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Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures And Legends



Synopsis

From Empress Farah and the secrets of the treasure of Iran, to Queen Marie Antoinette's missing emeralds, via Fantomas and the blood-red rubies of the kings of Burma, entering the world of Van Cleef & Arpels is like embarking upon a fascinating treasure hunt. In this book, Vincent Meylan explores a century in the history of one of the most prestigious Parisian jewelry dynasties. He opens doors and unlocks caskets to reveal the mysterious, and sometimes fantastic, stories of its clients and the fabulous and exceptional stones that they entrusted to the "golden hands" of Van Cleef & Arpels. The Maharani of Baroda, the Duchess of Windsor, Princess Lilian of Belgium, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlene Dietrich, Princess Grace of Monaco, Maria Callas, Barbara Hutton and the Countess of Camargo: they are all the heroines of this incredible epic full of rubies, diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires. Van Cleef & Arpels: Treasures and Legends is full of extravagant fairytales and fascinating behind-the-scenes revelations. It also tells the sometimes troubled story of a dynasty of jewelers, of gifted men and women who have, for over a century, helped to shape that inimitably Parisian art de vivre that is the envy of the world.

Contents: Chapter I: The Goddess with a Passion for Diamonds; Sita Devi, Maharani of Baroda; Diamonds, Pearl Carpets, and Gladiators; Chapter II: Royal Favorites; The Theft of the Duchess's Jewels: Wallis Warfield Simpson, Duchess of Windsor; For the Love of a King: Lilian, Princess of Saxe-Coburg; The Lost Emeralds of Queen Astrid; Chapter III: Prince Charming; Diamonds on the Nile: Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Crown Prince and Future Shah of Iran; Streets filled with Diamonds; When Hollywood Met High Society: Prince Rainier of Monaco; Chapter IV: The Crown of the Thousand and One Nights; Empress Farah; The Diamond Flowers of Princess Soraya; The Iranian Crown Jewels; Chapter V: A Girl's Best Friend; The World's Sexiest Garter: Marlene Dietrich; The Demure Jewels of a Star Who Was Anything But: Ava Gardner; Christmas Stocking Filler: Elizabeth Taylor; Chapter VI: Queens of Style; The Heartaches of Nina Dyer; The Eugénie Blue Diamond; The Gilded Legend of the Aga Khans; "Poor Little Rich Girl": Barbara Hutton; Cuba's Madame de Pompadour: Maria; Chapter VII: Dancing Jewels; "Emeralds"; The Legend of the Emerald Cross; A Revolution and Two World Wars: The Saga of the Romanov Emeralds; The Diadem of the Last Queen of the French; From Napoleon to Stalin: The Trials and Tribulations of Empress Marie-Louise's Emeralds; "Rubies"; The Blood-Red "Thibaw" Ruby; A Wedding Gift for the Queen of Spain; "Diamonds"; From the Empress Josephine to Princess Grace; The Pink Diamond of the Prince of Baroda; The Diamonds of the Queen of Thailand; Chapter VIII: Treasures and Legends; Esther ("Estelle") Arpels, Mme. Alfred Van Cleef; René Puissant, née Van Cleef; The Mystery of the Ruby Peonies; Hédière Ostrowska, Mme. Louis Arpels; Fantomas at Van Cleef & Arpels;

Catalog of historic jewelry published in 1950 as publicity for Van Cleef & Arpels New York.

Book Information

Hardcover: 344 pages

Publisher: Antique Collectors Club Dist (August 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1851497706

ISBN-13: 978-1851497706

Product Dimensions: 10 x 1.4 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #370,233 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Jewelry #416 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Jewelry

Customer Reviews

Purchasers of this book should be warned that about half of the book is stories about the legendary people who collected Van Cleef & Arpel's jewelry. The stories are fascinating, but it leaves room for fewer photographs and most of the pictures are of the collections of the rich and famous. I found the Persian turquoise and diamond necklace owned by the royal family to be breathtaking - as were many of the emerald necklaces. For those of you who want to see more jewelry and a wider variety of styles - you would probably be happier with the hardback catalogue book from the recent oriental (Japanese or Chinese, I think) museum show, available from .

An absolute joy to read and look through. The pictures are gorgeous, and the stories fascinating.

Great book if you like reading about jewelry and the lives of the women who actually have the jewelry commissioned or owned the piece. Beautiful gem and workmanship, it is after all a Van Cleef & Arpels. And for ones it actually has a few notes on the owner of the firm and the ones who inherited it after. Good coffee table book and information about what is excellent quality jewelry.

Beautifully done. Great photos of the jewels and the women who wore them.

Perfect reading and it will give me weeks of pleasure. It was way beyond my expectations as most

of the books I have ordered from have been. I must mention the packing and delivery service. I received the book far sooner than I expected and it was packed with the utmost care. With a book of this calibre packing is really important. So all due credit to the behind the scenes department. Many thanks and a very Happy Christmas. May the New Year bring you happiness.

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