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Earrings: From Antiquity to the Present

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Daniela Mascetti, Amanda Triossi : Earrings: From Antiquity to the Present before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earrings: From Antiquity to the Present:

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A presentation of the history of earrings from prehistory to modern times. The first part of the book relates how the fashion of wearing precious earrings spread through the Mediterranean region from Ancient Egypt to Mycenae, to the Classical Greek, Roman and Hellenistic worlds, to Byzantium. From the 18th century, when the techniques of cutting coloured gemstones and diamonds were perfected, the design of earrings evolved towards its most stylish and glamorous. Extraordinary revivals of Classical and Roman motifs are shown here, the bold lines of art deco, and

modern designs, created by the leading European and American designers. The great names among the designers and international jewellery houses are all represented, among them Boucheron, Cartier, Mellerio, Van Cleef and Arpels, Verdura, Andrew Grima, Bulgari, Marina B., David Webb, Harry Winston and Graff. A substantial part of the book comprises illustrations, covering every period and style from Rococo flowers to chaste Neoclassical discs.

From Library Journal
In spirited and informed prose, the authors take us on a historical tour of one of the oldest of human ornaments. The earliest archaeological evidence for earrings indicates an origin in Western Asia perhaps 5000 years ago. They remained a constant in fashion for women (and now and then for men, although this book does not trace male earrings except in passing) until the 11th century. Medieval fashion in hairdressing and clothing obscured the ear, so earrings virtually disappeared in Europe until the 17th century. Beginning with elegant pearl drops, earrings reappeared then and have remained a favorite form of jewelry ever since. Color and black-and-white photographs and renderings comprise perhaps half the book: clear, plentiful, gorgeous, and carefully keyed to the text. This is museum-quality work--no funky plastic baubles here (although the Victorian fishbowls, complete with fish, give one pause). It is all enchanting, the more so because the styles and shapes are so recognizably familiar over the many centuries.-
GraceAnne A. DeCandido, "School Library Journal" Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.