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Scottish Jewellery: A Victorian Passion



Synopsis

Through the centuries, the distinctive character of Scottish jewelry has enchanted collectors from around the world. In the mid-nineteenth century, demand for the Highland specialties was so high that the supply from local craftsmen had to be supplemented by English imitations. In this spectacular, authoritative volume, leading jewelry historian Diana Scarisbrick presents 360 treasures from the renowned Ghysels collection. Examples include brooches, kilt pins, bracelets, earrings, tie pins, buttons, and belt buckles, many made by legendary designers such as Rettie & Sons of Aberdeen, Jamieson, and Ellis. One hundred beautiful illustrations highlight the exquisite craftsmanship of traditional Scottish designs executed in local materials—agates, cairngorms, amethysts, garnets, freshwater pearls—set in silver or gold to harmonize with the bright colors of the clan tartans. The book also traces the history of jewelry in Scotland and explains the significance of the various motifs—Celtic, heraldic, sporting, religious, naturalistic, military, and sentimental.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am thoroughly impressed with the book, the text, and most of all the photographs! I own one other book (Rings: Jewellery of Power, Love and Loyalty) written by Diana Scarisbrick and will be buying more of her books in the future. The fine art photographer Mauro Magliani, worked on a number of projects including A World of Rings and other books in this series. The combination of these two is dynamic to say the least. There are approximately 100 pages of exquisite brooches and bracelets with a few earrings. The text gives a thorough overview of the fashion of the time and how it came to

be. It is such a pleasure to be able to learn about and view such an important and exquisite collection of jewelry and handled in such a manner. thank you.

OMG! The definitive guide to Scottish Jewelry (Jewellry)Page after page of exciting pieces, designed to make the collector's mouth water. It is however, done up like an auction catalog. 18 pages of the history of being fashionably Scottish, followed by gorgeous photos in middle and the descriptions at the end in b & w. And if you don't care to swing pages back and forth, this may just be the wrong book for...no...no...it's too beautiful a book...tough it out and get used to it. For the Scottish Jewelry collector and for Scots who relish the finer things.

The only thing that I don't like about this book is having to flip back and forth to see the notes on the jewelry. It's annoying and time consuming. That is why I gave a four star rating on this book.

My daughter gave me this book for Mothers' Day 2011, and that began my adoration of Diana Scarisbrick's jewelry books. The cover of my book is different (has a photo of a brooch of intertwined hearts set with jasper and bloodstone), but the publication date is the same, 2009. I'm pretty sure it is this book. Even if it is not, you can't go wrong with anything written by Ms. Scarisbrick. She covers the historical and cultural significance of the jewelry and enhances the text with fabulous photos. I particularly like the photography by Mauro Magliani in this book because the backgrounds are neutral grays or black that really set off the jewelry. The pieces chosen by Ms. Scarisbrick need no props or background patterns. They would only distract from the beauty of the jewels. Thank you, Jessica!

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