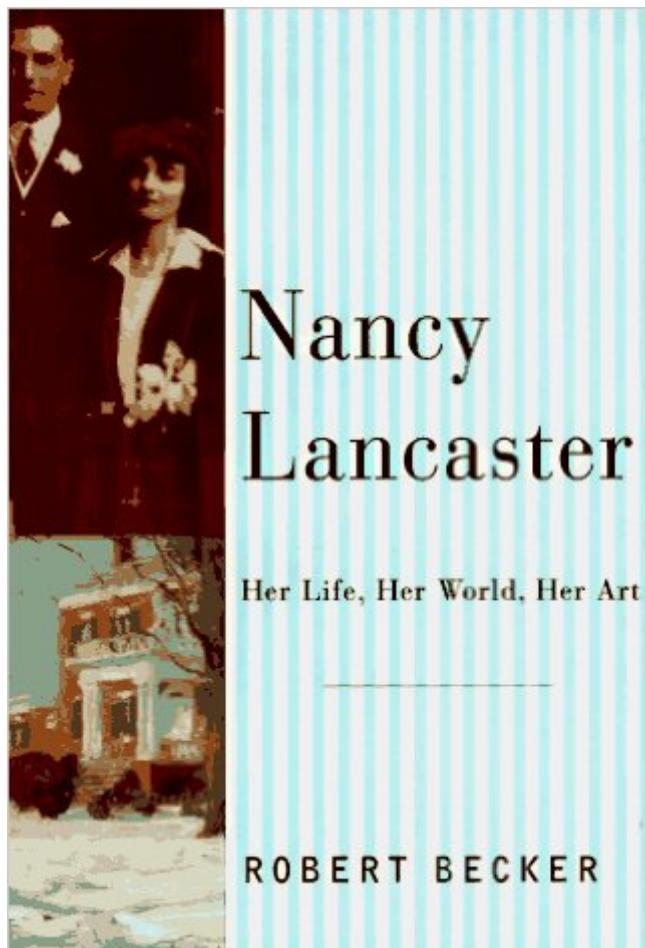


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# Nancy Lancaster: Her Life, Her World, Her Art



## **Synopsis**

16 pages of illustrations, 152 b/w photographs in text

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 426 pages

Publisher: Knopf; 1st edition (February 13, 1996)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Robert Becker's richly detailed look at the British and American "upper crust," and his entertaining account of their private world and its decline, reminded me of an episode of "Masterpiece Theater" or the book "Brideshead Revisited." While I thought the renderings of Nancy Lancaster's decorating and garden designs fascinating, I was most absorbed in the life that went on behind closed doors in the houses, and the people -- Winston Churchill, the Prince of Wales, Lady Astor, David Niven -- who crossed the houses' thresholds. Wonderful photographs also. I was not prepared to like a biography about a decorator and her work, but because of the way Becker wove together the social and political history of the time, and descriptions of the houses she owned and decorated, with the events of this extraordinary woman's life, I couldn't put it down.

Robert Becker has written a fascinating book on the life of Nancy Lancaster which I have just read in the summer of 2000. It is even more timely with the new biography of Sister Parrish just out this summer. Becker is an extremely good story teller, with a fine ability to capture the life and times of his subject. My family is from the same area of Virginia, and he has the piedmont Virginia people described in the most believeable way, including expressions of the eras covered. The technique of incorporating Nancy Lancaster's own account in the body of the book is most effective. I was worried in reading the introduction that it might be intrusive, but not so. The book made me think of

Eleanor Brown of Mcmillan and Company in New York, and Sarah Hunter Kelly - all decorators of the same generation. Hats off to Robert Becker!!! Nicholas Bragg

Having worked for Nancy Lancaster in her last house, the 'Coach House' in Oxfordshire, I found this a fascinating read. Her life was very full and she met and knew so many interesting people of whom she was interested in talking about. Her style was to be envied and even copied. I would love a copy of this to read again.

If you are interested in a comprehensive biography of Nancy Lancaster's life, this offers it. Love the quotes in here by Lancaster. You get a sense of what she was like. Designer Mark Hampton said she was the most fascinating woman he ever met. I found it interesting that a fortune teller told her, as a young woman, that she was going to be a decorator before she even knew what a decorator was. Wish there were better images of room she decorated, but film was grainier back then and not all images are in color. This is a delight to read if you're interested in Lancaster.

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