

TENENBAUM

CLASSIC JEWELERS

Jewelry Through the Ages

Georgian (1714-1837) *Empress Josephine*

- Moved away from the heavy enamels of the seventeenth century; lighter and more airy
- Characterized by exquisite goldwork and Old Mine-cut, rose-cut and table-cut stones, which were usually collet-set and foil-backed
- Popular trends: memorial jewelry, cameos and intaglios, neoclassical motifs, Berlin iron and painted miniatures
- Common motifs: stars, ribbons, scrolls and flowers
- Tips to identify: C-catch and long pin stem, foil backing on stones, long ear wires, hand clasps
- Cultural references: French Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, Colonial America, Jane Austen

Victorian (1837-1901) *Empress Eugénie*

- Three distinct phases with this period: early, mid- and late Victorian
- Early Victorian period was influenced by the courtship and marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; focused more and more on sentiment and tokens of love
- Jewelry was soft and delicate, floral and sentimental motifs were common
- Death of Prince Albert in 1861 threw the whole country into mourning
- Jewelry became strong and bold, reaching massive proportions in the 1860s and 70s
- Towards the end of the century, jewelry began to lighten up again, focusing on diamonds and feminine shapes
- Tips to identify: bloomed finish, use of silver for diamonds, shorter pin stems, hollow settings, large spring rings, tube hinges, trombone clasps on pins
- Cultural References: Charles Dickens, American Civil War, *Gone with the Wind*, *Little Women*

Edwardian (1901-1910) *Lily Elsie*

- A time of luxury, elegance and refined beauty
- Fashion became light and airy, with an emphasis on ethereal white layers, delicate lace and a feminine silhouette
- Jewelers recreated Belgian lace and downy feathers in platinum, diamonds and pearls
- Common motifs: garlands, swags, bows, tassels and wreaths
- Tips to identify: use of platinum-topped gold, screwback and lever-back earrings, knife-edge settings, lacy openwork, tube hinges, handmade safety catches
- Cultural References: Belle Époque, Gilded Age, Gibson Girl, Titanic

Art Nouveau (1890s-early 1900s) *Sarah Bernhardt*

- A decorative style that took its name from the Parisian gallery *Maison de l'Art Nouveau*
- Superior craftsmanship and use of enameling, semi-precious stones (often cut en cabochon) and unusual materials such as horn to enhance the beauty and originality of their design
- Common motifs: flowing lines, asymmetry, women, flowers, animals and insects
- Cultural References: Paris Metro signs, René Lalique, Louis Comfort Tiffany



SINCE 1975

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Art Deco (1920s and 30s) *Louise Brooks, Zelda Fitzgerald*

- A decorative style that originated in France, named after L'Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes of 1925
- Emphasized geometric design, abstract pattern and exotic motifs
- Embraced modern streamlined designs, with geometric gemstone cuts and bold color combinations taking center stage
- Diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires were the gems of choice
- Tips to identify: screwback and post-and-friction earrings, introduction of clip earrings and mass-produced safety catches in the 30s
- Cultural references: flappers, Amelia Earhart, Coco Chanel, Jazz Age, *The Great Gatsby*

Retro and Art Moderne (1940s) *Ava Gardner*

- Characterized by large, glamorous designs in yellow and rose gold and use of synthetic and semi-precious stones
- Large, showy jewelry to be worn at cocktail hour
- During Depression, WWII and post-war years, metals and stones were scarce so jewelers creatively used small amounts of material to create chunky, machine-inspired pieces
- Tips to identify: double pin stems, clip back earrings
- Cultural References: Rosie the Riveter, *Casablanca*, Judy Garland in *Wizard of Oz*, seamed stockings

Estate (often refers to 1950s and later)

- Post 1950: most items manufactured and very few things made by hand
- Jewelry driven by fashion and trends and not innovation
- While not old enough to be antiques, these pieces have unique style and flair
- Tend to be bold like Retro jewelry, but more chunky and abstract
- Free-form linear and floral designs with sparkle

1950s: Elizabeth Taylor, Grace Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, *I Love Lucy*

1960s: Jackie Kennedy (pill box, triple strand of pearls, pastel suit) to Janis Joplin (stacks of bracelets and rings on every finger), Pucci prints, Twiggy

1970s: Gloria Steinem, Stevie Nicks, Yoko Ono, *Annie Hall*, *Saturday Night Fever*

1980s: Jane Fonda, Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, the Brat Pack, *Dallas*

1990s: Kate Moss, *Friends*, U2, Spice Girls, *Forrest Gump*

2000s: Jennifer Lopez and the Kardashians

