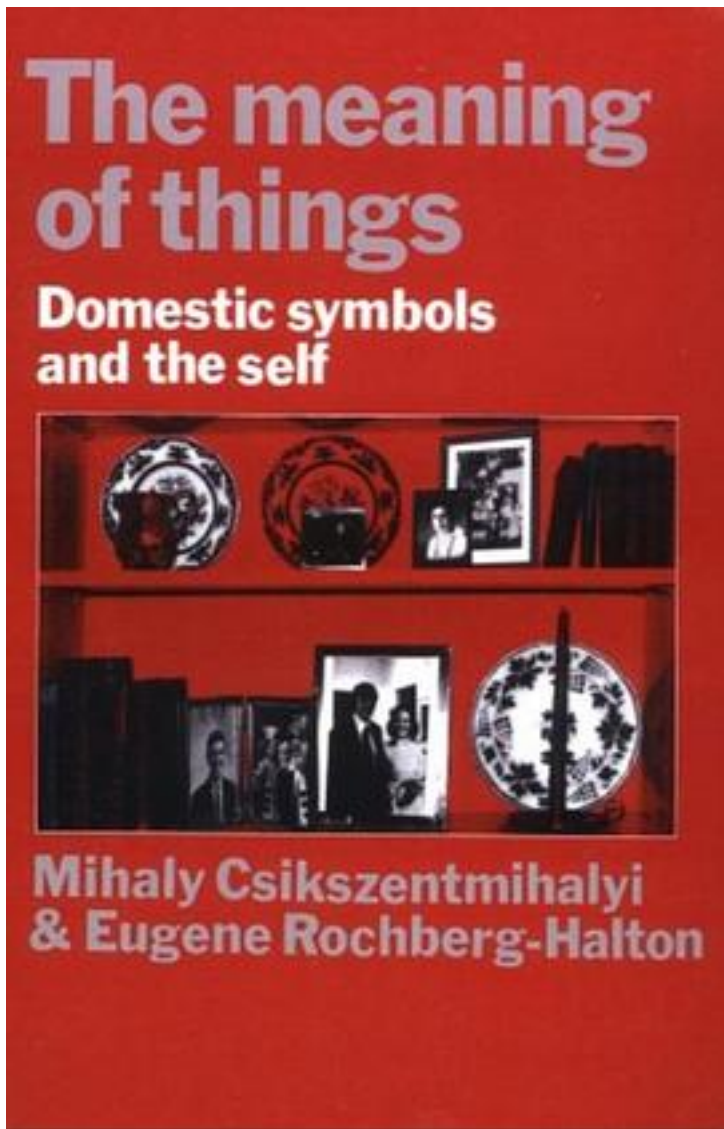


# The Meaning of Things



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著者:Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

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The meaning of things is a study of the significance of material possessions in contemporary urban life, and of the ways people carve meaning out of their domestic environment. Drawing on a survey of eighty families in Chicago who were interviewed on the subject of their feelings about common household objects, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Eugene Rochberg-Halton provide a unique perspective on materialism, American culture, and the self. They begin by reviewing what social scientists and philosophers have said about the transactions between people and things. In the model of 'personhood' that the authors develop, goal-directed action and the cultivation of meaning through signs assume central importance. They then relate theoretical issues to the results of their survey. An important finding is the distinction between objects valued for action and those valued for contemplation. The authors compare families who have warm emotional attachments to their homes with those in which a common set of positive meanings is lacking, and interpret the different patterns of involvement. They then trace the cultivation of meaning in case studies of four families. Finally, the authors address what they describe as the current crisis of environmental and material exploitation, and suggest that human capacities for the creation and redirection of meaning offer the only hope for survival. A wide range of scholars - urban and family sociologists, clinical, developmental and environmental psychologists, cultural anthropologists and philosophers, and many general readers - will find this book stimulating and compelling.

作者介绍:

目录:

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标签

设计

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物质文化

英语原版

产品设计

## 评论

读的老娘死去活来

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这本是从心理学的角度来解读人和物的关系，有很多调查表格。

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关于家用物品意义的社会学调查。可惜当年电脑、互联网都还没有普及，更没有智能手机、平板电脑，现在来看，书中的很多数据和资料已经成为历史了，参考价值不大。

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things and people

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以访谈法调查了许多美国家庭中分属三个年代的、不同性别的成员最珍惜的家中的物品，并让其陈述珍惜的理由。对这些不同成员所陈述的物品的意义进行多角度的比较与分析后，发现，人们将对“自我”的概念投射到了物品中，物品由此凝聚了人们对“自我”的概念，这些物品也反过来影响人们对“自我”的概念。在一生中，不知不觉，这些物品，成了人塑造、维持“自我认同感”的不可缺少的一部分。

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## 书评

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