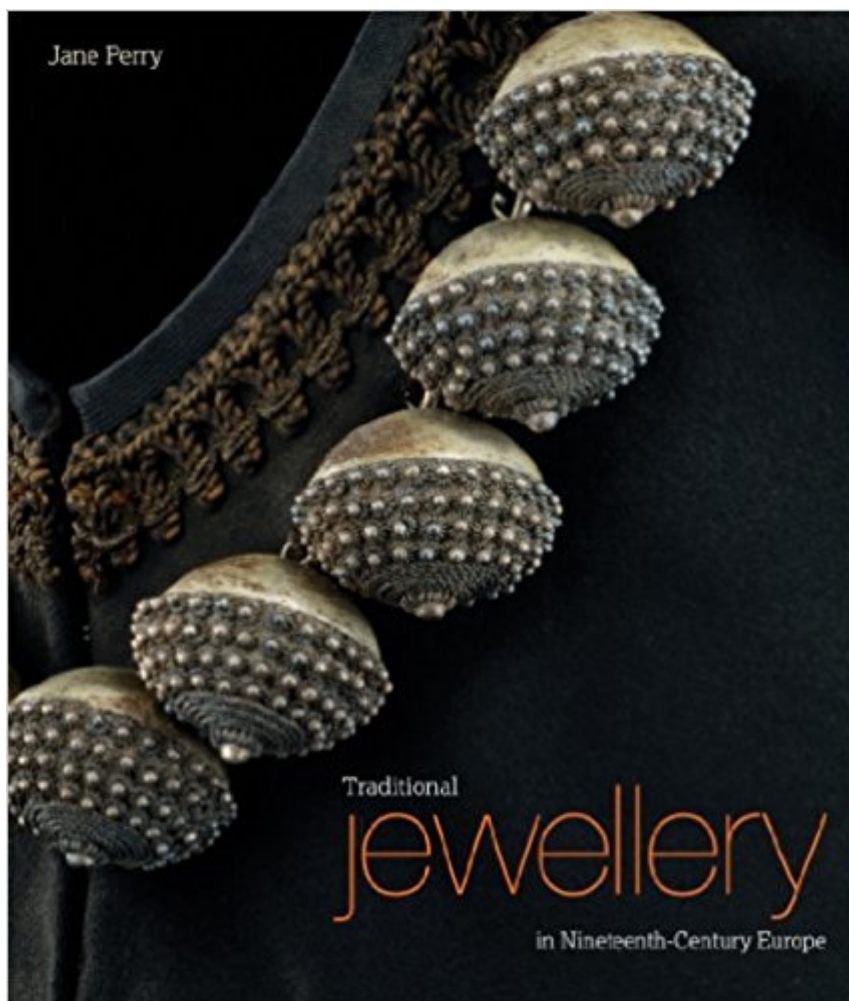




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Traditional Jewelry Of Nineteenth-Century Europe



Synopsis

Traditional or "ethnic" jewelry "jewelry worn with traditional or national costume" was highly fashionable in the 19th century and is now enjoying a revival. This book draws together a selection of beautiful pieces, from Iceland in the north to Cyprus off the shores of Asia Minor, to demonstrate the wonderful variety of this folk or peasant jewelry, made from a wide range of materials. Spectacular examples, many rarely seen and never before published, include gilded Norwegian wedding crowns and extravagant golden crosses from Normandy, ornate earrings from Spain and Italy, and imposing filigree clasps from the Balkans. The book illustrates how the jewelry was originally worn with traditional dress and explores its popularity in the 19th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jane Perry is a visiting scholar at the V&A, involved in cataloguing and studying its extensive collection of European traditional jewelry.

A poorly researched work of only reasonable interest unless one likes pretty photos with paltry texts. European regional and traditional jewellery is admittedly a vast subject to attempt to condense into a rather small book, but if the author had actually read the books she lists in her bibliography, there would have been less errors. No original research seems to have been made, instead the book is a hodge-podge of generalisms based on other works. The book is published by the Victoria and Albert museum and whilst their collection of European jewels is a good one, it is far from being complete

and had the effort been made to seek photos of better or more representative specimens from other museums or collectors, the book would have been far richer. It should be considered more as a repertoire of the V&A collection than as a reference. Too much reliance on the V&A collection and UK archives has resulted in a book that leaves one unsatisfied with its cursory, anglo-centric speculations and conclusions. Jane Perry has a lively and very readable writing style which makes for an interesting read and she deserves credit for having attempted such a project. There is however no other book on the market giving an overview of all of Europe's traditional jewellery so if that's what you're looking for, this book is for you.

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