



## The Decoration of Houses

By Edith Wharton

TheClassics.us. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 64 pages. Dimensions: 9.4in. x 7.3in. x 0.2in. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1897 edition. Excerpt: . . . BRIC-A-BRAC IT is perhaps not uninstruc-tiv-e to note that we have no English word to describe the class of household ornaments which French speech has provided with at least three designations, each indicating a delicate and almost imperceptible gradation of quality. In place of bric-a-brac, bibelots, objets d'art, we have only knickknacks--defined by Stormonth as articles of small value. This definition of the knick-knack fairly indicates the general level of our artistic competence. It has already been said that cheapness is not necessarily synonymous with trashiness; but hitherto this assertion has been made with regard to furniture and to the other necessary appointments of the house. With knickknacks the case is different. An artistic age will of course produce any number of inexpensive trifles fit to become, like the Tanagra figurines, the museum treasures of later centuries; but it is hardly necessary to point...



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