

A Celebration of Shoes

"EYES may be the windows to the soul, but shoes are the gateway to the psycho," says Linda O'Keeffe in the introduction to her book 'Shoes: A Celebration of Pumps, Sandals, Slippers and More' (Workman/Hardie Grant, \$25).

While psychologists may disagree, there is no doubt that a new pair of shoes can make you feel great and just looking through this visual extravaganza of footwear lifts the spirits.

At just over 500 pages, the book has more than 1000 color photographs, but it is not a hefty tome. In fact,

it's small

format rests comfortably in the palm of your

hand and soft cover and silky pages slip easily through your fingers.

In keeping with the adage that a picture paints a thousand words, this book is light on text, with the emphasis being on the shoes themselves.

The book is divided into types of shoes, with a good mix of

is full of shoe-related quotes and fascinating footwear facts, such as who

was christened "the Ferragamo of MTV", where Paul Sperry got the idea for his grooved boat shoe sole and who said, "Give a girl the correct footwear and she can

Kumagai. However, neither of these points detract from the book's overall accomplishment.

It is obvious that the author is a devout shoe lover. Collating, categorising and describing this many shoes is a huge task and Linda O'Keeffe - a journalist and fashion expert who lives with an eclectic collection of shoes in New York - has done



historical and contemporary styles, and includes chapters on heels; chopines and platforms; fetish and lotus shoes; and one-of-a-kind shoes.

As well as witty chapter titles the book

conquer the world". While the book contains a few minor technical inaccuracies, my main complaint

is the omission of designers Walter Stojger and Tokio



a magnificent job.

This book truly is a "celebration of shoes". Don't file it away in the bookcase, leave it on display where it can be readily accessed, appreciated and admired.

* Briar Jensen

