

Winterthur Library

An Introduction to Resources



Jewelry

The Winterthur Library can support graduate level research on the history and design of jewelry in America. The Printed Book Collection has a strong assemblage of nineteenth- and twentieth-century works on jewelry, both American and European. The manuscript collection focuses on late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century material, particularly from New England and the Mid-Atlantic region. Items include financial records, advertisements, and designs. In addition, several of the best known manuscript collections—the papers of the Richardson family, Philadelphia silversmiths, and of the Dominy family, New York clockmakers—contain relevant resources.

Trade Literature and Books

Winterthur's collection of trade literature includes material on the jewelers' trade from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Among the earliest are J.

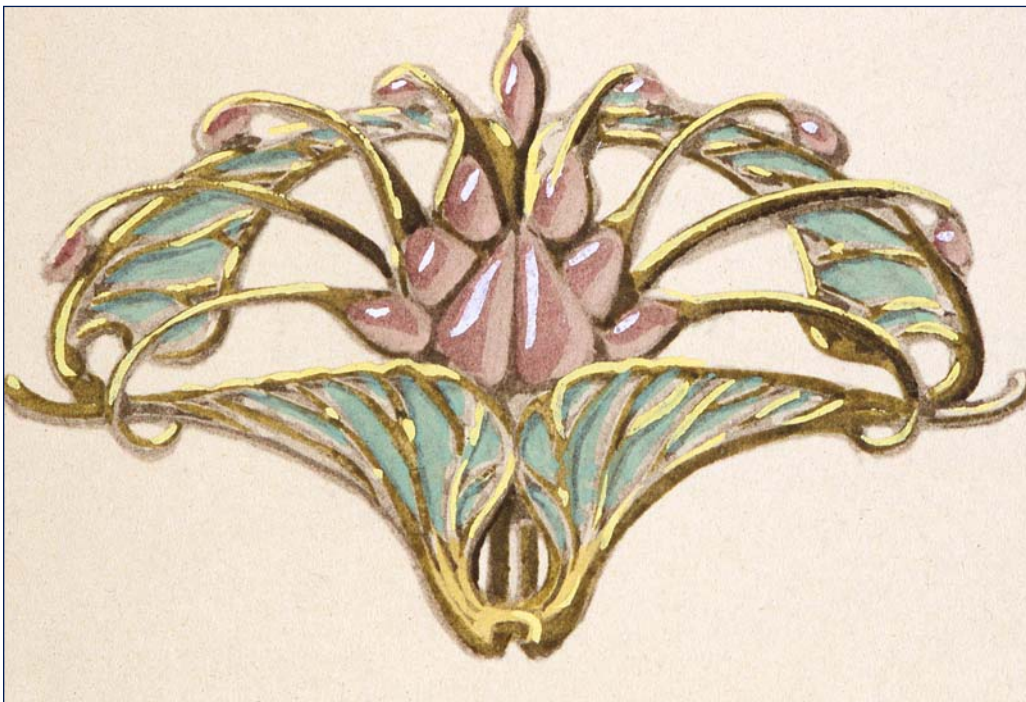
Tassie, *A Catalogue of Impressions in Sulphur, of Antique and Modern Gems from Which Pastes Are Made and Sold* (1775), and the catalogue of J. Taylor of Birmingham, England, who advertised himself as a jeweler and maker of tortoiseshell and ivory boxes and a general toymaker in 1810.

Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century jewelers' catalogues and designs range from Whitehead and Hoag Company, manufacturers of badges for the patrons of husbandry, to Tiffany and Company's *Blue Books*, to Paul Follot's art nouveau designs in *Documents de Bijouterie et Orfevrerie Modernes*. Winterthur also has a diverse collection of catalogues that offer jewelers' tools and supplies and jewelry cases and wrappings

Among the important works of instruction for the silver- or goldsmith are Placide Boue's *Traité*

d'orfèvrerie, Bijouterie et Joaillerie... (1832) and William Halford and Charles Young's *Jewellers' Book of Patterns in Hair Work* (1846). Other important works include *The London Wholesale, Manufacturing, and Retail Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, and Cutlers' Directory* (1861) and *Antique Jewellery and its Revival* by Alessandro Castellani, printed in London in 1862.

Many difficult-to-find twentieth-century works are available at



Paul Follot, *Documents de Bijouterie et Orfevrerie Modernes* (Paris: Henri Laurens, 1905). Printed Book Collection, Winterthur Library.



George Gebelein, notes and design for jewelry, n.d. Downs Collection, Winterthur Library.

Winterthur. Among them are *Antique Jewellery and Trinkets* by Frederick W. Burgess (1919), *Notes on Jewelry and Metal Work* by Erma Bell Hewitt (1931), and *Cut-Steel and Berlin Iron Jewellery* by Anne Clifford (1971).

Financial Records

The account book, daybooks, and sales book of Jabez C. Baldwin (1777–1819) cover the years from 1808 to 1819. They document his evolution from a silversmith in Salem, Massachusetts, to a silversmiths' merchant in Boston. He sold silver, gold watches, and jewelry made in the United States, England, and Ireland and included detailed lists of items sold, an inventory of tools and furniture purchased, and the names of many jewelers who supplied him with items.

The papers of Thomas Fletcher (1787–1866) include account books, letterbooks, advertisements, and drawings. He began a jewelry business in Boston about 1809 and with his partner, Sidney Gardiner, moved to Philadelphia in 1811. He both sold and manufactured silver and jewelry until 1842. His letterbooks alone contain more than 1,500 personal, financial, and business letters, which document his manufacturing and importing business.

The account books of Ziba Blakslee (1768–1834) of Newtown, Connecticut, describe the business of a rural craftsman who made gold beads and buttons as well as surveyors' instruments and church bells. Blakslee's ledger and daybook document sales and repairs and feature a name index of customers.

The Northeastern Silversmiths' records include account books, daybooks, invoice books, and inventories of a number of New York City silversmiths, jewelers, and watchmakers. It also includes advertisements, trade cards, bills, and receipts that document the overlapping silver, jewelry, and watchmaking trades in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The jewelry business during the gold rush era is documented in the daybooks of an unnamed jeweler in Central City, Colorado, compiled between 1867 and 1873. A wide variety of gold jewelry and watches was sold and repaired. The names of the customers and the watchmaker were often noted.

Design and Instruction

Several manuscripts in the collection include craftsmen's drawings for objects they made.



Trade label for Thomas Fletcher, ca. 1838. Downs Collection, Winterthur Library.

George Christian Gebelein (1878–1945), a silversmith and jewelry designer, was often referred to as the modern Paul Revere for his work based on colonial designs. During a fifty-year career in Boston, he produced silver objects and jewelry for individuals as well as for the chapel at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the National Cathedral in Washington. The Gebelein Collection includes hundreds of color drawings for tea sets, commemorative items, jewelry, and religious objects.

The papers of Gustav Manz (1865–1946) include three manuscript volumes of designs for rings, pendants, brooches, and pins designed before

1925. Also included is his collection of books on jewelry and gemstones. Manz was a German-born jeweler/goldsmith who worked in New York City for many well-known firms such as Tiffany's; Cartier; A. A. Vantine; and Bailey, Banks, and Biddle.

The instruction book of Silas Rice (1749–1835) contains instructions for processes used by the jeweler/silversmith to work with silver and gold, for etching and plating, and for clockmaking. Rice worked in Lancaster, Massachusetts, from at least 1777 and in Worcester, Massachusetts, from about 1800 until his death.

Additional Resources

Winterthur's important collection of European ornament and design books from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries show designs for engravings used by goldsmiths and watchmakers. Winterthur also has extensive manuscript and printed material on early American silversmiths, brass workers, pewterers, and clock- and watchmakers. Much of this material is relevant to the study of jewelry-making and design. Advertising material, including trade cards and broadsides, shipping records, and financial documents shed light on the jewelry trade. Finally, the Visual Resources Collection houses photographs of jewelry in both public and private collections.



Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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