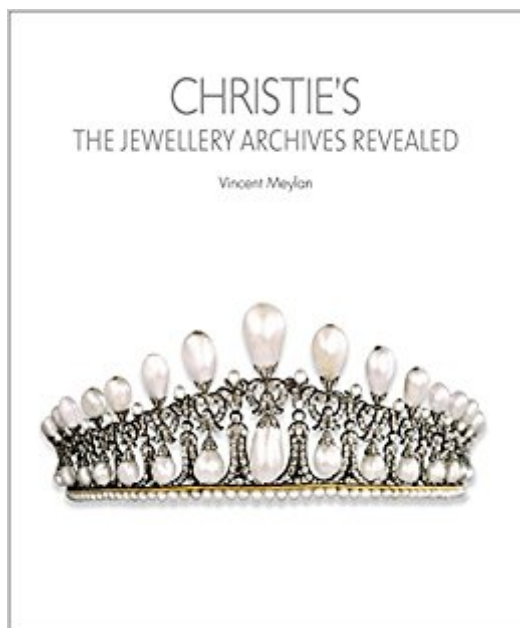


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# Christie's: The Jewellery Archives Revealed



## Synopsis

Full access to Christie's archives has been granted for this book, resulting in the inclusion of never-before seen images. Stories of the world's great jewelry collections. Expertly curating Christie's extensive archives, Vincent Meylan has drawn out the key details of each momentous sale. For centuries, the stories of the world's great jewelry collections have lain hidden within the archives of Christie's, the celebrated auctioneers. From the tragic European queens, Mary, Queen of Scots and Marie Antoinette - both beheaded - to Hollywood royalty such as Elizabeth Taylor, the vaults sparkle with the most celebrated (and occasionally notorious) names of the last 250 years. Following on from the success of his books on Boucheron: The Secret Archives, Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures and Legends and Mellerio: Jewellers to the Queens of Europe, author Vincent Meylan explores these remarkable jewelry archives, revealing the mysteries within for the first time. Each sale had its intrigue, each its story to tell. The first auction of jewelry from the British royal family took place at Christie's in 1773, after the death of the Princess of Wales, mother of George III. As the archives reveal, in the subsequent centuries, Christie's has been party to the sale of jewelry by several further generations of British royals, from Lady Patricia Ramsay and the Countess of Southesk through to Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. And, in the wake of revolution and regicide further afield, the crown jewels of France, Russia, Bavaria, Serbia, Egypt, India and Spain were all sold at Christie's. Aside from Elizabeth Taylor, the legendary movie star collections of Merle Oberon and Gloria Swanson are also revealed here, as well as the most famous pearls and diamonds in the world; each explored within the context of their owners' remarkable lives. Expertly curating the extensive archives, Vincent Meylan has drawn out the key details of each momentous sale. More than a hundred original documents from the vaults are reproduced in the book, alongside hundreds of color illustrations of the jewels and their owners. Contents Include: Introduction by François Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Asia-Pacific; 1. Guillotine Diamonds; 2. Murdered Queens; 3. Pomp and Circumstances; 4. Empresses in Exile; 5. The French Court; 6. From Christie's with Love; 7. Soft as a Pearl; 8. Bloody Revolutions; 9. Ladies of the Stage; 10. Gems from the East; 11. Diamonds are Christie's Best Friends; 12. Appendix: Prestigious Provenances.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Several of the most significant pieces in the most important jewelry sale at Christie's, or anywhere for that matter, from Elizabeth Taylor are included in the publication. And there is one mouth-watering image at the very end of the JAR jewels from the Ellen Barkin collection that frankly leaves you wanting much more from that sale •in my opinion the greatest exhibition of the designer anywhere. (The Adventurine) Author Vincent Meylan delves into the stories behind both the gems and their owners •many of the creations within are from the collections of the rich, famous, and powerful: Marie Antoinette, Elizabeth Taylor, Queen Victoria's granddaughters. Here, discover a few of the most impressive jewels from the book. (Architectural Digest) Get ready to pick your jaw up off the floor. The new book •Christie's: The Jewellery Archives Revealed' (ACC Art Books, \$95) explores the auction house's most exquisite jewels to be sold over the past 250 years. From Elizabeth Taylor's emerald and diamond Bulgari necklace to the tiara worn by Princess Margaret on her wedding day, there are certainly a number of breathtaking pieces • | (Rachel Swalin Veranda, January 20, 2017) The auction world is quite mysterious, legendary and totally unique. It is one of my favorite parts of my jewelry hobby. This book encompasses all this and more, and should you find yourself daydreaming of all the jaw-dropping jewels that once passed through Christie's auction house--you might want to buy yourself this book to know exactly how incredible they truly are! (Gem Gossip)

Vincent Meylan is a specialist in precious stones and high jewelry, and the author of several biographies and works on the history of precious stones, including Queens' Jewels (Assouline, 2005), Boucheron: The Secret Archives ISBN 9781851496679 (ACC, 2011), and Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures and Legends ISBN 9781851497706 (ACC, 2014).

utterly lovely and very informative

Wonderful book with pics and information I've not read before. Saw it in Majesty Mag ad for about \$138 so was thrilled to find something affordable that is so enjoyable. Will donate to local library eventually so it continues to be in circulation.

There are some editing issues, with spacing that could have been addressed by a deeper read. Otherwise, a great piece.

Gorgeously illustrated and well-researched, this is a fashion book, as well as a history lesson--a slightly wistful look back at lost worlds .

Amazing collection!

Great book for jewellery lovers

very good, came quickly. perfect.

Great information

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Art as Jewellery: Artists' Jewellery from Calder to Kapoor  
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