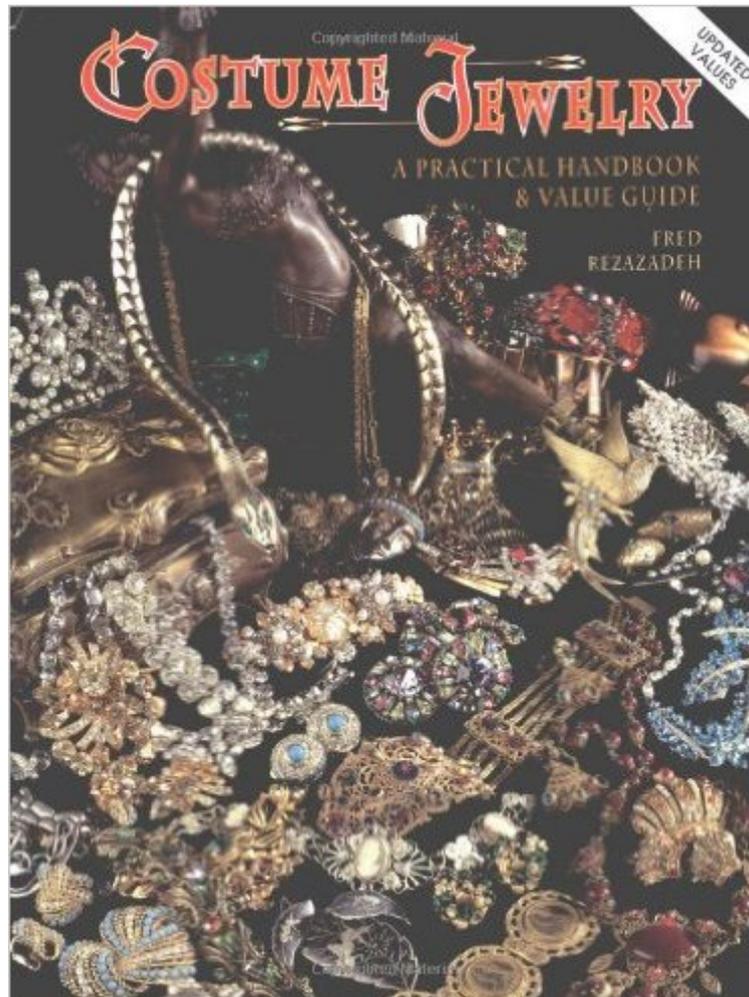


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Costume Jewelry A Practical Handbook & Value Guide



Synopsis

Costume Jewelry, A Practical Handbook & Value Guide is the first book to provide information regarding the investment potential of one of today's hottest collecting fields. The breadth of the industry is represented by different types of costume jewelry - defined as fashion jewelry - both domestic and foreign. It provides comprehensive information on a broad range of jewelry, emphasizing the more common, rather than the unique and rare, types of jewelry which most collectors are likely to encounter in the market place. Dealers as well as collectors will enjoy the more than 2,200 pieces featured in full color, and appreciate the wealth of information provided. The author explains the ever-changing market, value scales, and investment tips, as well as hints on cleaning, repairing, displaying, and storing jewelry. This beautiful, full-color book will be a welcome addition to all collectors' libraries. 2002 values. REVIEW: Over 2,000 pieces of American, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, German, Italian, Oriental, and Spanish costume jewelry are featured in this book. Besides the numerous international companies, there are over 100 American manufacturers with background information. Unmarked pieces are given coverage, as well as gold filled and silver jewelry, brass, copper, pewter, tin, plastic, and beaded jewelry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have most every book on costume jewelry; seem to collect the books as much as the jewelry. This one is wonderful--full of hundreds of COLOR photos, great examples shown, and it's not all the rare stuff but pieces I actually own. The value guidance seems to be pretty accurate with what's selling in

my part of the country. Mr R has done a great job--thank you!

As a newbie in the costume jewelry field, I was at first intimidated by this book. So big, beautiful, and all those names -- Eisenberg, Caviness, Lisner, Weiss -- I never thought I'd get them straight. But Mr. Razazadeh does a phenomenal job of explaining each designer, giving hints on how to care for costume jewelry (boy, did I need that advice), and for presenting the most beautiful photographs of stunning pieces. I learned a great deal from this book. I hope Mr. Razazadeh writes another book soon!

Being new to the world of costume jewelry and collecting, I found this book to be invaluable. The photos and descriptions have helped me identify many pieces that I had difficulty with before. I especially like the section on unmarked pieces. I found six pieces I own on these pages. I recommend this book to anyone who collects or just enjoys costume jewelry.

I felt Mr R wrote a helpful book for collectors. He did not concentrate on all the "famous names" like Eisenberg, etc. but had something to say about the "lesser knowns" which is what most of us see. Lots of pictures was wonderful, but I wish that the photos had not been so dark-it was hard to see details on some of them. I would still buy this book, however.

Overall, the commentary in this book is wonderful. But the photography leaves something to be desired. Some of the photos are too dark to be very beneficial in identifying the items. Many are just not up to the quality which one would expect in a publication of this topic. Where's the sparkle in the stones? Why is the metal so dull looking? I'm happy to have the book, but found the photography a big disappointment.

This book provides a short introductory section on cleaning buying selling etc and then write ups on different jewelry companies. The introduction is good for people with little information about caring for jewelry: displaying, cleaning, storing and repairing. It is sometimes humorous, as when Rezazadeh describes the meticulous procedure he goes through to clean his jewelry and then recalls discovering that his wife cleaned her jewelry by scrubbing it with a tooth brush and then blow drying it. There is also a bit about appraising and the supply and demand at work. I doubt that this is a book for dealers, because they presumably already have good resources and knowledge. The body of the book has short entries on different jewelry companies. About a page is dedicated to

each, but there are sometimes two to a page and sometimes four or five pages to a widely spread company. Each company gets a short write up and photo of some jewelry pieces. The photos are good, but obviously not full page. They are enough to oo and ah over. Each photo has a caption describing the jewelry and giving an estimate for price it would cost. Companies are grouped into European and imported depending on where they were located. There are also sections on unmarked jewelry. These are grouped by how they are made (enamel, Austrian crystal, plastic, etc.). Since there is no company these sections have more pictures to text. If you are into vintage including jewelry then this could be a fun book. Also if you design jewelry then the multitude of pictures here can be a good resource for ideas and inspiration. The pictures are the highlight of this book.

This book is much better than anticipated. The author goes to some length to categorize and provide photo examples of different types of costume jewelry and possible values. No book could cover it all but the author did a fine job of trying.

This title is not among my favorites of the costume jewelry books I own. It has fairly good pictures, but the layout is totally unimaginative. It does contain information on topics that most of my other books do not cover. As I always do when review books containing prices, I offer the following caveat: a piece is worth what an available buyer is willing and able to pay for it when you need to sell it. One plus for this book over some others that give prices: Rezazadeh includes a bar graph value-scale comparing ranges of prices for over a hundred different designers and manufacturers. This was helpful to me.

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