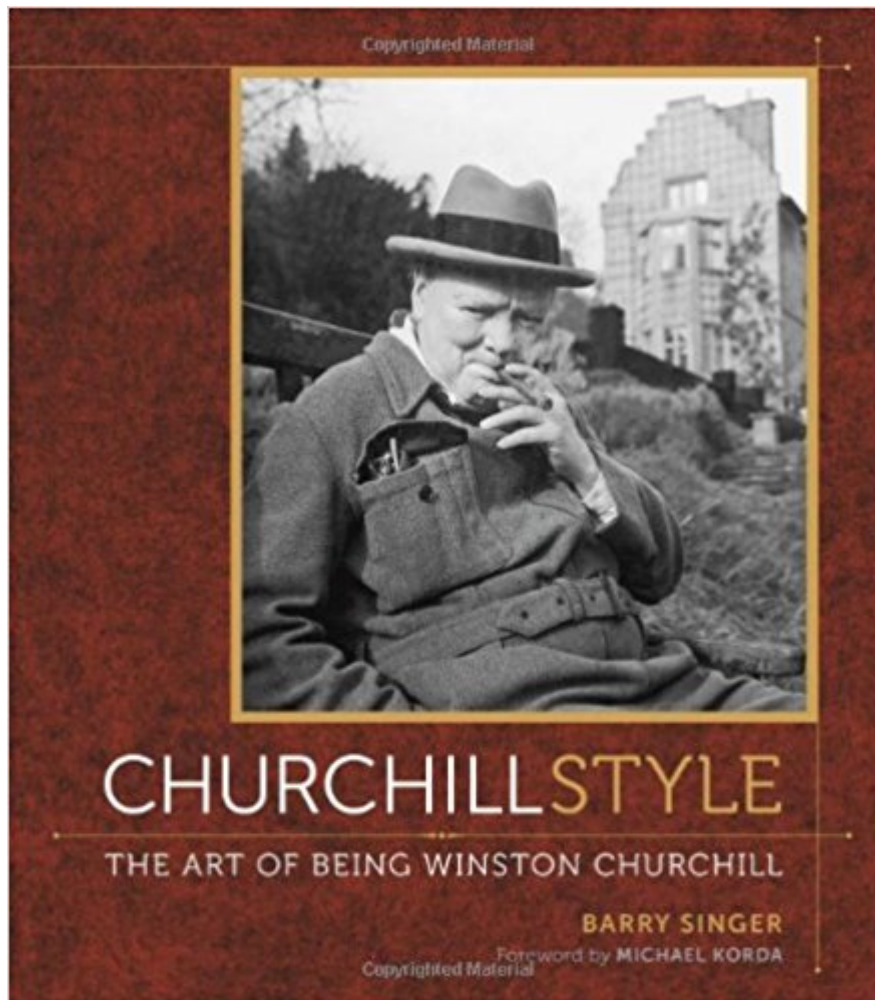




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Churchill Style: The Art Of Being Winston Churchill



Synopsis

One of the most iconic and endlessly fascinating figures of the 20th century, Winston Churchill has been the subject of any number of books, but none of them have analyzed his lifestyle as a way to really understand the man. This book features a vivid and entertaining timeline of his public history, but also focuses on the more personal, nonwork aspects of his day-to-day life, covering topics such as autos, books, cigars, dining, fashion, home, libations, and pastimes. Churchill lived an extravagant life, but in reality did not have much money. His ability to live well beyond his means is a lesson that will intrigue many.

Praise for Churchill Style: “Despite the hundreds of books written on the wartime leader, there has been surprisingly little compiled on his lifestyle. Barry Singer—a writer, self-described Churchill fanatic and proprietor of Manhattan’s Chartwell Booksellers (which touts itself as “the world’s only Winston Churchill bookshop”)—has corrected the deficit.” —*Wall Street Journal* “There’s a good deal to like about this jaunty book . . . In brief, Churchill lived beyond his means and appears to have enjoyed every minute of it. Churchill Style puts on display his resourcefulness at doing it.” —*Buffalo News* “Hundreds of books have been written about Winston Churchill, most of which focus on his military service and his leadership during both World Wars, but none assess his personal style like Barry Singer does in Churchill Style: The Art of Being Winston Churchill.” —*Cool Hunting.com*

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Customer Reviews

Barry Singer has been the proprietor of Chartwell Booksellers in New York City, the only bookshop devoted to the works of Churchill, for more than 25 years. Singer is also a New York Times notable author and a regular contributor to the New York Times Arts & Leisure section, among many others. Michael Korda is a writer, novelist, and former publishing executive.

I have read nearly all of the biographies of Churchill (and numerous other books about him) and this is the most downright fun to read. The author is a truly fine writer as well as an expert on Churchill. What makes this book so much fun to read either in snippets "draughts" is the structure: short "chapters" covering everything from his political fortunes to the apartments and homes he lived in at various times in his life to the cars he drove to the cigars, food and drink he preferred (the reports of his drinking, other than champagne, have been greatly exaggerated) to the clothing he wore to his daily habits. If you're a Churchill fan, you'll see photographs you've never seen before and learn a few things about the man that you likely didn't know. If you know someone who doesn't know very much about Churchill, this is the book to get them to read. A must.

I have read Gilbert and Manchester on the life and times of Winston S. Churchill and can honestly say that Singer brought up points never mentioned by these Churchillian authors. For instance I never knew Winston was hooked on cigarettes as a teen who was admonished by his parents to immediately quite this bad habit. I found out about his cigar and alcoholic habits Barry Singer has put together a delightful review of what it was to be Winston Churchill. Having been a student of Churchill I did not expect to learn much more about him. As usual I was wrong, Singer brought up more nuggets on this most prominent man. In the realm of historical analysis I can think of no other person who has been in recorded history including Jesus Christ himself who has been so analyzed and written about and studied as Winston Churchill. From his birth in Blenheim Palace to his death in January of 1965 in London, Winston Spencer Churchill is the ultimate humanitarian, politician, and warrior who personifies all that is good in the human race. We all know the privileged circumstances of birth and social standing afforded Winston. We know of his education and struggles with both his father who died at a young age and his social butterfly mother Jenny Jerome Churchill. What Singer does in his very graphic and honest portrayal of Churchill is to put you the reader in the shoes of what it was to live the life of Winston Churchill throughout his life. Was he an alcoholic? Really he was not!!! His cigar habit was addictive but he smoked much less than perceived. Singer's writing is easy and very provocative. The stories told within are entertaining and revealing! Singer adds depth to the historical oeuvre of Winston Churchill. The pictures shown within

this work are priceless and add texture and meaning to a man who lead a meaningful and full life. This book is a must for any Churchillian and any other person interested in contemporary World history!!

Given the title, you could be forgiven for thinking, as I did, that this book might be a thin-ish collection of photos like G. Bruce Boyer's *À À Fred Astaire Style (Memoire)À À* (an excellent book for what it is, but not especially substantive). In fact, Barry Singer has given us a decent medium-depth biography of The Man of The (Twentieth) Century enhanced with a great deal of fascinating information about the practices and preferences that helped make Churchill the man he was. When I lived in the New York area, I was able to visit Singer's excellent Chartwell Booksellers in Manhattan, and although I never met the man himself, I was always convinced that the proprietor was someone who really knows his Churchill. That comes across in this book, too. The basic biography in "Churchill Style" is, as I said above, medium-depth and doesn't really break a lot of new ground. Still, it is well done (the one obvious error I noted was in the caption to the photo on page 169, where Admiral Harold Stark is mis-identified as William Leahy), and would serve as a great introductory biography for anyone new to the topic. I should note that Singer's biographizing thins out quite a bit during the World War 2 years, although those are also, of course, the years most extensively documented in many, many other sources. Where Singer's work really, really shines, is introducing and illustrating the items, brands, sources, and influences of the personal items with which Churchill surrounded himself, and through which he defined his style and lived his distinctive life. The author has done great work excavating ancient invoices, purchase orders, thank-you notes, and much more to show how Churchill provisioned himself, and helpfully includes contact information to as many of those sources as still exist today. Many visitors to this website would surely envy the seeming abandon with which Churchill purchased books by the literal hundreds in the early years of the last century, though that certainly contributed to what the dustcover blurb describes as WSC's "gift for living well beyond his means." Churchill's other gifts -- including, most notably, those for work and for friendship -- also shine through in these pages. I won't hesitate to call this book an essential addition to the shelves of any Churchill historian, student, or fan. With so many books about Churchill coming out every year, it can be hard to identify which ones are really worth paying attention to. "Churchill Style" definitely makes the list.

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