Jewelry History

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**Gems and Jewels of Mughal India**
Jewelled and Enamelled Objects from the 16th to 20th Centuries
by Pedro Moura Carvalho

The nearly 200 Indian jeweled and enameled luxury objects in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art add significantly to the corpus of Mughal art and to the history of goldsmiths’ work and hardstone-carving in the Indian subcontinent. Essays exploring various aspects of precious Mughal objects and the materials used in their making are accompanied by detailed catalogue entries.

316p, more than 200 col illus (The Khalili Collections 2010, The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art 18) hardback, 9781874780724, $180.00. **Special Offer $144.00**

**Ethnic Jewellery and Adornment**
by Truus Daalder, with photographs by Jeremy Daalder

The Daalder collection of ethnic jewelry numbers many hundreds of items, of which more than 500 appear in this book in glorious color and with an expert photographer’s attention to presentation and detail, supplemented by close to 200 other objects selected from the world-renowned collections of items from Australian Aboriginal and Oceanic cultures. While the early emphasis on the ethnic, geographic, and cultural background of Australian and Pacific ornaments discloses much hitherto inaccessible information, Truus Daalder’s scholarship is equally fastidious and illuminating when applied to objects from Indonesia, South East Asia, China, the Himalayas, India, Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

420p, 700 col photos (Macmillan Art Publishing 2009) hardback, 9781921394287, $175.00. **Special Offer $140.00**

**Treasures of the Ferrell Collection**
by Jeffrey Spier

James Ferrell has collected Greek and Roman antiquities for many years to satisfy his life-long interest in ancient history. His collection is particularly important for its focus on jewelry, engraved gems and cameos, imperial medallions, and silver plate dating from the end of the Roman Empire and the early Byzantine period (3rd–7th centuries AD). This volume publishes over 200 works of art belonging to Ferrell. Much of the material derives from imperial workshops and served as official gifts. The catalogue splendidly illustrates Hellenistic jewelry, Late Roman jewelry, jewelry and other precious objects found in Gothic tombs of the fifth and sixth centuries AD, Byzantine jewelry, and Byzantine ecclesiastical silver of the sixth century AD. This publication is of considerable interest to a variety of scholars, museums, and collectors, who will be delighted with the superb color photography.

340p, 391 col illus (Reichert Verlag 2010) hardback, 9783895007958, $150.00. **Special Offer $120.00**

All photos in this catalog are taken from **Treasures of the Ferrell Collection** and are reproduced by permission. Photos @Bruce White Photography.

**Special Offers are valid through April 30th, 2011, and for Sale Books while stocks last. When ordering, please quote the reference number 442–11.**
Jewellery in the Age of Queen Victoria
A Mirror to the World
by Charlotte Gere and Judy Rudoe
This volume rewrites the history of jewelry in the age of Victoria, which is taken in its widest sense to encompass jewelry made throughout Europe and America, displayed at the great international exhibitions and distributed through foreign trade, illustrated publications, and a burgeoning tourist industry. Throughout, links with other disciplines provide the information to understand how jewelry permeated all walks and conditions of life in the 19th century. The focus of the book is on the attitudes of owners to their jewelry and the symbolic weight that it was expected to carry. Rather than concentrating on the major figures at the top end of the jewelry trade, it is oriented towards the social aspects of owning, wearing and displaying jewelry. The authors show, for example, how novelists use jewelry to add a moral or metaphorical dimension to a character, while jewels depicted in portraits would often have disclosed multiple messages which could be immediately decoded by the viewer. 552p, 400 col & 100 b/w illus (British Museum Press 2010) hardback, 9780714128191, $99.50. Special Offer $80.00

The Aigina Treasure
edited by J Lesley Fitton
Since its arrival at the British Museum in 1891, the Aigina Treasure - a group of Greek Bronze Age gold jewelry and other objects that is believed to come from the island of Aigina - has been shrouded in mystery and speculation. The many uncertainties about the Treasure include: its place of origin; whether all the objects are from the same findspot; whether it should be considered as a homogenous group. Through examination of stylistic elements and comparison with objects from other collections, the contributors to this volume variously argue for the Treasure’s possible Minoan, Mycenaean, Near Eastern and Egyptian connections. Major discoveries in the field have been made since Reynold Higgins’ 1979 publication on the Treasure, including the excavation of a warrior shaft grave in Aigina in 1981. The essays are complemented by a complete catalogue of the Treasure, which incorporates the results of an extensive technological examination and is accompanied by specially taken, beautiful color photographs. 136p, 100 col & 80 b/w illus (British Museum Press 2009) hardback, 9780714122625, $100.00. Special Offer $80.00

‘Intelligible Beauty’
Recent Research on Byzantine Jewellery
edited by Chris Entwistle and Nöel Adams
The field of Byzantine jewelry (4th–15th centuries) is a rapidly expanding one and a large amount of important research has been conducted within the last ten years, both by scholars on the continent and in America. The intention of the conference, and subsequently the volume, is to draw together the many strands involved in this research and to publish them in accessible form. This volume represents a rare opportunity to make this crucial work available to a much wider specialist and non-specialist audience. 245p, 300 col & b/w illus, line drawings (British Museum Press 2010, British Museum Research Publication 178) paperback, 9780861591787, $90.00. Special Offer $72.00

The Berthier-Delagarde Collection of Crimean Jewellery in the British Museum and Related Material
by Júlia Andrási, with contributions by Aleksander Aibabin
The Berthier-Delagarde Collection is the most significant collection of Early Medieval jewelry from the Crimean region of the Ukraine in the West. The catalogue is important not only for the archaeology of the region, but also for the broader relationship of the finds to Anglo-Saxon, Frankish and German jewelry. 208p, 80p b/w & 4p col illus (British Museum Press 2008, British Museum Research Publication 166) paperback, 9780861591664, $50.00. Special Offer $45.00
The Hoxne Late Roman Treasure
Gold Jewellery and Silver Plate
by Catherine Johns

The Hoxne treasure, a spectacular collection of gold and silver coins, gold jewelry, and silver artifacts, was buried early in the 5th century AD and rediscovered in November 1992. This volume catalogs the 29 superb pieces of gold jewelry, a dozen silver vessels, nearly a hundred silver spoons, and about 40 additional silver objects. The numerous objects made of organic materials (ivory, bone and wood), though individually small, are rare discoveries, and the iron nails and other fittings bear witness to the chest that originally contained the treasure: all are described in detail, bringing the total to just over 400 entries. Fifteen chapters of wide-ranging discussion include specialist contributions on the excavation, conservation and scientific study and analysis of the material, and the identification and interpretation of the inscriptions. Together they place this outstanding find both in its immediate environment of late Romano-British society and in the wider context of the art, iconography and luxury of the late Roman world. 288p, 450 illus (British Museum Press 2010) hardback, 9780714118178, $120.00. Special Offer $96.00

The Vale of York Hoard
by Gareth Williams and Barry Ager

Discovered in 2007 and acquired by the British Museum and York Museums Trust, the Vale of York hoard was buried in the late 920s during the reign of the West Saxon king Athelstan in what is now North Yorkshire. This was a crucial time in the unification of England and the contents of the hoard offer us insight into this turbulent and fascinating period. The spectacular gold and silver jewelry, ingots and coins in the hoard originally came from regions ranging from Ireland to the Middle East. They represent Christianity, Islam and the worship of Thor, reflecting the amazing cultural diversity, contact and exchange in the Viking world, as well as the scope of Viking raiding and trading. This book describes the individual items in the Vale of York treasure and explores the historical and political context of the burial of this exceptional hoard, offering a fascinating picture of the Viking age. 48p, col & b/w illus (British Museum Press 2010, Objects in Focus) paperback, 9780714118185, $10.00. Special Offer $8.00

Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain
by Ralph Jackson

Cosmetic sets are small two-piece bronze toilet implements for the preparation of mineral powders, probably colorings for the eyelids and face. Found almost exclusively in Britain, they range in date from the Late Iron Age to the 4th century. An association with fertility is indicated by the crescent shape, by overtly phallic imagery and by the twinning of male and female animal heads. This catalogue includes not only the British Museum examples but also those in other museums and private collections throughout Britain. It focuses on typology and function but also considers manufacture, including the results of scientific analysis, followed by full discussions of decoration, context, distribution and dating. 208p, 11 pls, 650 b/w illus, maps, tbls (British Museum Press 2010, British Museum Research Publication 181) paperback, 9780861591817, $60.00. Special Offer $48.00

The Maori Collections of the British Museum
by Dorota C Starzecka, Roger Neich and Mick Pendergrast

The British Museum holds the largest Maori collections outside New Zealand, including some items of major artistic and cultural significance. This important book contains a substantial introduction, including a history of the study of Maori material culture in Britain and New Zealand and a history of the British Museum collection and how it was acquired. This is followed by a detailed catalogue describing over 2,300 items — including woodcarvings, model canoes and paddles, domestic equipment, cloaks, baskets and bags, jewelry, musical instruments, ceremonial objects, fishing and hunting equipment, tools, weapons, and modern ceramics — an appendix listing collectors, donors and vendors, a glossary, and about 340 photographs illustrating approximately 500 objects. 336p, 40 col & 300 b/w illus (British Museum Press 2010) hardback, 9780714125947, $150.00. Special Offer $120.00
**New & Recent Titles**

**Jewellery in Malta**
*Treasures from the Island of the Knights (1530–1798)*
by Francesca Balzan

This study makes extensive use of primary sources to build up a history of jewelry in Malta, which focuses on the art of jewelry, its social history and trade practices, and is the first study of its kind to be published in Malta. The book is in two parts, the first of which contains essays on historical aspects of jewelry in Malta, while the second part is devoted to analytical case studies of a number of jewelry items.

262p, col illus (Midsea Books 2009) hardback, 9789993272786, $125.00. **Special Offer $100.00**

**Gem Engraving in Britain from Antiquity to the Present**
*With a Catalogue of the British Engraved Gems in The State Hermitage Museum*
by Julia Kagan

The many articles Dr. Julia Kagan, Curator of post-Classical engraved gems in the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, published covering various aspects of the history of glyptics in Great Britain and the formation of the Hermitages collection of British gems comprise a suitable tribute to the immense richness and diversity of gem engraving in Britain from Antiquity to the present. This comprehensive study includes a catalogue of the British engraved gems in The State Hermitage Museum, appendices of archive documents, and a table of British engravers.

495p, col & b/w illus, maps, plans, drawings, photos, catalogue, with CD-ROM (Archeopress 2010, Beazley Archive: Studies in Gems and Jewellery 3) hardback, 9781890376712, $160.00. **Special Offer $128.00**

**Ornament and Amulet Rings of the Islamic Lands**
by Marian Wenzel

The remarkable material presented in this volume – 618 rings from the Islamic lands and beyond – has provided a rare opportunity to survey the history of this form, ranging from two Hellenistic glass rings to a signet ring made in India in 1920. Rings with metal bodies predominated in all periods and an outstanding variety in gold filigree, made in Fatimid Egypt in the 10th and 11th centuries, is represented here by five exquisite examples.

304p, illus (The Khalili Collections 1993, The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art 16) hardback, 9781874780601, $180.00. **Special Offer $144.00**

**Medieval Jewellery in Europe 1100–1500**
by Marion Campbell

Jewelry holds a special significance in all cultures. The jewelry worn in medieval Europe was important as an indicator of the wearer’s social status and wealth, faith and superstition, allegiances and literacy. This stunning book draws on the major collection at the V & A to focus on the heart of the Medieval period from 1100 to 1500. This richly illustrated book, one of very few on this subject, looks at the jewels themselves – rings, bracelets, necklaces, amulets, crosses and crucifixes – as well as contemporary portraits and sculpture to place the jewelry in its cultural context.

112p, 90 col illus (Victoria and Albert Museum 2009) hardback, 9781851775828, $30.00. **Special Offer $24.00**

**Gem Enamels of the World 1700–2000**
by Haydn E Williams

A worldwide survey of the art of enameling during the past three hundred years, featuring over 300 pieces from the The Khalili collection. Includes examples from Europe, America and the Orient, with essays on patronage, historicism, regional developments, and workshops such as Faberge and Cartier. The book includes a CD describing and illustrating all 1200 pieces from the collection.

450p, col illus, CD-ROM (The Khalili Collections 2009) hardback, 9781874780175, $75.00. **Special Offer $60.00**

**Maharaja**
*Pracht der indischen Fürstenhöfe*
edited by Anna Jackson, Amin Jaffer and Christiane Lange

The treasures of India are among the great mysteries of the West. With the support of the royal collections in Udaipur and Jodhpur, and in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, this catalog presents the spectrum of India’s Mughal period as has never been previously shown in Europe. The pieces included highlight little noticed historical developments in India through the end of the colonial period, but also provide insights into courtly manners and celebrations and the sphere of life of women in the palaces. German text. 240p, 61 col & 6 b/w pls, 141 col & 8 b/w illus, map (Hirmer Verlag 2010) hardback, 9783777424415, $59.00. **Special Offer $48.00**

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450p, col illus, CD-ROM (The Khalili Collections 2009) hardback, 9781874780175, $75.00. **Special Offer $60.00**
Greek Art
Ancient Gold Jewellery
by Aikaterini Despini

Jewelry appeared worldwide during the early phases of civilization, when man, through his belief in the existence of supernatural forces and magic, laid down the substrate of religion. By the beginning of the first millennium BCE, to which the works of Greek goldsmithing discussed in this book belong, jewelry already had a long tradition behind it. The development of jewelry is examined here by category and bears witness to the influence of those same historical factors that contributed to the development of major art in the Hellenic world.

292p, 221 illus (Ekdotike Athenon 2006) hardback, 9789602133118, $80.00. Special Offer $64.00

Gem Mounts and the Classical Tradition
by Claudia Wagner and John Boardman

This volume supplies some supplementary information about the gems and cameos published in A Collection of Classical and Eastern Intaglios. It focuses on some post-antique gems, and especially their later, distinctive mounts, a feature not always much remarked or explored in publications of ancient gems in later settings. The opportunity is also taken to add a few more interesting examples, and to republish in color some of the more important pieces in the original catalogue.

120p, 22 col pls, b/w illus (Archeopress 2009, Beazley Archive: Studies in Gems and Jewellery 4) hardback, 9781903767115, $70.00. Special Offer $56.00

The Ancient Gems from the Borowski Collection
by Max G Bernheimer

The intention of this catalog is to present, many for the first time, the entire Borowski collection of ancient gems and finger rings from Classical lands, ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the late Roman and Sasanian periods. Since the history of ancient gems has been more than adequately presented by others, no attempt has been made here to write a history of the topic. Interested readers are directed to the extensive bibliography.

120p, 441 col & 200 b/w illus (Harrassowitz Verlag 2007) hardback, 9783447060530, $72.00. Special Offer $58.00

Roman Brooches in Britain
A Technological and Typological Study Based on the Richborough Collection
by Justine Bayley and Sarnia Butcher

The study presented in this volume amounts to an outline of all the main brooch types found in Roman Britain, providing an essential reference corpus combining traditional typological methods of study with the technological evidence, and showing their distribution within Britain via a series of maps. The accompanying CD contains the results of the scientific analyses of the Richborough brooches and selected comparative material.

320p, 24 col pls, 185 b/w illus, 18 tbls, CD-ROM (Society of Antiquaries of London 2004, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 68) hardback, 9780854312795, $80.00. Special Offer $64.00

Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain
by D F Mackreth

The result of forty years of study, this book offers an overview of the most common find, after coins, on sites in Roman Britain: the brooch. Used basically to hold outer clothing together, it was always on view and was usually decorative. The bulk of the book consists of nine chapters examining in detail the myriad style of brooches from the second century BC to the early fifth century AD. Based on the study of 15,000 specimens, the second volume illustrates some 2,000, all drawn by the author. 2 vols, 288p, 160 pls (Oxbow Books, March 2011) hardback, 9781842174111, $140.00. Special Offer $100.00

Byzantinischer Schmuck des 9. bis frühen 13. Jahrhunderts
by Antje Bosselmann-Ruickbie

Byzantine luxury items have been neglected in research for a long time, despite the legendary reputation they held as early as the Middle Ages. This volume analyzes the gold, silver and bronze ornaments of the 9th to early 13th centuries in an interdisciplinary study. An illustrated catalog presents some 170 dated objects, which are placed into a broader context through hundreds of comparative examples and the inclusion of visual and written sources. German text.

352p, 222 col & 493 b/w illus (Reichert Verlag, March 2011, Spätantike - Frühes Christentum - Byzanz 28) hardback, 9783895007170, $218.00. Special Offer $175.00

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120p, 22 col pls, b/w illus (Archeopress 2009, Beazley Archive: Studies in Gems and Jewellery 4) hardback, 9781903767115, $70.00. Special Offer $56.00
Late Antique and Early Christian Gems
by Jeffrey Spier
Throughout the Middle Ages, Roman gems and cameos were highly valued. During the Renaissance, large collections of gems were formed by aristocratic collectors, and gems have been collected for similar reasons ever since. With a few exceptions, however, collectors and scholars have generally ignored late antique and early Christian gems. This study presents more than 1000 gems from different collections, more than 300 of them thus far unpublished. They are presented according to different genres, themes, material and place or time of production.
374p, 1300 illus (Reichert Verlag 2007, Spätantike - Frühes Christentum - Byzanz 20) hardback, 9783895004346, $337.00. Special Offer $270.00

Hooked-Clasps and Eyes
A Classification and Catalogue of Sharp- or Blunt-Hooked Clasps and Miscellaneous Hooks, Eyes, Loops, Rings and Toggles
by Brian Read
251p, 874 col and b/w illus (Portcullis Publishing 2008) paperback, 9780953245055, $39.95. Special Offer $32.00

Arte orafa a Firenze – Florentine Goldsmith
La cultura di un mestiere – The culture of a craft
edited by Cristina Degl’Innocenti and Maria Pilar Lebole
The goldsmith’s art has characterized Florence’s culture and life since the 12th century. This exhibition catalogue presents the history and excellent production of this Florentine craftsmanship. Here, goldsmith and silversmith arts are on show together to represent the high value that is given to jewels and accessories and to the history and evolution of this art. Italian and English texts.
112p, illus (Edizioni Polistampa 2007) paperback, 9788859602156, $23.00. Special Offer $19.00

Dizionario multilingue dell’oreficeria
Jewellery Multilingual Dictionary
This multi-lingual dictionary of terms and concepts in jewelry and jewelry-making was conceived by the European Parliament of Jewellery Schools, an organization of 18 institutions founded in France in 1993. The dictionary incorporates seven languages, all of which correspond to partner institutions in the project. Dictionary languages: Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch.
372p (Edizioni Polistampa 2007) paperback, 9788859602156, $23.00. Special Offer $19.00

Aegean and Cypro-Aegean Non-Sphragistic Decorated Gold Finger Rings of the Bronze Age
edited by I Pini
For the Aegean Bronze Age, gold finger rings call to mind the many gold signet rings and impressions thereof on clay sealings from Crete and the Greek mainland. Rings that were primarily used for administrative purposes are excluded from this present study, which focuses instead on the non-sphragistic decorated finger rings that occur less frequently. It also encompasses rings from Cyprus that are related to examples from the Aegean.
76p, 25 col & 47 b/w pls (Peeters Publishers 2010, Aegaeum 31) hardback, 9789042925090, $87.00. Special Offer $70.00

A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt’s Ancient Brooches
by Richard Hattatt
Richard Hattatt’s collection of brooches ranges from the Iron Age to the Middle Ages. He wrote four books illustrating all the brooches, and in the fourth book he included a visual catalogue which provides a quick guide to the types and dates. It is this visual index — with drawings of all 2000 brooches — that is reproduced here.
128p, 104p of b/w illus (Oxbow Books 2000) paperback, 9781842170267, $30.00. Special Offer $24.00

The Lewes House Collection of Ancient Gems
by J D Beazley, edited by John Boardman
A re-publication of J.D. Beazley’s The Lewes House Collection of Ancient Gems (1920), the first publication of engraved gems in what might be called the modern manner. Contains updated references and enlarged photographs of impressions to demonstrate their quality.
202p, 31 pls (Archeopress 2002, Beazley Archive: Studies in Classical Archaeology 2) hardback, 9781903767047, $70.00. Special Offer $56.00

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Gold Jewelry
Craft, Style and Meaning from Mycenae to Constantinopolis
edited by Tony Hackens and Rolf Winkes

An exhibition entitled “Craft, Style and Meaning from Mycenae to Constantinopolis” was organized in 1983 by graduate art students from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and Brown University, America. The papers in this subsequent publication look both at specific pieces of ancient jewelry (46 items in all, from the Mycenaean world, Early and Classical Greece, Late Classical to Hellenistic, Etruria, Roman Syria and Constantinople) and at general elements of jewelry technology, such as casting, filigree and repoussé.

227p, many pls (Art and Archaeology Publications 1983) paperback, $25.00. Reduced to $6.98

The Royal Gold of Ancient Egypt
by Hans Wolfgang Müller and Eberhard Theim

The ambitious claim of this lavishly illustrated book is that it presents the widest range of ancient Egyptian gold objects and jewels ever assembled in one volume; it is certainly a treat for the eye. Large colour photographs, accompanied by concise and informative passages of text, provide a social and religious history of Egypt, from prehistory to the Ptolemaic Period, through its unrivalled collections of gold artefacts, often portraying a wide variety of animals. The belief that gold had spiritual and magical properties ensured that it dominated funerary assemblages. The authors discuss changing fashions and fortunes as well as the ancient and more recent problem of tomb robbery. Reliefs and papyri illustrate goldmining and goldworking techniques. This book is also a guide to the great archaeological discoveries of the 19th and 20th centuries and includes discussions of finds dating from each period, not least objects belonging to Queen Ahhotep, Tutankhamun and the High Priests of Thebes. Appendices record rulers, types of coloured stones and the hieroglyphs, insignia and emblems of the gods which provided frequent inspiration for goldwork.

256p, 506 col & b/w pls (I B Tauris 1999) hardback, $63.00. Reduced to $34.98

Finger Rings
by Diana Scarisbrick and Martin Henig

The Ashmolean Museum is the oldest museum in Britain, housing Oxford University’s unrivalled collection of art and antiquities from Europe, Central Asia and the Far East. Nothing in the museum is as rich in human interest as the collection of rings illustrated in this book, for each not only enhanced the beauty of the hand, but also had a deeper personal significance. There are early signets from the Mycenaean world, Early and Classical Greece, Late Classical to Hellenistic, Etruria, Roman Syria and Constantinople; also had a deeper personal significance. There are early signets from the Mycenaean world, Early and Classical Greece, Late Classical to Hellenistic, Etruria, Roman Syria and Constantinople; also had a deeper personal significance. There are early signets from the Mycenaean world, Early and Classical Greece, Late Classical to Hellenistic, Etruria, Roman Syria and Constantinople. The key events – marriage and death – in the lives of the original owners are evoked by rings with symbols and loving messages. Biblical inscriptions, prayers, and images of Christ, the Virgin and the saints, illustrate the strength of religious faith in the age of the cathedrals. Of outstanding quality, these rings tell, in miniature, the fascinating story of jewelry from Pharaonic Egypt to Victorian Britain.

80p, illus (Ashmolean Museum 2003) hardback, $22.95. Reduced to $7.98

Masterpieces of Ancient Jewelry
by Judith Price

Packed full of truly stunning color photographs, this book looks at examples of jewelry in the Near East from the oldest decorative pieces around 4000 BC to the Ottoman Empire. The text is interspersed with Q&A sessions with experts on the material culture of the different periods.

144p, col illus (Running Press 2008) hardback, 9780762433865, $29.95. Reduced to $14.98

Seals, Finger Rings, Engraved Gems and Amulets in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
by Sheila Hoey Middleton

This is a catalogue of the nice collection of gems in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, consisting almost entirely of the bequests of Lt. Col. L. A. D. Montague in 1946 and of Dr N. L. Corkill in 1966. Together they document the history of seal engraving from 3000 BC to the 19th century, from the Near East, Greece and Rome, and the Renaissance, from Akkadian cylinder seals to Sassanian stamp seals and Bactrian ringstones.

147p, b/w pls (Exeter City Museums 1998) hardback, 9781855225879, $55.00. Reduced to $19.98

Die Magischen Gemmen im Britischen Museum
by Simone Michel, edited by Peter and Hilde Zazoff

This impressive, scholarly two-volume work publishes the entire collection of 649 magical gems in the British Museum, the largest collection in the world. Arranged chronologically, the catalogue begins with Egyptian gems which present religious images and/or inscriptions dedicated to the sun or moon. Much of the volume catalogues Jewish and Christian gems that depict motifs of the zodiac, medicinal magic and religious subjects and deities, themes which continued on magical gems into the modern period. Each entry includes an illustration and a detailed description of the composition, material, associated information from papyri and other magical texts and a discussion of the magical properties and powers evoked by the gem. The index and plates are presented in the second volume. German text.

2 vols, 424p, 95 b/w pls (British Museum Press 2001) hardback, 9780714128023, $350.00. Reduced to $49.98
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