

# *An Introduction to Jewellery*



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## **Table of Content**

- 1 Jewellery – Women Simply Just Love it
- 2 X FACTOR Jewellery - Comes With The Feel Good Factor
- 3 Celebrities Jewellery Trends
- 4 The Power of Jewellery
- 5 The Romance of Jewellery
- 6 The History of Necklaces
- 7 The History of Rings
- 8 Understanding The Symbolic Nature Of "Promise" Rings
- 9 Rhinestones and their History
- 10 The History Of Costume Jewellery
- 11 Enhance your Fashion with Estate Jewellery
- 12 Bracelets
- 13 Bracelets Through The Ages
- 14 Bracelets – Fashionable and affordable attractions and various bracelet types
- 15 Clothing Article Bracelets
- 16 Ankle Bracelets: Accessories to Pamper and Adorn Your Feet
- 17 Jewellery – Blinging In Style
- 18 Jewellery and the Dark side - Fashionable Gothic Jewellery
- 19 Horse Jewellery: Bold and Free
- 20 Is Turquoise For You?
- 21 Baby Jewellery - Infant Fashion as Keepsakes
- 22 Birthstone Jewellery Beliefs and Celebrity Birthdays
- 23 Birthstones and their Meanings
- 24 Can Necklaces Mean a Pain in the Neck?
- 25 Especially for Men - Titanium and Tungsten Jewellery
- 26 Man Earring - A Radiantly Macho Trend
- 27 Men's Titanium Rings
- 28 How To Clean Jewellery
- 29 How to Keep Your Jewellery Clean And Sparkling Throughout The Year
- 30 Timeless Jewellery Gifts for Your Loved Ones
  
- 31 A Final Tip To Consider

### 1 Jewellery – Women Simply Just Love it

The most breath-taking things in the lives of women are jewellery. No one could possibly explain satisfactorily, as to why women love jewellery so much. But, what no one can deny is, this one passion has single handily made jewellery a big industry which generates an official demand for over 3000 tons of gold, worth \$55 billion. Diamonds score another \$50 billion figure with USA purchasing more than a quarter of it.

Historically, men and women have gone mad over gold and diamonds which can be tracked easily by tracking wars. Today, jewellery has many occasions and parts to adorn your body, thanks to innovative and revolutionary designing and manufacturing aided by sophisticated computers.

#### Jewellery Making

Common precious metals used in jewellery making are gold, silver and platinum. It is generally gold alloy which is used and the purity thus varies from 10K to 22K. While for platinum it is 900K to 950K. Silver ornaments are made from sterling silver.

Gemstones boost up the beauty and value of jewellery. All stones, diamonds, sapphires, rubies and the whole host of them are very popularly used all over the world with same fervour. Synthesized stones and semi-precious stones are also equally popular as these provide unbeatably appealing looks.

Jewellery designing is a big industry which still has retained the same charm as olden times even with the onslaught of technology driven young kids. Jewellery design software makes things look so easy that with a few clicks you can design or redesign and preview your jewellery.

#### Where Do You Want To Wear Them

You have ornaments for whole body and occasions; so the question is where you don't want to wear. Jewellery is available for head to toes to genitals and occasions like marriage to prayer to mourning; some are piercing types and some are just wearable. But the big question is whether all these are genuine; where and how to buy jewellery?

### 2 X FACTOR Jewellery - Comes With The Feel Good Factor

Jewellery will forever excite just like it has in days gone by. Take the cave man adorned with ivory molars dangling from his neck or his mammoth tusk hanging from his waist. Then we have another fine example for finery the Indian chief sitting so brave attired in coloured feathers and beads of every colour of the rainbow running through his braided plaits.

It has taken millions of years for us to come to our senses and narrow down the amount of jewellery we wear. In saying that piercing of the body where you can end up looking like a voodoo doll is still very popular. What you have to remember is, too much of a good thing can spoil your image therefore taking the beauty away from your ornate piece. Bling diamond sparkling rings alongside gold bulky sovereigns are not a match made in heaven.

Remember too many cooks spoil the broth.

Beauty behind Jewellery

How elegant exquisite precious stones sparkle more when mounted on a 9ct warm gold band and how Signet rings for men express a more strong masculine appearance.

Items of Jewellery no matter the size will always hold some meaning or have a story behind it sentimental happy or sad.

RINGS

The mystery that lurks behind how the ring was titled with names such as the eternity, engagement and wedding band will always remain a mystery.

Marriage vows become finalized with an exchange of gold wedding bands. Be sure to choose this ring with care as this piece which bonds two people together is for life. (Sadly not in all cases)

Before buying Jewellery get it right because wrong choice wrong image wrong you.

EARRINGS

What happened to one earring to each ear, today earrings are layered down the lobe in sequence which can be quite eye catching, even when pierced through the nose/nipple or belly button.

Women today are only half dressed unless wearing jewellery. Pierced ears seem to dominate and hold a stronger presence over the clip or screw on. No matter your chosen outfit watch it transform when the gypsy dangler or Grace Kelly pearl peeper is placed onto the lobe

History behind time

How the concrete garden sundial went from the garden to the pendulum swinging grandfather clock in the hall only to be halved in size to stand on the mantle.

There has been a dramatic change in the way we tell time today. When buying a watch choose wisely as this is worn and on show for all to see more frequently than most Jewellery items.

Jewellery speaks volumes about a person's personality so do not damage yours by making the wrong choice. Take a friend with you when shopping for gold or silver this way you can seek advice if you need it.

Jewellery has to be top of most people's gift list for birthdays Christmas anniversary's retirement etc. For those people celebrating these special dates why not make that day extra special for them by giving a piece of Jewellery.

### 3 Celebrities Jewellery Trends

Do any of you remember Marilyn Monroe sexily purring "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend?" Do you have any idea what that did the engagement ring market. Guys are still paying for that statement. Sure back in the 50s women knew it wouldn't be sensible to wear such a large engagement ring but that didn't mean a gal couldn't yearn for it. Today a women wouldn't feel in the least bit guilty about wearing such a diamond, in fact there are many a women that judge how well they are loved by the size of the rock they are wearing because they "know" what Marilyn knew, that "diamonds are in fact a girl's best friend."

When we see the engagement rings worn by stars like Madonna or Catherine Zeta-Jones we take notice and their choices influence the trends that follow. Celebrities are the leaders in setting fashion and jewellery trends. Madonna with her Edwardian engagement ring and Catherine Zeta-Jones's antique styled 10 carat diamond ring has revived the desire to own a beautiful antique engagement ring. In fact it's one of the hottest engagement ring styles in 20 years. The size of the diamonds in current styles has also grown from the average one carat to over three carats. That's a pretty big rock that's going to set you back a bit. But girls know they deserve it!

If you aren't sure whether bigger is better than have a look at the jewels at this year's Oscars which are said to total over \$50 million dollars in value. Wonder how many vaults it took to keep those locked up for the night? With bling being the in thing one has to stop and wonder how the heck normal average working guys plan to pay for these rings. When their fiancés are asked the standard answer is "doesn't matter I'm worth it. That's great if your guy is earning a 6 figure salary but wait what if he's not. What if he's joe average living from pay day to pay day. What should he do move into the bush and give up his home, perhaps take up walking and sell his car?

Wait guys maybe you can get away with a really good quality cubic zirconia. No guarantees but it might be worth a try. Most of the high end ones can only be identified by a quality jeweller. Then again maybe she won't care as long as it's big and impressive. Ok girls lets be real here. Dreaming and lusting for that big 5 carat rock is just fine. No problem with dreaming, but when it comes time for your man to buy that ring remember that the ring is not what you are marrying so perhaps it's time to consider the quality and quantity of the husband to be rather than the ring. Big diamond or little diamond it doesn't matter as long as the two of you are blissfully happy. Let the celebrities wear their big diamonds and let them sparkle and shine in the lime light. It doesn't matter because you got your man! That's what counts!

### 4 The Power of Jewellery

History separates our president from his crown. I speak not of the power of office to slash and burn its citizenry. Instead it is the crown which represents the adornment of precious metals by leaders of the ancient world. Once, jewellery was the ornamental expression of power. Ancient Egyptians were experts at gold production and jewellery design often expressing some tenant of their belief system. The Pharaohs would bury themselves with gold in order to enter the next life wealthily. The Greeks adorned jewellery as an symbol of greatness insisting on massive pieces set with gemstones. Kings and Queens throughout the history Europe have worn crowns, perhaps the most recognizable symbol of power as produced by goldsmiths and jewellery makers.

Along the way the powers that be have traded in their crowns for suits and thrones for bullet proof limousines. Jewellery has been regulated to personal expression of style and not necessarily a symbol of power. Crowns can be seen at a school play or museum when they once required anyone close enough to sink to his/her knees and kiss the hand of the ever loving master. Other than military garb there are almost no symbols of jewellery as an expression of power in developed civilizations. This change is due primarily to democratization of government in the west. Long ago the cycle of power remained within the confines of blood relatives. Then, the arrogance of power was outwardly displayed with crowns of gold, robes studded with glittering stones and polished rings set with precious metals.

Fear of losing one's position of power has diminished the showing of excess. The first politician to show up in a crown and robe will surely be tossed from office after a duly extended period of ridicule. The expectation today is the more politically powerful one is the less flamboyant one should be. There is a difference, of course, between the substance of true power and the power of wealth. Those with real power make law and authorize wars. Purely wealthy people, like those in the entertainment field, are culturally influential and can be seen sporting the latest in Cartier watches fitted with obscenely expensive diamonds without fear of repercussion. Musicians, actresses and sports stars gallivant about with stones dangling from their ears, necks and wrists. They are not, of course, accountable in the same ways as the policy makers. They are judged mostly by their performances and as artists expected to be stylish, including the adornment of jewels.

Yet, why are the policymakers not allowed to be stylishly expressive. If his work is superior does it matter that Mr. Senator is wearing the latest in diamond stud earrings. What about a crown? Why should the president be chastised for wearing one? It should only emphasize the grandeur that is the presidency. The vice president can carry a gold staff and pound the floor before speaking. In fact, many more people might be more interested in politics if senators and congressman dressed more stylishly and wore more ritualistic jewellery. We can praise our leaders for what they have always been. All hail the president king.

### **5 The Romance of Jewellery**

"Well," you may ask, "isn't jewellery romantic by its very nature?"

To some extent this is true, but we wear jewellery for any number of reasons that are not romantic... to look sophisticated, to look professional, to impress our friends and neighbours.

So what about the romance of jewellery?

In this case I'm talking about romance in a broader sense than simply relationships.

Something more like this definition from the dictionary:

"A quality or feeling of mystery, excitement, and remoteness from everyday life"

That wonderful fission, that bit of a chill that you get from something that is just, well, more than day to day life.

Romantic jewellery is that jewellery that makes you feel special, different, like a princess or a prince. That jewellery that takes you out of your normal hum drum life each time you put it on. The little something extra that comes of wearing something truly special.

Perhaps that is why gold is such a popular metal for jewellery. I love silver and platinum and there are other metals (titanium comes to mind) that make great jewellery, but there is nothing like the romance of gold. To wear gold is to wear the jewellery of kings and queens. In ancient Egypt only the pharaohs and those especially favoured by the pharaohs were permitted to wear gold. This feeling of being special and above the fray has continued to the modern day. If you want to feel like royalty (or if you want to give a gift that says you think of your beloved as a king or queen), gold is the answer.

Other jewels that inspire feelings of romance are pearls, emeralds and rubies... and, of course, for many people, diamonds.

Somehow though diamonds don't seem to have the same warmth and romance as the other stones. Actually diamonds were not historically valued as highly as we do today. Much of the romance that has been generated around diamonds is due to de Beers in the early part of the 20th century instituting a brilliant and very effective advertising campaign... so I will leave diamonds for another day.

On the other hand pearls... Pearls feel wonderful against your skin. They are sensuous and mysterious. To look deeply into a fine pearl is to look into eternity. There is also something intriguing about a pearl, knowing that it came not from the cold hard ground, but from an industrious mollusk.

Pearls have been prized in all time periods and all cultures. Historically baroque pearls (large irregularly shaped pearls) were used to make wonderful and fantastic jewellery by embellishing them with gold and gems. Frequently these took the shape of Neptune or other Greek gods, sirens, beautiful women and animals. The Canning Jewel in the Victoria and Albert museum is a famous and elaborate use of a baroque as the base for a handsome merman.

Black pearls, particularly Tahitian black pearls have become very popular in recent years. They come in a range of colours from spectacular purples and greens, through pinks to sophisticated browns. All are lovely and the range of colours gives them a great deal of flexibility in choosing just the right pearl for your outfit and mood. The most beautiful black pearl necklace I've seen was from Morrison's a small manufacturing jeweller in Berkeley. The pearls were arranged in a rainbow strung together so that each colour melted into the one next to it -- stunning. And of course what could be more romantic than pearls from Tahiti?

(By the way, if you wear pearls, do wear them against your skin, it is good for them, but be sure that you do not wear any perfume, scent or lotion, at least not where it might contact your pearls.)

Emeralds and rubies are traditionally the emperor and empress of gems. Perhaps it is their vibrant colours that inspired our ancestors. Certainly that vivid blood red and cool serpent green are hard to ignore. Even today emeralds and rubies of equal size and quality are more expensive than equivalent diamonds.



In Victorian times coloured gems were used to spell out love messages. Sometimes this made for interesting and not necessarily attractive settings; but it is very romantic. For instance a piece of jewellery might have these gems in order:

LOVE: Lapis, Opal, Vermeil and Emerald.

REGARD: Ruby, Emerald, Garnet, Amethyst, Ruby and Diamond.

The shape of jewellery too can harbour a romantic message. Hearts and clasped hands, hands holding a heart (Claddagh) and cupids are self-explanatory, but some shapes are a bit more subtle.

For many cultures, including the Romans and the Victorians, snakes were a symbol of enduring love. A snake biting its own tail so as to make a circle is a particularly potent symbol of everlasting love. Prince Albert gave Queen Victoria a snake engagement ring -- the beginning of a long and celebrated marriage.

Interestingly lizards and frogs were (and perhaps still are) also symbols of wedded happiness. Perhaps this explains the continuing popularity of jewellery depicting this wiggly creatures.

Jewellery in the shape of flowers may also be symbolic. To quote Ophelia "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember: and there is pansies. That's for thoughts."

Other flowers commonly found in jewellery are daisies for innocence, roses for the growth and continuation of love and bouquets expressing the comingling and compatibility of marriage. When you are considering the perfect gift from that next anniversary, rather than the common "anniversary ring" how about a more romantic bouquet pendant?

So the next time you are rooting through your jewel box before that special tryst or looking for the perfect gift for the perfect lover, consider the symbolic romance of jewellery and gems.

## 6 The History of Necklaces

Archaeologists believe the necklace was born during the stone age about 40,000 years before than previously believed. April 2004, scientists were excavating a cave in South Africa discovered forty-one mollusks that may have been strung as neck jewellery about 75,000 years ago.

Before this discovery the oldest known necklace to have been found about 30,000 B.C. They are made mostly of shells, bones, stones, animal teeth or claws, strung on a thread. Basically the same concept is used today though there are some variations.

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