



Haas and Co., Inc.
23 South 8th Street, Suite 1100
Noblesville, IN 46060
317/507-5957
haasandco@att.net

ESTATE JEWELRY

VICTORIAN ERA **1832 - 1901**

This era was named for the Queen who reined, Queen Victoria. With the Industrial Revolution, mechanization was available to mine metals and gemstones and starting to mass produce jewelry.

There was a romantic illustration of love between Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert with style of seed pearls, shell cameos, pearl strands, and even small gemstones like garnets, amethysts, and topaz. After the death of Prince Albert in 1861, jewelry took an extreme change in the look of jewelry. She would wear heavy, somber type jewelry to mourn the death of her beloved husband.

Most of the type of gemstones that were used during this somber time was jet, black onyx, tortoise shell, and even horse hair.

ART NOUVEAU ERA **1890 - 1910**

This era was light and airy and an outcome against the offensive pieces that was from the Industrial Revolution. One of the reasons for the change is the counter-coulter movement.

One of Art Nouveau's trademarks is the head of a girl with a faraway gaze with curly hair. Some other examples that were popular during this time were dragonflies with long and fragile wings, peacocks with shimmering colors, and floral style themes, with most of these depicting of nature.

Some established still used diamonds and pearls in their petite style or work. Rene Lalique, a French jeweler, took his look further by using ivory, horn, carved glass, and enamel. Some gemstones that were also used during this era were opals and moonstones. Another jeweler that made an impression was Louis Comfort Tiffany and one of those reasons was for his delicate enameling designs.



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EDWARDIAN ERA

1890 - 1915

This era was named for the Prince who reigned, Edward VII, Queen Victoria's son. His reign had blissful times return to elegance. Jewelry was flattered with lace, silk, and even feathers.

Diamonds were in demand and they were worn alone or with gemstones. Pearls were still very popular and platinum was replacing gold as in vogue. Fine, intricate filigree work resembled lace and hinges came into play so pieces could move.

ART DECO ERA

1915 - 1930

The Art Nouveau era headed toward a brazen and fashionable style. Art Deco and flappers were hand and hand. It was started in France and when it made its way to the United States was when women were doing men's jobs because they were off to war and it started to convey their new freedom. Women went wild for this time period and embraced the geometric styles of the Art Deco.

Some of the pieces you would see were sleek, enameled pieces, usually with bright and bold colors and complimented with angled style clothing. Enormous brooches were popular set with rubies and emeralds, coral and lapis or jade were used together as well.

RETRO ERA

1940 - 1945

Europe's extravagant products were stopped because platinum and most of the gold and silver were used to help fund World War II. During this time, American jewelry raised its head. A lot of jewelry was influenced by Hollywood stars and they were lavished. Large stones in huge pieces and usually mounted in rose, green, and/or yellow gold. This trend stayed this course until after the war and then styles became softer.

One trend that has emerged from World War II was the use of gold in all types of jewelry. Now it was used as the main component of fine jewelry. During this time many gold brooches were seen, circle style pins, or pins more intricate with animals or flowers.