references to the Tulip Bubble in many other books over the years but never knew what it was in detail. The book starts with a botanical and geographical history of the tulip. The flower originated in Central Asia in the vicinity of the Pamirs and Tien Shan west of China. It spread to Turkey via traders in the 13th century, then to the Balkans in the 14th and 15th centuries. It finally reached Holland around 1572. The Dutch then began breeding new varieties that were progressively more and more beautiful. For reasons that really have no logical explanation, a frenzied financial buying and selling bubble began around 1636. It was much like the famous "Mississippi Bubble" that occurred in France in the early 1700s and the British "South Seas Bubble." There was no real economic basis for it. People just thought that demand and prices could increase forever. Fortunately for the Dutch, the overall financial impact of the collapse on the national economy was minor. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Oh the things you never knew about tulips By mousemom Very interesting -- learned so much about one of my favorite flowers. Easy, comfortable read. History and some botany all in one book. I knew about the hybrid varieties but never realized where the tulip originated. Glad I read this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a history lesson with modern implications By T Brown Anybody that would trade a house for flowers would be rightfully considered strange, but this is what happened in the Netherlands. With stock market and mortgage speculations and government bailouts in our recent history, it is frightening to think that this has been going on for centuries. We can sit and laugh at people who lost all of their money because of flowers, but it provides an important lesson about investment and how bubbles will burst. A must read for historians or economists.

Amsterdam, 1637 For the cost of a single tulip bulb you could buy: four oxen or twelve sheep or twenty-four tons of wheat or two hogsheads of wine or two tons of butter or four barrels of beer or a thousand pounds of cheese or a silver drinking cup or an oak bed or a ship. In the 1630s, visitors to the prosperous trading cities of the Netherlands couldn't help but notice that thousands of normally sober, hardworking Dutch citizens from every walk of life were caught up in an extraordinary frenzy of buying and selling. The object of this unprecedented speculation was the tulip, a delicate and exotic Eastern import that had bewitched horticulturists, noblemen, and tavern owners alike. A trade in tulips soon evolved, and for almost a year rare bulbs changed hands for incredible and ever-increasing sums, until single flowers were being sold for more than the cost of a house. Historians would come to call it tulipomania. It was the first futures market in history -- and like all the ones that would follow, it crashed spectacularly, plunging speculators and investors into economic ruin and despair. But that was not the first instance of tulipomania -- nor would it be the last. This is the history of the tulip, from its origins on the barren windswept steppes of central Asia, to its place of honor in the lush imperial gardens of Constantinople, to its starring moment as the most coveted -- and beautiful -- commodity in Europe. Historian Mike Dash vividly narrates the story of this amazing flower and the colorful cast of characters whose lives were inextricably entwined with it. There is the eccentric Turkish sultan Ahmed III, whose reign even to this day is known as the Tulip Era, and the French academic Carolus Clusius, the most respected botanist of his time, whose gifts of the then-unknown bulbs to friends and patrons sparked the Dutch tulipomania. There's even the lowly tavern owner Wouter Winkel, whose death in 1633 left his seven children destitute -- until they dug up his bed of tulip bulbs and sold them at auction during the height of the tulip mania, an auction that transformed his heirs from penniless orphans to wealthy young men and women who would never have to work a day in their lives. Centuries apart historically, and worlds apart culturally, this cast of characters all had one thing in common: tulipomania.

.com For history buffs or gardeners who enjoy more than just digging in the dirt, Tulipomania presents a fascinating look at the tulip frenzy that took place in Holland in the mid-1600s. Beginning as gifts given among the wealthy and educated folk of Europe and Asia, the tulip rapidly became a source of incredible financial gain--similar to today's Internet start-up companies or Beanie Baby collections. Stories of craftsmen discontinuing their trade and focusing on raising tulips for public auction, where they sold for prices comparable to that of a manor house, are astonishing. Poets, moralists, businessmen--it seems everyone was involved at some level. Lack of regulation and poor quality control were just a couple of the details that led to the abrupt crash in February 1637. Tulipomania was the original market bust--people were ruined, debts went unpaid. It was a disaster similar to the stock-market crash of 1929. A brief resurrection of the mania occurred 65 years later in Istanbul, and while it was not the financial obsession Holland experienced, it led to the creation of standards in flower shape and increased the development of new types. You don't need to be obsessed to enjoy this book--an interest in tulips, history, and the futures market ensures that this will be a remarkable read. --Jill Lightner From Publishers Weekly The centerpiece of this story is a stunning two months, December 1636 and January 1637, when fortunes were made and lost in the Netherlands--in tulip bulb futures trading. Stripped to its basics, this would be a dry case study in an economics textbook. But Dash adds depth to the tale by including relevant bits of botany, sociology and history, as well as glimpses of the personalities involved in the creation of the tulip market, such as the orphans who made a fortune selling their late father's tulip bulbs and the man who owned a dozen extremely rare bulbs and wouldn't part with them at any price. Occasionally, he provides too

much detail--his descriptions of how many guilders changed hands in particular transactions become repetitive, as do his physical descriptions of specific tulip varieties. Dash is fascinated by the contrast between the aesthetic sense of the Ottoman sultans (reflected in their love of tulip-laden gardens) and the ferocity of their rule (evidenced by fratricide, garroting and torture), but his musings on this interesting paradox are too unfocused to be enlightening. Overall, however, Dash (*The Limit; Borderlands*) effectively brings together a diverse mix of disciplines to illuminate the cultural, financial and psychological elements of an economic bubble--a subject that should be of great interest today. Readers interested in the technical aspects of economic speculation and those attuned to human folly will find this a worthwhile read. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library

JournalHistorian/journalist Dash (*Borderlands*) tells the history of the tulip from its origins in Central Asia through its introduction to Europe via the Ottoman Turks. He also analyzes the reasons for its popularity, explaining the aesthetic and economic fascination the flower held for Dutch burghers as well as Ottoman sultans. His history of the speculative craze for buying tulip futures in 17th-century Holland (which led to single bulbs being traded for the price of a well-appointed town house) is authoritative and thoroughly researched, providing exhaustive detail regarding its economic and social causes. Anna Pavord's *The Tulip* (LJ 3/1/99), however, covers the topic in a much more engaging manner from the botanical viewpoint, with lavish illustrations that are completely lacking here. Her treatment is also broader in scope, including English and French crazes for the bulb and extending the history of its cultivation into the 20th century. Pavord's is therefore the preferred purchase for all but the most specialized collections on gardening or economic history. -Daniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art, New York Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.