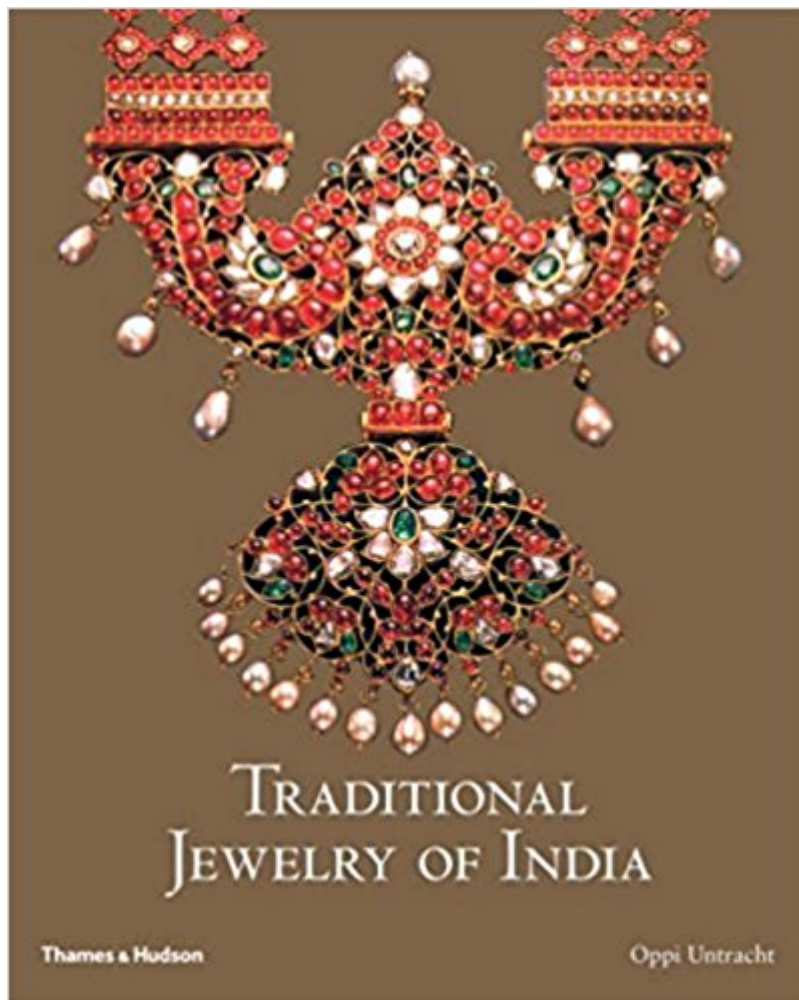


The book was found

Traditional Jewelry Of India



Synopsis

"A wondrous collection of data and visuals documenting 5,000 continuous years of jewelry design."

Booklist This comprehensive survey combines a sumptuous display and documentation of hundreds of pieces of jewelry with an illuminating discussion of how myth, religion, social structure, economics, and politics have influenced jewelry design in India. The book encompasses every area of the country, from sophisticated urban enclaves to isolated ethnic communities. Beginning with Paleolithic body ornaments, the author goes on to identify the emergence of major traditional forms, such as amulets, rosaries, marriage ornaments, temple jewelry, theatrical jewelry, and adornment for animals. The illustrations are drawn from public and private collections around the world, and line drawings depict traditional design forms and techniques. 870 illustrations, 220 in color.

Book Information

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Criticism > Criticism

Customer Reviews

Following Untracht as he discusses all the permutations and features of Indian jewelry is much like browsing through a National Geographic magazine or two. The pictures and captions catch the eye, but it is the text--nonscholarly, spritely prose--that truly educates and informs. And the author, through years of residency, research, and lectures, prepares all for a thorough backgrounding in a much neglected subject. He begins well before the establishment of goldsmithery, examining the body decorations of Bengal Bay islanders as well as the religious ornaments of various regional peoples. Then, in much-illustrated detail, come chapters on the tradition of entire-body decoration, actual examples and explanations of meanings, the use of gold and silver and gemstones, three

specific centuries of artistry (the Mughal dynasty), and the interchange between and cross-cultural influences of European and Indian jewelry design. A wondrous collection of data and visuals documenting 5,000 continuous years of jewelry design. Barbara Jacobs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oppi Untracht lives in Finland and lectures and writes on traditional Indian jewelry and culture.

While content is everything other reviewers claim it to be, the quality of my publication is so bad I'm wondering if it's a low budget edition or bootlegged copy. Previous reviewers discuss the high quality of photographs, but the quality of what I received makes it unreadable and a waste of money. Upon arrival book appeared unopened. Shrink - wrapped in crisp, unblemished plastic. No wear, tightly compressed pages. Arrived on time and indeed, appeared new. A few weeks passed before I'd time to really relax and enjoy thumbing through for the first time. What a surprise: pages fell loose from the jacket, many separating from the binding more than half way just from the effort of turning them. Once the book was opened and looked through, the entire block of pages fell away when turned, as if this was an unbound manuscript. Flimsy card stock cover simply ripped itself from the binding and back cover. Aside from glue, nothing else was holding my book together. Because I'd given this a good rating when it arrived, I didn't have the option of returning it. Photos in my copy are blurred, many black and white: this isn't what other reviewers are describing when discussing their copies. Text is sharp on some pages, blurred on others. Abundant offset ink soon turns the fingers gray and is probably responsible for the blurred text and smudged appearance of the pages. Inspect your copy carefully when it arrives, and thumb through a few times, or you'll be stuck with a stack of useless paper like I was.

This is a book that educates the collector as well as jewelry making individuals to show a more interesting design. The techniques of making jewelry is also helpful in determining how complicated is the process. The photography is excellent and this book helps to identify jewelry of the different regions of India as well as tribal groups. The book is especially helpful because the author takes you on a journey in pictures showing how the people wear ornaments in their hair, bangles and necklaces. This book helped me determine that the recent ethnic necklace that I purchased is probably from Gujarat, since the style is wrapped silver. I definitely would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Indian culture and jewelry.

This person brought me to understand significance in gold. The phrase good as gold certainly is explained. If I can afford another of his books I'll buy it here..

The photographs and information in this book are lovely, astonishing, and intriguing. I have been told that the author was the absolute authority on traditional Indian jewelry. Although it is paperback, the quality of each page is very good.

GREAT pictures. Nice clear details.

Untracht was an expert of exceptional standing in the world of jewellery, and not only on that which came from India. But even if this was the only book he had written it would have been not only the best book on its subject, but one that significantly exceeds in merit most specialised books on specific areas in the field of ethnic jewellery. This is not a coffee-table book, though it is profusely illustrated and a joy to peruse, but a thorough-going, very learned and scholarly account of its subject. One can see again and again to what extent the author has devoted himself, for many years, to an intensive study of the complex and extremely varied body of Indian ethnic adornment. Those who might think immediately of just gold, silver and precious stones, for example, will not only find themselves satisfied, but also surprised by how much else - artistically in no sense inferior - they will find. One learns, as should be the case with any good book on ethnic adornment, not only much about the pieces shown, but also about their creators, and the important role which the objects played in their cultures. In short, this is an outstanding book, and one that anyone collecting Indian ethnic jewellery should own. As collectors we (my wife Truus and I) have been gratified to use it intensely after its publication, after we had, along with other devotees, looked out for the book for several years. This study has certainly been worth waiting for! Unhesitatingly recommended. And the paperback is a steal at the price.

Oppi's book is magnificent. It is a culmination of over thirty years of Oppi's research. His book covers more than just Indian jewelry, but forehead marks and henna mendhi. Inspired by trips to New York's museums when he was young, Oppi crafts an anthropological journey through a fascinating history of human ornamentation, beginning with wood ash and mud. Oppi traveled extensively to personally research his subject in association with scholarships he won, including a Fulbright scholarship and funding from John D Rockefeller III. He shows the use of natural items in jewelry, such as leaves, flowers, seeds, vines and wood. Unusual jewelry materials like antelope

claws are pictured. Of course, gemstones and precious metals are included. There are photos of elegant gold filigree and fist-sized gemstones. My favorite part of the book is called "Typology from Head to Toe" in which Oppi takes you on a journey in pictures of people wearing ornaments in their hair to those worn on the toes. The book includes an extensive index and bibliography. It is a very human book, showing how ornaments are worn by people, not just showing photos of the ornaments alone as many other ethnic jewelry books do. Although you might think the subject of Indian jewelry is narrow before you see the book, a glance through the book will make you want to own it even though the sticker price is high.

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