

BOOK Reviews

Editors

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Cartier

By Hans Nadelhoffer, 352 pp., illus., publ. by Chronicle Books [www.chroniclebooks.com], San Francisco, 2007. US\$75.00

While many books have been written on the House of Cartier, this is by far the most extensive review to date. Author Hans Nadelhoffer, Christie's longtime jewelry expert in Geneva, spent three years compiling it after being granted full access to the Cartier archives in Paris, New York, and London. The result is a beautiful hardcover volume that includes full-color photographs, sketches, and archival images, along with narratives and a historical review of the famed house, while it covers the major periods of influence and design.

Nadelhoffer takes the time to detail periods of style and how they were influenced by world events. Alfred Cartier and his three sons—Louis (head of Cartier in Paris), Jacques (London), and Pierre (New York)—handled the most influential clients, including royalty, diplomats, movie stars, and captains of industry. Fashion, war, and economic fluctuations influenced the decisions in hiring designers. Readers will understand the close links with arts, crafts, theatre, literature, and film.

One of my favorite sections, on the evolution of period and style, covers Indian, Chinese, and Japanese motifs and how they found their place in Cartier's work. These new variations used circles and ellipses to conceal purely constructional elements in the jewelry and create fluent ornamental forms. Another chapter describes how

the designers for the Ballets Russes of the early 20th century integrated floral elements from 18th-century France into their theater designs. Also interesting is Nadelhoffer's account of the evolution from tiaras in the late 19th century to headbands in the 1920s and garland-style breast ornaments. Nadelhoffer has a clever way of explaining how these shifts in style took place.

For jewelry designers, this book provides an important look at how events of the past 150 years influenced design in Europe and America. Many of these styles are popular today, and Nadelhoffer helps the reader understand their foundation. Sections on the designers explain the distinct differences between Cartier and peers such as Boucheron, Fabergé, and Veve, as well as their influences on each other.

Over 500 beautiful images, lavish full-page photographs, drawings, and original sketches of jewelry, clocks, *objets d'art*, and accessories fill the pages of this book. Most of these pieces are housed in collections and museums; for the true collector, however, these images are important and accurate.

Hans Nadelhoffer brings to life, in a charming and compelling way, the history of the legend that is Cartier. This book will satisfy the appetite of even the toughest critics. It is a must for anyone interested or involved in estate and period jewelry or jewelry design.

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7000 Years of Jewelry

By Hugh Tait, Ed., 256 pp., illus., publ. by Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY, 2008. US\$29.95

This is an important book for all jewelers—one that many would see as a concise history of the evolution of jewelry. It features some 500 pieces of jewelry from the collections of the British Museum, founded in 1753. It is the successor to the original catalogue for the 1976 British Museum exhibition "Jewellery Through 7000 Years," which was primarily illustrated in black and white. In this revised version, the pieces have been superbly photographed and printed in color. (In fact, many illustrations look better than the actual objects despite the fact that the museum cases are well lit.) The book designers have created an attractive layout, and the figure captions are informative.

There is a very useful nine-page introduction with some historical portraits of bejeweled notables and contemporary paintings of goldsmiths' workshops. The main body of the text is divided into 18 chapters arranged by regions and in chronological order. It begins with the Middle East, 5000–2000 BC, and covers almost every region of the world through various eras, concluding with Europe, 1700–1950. Additional chapters focus on amulets, cameos, and rings.

These are followed by a list of British Museum accession numbers

GEMS & GEMOLOGY, Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. S1–S3.
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for the pieces and a bibliography. Most of the objects were included in the 1976 catalogue, where fuller descriptions and bibliographies may be found. Some revisions have been made in this version to account for new research discoveries, and the section on Europe from 1700 to 1950 has been completely rewritten with new illustrations that include the museum's recent acquisitions. There is a useful glossary of technical terms, a brief general bibliography on historical jewelry, and a list of titles for further reading.

Most of the jewelry displays in the museum are shown with more utilitarian objects found during archeological excavations in the respective areas. The museum's regional jewelry displays are often in adjoining rooms, but others are on different floors, so if you are fortunate enough to visit the British Museum you should obtain a map or guide before you start: You will save time and energy.

The book weighs nearly three pounds (1.36 kg), which is substantial but still light enough to carry on a visit to the museum, and is an incredibly good value. Jewelers and gemologists will find it an interesting read and an attractive reference volume for their shelves.

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Pegmatites

By David London, 368 pp, illus., publ. by the Mineralogical Association of Canada [www.mineralogicalassociation.ca], 2008. US\$125.00

This is a clearly written, informative, and richly illustrated book about this fascinating rock type—which is an important source of gem minerals. For more than a century, the origin of pegmatites has been fertile ground for research, discussion, and debate; and like the research, that debate is far from over. *Pegmatites* is a strong defense of the model proposed by the author and his colleagues. Indeed, this is a valuable and well-presented vol-

ume. It should be noted, though, that to date there is no mainstream model (as illustrated by the amount of material published on this topic), and the present reviewer and colleagues have proposed and supported a contrary model of pegmatite formation, one of several currently being pursued by researchers. None of these models has yet been universally accepted as definitive.

Dr. London's approach is based on his research on granites; he uses the experimental model of Jahns and Burnham (1969) as his starting point. However, this model must be put into context, since it is capable of modifications that invalidate many of Dr. London's conclusions. The situation with melt and fluid inclusions is a case in point, as a very superficial treatment of these features can easily result in skepticisms, and one feels this attitude is a problem for the entire book.

Chapter 17, "Internal Evolution of Pegmatites," is the highlight of Dr. London's pegmatite narrative. This reviewer suggests that the error of assuming low H₂O concentration or high density, made throughout the book, culminates in this chapter. The author dismisses the composition of individual melt and fluid inclusions as unrepresentative of the bulk melt composition in pegmatites, but fails to note that individual melt and fluid inclusions are simply snapshots of an evolving process.

In the epilogue, the author (to his credit) briefly mentions some doubts that have been expressed regarding his own model. Much more research will be required in our attempts to understand the many mysteries posed by pegmatites, and we should avoid attaching ourselves to any single model, lest in the process we ignore relevant facts.

It is a testament to the extent to which pegmatites have been studied that approximately 800 references are listed, but many important papers are still missing. The lack of an index is also a serious omission. Without it, many important facts distributed over the whole volume are difficult to retrieve.

The book does contain a CD-ROM with all the illustrations in the volume as well as the PDF files of the granitic pegmatite chapters in the MAC Short Course Handbook on Granitic Pegmatites, edited by Petr Černý and published in 1982.

With respect to the form, mineralogy, characteristics, and distribution of pegmatites, this book is an admirable discussion of a most fascinating subject, and as such it is recommended to the *G&G* reader. But with regard to the origin of pegmatites, a large and important component of the book, *Pegmatites* should be seen as the presentation of one particular model of pegmatite genesis, one that continues to be questioned by other researchers.

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Brooches: Timeless Adornment

By Lori Ettlinger Gross, 192 pp., illus., publ. by Rizzoli International Publications, New York, 2008. US\$45.00

Perhaps more than any other piece of jewelry in a woman's wardrobe, a brooch sends a distinctive message about the wearer's personal style. While a stunning necklace or flashy earrings might trigger stares and whispers, the brooch is a sociable jewel that invites conversation, projects energy outward, and almost always has a story to tell.

In *Brooches: Timeless Adornment*, jewelry historian Lori Ettlinger Gross shares her passion for these individual works of art. The style writer and editor divides her book into six chapters, each illustrated by David Behl's often whimsical color photography as well as archived images. Chapters on history and craft outline the brooch's evolution from article of necessity to jeweled adornment. Next, chapters devoted to collecting and style explore major motifs and stylistic periods launched by trendsetters and technological inno-

ventions. Readers will enjoy historical accounts of an English prince whose paramour inspires the creation of a mysterious “lover’s eye” pin during the Georgian period (1714–1830). More than a century later, Elizabeth Taylor reveals how she and Richard Burton discovered their “Night of the Iguana” Schlumberger brooch, marking a chapter of their storied romance.

In a chapter she calls “Pin-ology,” Ettliger Gross offers a primer on pin-pairing and styling inspired by aquatic, floral, color, and other themes using traditional and unconventional materials. A closing chapter on pin care offers excellent suggestions for preserving, cleaning, and repairing costume and precious brooch jewelry.

The clearly written and engaging text makes for a breezy read, while the quality production, layout, and stylish photos heighten the book’s entertainment value. Costume pieces are lovingly portrayed and hold their own alongside examples of exquisite diamond and gemstone jewelry set in precious metals. Outstanding pieces include Juliette Moutard’s ruby and amethyst starfish brooch for the Paris house of René Boivin (1938); a garnet, tourmaline, and diamond brooch by James de Givenchy for Taffin (2004); and a private collector’s ballerina pins by various artists.

This enjoyable book will delight brooch fans and is sure to win over a few converts. Jewelers and casual readers alike will discover the charm, inspired artistry, and world of new looks befitting this classic adornment.

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Collector’s Guide to the Epidote Group

By Robert J. Lauf, 96 pp., illus., publ. by Schiffer Publishing, Arglen, PA, 2008. US\$19.99

There are so many books that attempt to cover as many different

minerals or gems as possible that it is refreshing to see one devoted to a relatively small group of mineral species. This work is particularly good news for the collector who, though able to find many books on well-known species or groups like tourmaline, has difficulty finding anything on a collectable but lesser-known group such as epidote.

The Collector’s Guide to the Epidote Group is a good effort to provide mineral collectors with the kind of information suited to their needs. For the lapidary, gemologist, or jeweler, the book includes the gem varieties of the epidote group (quartz with epidote inclusions, transparent green to brown epidote and clinozoisite, cat’s-eye epidote, and unakite). The closely related species zoisite (including the gem variety tanzanite) is discussed in this book because historically it was considered part of the group. (Note: The International Mineralogical Association [IMA] recently assigned new species nomenclature to this group, which is included in the text, and ruled that the epidote group is comprised of only monoclinic crystal system members. Since zoisite is the orthorhombic polymorph of clinozoisite, it was removed from the group.)

There are four main chapters. The first covers the history and the gem and lapidary uses of the epidote group. “Taxonomy of the Epidote Group” covers general formula and crystal structure, with tables of the species and their formulas, while “Formation and Geochemistry” covers epidotes in igneous and metamorphic rocks. The final chapter, “The Minerals,” includes the clinozoisite, allanite, and dollaseite subgroups and the related species zoisite.

For collectors, the “meat” of the book is the minerals chapter, devoted to the actual materials coveted for their beauty, rarity, or scientific interest. Epidote and clinozoisite occur in beautiful crystal forms from many famous localities, such as Knappenwand, Austria, and Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. The star of the group

from a collector’s point of view—if we leave out tanzanite—is epidote itself.

The book contains numerous color photographs of epidote-group and zoisite specimens and fashioned gems. Although the images and specimens themselves are not as fine as those seen in some other books and journals currently in publication, they do show typical appearances and include samples from numerous localities of interest—one of the best features of this book!

Although of great importance, the information on formation and chemical formulas is of less interest to the average collector than the locations, forms, associated species, and desirability of the different species, particularly those that occur as beautiful specimens. The minerals chapter is good but would have been of greater value had it been expanded; better discussion of gem materials would have been another improvement, especially given the limited attention paid to tanzanite. That being said, I congratulate the author for creating a book on a single group of minerals and hope that others will do the same. For those who covet epidote and its close relatives, as I do, this book is a must have!

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OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

World of Gems Conference. Edited by Richard Drucker, 90 pp., illus., publ. by Gemworld International [www.gemguide.com], Glenview, IL, 2008, US\$29.95. This handsome work compiles abstracts and speaker biographies from the inaugural World of Gems Conference held September 13–15, 2008, in Rosemont, Illinois. Also included are photos of the conference and an introduction by Mr. Drucker and Dr. Lore Kiefert of the AGTA Gemological Testing Center.

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