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## Victorian Jewelry: Unexplored Treasures

**Ginny Redington Dawes, Corinne Davidov : Victorian Jewelry: Unexplored Treasures** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Victorian Jewelry: Unexplored Treasures:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Opened my eyes to a vast array of jewelry styles that I wasn't familiar with By Elizabeth A. Root This quite a different take on jewelry than most books, and accordingly very worthwhile. I got this book out of the library, read it cover-to-cover, and I am still buying a copy. The pictures are absolutely gorgeous and wonderfully detailed. These are the common, cheaper, but still beautiful pieces that are normally overlooked. I think that people who like Art Nouveau, which concentrated more on design than the expense of the materials, would find them particularly interesting. In addition, Dawes take us through the various fads of the time period. The text explains many of the peculiarities behind the rise of such styles (e.g.: aluminum was once rare; aristocrats wore iron jewelry to show that they had supposedly patriotically donated their real jewels to the government, etc.) A very worthwhile addition to a jewelry book collection. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Victorian Jewelry Book By Wuest I would love to see more quality books about antique jewelry like this one. It has excellent examples of the "secondary" jewelry from the Victorian period so aptly called "unexplored treasures" such as agate, jet, cut steel and silver. The photographs are wonderful and the text is very interesting. I rank this book as one of my favorites on the subject and would love to see more on these and other "secondary" pieces by these two authors. Thank you!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Book By Karen R. Haynes This book looks at the 'secondary' (lower priced) jewelry of the Victorian era. These are pieces made of non-precious metals gemstones. The pictures are lovely, showing items made of silver, steel, jet, hair, other items. There is some interesting information given - the only thing missing is some sort of price guide.

An authoritative and gorgeously illustrated survey of Victorian jewelry that focuses on secondary jewelry,

characterized by bold, playful, romantic and modern designs. The many styles of Victorian jewelry presented in this volume are selected from the best collections in the United States and abroad, and shown here in specially commissioned, exclusive color photographs. The photographs showcase the glorious color and style of the rich variety of materials, including Scottish Agate, malachite, and granite, the amazingly modern niello, and the stark black beauty of Whitby jet. For more than half a century, during the reign of Queen Victoria, England and Europe produced some of the most delightful flights of fancy that jewelry has ever taken. Long ignored because of the intrinsic worthlessness of its various materials, today these pieces are increasingly prized for their beauty and workmanship. Surprisingly, this period in jewelrymaking did not follow the fussy, overly ornate style that characterized the Victorian era, but rather promoted bold, playful, romantic and modern styles. Some of the most unusual pieces were constructed with materials including hair, lava, coal iron, and aluminum. The text gives authoritative and fascinating historical context to the uses of these materials and designs. Many of the most soughtafter pieces are made of silver, and popular designs include stars, anchors, hearts, bows and outstretched hands.

"These pieces were long ignored because of their low value and cheap materialsbut today are prized for their workmanship, which *Victorian Jewelry: Unexplored Treasures* reveals in chapters of history following designs, materials, and lovely secondary pieces. Styles presented here have been selected from collections around the world and are displayed through specially commissioned color photos just for this book." *California Bookwatch*