

Translated from the 3rd German Edition "Damaszener Stahl".

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Translator's note

Those reading this beautiful work by Manfred Sachse will be struck by the author's friendly, familiar style. I have therefore endeavoured to retain the tenor of this, although technically explicit, essentially personal account by an artist of his art.

The many references to German texts from antiquity are in keeping with the ambience of the book. Yet I fear that I have not done linguistic justice to them all, having had little choice but to use modern English throughout. There is also the problem of having to retranslate German translations of texts originally written in other languages, many of which date back several centuries. The old saying "it loses something in the translation" is doubly

applicable in such cases. I hope that the informative content nevertheless makes them worth reading.

In particular I would like to apologize for my rendering of the "Ode to a smith" (pages 172/173) which, in its original "Solingen Slang" form, was earthy, witty - and it rhymed!

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Brian Gilmour, archaeo-metallurgical researcher at the Royal Armouries, Tower of London, for his generous assistance in solving the terminological difficulties involved in the translation of this book. My thanks also go to Mr. Robin Crighton and the staff of the Applied Arts Department and Reading Room of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.
P.K.

The originals of all exhibits shown in illustrations with this symbol  are to be found in the Westfälisches Freilichtmuseum Hagen (Westphalian open air museum of craft trades and technology in Hagen).

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