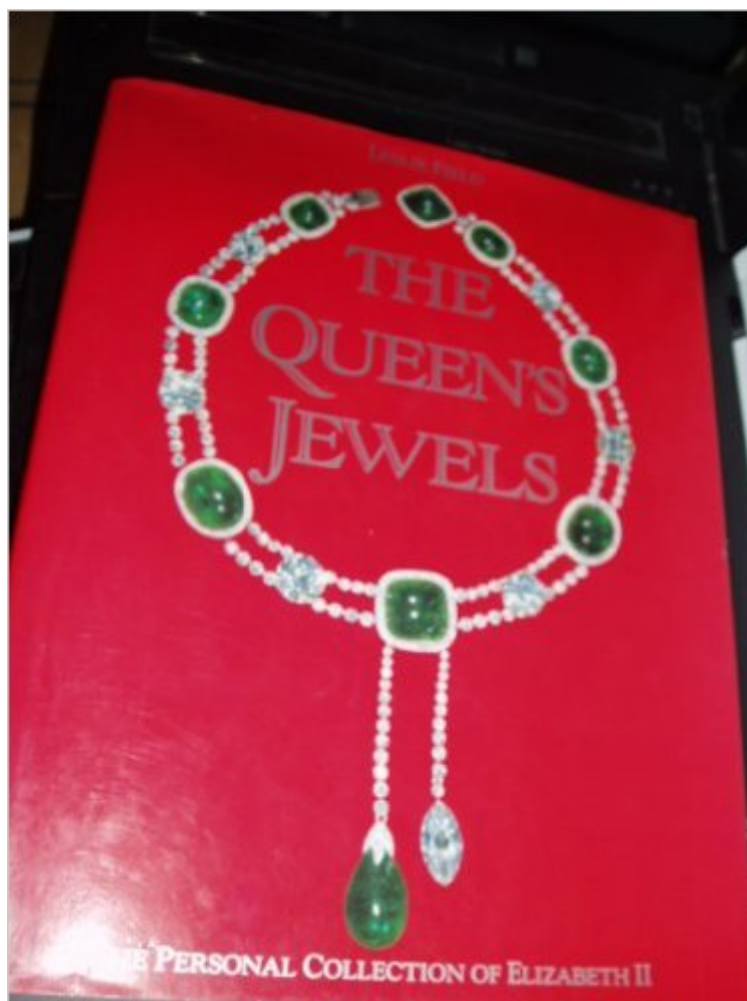


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The Queen's Jewels: The Personal Collection Of Elizabeth II



Synopsis

The first definitive account of the priceless jewels owned by Queen Elizabeth II, published with the full cooperation of Buckingham Palace. First serial to Life. 285 illustrations, 85 in full color.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leslie Field's "The Queen's Jewels: The Personal Collection of Elizabeth II" is a splendid, splendid book in every way. Field has gathered together hundreds of important photographs (of the nearly half million she saw altogether) of Queen Elizabeth's jewels. These are shown both in their cases and being worn by various monarchs, and we see how different royal family members have altered the look or the purpose of pieces as fashions and times changed over the years. Field has complemented these photographs with her outstanding, meticulously researched text. Even if you purchase the book mostly to drool over the photographs, you will end up being both captivated and educated by the accompanying text. Field begins the book with the ascension of Queen Victoria to the throne. Because of the Salic laws passed by the House of Hanover in 1833, Victoria was prevented from becoming ruler of both the United Kingdom and Hanover. The kingdoms were split for the first time in well over a century. Immediately, King Ernest of Hanover--an uncle of Queen Victoria--demanded his share of the royal jewels, arguing that since the kingdom had been split, so must be the gems. Victoria disagreed, and the argument went on for two decades before finally being settled in favor of Hanover. Subsequently, Victoria gave up several important pieces of jewelry to her uncle's descendants--but was already well on her way to amassing an important collection. Victoria was the first British monarch to make clear that some pieces belonged to the Crown and were for use by any Queen to follow her--and that some pieces were her personal

property, and hers to dispose of as she saw fit. British monarchs have followed in her footsteps ever since and although Field showcases many sumptuous Crown pieces in the book, the bulk of what we see are the Queen's personal pieces. And what a collection it is! The collection is vast and jaw-droppingly beautiful. Field wisely divides the book into types of stones, from diamonds and pearls to emeralds, sapphires, amethysts, turquoise, and more. We see everything from parures (i.e., complete matching sets of everything from necklaces to brooches to rings to earrings and more) to necklaces and tiaras which were gifts from other governments or from such quaintly named organizations as "Girls of Great Britain and Ireland" to pieces designed by Prince Philip expressly for his wife. Among the many stand-outs in the book are:- Queen Elizabeth's three-carat diamond solitaire engagement ring, designed by Prince Philip for his wife and set with a handsome diamond taken from a tiara belonging to Philip's mother (p. 85);- The Godman Necklace, which had been bought by an English naturalist in the 1890s while on holiday in Bavaria. His daughters, many years after his death, wrote to the Lord Chamberlain saying that they felt they owned jewelry once owned by Empress Josephine of France and that the Queen might be interested in it. Although it turned out not to have been of this provenance, it was undoubtedly a stunning and valuable piece, showcasing seven large emeralds and three smaller ones, and surrounded throughout with an encrustation of diamonds and platinum filigree (p. 95);- The Cambridge's Lover's Knot Tiara, shown being worn by the Duchess of Cambridge in 1818, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in the 1890s, Queen Mary in 1926, Queen Mary again in 1935 (this time without the upright pearls which originally adorned it), Queen Elizabeth in 1955, and Diana, Princess of Wales in 1985. This is powerful testimony that good design and fine jewelry are both timeless (pp. 113 - 115);- Queen Mary's "Rose of York" bracelet, which is a breathtaking ruby and diamond pendant which was eventually turned into a bracelet (p. 143). Of course these are but a few of the many treasures in the book. It is a fascinating read, and a wonderfully complete and detailed account of what is probably the finest jewelry collection in the world today.

Field has produced an excellent balance of text and pictures and has done an exceptionally thorough job of documentation. I was fascinated by his descriptions of how the jewelry was modified over the years to accommodate the fashions of the day and the taste of the current owner. The only reason I did not give this 5 stars was due to the pictures. Most are black and white (for obvious reasons), however some were of very poor quality, and very few taken with the intention of displaying jewelry. There was one delightful story of a gift to the young Princess Elizabeth, a necklace and bracelet, which the Queen now refers to as "my best diamonds". But do we get to see

the diamonds? No, the only available picture was a distant news photo of the young Princess sitting at an angle and the jewels nearly impossible to see. For Princess Diana fans, don't bother buying this book. There are less than a half dozen images of Diana, and nothing you haven't seen before. And just a reminder, this is her personal collection. You won't see any of the crown regalia.

I first saw this book for sale when I was a tourist at The Tower of London in the mid 90's. My sister bought a copy, which we both read intently whenever we had a spare minute during that trip. Fascinating historical insight on the most drool-worthy jewelry collection in the world. I never forgot this book, and was so happy to find a copy on . It's been nineteen years since that trip to England, and two years since I bought my copy, but I never seem to tire of looking at and reading this book.

Poorly written, illustrations may lack captions, as text progresses names of important pieces change, one must double check index to find the names of photographed pieces. Physical descriptions to differentiate between similar pieces are absent. Illustrations of a ring or bracelet may be a small full body portrait in which the person is wearing the piece. As a stand alone reference, it is too fragmented: a secondary source must be used to confirm details or locate photographs.

This book is old, the picture quality is terrible. Do not be misled, there must be better books out there. I realize a lot of the jewels have many years of history and the access to photos is limited , but this is awful. Save your time and money. However this is no reflection on the seller, just my impression of the book

The history of these jewels, that are seen more on the public stage by use of the Queen and her family, but little is really known of their origins or history, and that story needs to be told and this book does an amazing job

This title is a great addition to those volumes focused on the jubilee year of 2012 .It discusses the family inheritances and origins of the pieces which are the backbone of Elizabeth II s publically worn (and loaned) suites of jewelry.

I have to say, this is a beautiful book on the Queens Jewels.the photos are outstanding, each with a story.The book I purchased was stated as used, but this book was in perfect condition.The jewels are magnificent. Each photo of the Queen wearing a piece from her collection is outstanding.Take

time to view this book or buy it and enjoy.

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