



Becker, Vivienne **Art Nouveau Jewelry** Thames and Hudson, London 1998. ISBN 0-500-28078-9. UK £ 18.95

The era of modern jewelry began at the end of the 19th century when the desire for luxurious, individual handwork re-emerged. The designs for jewelry and other objects were extravagant and sensuous. Sweeping or abstract lines were characteristic of the newly-awakening Jugendstil, Art Nouveau or Stile Liberty – as the new design was called, depending on the country or region in question – and the Sezession. The jewelry was often emotionally expressive, radiated a dramatic symbolism or had a melodramatic character: Nature was dreamily romantic and depicted as not controllable by human hand. The female figure was a dominant theme – seductive or depicted as a hybrid combination of woman and dragon-fly or butterfly. Although the title of the book refers only to Art Nouveau, it gives a detailed and well-founded account of the movement and its impact on jewelry, its beginnings and the various directions it took in Europe and the USA – from the elegance of the French artists, such as Vever, Lalique and Fouquet, to the geometrical creations of the Viennese exponents, Josef Hoffmann and Koloman Moser. Wonderful color photographs – but, unfortunately, twice as many black and white pictures – bring to life the treasures of this epoch. The book has an appendix which contains short biographies of over 300 artists of the time, followed by a list of over 200 hallmarks and signatures.

Revere, Alan **The Art of Jewelry Making. Classic and Original Designs** Sterling Publishing Company Inc., New York 1999. ISBN 0-8069-2070-X. US \$24.95

A book to read, a picture book, a source of instruction – Alan Revere, jewelry designer, master goldsmith and teacher in San Francisco, has combined all these elements in his English publication. He presents detailed information about the goldsmith's tools and the basic steps in jewelry making, together with portraits of 25 American designers, most of whom, however, are largely unknown in Europe. The reader can become acquainted with their careers, their differing views about design and the variations in style found in their work. The step-by-step production of a typical piece by each of them is made clear with the help of drawings and precise explanations in the text. One learns, for example, how metal is shaped under the hammer of Michael Good and how Marianne Hunter embellishes a collier pictures in enamel. One designer concentrates on the treatment of surfaces, another uses a special molding technique. The book is an inspiration for beginners, provides new impulses for established makers and offers interesting insights for people who love jewelry.

Jonas, Susan and Nilssonson, Marilyn **Cuff Links** Harry N. Abrams Inc., Publishers, New York 1999. ISBN 0-8109-2908-2. UK £ 12.95

What does a man of the world need when he wants to be really elegant? This book has the answer, and there is only one: cuff links are indispensable. The two authoresses have devoted their book to the role played by these accessories in fashion since the early 19th century and what significance they have had at various times in different countries. They also tell the stories of couples, such as Wallis Simpson and King Edward VIII, for whom cuff links were very personal gifts and they show crowned heads and other prominent people for whom cuff links were a sine qua non. And, of course, you will find pictures of one pair of cuff links after another – from the 17th century to the Eighties of the 20th century; from legendary jewelers such as Fabergé, Cartier and Tiffany; from amusing or sporty, to animal motifs or curious: a gold screw with a square nut, artistic miniatures of horse and rider, a tennis-playing frog, merry bears and golden high-heeled shoes. All in all, an interesting cross-section for collectors and dilettantes.

Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Publisher) **Orinoko - Parima, Indian Societies in Venezuela - Cisneros Collection**

Matje Cantz Publishers, Ostfildern-Ruit 1999. ISBN 3-7757-0872-3 (German edition). ISBN 3-7757-0873-1 (English edition). DM 98.00

Between the mighty Orinoko river and the Parima chain of mountains in Venezuela, there is a region where Indian peoples still live who have to a large extent preserved their traditions and way of life. During the Fifties, Edgardo Gonzalez Niño lived for a time with different groups in the area and collected their tools, weapons, masks, cult objects and jewelry. These exhibits later became part of the Cisneros collection, from which come all the objects illustrated in the book. From the photos and the texts, which go into the subject in considerable depth, the reader gains an insight into the lives of 12 Indian societies of the region all very different from one another. Aesthetic pictures of artifacts from the collection demonstrate their simple beauty and functionality, as well as the artistic skill of the Indian craftsmen. Most beautiful of all are the magnificent feathers in bright, glowing colors. All the exhibits are made of materials from plants and animals in the immediate surroundings and are symbolic of the homogeneity of Man and Nature.