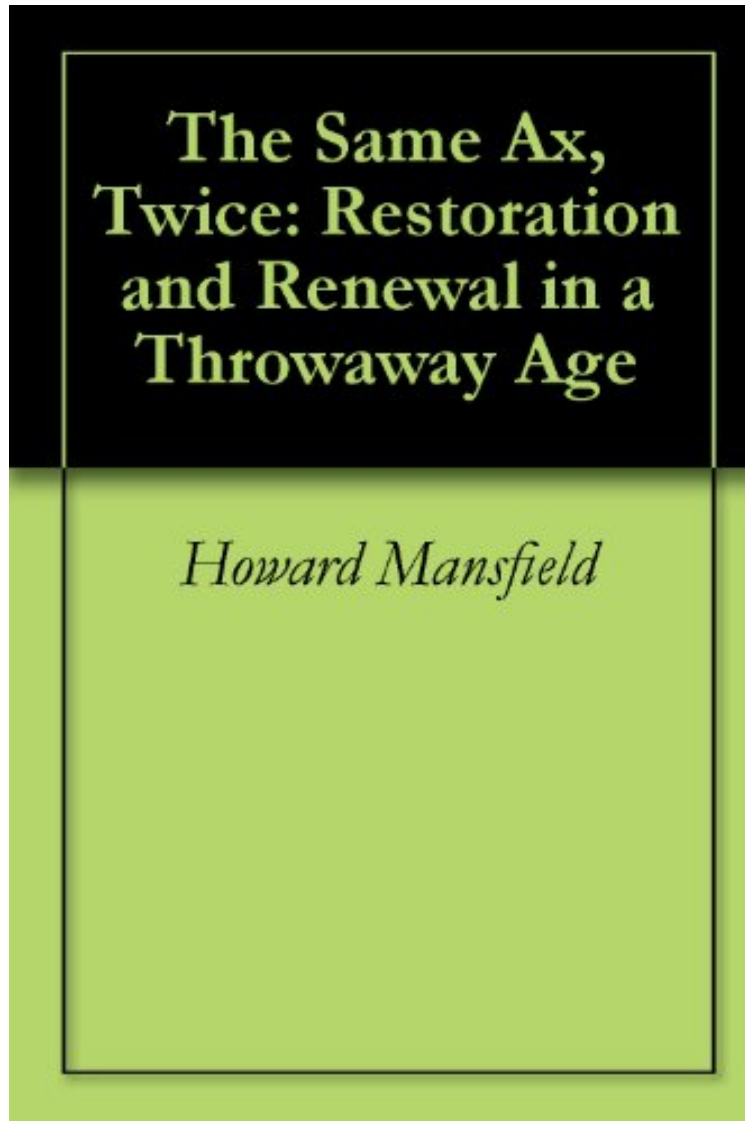


(Mobile ebook) The Same Ax, Twice: Restoration and Renewal in a Throwaway Age (English Edition)

The Same Ax, Twice: Restoration and Renewal in a Throwaway Age (English Edition)

Von Howard Mansfield

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Von Howard Mansfield : The Same Ax, Twice: Restoration and Renewal in a Throwaway Age (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Same Ax, Twice: Restoration and Renewal in a Throwaway Age (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. treasure trove Von elizabeth thomas Once again, Howard Mansfield has produced a brilliant book, as intelligent as it is vital, to

show how our heritage is as much a part of us as is our DNA. We struggle to keep it going in a manner suggested by the title, which refers to a well-known story of a man with an ax. The handle breaks and the man replaces it, whereupon the ax head breaks and the man replaces that too. Does the man then have the same ax, or does he have a new one? An argument could be made either way, but the important aspect of the story is that the man has the ax he needs and has never been without it. For us, the world is our ax, and is breaking apart even as we watch. We want to mend it. We want to keep what we are losing, so we carefully move old houses from the paths of bulldozers, board by board and brick by brick; we form large societies to reenact battles of the Civil War, the armies outfitted in exact regalia down to the buttons. Such ongoing activity is not the same as the collections of relics found in museums (such as a stoppered vial containing Thomas Edison's last breath, for instance, a relic that Mansfield mentions by contrast.) We are closer to Thomas Edison when we replace a lightbulb than we are when we look at this vial of his breath. If the owner of the ax of the title had wanted a relic, he would have kept his broken ax to look at and acquired a new one to chop wood. No--he mended his old ax. And with our restorational activities, we are trying to mend the word, something that we human beings long to do with every fibre in us. Environmental magazines seem not to have noticed this important fact, nor have any of the preservationist publications. In contrast, Mansfield shows us something extremely important about ourselves in this brilliant and very readable book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Lasting Act of Restoration Von Dianne Taylor-Snow I loved this book! Richly layered, eloquently written, it's the most important book on restoration and preservation to be published in decades, itself a meaningful act of restoration.

KurzbeschreibungAn old farmer boasts that he has used the same ax his whole life -- he's only had to replace the handle three times and the head twice. In an eclectic, insightful meditation on the powerful impulse to preserve and restore, Howard Mansfield explores the myriad ways in which we attempt to reconnect with and recover the past -- to use the same ax twice. Mansfield's *In the Memory House* (hailed as a "wise and beautiful book" by the *New York Times*) explored the complex interconnections of memory and place, showing how the loss of a sense of place in our ever more mobile society has profoundly impoverished our collective memory. Now he tracks our need to reconnect with place and memory. Moving easily between meditative reflection and compelling insights, he offers lively journalistic descriptions of some of the extraordinary people who are imaginatively, lovingly, sometimes obsessively, realizing their own visions of the restorative impulse. Mansfield himself is deeply engaged in the search for restoration. He travels with Civil War reenactors to help recreate the Battle of Antietam; he enrolls in auctioneer school to observe the endless recycling of artifacts, and he compares this process to the sterile preservation of these same objects in displays and museums; he tours 18th-century houses that have been variously restored to their "original" condition or stripped to their essence; he observes the ever-ongoing work of preserving the USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides," a ship that has been replaced over the years board by board. The act of restoration, Mansfield concludes, whether it's rebuilding antique engines or reviving the village model of community organization, must contain an element of renewal. Rejecting the sentimentality of nostalgia and the superficiality of commercial appropriation, Mansfield argues for an understanding of restoration that is concerned as much with the future as it is with the past, that preserves and communicates a spirit as well as a form. *Pressestimmen* "Filled with insight and eloquence . . . A memorable, readable, brilliant book on an important subject. It is a book filled with quotable wisdom." -- *New York Times Book*

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