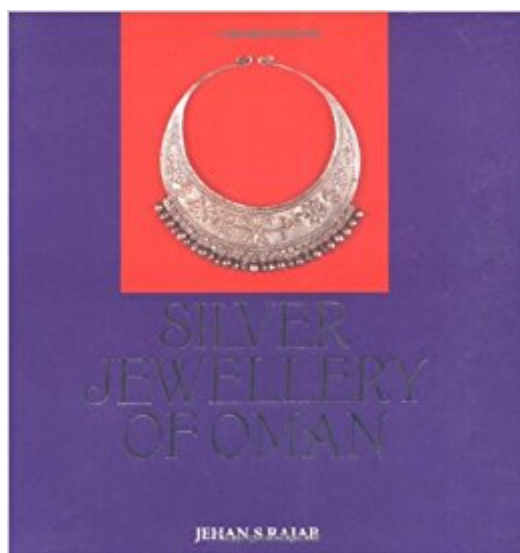


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Silver Jewellery Of Oman



Synopsis

The diversity of the Arabian Peninsula is seen not only in its landscapes and peoples, but also in its jewellery styles, which differ markedly from state to state. The Sultanate of Oman possessed, and still possesses, some of the most skilled silversmiths in Arabia. The silver jewellery they produce is of a quality and beauty unsurpassed in the Arab world, and this is an introduction to the subject. There are colour illustrations of khanjars (the characteristic T-shaped dagger of Oman), necklaces, anklets, bracelets, hair decorations and earrings, together with an informative textual background to their history, manufacture and styles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was the first book on the jewelry of Oman which I purchased, before I knew better. Simply stated, the book is fraught with errors. The author makes frequent reference to regions of Oman, yet does not see fit to include a map. On page 17, a photo captioned as 6 anklets, in fact shows 4 upper arm bracelets, and 2 anklets. The anklets, also shown on page 56, are from the Baluchi minority community of Oman. On page 30, of the 15 rings shown, the 11 without stones are parts of the 10 ring married women's sets, of which there is no mention. The 4 pointed rings are the first finger rings of such a set. On page 39 Rajab mentions the 10 ring sets (a different patterns for each finger) worn by married women, but shows a most atypical style for the first finger ring. On page 32 the caption mentions "D" shaped bracelets, none of which is pictured. The photo shows 4 bangles and 2 cuff bracelets. The "D" shaped bracelets are just that, narrow, solid silver, and shaped like the letter "D", and shown on page 64. Page 37 shows a "Shebaq" necklace "probably from Nizwa",

which is in Eastern Oman. "Oman Adorned" states that the "Shibgat" comes from Central Oman, and was hung from the ears, as shown in many photos. Pages 42 and 43 show 3 necklaces "probably from Nizwa", with reference to photos #s 9, and 24. Photo 24 does not show a necklace of this type. The necklaces are from "Sharquiyah". They are massive, up to 48" long and over 1 kilo in weight, as I own 4 of them. I recommend that one look for a copy of "Oman Adorned - A Portrait in Silver", large format, gorgeous photos, jewelry shown on women as it was worn, 362 pages, and costing \$450.00 or less.

Jehan Rajab, co-director of the Tareq Rajab Museum in Kuwait, gives us another fascinating glimpse of the museum's collection in this small but important publication. "Silver Jewellery of Oman" is primarily a vehicle to display the awe inspiring silver jewellery held by the Rajab Museum, beautifully photographed and accompanied by informative text. From the intricate headdresses worn by Bedu women in Oman to the neckpieces from Sur which so closely resemble designs worn by the Hill tribes of Thailand, each piece of jewellery is lovingly displayed, often accompanied by images of Omani life captured on film by Tareq Rajab. This book is a must for any serious jewellery collector. The massive collection of silver jewellery at the museum is currently being catalogued. One would hope that further publications revealing other aspects of the Tareq Rajab Museum jewellery collection will soon be forthcoming. For readers interested in Middle Eastern jewellery, we recommend Jehan Rajab's 1989 "Palestinian Costume", which contains a chapter on 20th century Palestinian jewellery.

I bought two copies of this wonderful book a couple years ago and continually enjoy leafing through the pages. It gives the true collector and aficionado of ethnic jewelry an insight and appreciation of traditional and unique Omani Bedouin classic pieces that were fashioned for the most part, from the silver Maria Theresa dollar. These rare items are rapidly disappearing from their native country to Europe and the United States. Ms. Rajab has provided the world an excellent presentation in this book and I would highly recommend it for the serious collector.

The trouble with this book is that it is very small and the photos inside are tiny. The text is interesting but I purchased the book for its photography, so I was not very pleased with it. I accepted my return and refunded my money with no questions asked.

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