

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.

FOREWORD

to the first edition in Romanian.

I have chosen the librarian profession when I was a child, being convinced that it was the only job that I could practice with great pleasure. I imagined that I would do nothing but read, read, read, to enrich my knowledge constantly. However, graduating from The College for Culture Activists - Library Department, The Pedagogic Institute - Faculty of Philology, Department of Library Sciences, and Bucharest University - The Faculty of Romanian Language, has not helped me in fulfilling my dream.

Yet, in 1982, I graduated from the Documentation-Information Department of the Superior School of Librarians, in Sweden. The graduation led to my immediate employment as a librarian, and so, my child dream was fulfilled. As an information librarian in Sweden, I was supposed to answer the readers' questions, meaning that I had to do my own research in order to answer such questions. The information I collected for my readers returned to me, enriching my mind and soul.

The lack of basic knowledge in a particular domain gave me a particular frustration, leading to a fierce desire to learn as much as possible about that area.

Thus, for longer or shorter periods, I could develop a passion for that particular domain! I have no scientific explanation why, but I must say that during certain periods, the readers were requesting more information in some areas, which required me to study the topics in question and to expand my knowledge.

In Sweden, it is customary for students to receive an annual study project each year, which results in an essay, in a *special work* on a particular matter, which then, is presented in front of their class.

In order to write their *special work*, pupils came to library, where, with the help of the librarian, they would prepare their work.

In the early '80s, girls would choose gems and jewelry as topics for their *special works*, whereas boys would choose all sorts of discoveries in chemistry.

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.



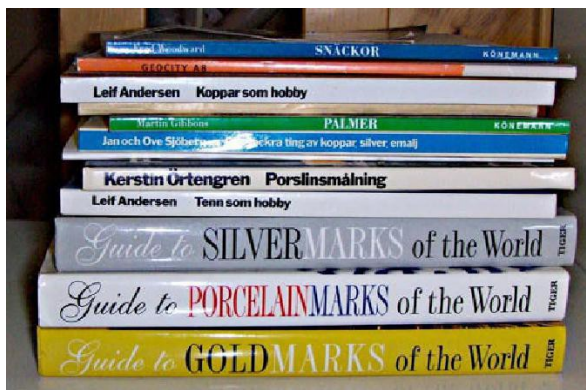
Once the *passion* has been loosed, we had to do own research and, therefore, to buy specialized literature: about diamonds, pearls, about Bolin, Cartier, Tiffany, Fabergé and so on. Photographs of our books in our house in Sweden.

When I did emigrate to Sweden, in 1977, my knowledge about metals and gemstones was reduced to what I learned in chemistry and geology college classes, many years before. I did not have any attainment about jewelry. Incidentally, the only jewel, the only gold object I had was a very small 14 K gold wedding ring, weighing under 2 grams, acquired by Octavian on our marriage.

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.

The ring was supposed to be confiscated on my emigration from Romania, but despite a very persistent female customs officer on Otopeni airport who tried to rip the jewel off my finger, the ring stayed with me.



Several works on hallmarks used for gold, silver and platinum, on metal quality, manufacturer brands, etc., of particular importance for gemstones and metals trading, which we bought at the beginning of our *passion*.

Photo: Octavian Ciupitu / © CR

In the early years of my stay in Sweden, I grew no particular interest in jewelry, especially because I had no possibilities to buy or to invest money in jewels. But when information requests in the library became dense and I started to open books with splendid illustrations presenting beautiful adornments crafted by master jewelers, I became interested.

Soon my interest turned into fascination and, for a period of time, it became a *passion*.

My *passions* had a gift to influence all my family.

We began to buy specific literature, and on Saturdays and Sundays, when the entire family gathered around the table, we flipped through books about great jewelers of the world and about gemstones and precious metals.

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.

The particularly well documented and systematized work of Walter Schumann: “Edelsteine und Schmucksteine” (*Gemstones of the world*), published in Munich, in 1976, translated into Swedish, in 1980, and published by Nordstedt, has become my most important book for some time.

Mariejeanne and Anne-Marie were, like me, excited to see and to possess jewels; Marc shown interest in watch mechanisms; Theo was fascinated with both jewelry and watches, and although he was only 8-9 years old, he wanted to visit all kinds of jewelry stores, where, to the amusement of the sellers, he asked *specialized* questions about gold and jewels; Octavian became interested particularly in jewelry design. Weekend walks of the entire family consisted in visiting jewelry stores and workshops.

The knowledge thus acquired resulted in scholarly *special works* written by our children – who have soon become the *experts* of their school, and in a *small study on gemstones* drafted by me.

The “W.A. BOLIN – 200 YEARS” jewelry exhibition organized by the National Museum in Stockholm, in 1996, has increased even more my interest and also, gave me the opportunity to conduct an interview with Hans Bolin, the owner of the W. A. Bolin company.

The interview was about the fascination that gemstones and jewelry exert upon us, both women and men, but also about the importance of jewels as objects of investment.

I then proceeded to *discuss* the matter with other jewelers in Sweden. I have published the result of these conversations and interviews, as a serial in CURIERUL ROMÂNESC. I began to publish these interviews 20 years ago.

Gemstones, precious metals, and especially jewelry, have remained not only equally fascinating, but also the safest investment items.

The reader can find information about gems in all kinds of papers, whereas examples of fascinating jewelry, worked only with best quality diamonds and gemstones can be found in extremely numerous works, from those describing Bolin, Cartier, Fabergé, Tiffany creations, to other goldsmiths around the world.

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.

It was not my intention to make a fundamental work about gems and jewelry, for I am not an expert, but an amateur fascinated by these beauties, wishing *this small study about jewelry* to be just a preamble to the presentation of some jewelry companies and craftsmen in Sweden. The study was drafted when, for a period of time, my interest in this domain became a *passion*.

The examples I will give are, with few exceptions, either made by jewelry artisans and workshops in Sweden, or jewelry that could or may still be found in various auction houses in Stockholm - Bolin, Bukowskis, Kaplans - that I have visited for years in a row. Part of the articles and interviews about jewelry, presented as a serial in CURIERUL ROMÂNESC, were sent at that time, free of charge, to be published in the Romanian magazines Flacăra and CUVÎNTUL.

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Silvia Constantinescu. Stockholm, 2012.

Dream Jewelry

Foreword.

FOREWORD

to the English edition.

In this edition in English I did not change the texts for the interviews, but I have changed and added other pictures of jewels realized or sold by these jewels or auctions houses.

These news examples complete the image of these companies still existing in Stockholm, and which have continued their activity all these 15 years since the interviews.

At the end of each interview I have added the mailing address, where it existed, and the online address as well, for the respective jewelry company or auction house, to give the reader the possibility to follow they self the evolution of these companies, and as well to purchase the desired jewelry, which are for sale online also nowadays.

To this edition in English I have added a chapter that exemplifies “famous diamonds”; the photographs—examples I took over from the bookwork “Diamanter” (Diamonds), published in 1982 by the Swedish publishing house *Bokförlaget Bra Böcker*.

I have emphasized the chapter “On gemstones” with examples of jewels exhibited for sale at “*Sotheby’s - Magnificent jewels*”, 2002, and *Tajan - “Importants Bijoux et Montres de collections”*, 2009, Paris; I have taken over as well one photographs from *Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Wells legacy*.

The copyright for all the photographs is indicated at each of them.

Silvia Constantinescu. Stockholm, 2019.

Dream Jewelry Foreword.



Brooch as a leave bow, platina and yellow gold, diamond strewed,
with two fine pearls connected with a diamond strewed line.
The chain dotted with a fine pearl. Weight 45.8 g. About 1910.
*From: Tajan, "Importants Bijoux et Montres de collections",
2009, Paris.*