



## Quicksilver: Mercury in Popular Culture (Paperback)

By Richard M. Swiderski

McFarland Co Inc, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Though modern scientists recognize mercury as a harmful environmental pollutant and one of the world s most dangerous elemental toxins, mercury was once considered a wondrous substance capable of eradicating internal disease, revolutionizing the paint and cosmetics industries and even entertaining the masses as part of amateur magic tricks and witch doctor scams. This work traces the history of mercury in popular culture, beginning in the early eighteenth century when Dr. Thomas Dover, nicknamed Dr. Quicksilver, began prescribing doses of raw mercury to clear out intestinal blockages and rid the body of syphilis and other diseases. The author then details the role of mercury in several medical, industrial, and cultural applications. In the fields of dentistry and vaccination, mercury continues to be used as a preservative and amalgamative agent. In the cosmetics industry, mercury was once used as a popular skin lightener in soaps and skin creams. In the early development of obstetrics and gynecology, mercury was once used to stimulate conception and fetal abortion. These uses of mercury, along with many more, are outlined in the work, while several appendices provide translations of rare works...



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