

Costume Jewelry for Haute Couture

Florence Muller

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Florence Muller : Costume Jewelry for Haute Couture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Costume Jewelry for Haute Couture:

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By Informed Consumer
Must have for the Costume Jewelry collector.
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The extraordinary workmanship involved in producing haute couture jewellery has never been fully recognized. Historians, as well as art and fashion cognoscenti, have ignored this aspect of faux bijoux. The jewel was merely the dot on the "i" of the catwalk creation, forgotten as soon as the model was out of sight. It was whisked away into the archives of the respective fashion houses or, if it was lucky, purchased together with the garment it adorned, reappearing as a discarded heirloom at some later stage. Many of these jewels have been unearthed over the years by collectors, including a famous couple in Belgium, Patrick and Godelieve Sigal, who were responsible for initiating this book and the exhibition. The archived jewels were never seen again - until now.....What made this exhibition all the more riveting, however, was its focus on the paruriers, the actual artisans who made the jewels for the famous houses. Their names were in the cabinets with "their" jewels and the book itself is dedicated almost solely to these artisans. It

"...provides a glimpse behind the scenes....The history of paruriers throws a new light on relations between the different couture houses and their official suppliers: the jewellery workshops....contrary to a widespread belief, the couturier always "suggested" but never "created" the jewel.".....this book is a detailed history of the rise of costume jewellery, or more specifically, haute-couture jewellery, in France. The author, Florence Müller, defines the latter as "the luxurious version of "commercial" jewellery, where calculations of cost and price limit inventiveness".It is a tidal wave of facts and figures, anecdotes and press quotes, a who's who and what's when of famous names and historical references, a giddy list of materials, suppliers, styles and fashions, an encyclopaedia of showplaces and legendary events. In short, it is a substantial volume. A REAL book on jewellery, informative and analytical, as opposed to the usual line-up of pretty photos with price guides that are obsolete as soon as they are written. But photos it has! 400 sumptuous images selected from the exhibition. This is a serious reference work, a must-have in every jewellery collector's library.....Maureen Winterhager..excerpt from an article published in "VINTAGE" Magazine, No 1, 20072 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must have jewellery book !By PhilepeeWonderful insight of "l'industrie du sourire", awesome craftsmanship and taste, great illustrations, expert writing from Florence Müller. This really is a must have book.In our times when precious materials - ie gold and diamonds - are becoming so unaffordable and not so much eco-friendly, what a great inspiration for any jewelry designer to explore couture and costume jewelry. Forget the logos,branding and carpet-bombing marketing of today's "traditional" jewelry industry - this book is also about creativity, baroque panache, generosity.

This sumptuously illustrated book surveys the exquisite range of costume jewelry produced by haute couture fashion houses, a subject until now overlooked by historians and fashion cognoscenti alike. The term "costume jewelry" was coined in the twentieth century for the use of non-precious metals and jewels for human adornment. This book showcases the extraordinary diversity and exceptional craftsmanship of this jewelry in hundreds of beautifully reproduced pieces from such fashion houses as Chanel, Balenciaga, Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Lanvin, Schiaparelli, and Givenchy.

About the AuthorFlorence Muller teaches fashion history at the Institut francais de la Mode.