

JEWELRY
OF THE
ANCIENT
WORLD




The Lerner Archaeology Series

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The Lerner Archaeology Series

DIGGING UP THE PAST

JEWELRY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER
RED ROCKS CAMPUS

by **Renate Rosenthal**

retold for young readers by **Richard L. Currier**

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER
RED ROCKS CAMPUS



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RED ROCKS CAMPUS

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I THE OLDEST JEWELRY

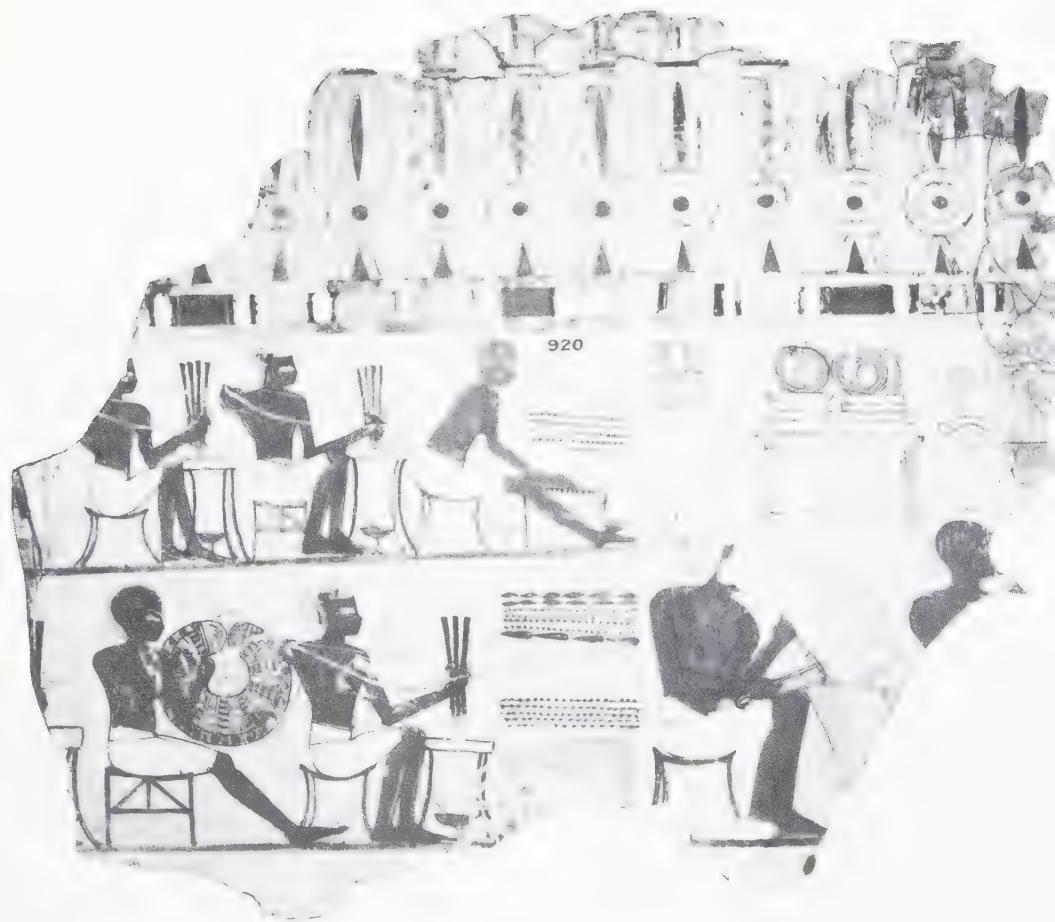
Jewelry is probably one of the most ancient products made by human hands. Long before our ancestors were growing crops, building houses, weaving cloth, or making pottery, they were beautifying themselves with earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, hairpins, and other objects of adornment. Before the development of civilization, these objects were made from natural materials, such as stone, shell, wood, leather, fiber, feathers, bone, horn, teeth, and claws. Later, as human technology advanced, people began making jewelry out of precious metals and precious stones. In modern times, we have benefited from the experience of our ancestors, and we have developed some very advanced ways of working with metal and stone. Yet most modern jewelry is curiously similar to the jewelry of the ancient world. Nearly all the techniques of making jewelry that we use today have been understood and used in the past by the jewelers of ancient times.

Jewelry From Graves

Most of the ancient jewelry that has survived to the present time has been found in graves. In our own time, we do not usually put jewelry on a dead body before it is buried,



A bust of a wealthy woman adorned with jewels. This piece of sculpture was carved more than 1,700 years ago.



This Egyptian tomb painting shows jewelers drilling and polishing beads.

but in many societies of the past this was a customary — and sometimes even essential — part of burying the dead. (In fact, the burial customs of such societies actually created a constant demand for new jewelry, since the old jewelry was continually being buried.) The people of these societies believed that death was a continuation of life in another world. Thus, dead people were often buried with the objects they had owned and used while they were alive. Sometimes, the dead were given objects of value to present as gifts to the gods and other supernatural beings that they would meet in the afterlife. Such gifts were supposed to insure them safety and protection in their life after death.

The Holy Land

For the most part, this book describes the jewelry of ancient societies existing from roughly 3000 B.C. to roughly 500 A.D. Each of the many ancient societies produced a great variety of jewelry, and we could easily fill this book with a discussion of the jewelry of just one society from one period of ancient history. Obviously, to give a full account of all the jewelry of the ancient world would be quite impossible in a book of this size.

For these reasons, we will concentrate on the jewelry of the Holy Land — a rather small strip of land just east of the Mediterranean Sea, where most of the events mentioned in the Bible took place. The Holy Land was located between two great civilizations of ancient times: the Egyptian civilization to the south and west, and the Mesopotamian civilization to the east, in what is now the nation of Iraq. These two great centers of civilization both greatly influenced the people of the Holy Land, and their different styles and techniques of jewelry-making are evident in the jewelry that has been unearthed.

The Holy Land sits astride the principal trade routes between the two immense continents of Africa and Asia. In ancient times, this location meant that people and goods from strange and distant lands were constantly passing through the Holy Land. It also meant that the great conquerors and empire builders such as the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans — all wanted to control the Holy Land themselves because of its economic and military importance. Thus, the Holy Land has been part of one empire or another almost continually for the last 2,500 years, and it has been under the continued influence of other societies.

Thus, by concentrating on the jewelry of the Holy Land, we will inevitably find ourselves discussing the jewelry of many other societies as well. In the course of this book, we will mention some of the more important kinds of jewelry from Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome, and other lands.

Prehistoric Jewelry

Before the use of metal was discovered, jewelry was made of natural materials that were attractive and that could be shaped into beautiful and interesting patterns. Pebbles, bones, teeth, and shells were all fashioned into jewelry that has survived to the present. These objects were made into pendants, necklaces, head-dresses, and anklets (strings of beads similar to bracelets but worn around the ankle instead of around the wrist).

Around 10,000 years ago, the wandering tribesmen of the Holy Land began to settle in caves and huts. Fortunately for us, the people of this age buried their dead beneath the places in which they lived, and they adorned the dead with the jewelry that they made. One corpse that was unearthed had seven rows of shell beads around its head. A necklace made of two bone pendants

hanging from a string of animal teeth was found nearby.

During the next 4,000 years, the inhabitants of the Holy Land began to grow their own crops and raise their own animals, instead of having to rely on what they could find — or kill — in the wild. They began to settle in villages, but they continued to make the same kind of jewelry that had been popular thousands of years before, when they were wandering tribesmen. One curious new kind of jewelry did appear, however: beads made of jade. Jade is a semiprecious stone that was widely used in China and India but is almost never found as far west as the Holy Land until much later. Perhaps you have seen jade figurines in a museum or store window. Jade is one of the easiest stones to carve; the peoples of the Orient have perfected the art of carving in this beautiful white, gray, or greenish-gray material.

During much of the prehistoric period, the inhabitants of the Holy Land used tools and weapons made of stone. Eventually, however, they began to make things out of metal. At first, there were only a few crude weapons and tools made of copper, but even this modest beginning brought about many changes in the



A headdress made of gold and precious stones, found in an Egyptian tomb. Ancient pieces of jewelry such as this are often found in graves.

lives of these ancient people. Before long, the inhabitants of the towns and villages began to fashion jewelry out of semiprecious stones. Two finds in the desert country of the Holy Land have yielded a fairly large amount of jewelry from this period. Beads for necklaces and pendants comprise the bulk of the finds. These

pieces of jewelry are made of a fairly large variety of materials: in addition to mother of pearl and other kinds of shells, these people used bone, marble, limestone, hematite, cornelian, and serpentine. The beads were either round or tubular in shape, and the pendants were made in the shape of rectangles or trapezoids (a



A prehistoric necklace made of bone and shell, from the Holy Land

trapezoid looks like a triangle with one of the points cut off).

In another part of the Holy Land a picture carved on a flat piece of stone was found that came from the same period in history. The picture shows a man wearing a necklace with a trapezoid pendant; the man appears to be praying. Although this might imply that these pendants had some religious or magical importance for the people of those times, scientists are still unsure about this point. It is possible that this jewelry was worn only for its beauty and not for any supernatural power that it was thought to have. Along with the carved stone, archaeologists found pendants, beads made of cornelian, shell, and copper, and bracelets made of carved stone and ivory. There was even a hairpin made of bone, with the head of the pin carved into the shape of a pelican.

Most of the various types of stone used in this jewelry, as well as materials such as copper and ivory, were more abundant at that time in Egypt than they were in the Holy Land. In fact, the ivory probably came from the tropical regions of Africa, and it was brought into Egypt by traders of those early times. From Egypt, ivory found its way into other parts of the ancient world, such as the Holy Land.

The First Cities

About 5,000 years ago, a great change occurred in the ancient world. In addition to the towns and villages that had sprung up in the fertile plains and river valleys, great cities began to arise. This development marks the beginning of human civilization, and it brought about great advances in art and technology. Ancient people began to use gold for making jewelry, especially in Egypt, where gold was plentiful and where civilization was more advanced.

The jewelry of ancient Egypt was made with great care and skill. The Egyptian jewelers learned how to combine metals such as gold, silver, and bronze with precious stones of various kinds to produce the finest jewelry that had ever been made in the ancient world. Not only did they develop many of the basic techniques still used in making jewelry today, but they also used a tremendous variety of precious and semiprecious stones that are still used by jewelers. Here is a list of some of the stones they used:

<i>agate</i>	<i>coral</i>
<i>amethyst</i>	<i>cornelian</i>
<i>beryl</i>	<i>feldspar</i>
<i>calcite</i>	<i>garnet</i>
<i>chalcedony</i>	<i>hematite</i>



Head of a hairpin carved in the shape of a pelican. This piece of jewelry, made in prehistoric times, was discovered in the Holy Land

<i>jade</i>	<i>pearl</i>
<i>jasper</i>	<i>sard</i>
<i>lapis lazuli</i>	<i>sardonyx</i>
<i>malachite</i>	<i>turquoise</i>
<i>onyx</i>	

As you can see, there were quite a few different kinds! You have probably heard of some of these stones, but no doubt there are many that are new to you. All the stones are listed in the glossary at the end of this book, if you should like to look them up. There are, of course, some precious stones we use today that were not known to the ancient Egyptian jewelers, stones such as diamond, ruby, opal, and sapphire.

The beginning of human civilization, with its new technology, its cities, and its great works of art, was thus only a step in the development of jewelry, which had been going on for thousands upon thousands of years. The main difference that civilization brought was in the materials — especially the precious metals of gold and silver — that ancient people began to use once they had learned how to produce and to work with metals.

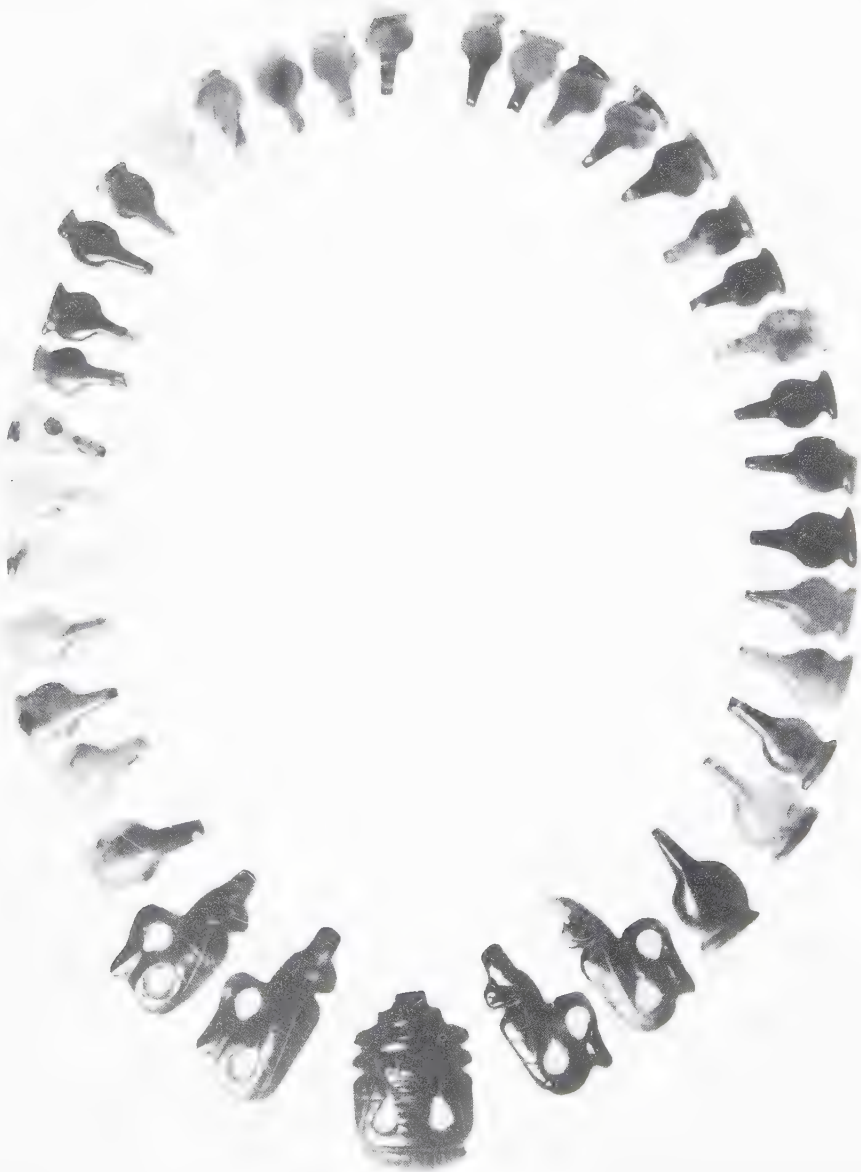
From this point on, the jewelry of the ancient world — its materials, its basic forms, and its basic tech-



In this Egyptian wall painting, a goldsmith is pictured weighing gold on a balance scale.

niques of workmanship — remained very much the same from one age to another. But the different patterns, designs, and decorations that people

have used for their personal adornment show all the many variations that the minds and skills of the ancient jewelers could devise.



A necklace of carved beads of cornelian, made in the Egyptian style. The necklace was found in the Holy Land.

II TREASURES OF THE BRONZE AGE

Between 3500 and 3000 B.C., the people of the ancient world learned how to make a very important metal called "bronze." This brownish-yellow metal, made from a mixture of copper and tin, proved to be strong, durable, and easily worked. It was ideal for tools, weapons, armor, and jewelry. The use of bronze quickly became so important in the ancient world that this entire period of history is called the "Bronze Age."

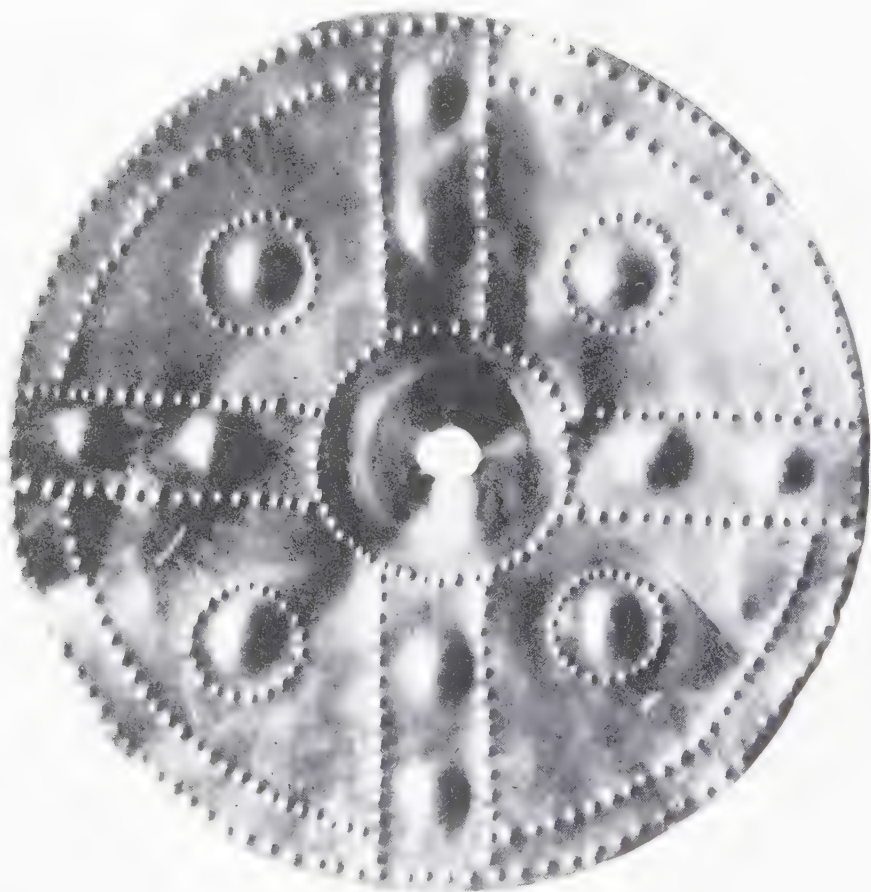
The Early Bronze Age

Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of settlements in the Holy Land that were inhabited in the early centuries of the Bronze Age. Although many of the objects that they have found from this period are unfamiliar and poorly understood, some interesting jewelry pieces have survived.

Near the Sea of Galilee, a gold disk slightly more than two inches across was found. This object is pierced in the center, but archae-

ologists cannot say whether it was worn as a pendant or as a belt buckle. Geometric designs have been hammered into it by means of a technique called "repoussé," in which the sheet of metal is placed face down on a surface that can be dented (for instance, a piece of soft wood) and the design is hammered onto the back. This pushes the design on the front side up from the surface and gives it a three-dimensional quality.

Besides this unusual gold disc, beads made of a variety of different materials have been found at Bronze-Age sites in the Holy Land. Some are made of bone, some of cornelian, and some of shell. In one tomb in the city of Jericho, archaeologists found pendants made of a special kind of baked clay called "faience" (pronounced *fie-ANCE*). This material, invented by the ancient Egyptians, is a kind of pottery covered with a colored glaze (a substance that gives the surface a smooth, glassy quality). Faience was famous for its

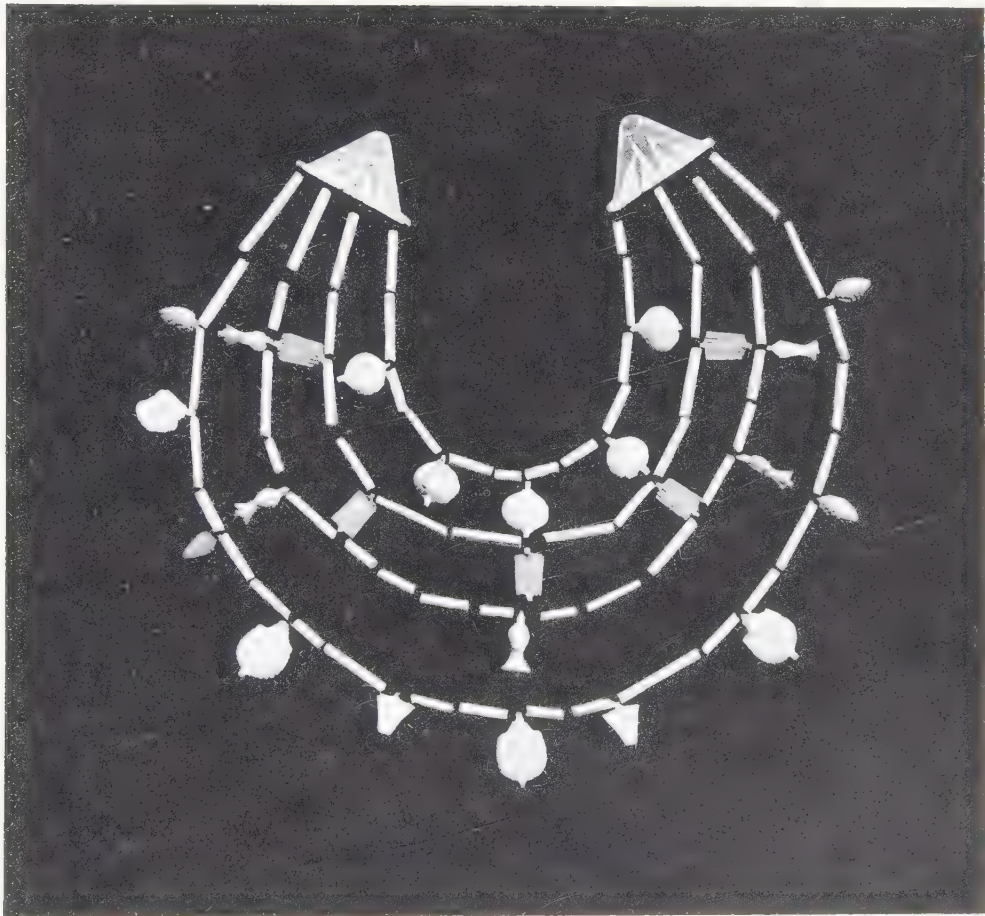


The gold disc found near the Sea of Galilee

brilliant colors — the colors were so brilliant, in fact, that the material was used to imitate precious stones. The faience pendants found in the Holy Land are of Egyptian origin, showing that there was trade between these two regions even during this early period.

"Priam's Treasure"

Perhaps you have heard of the ancient Greek poet Homer, who wrote *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*, two of the greatest masterpieces of ancient literature. Homer's works describe a Bronze-Age city called "Troy," located in what is now north-



An ancient necklace made of faience

western Turkey. For many years, scholars thought that Homer's "Troy" was purely fictitious. In the last century, however, a man named Heinrich Schliemann decided that the scholars were all wrong. He was convinced that Troy really had existed,

and he set out to find the ruins of the ancient city, using Homer's descriptions as a guide. Much to everyone's surprise, Schliemann actually did find the ruins of ancient Troy, and he unearthed the remains of many ancient buildings, including the

palaces in which the rulers of Troy had once lived.

Schliemann found an enormous number of valuable and interesting things in the ruins of Troy, but perhaps none of his discoveries was quite as exciting as the immense quantity of gold jewelry that he found in the ruins of a large palace. Schliemann believed this to have been the palace of Priam, King of Troy, whom Homer had written about in ancient times. Thus, Schliemann called this great collection of gold "Priam's Treasure." Modern scholars now believe that Schliemann was mistaken, and that the treasure must have belonged to a ruler of some earlier time.

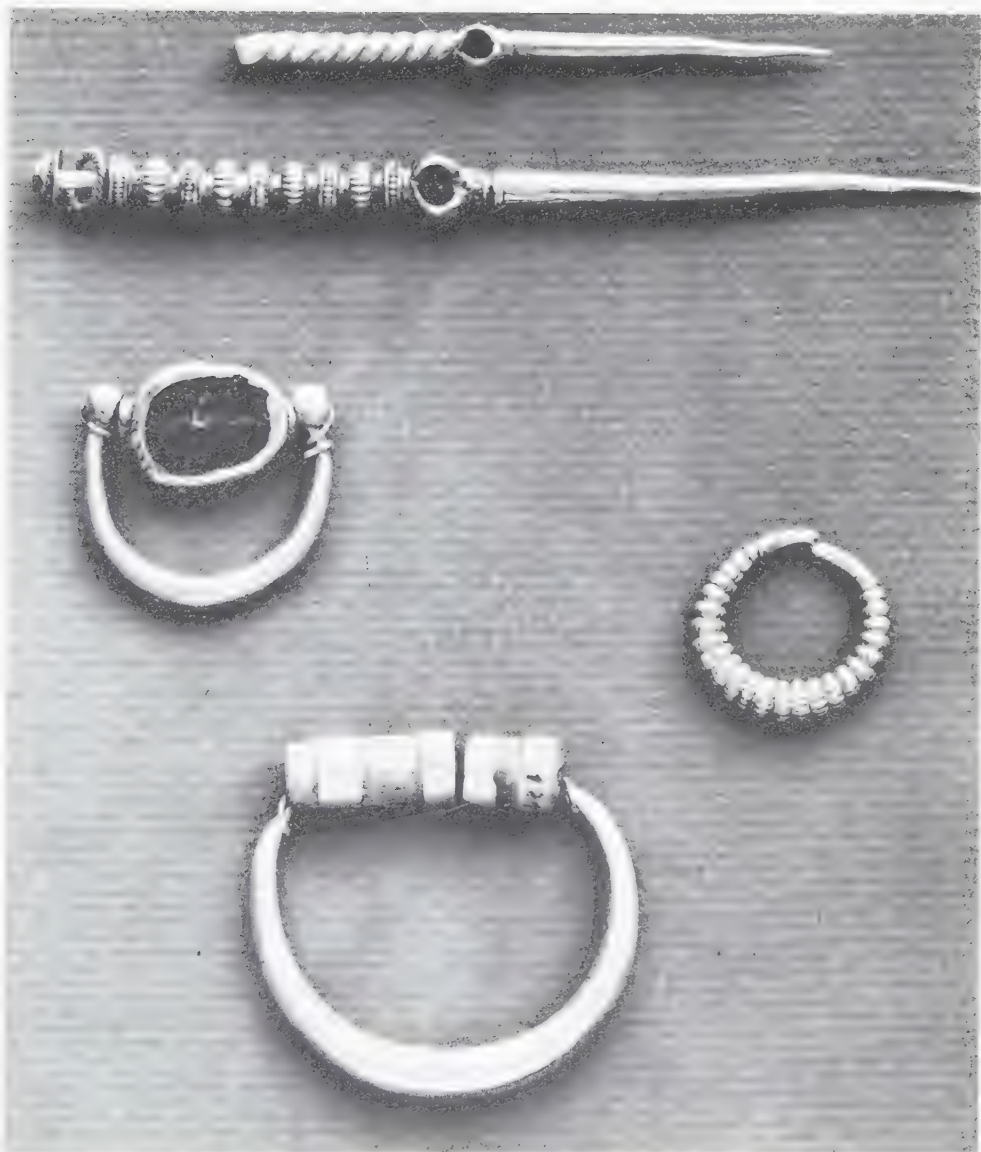
Whomever it had belonged to, "Priam's Treasure" remains one of the richest hoards of gold ever found by an archaeologist. In addition to gold jewelry, there were vessels of gold and silver, and weapons made of copper and bronze. The jewelry alone consisted of two diadems (a kind of crown worn by oriental rulers), a headband, four earrings, six bracelets, and almost 9,000 gold beads! The fine workmanship of some of the jewelry shows that the jewelers of those times had already become quite skilled at working with precious metals. The larger of the two diadems, for example, is espe-

cially intricate. It consists of a large gold chain with numerous smaller chains and pendants hanging from it. The chains themselves are made of many fine gold rings linked together, and the pendants are made of sheets of gold decorated with the repoussé technique we mentioned earlier. Obviously, *someone* in ancient Troy had been fabulously wealthy!

"The Treasure of the Cenotaph"

Shortly before 2000 B.C., hard times came upon the societies of the Bronze Age. Many of the ancient cities that had prospered for centuries were destroyed by invading tribes, and the great palaces and other buildings fell into ruin. Then, after several centuries had passed, a group of people called the "Hyksos" came to rule over much of the ancient world, including the Holy Land. The Hyksos brought stability and prosperity to the Holy Land once again. This prosperity is reflected in a number of hoards of jewelry that have been unearthed in ruins dating from this period.

One palace from this time had an open courtyard with a cenotaph standing in the middle of it. (A cenotaph is a monument erected in honor of a dead person, but it does not stand over a grave.) This particular



Gold rings and pins from the Treasure of the Cenotaph

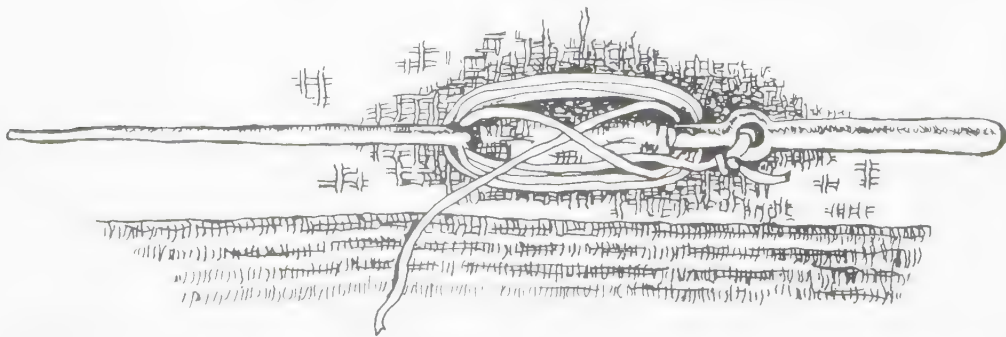
cenotaph was a brick tower erected in honor of a local queen, and it contained an inner chamber in which the queen's personal jewelry was deposited.

This "Treasure of the Cenotaph" contained bracelets, rings, pins, and sheets of gold that had not been made into jewelry at all. The bracelets were in two sets of five, each set made to be worn together on one arm. One curious piece of jewelry in the treasure is a pair of large rings with a row of beads of lapis lazuli (a semiprecious stone) set in gold on each ring. These rings are too large to be worn on the finger, and to this date no one is quite sure how they were used.

The pins found in the cenotaph were made of gold, and they were used for fastening garments. The pin was actually stuck through the ma-

terial itself and held in place by thread or string. Two of the pins had their heads broken off, but the head of another was once set with a faience bead that had fallen out of its setting. A fourth pin was set with an onyx bead at the head.

Two other interesting pieces from this treasure are finger rings set with scarabs. The scarab was a familiar object in Bronze-Age jewelry. In ancient Egypt, a certain beetle called the "scarab beetle" was believed to have divine power. Pictures and carved representations of this beetle were worn by many ancient people as a kind of magic charm. These charms were called "scarabs," and they were usually carved out of semiprecious stones. The Treasure of the Cenotaph contained two gold rings set with scarabs — one of lapis lazuli and one of hematite — that had



This drawing illustrates the way in which the pins were pushed through the material of a garment and held in place by thread or string.



A scarab carved with the image of the winged scarab beetle

small figures engraved on the reverse side. Actually, finger rings themselves were not especially common in the early days of ancient Egypt, but they were first used as a way of wearing a scarab.

The Hoard from el-Ajjul

Toward the end of the Bronze Age, between 1500 and 1200 B.C., the societies of the Holy Land enjoyed a period of greater prosperity than they had ever known before. The Egyptians expelled the Hyksos invaders, the Canaanites (who inhabited the Holy Land in those times) lived on under Egyptian rule, and the Holy Land itself was made a province of the Egyptian Empire. A vast amount of Canaanite jewelry has been found in tombs, public buildings, and houses built at this time. Although this jewelry depicts the gods and religious symbols of the Canaanites, it was made with most of the same techniques used at that time by the Egyptians.

One of the richest treasures of buried jewelry ever found in the Holy Land is a hoard of gold and silver that seems to have belonged to a Canaanite jeweler of this period. This hoard, which is composed of both jewelry and unworked scraps of gold and silver, was probably

collected over a long period of time. Thus, it is not possible to know precisely how old the objects are. Since this particular hoard was found in a place called Tell el-Ajjul (a *tell* is a hill or mound), we shall call this treasure "The Hoard from el-Ajjul."

This hoard consists of plaques worn as pendants, earrings and pins of gold, silver bracelets, rings, and pendants, and a diadem made of a mixture of gold and silver called "electrum." The gold plaques were decorated with images of an ancient goddess of love and fertility called "Astarte." She is usually pictured nude, with her breasts and genitals shown larger than they would be in real life. In some cases, in fact, *only* the head, breasts, and genitals of Astarte are shown, and the rest of her body is left out entirely. This is how the goddess was represented on the gold plaques from el-Ajjul.

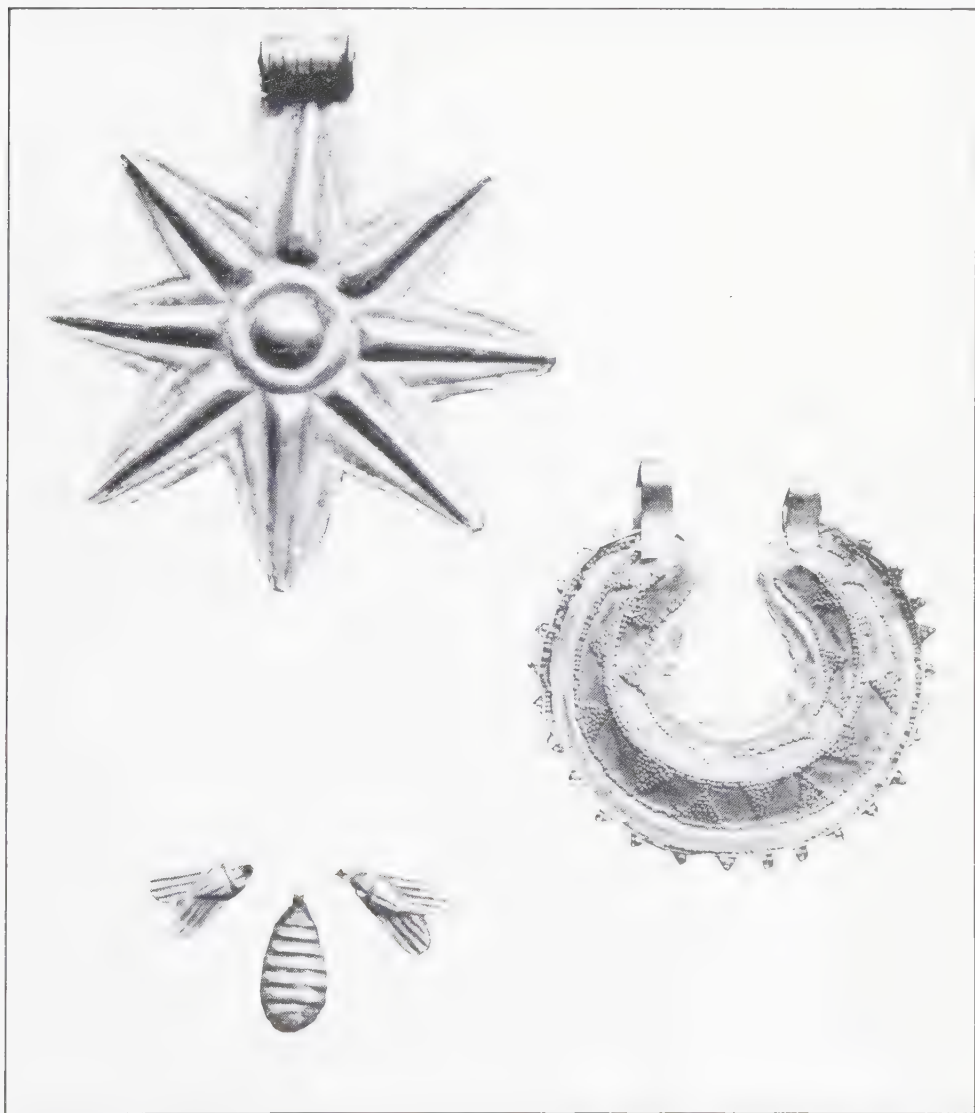
In addition to a pair of crescent-shaped gold objects that were probably meant to be worn as earrings, there were some eight-pointed gold stars found at el-Ajjul, one of which was only half-finished. Three larger pairs of earrings were made with a technique known as "granulation," which was common throughout most of the ancient world. This technique consisted of making a large number



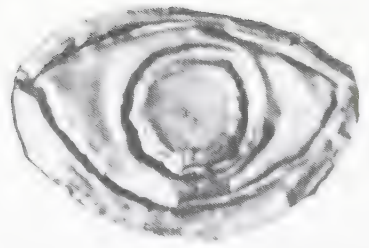
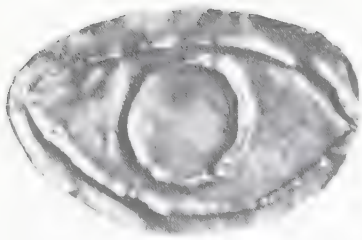
A gold plaque picturing the ancient fertility goddess Astarte. The plaque is part of the hoard of jewelry found at Tell el-Ajjul in the Holy Land.



Another gold plaque with a representation of Astarte. This plaque is from Ugarit, an ancient city in present-day Syria.



An assortment of jewelry from Tell el-Ajjul: An eight-pointed gold star, a crescent-shaped gold earring, and several amulets, or good-luck charms, in the shape of flies.



Amulets made in the shape of a human eye. These amulets were intended to protect their owners from the Evil Eye.

of tiny gold grains, arranging them in a pattern on the surface of the piece of jewelry to be decorated, and then attaching them permanently with a metallic substance called "solder," which is melted onto the surfaces of the objects to be joined.

Not all the jewelry discovered at el-Ajjul comes from the jeweler's hoard itself. In the ruins of a house, the archaeologists found five small objects usually called "amulets" (objects to bring good luck or to ward off evil or danger). Amulets were very common in the ancient world; they were made of stone, gold, clay, or faience, usually carved or shaped into the likenesses of animals. Some typical shapes for amulets were hippopotamuses, cats, apes, frogs, rams (male sheep), and snakes. Other amulets were fashioned in the shape of the human eye or in shapes representing various ancient gods.

Of the five amulets found at el-Ajjul, four were shaped like flies and the fifth was shaped like a bunch of grapes. The fly amulets may have

been presented to successful Egyptian soldiers by the Pharaoh (the ancient king of Egypt) as medals or military decorations. In another part of the ruins, two more amulets were found in the grave of a child who had been buried in a large pottery jar. One of the amulets is a representation of the ancient god Horus, carved in gray lapis lazuli and mounted in a setting of gold. The other is a hippopotamus made of amethyst.

Tutankhamon's Tomb

The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt ruled over large and tremendously wealthy empires. When they died, they were buried in elaborate tombs meant to insure their safety and continued importance in the afterlife. Unfortunately, the locations of the Pharaohs' tombs were so well known and the riches buried in them so immense — that in spite of the difficulties and dangers of breaking into the burial chambers, the great treasures to be found there constituted



A pendant in the form of a flying hawk, from Tell el-Ajjul

a great temptation to thieves. For this reason, nearly all of the tombs of the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt were broken into and robbed of their contents before archaeologists could uncover them and secure the treasure for safe keeping.

There was, however, one tomb that had never been broken into and that was entirely intact when archaeologists opened it in the 1920s. This was the tomb of Tutankhamon, who ruled during the 14th century B.C. Tutankhamon was actually a very unimportant ruler. He was Pharaoh for only a few years, until his death at the age of 18, and his tomb was one of the smallest and poorest of all the Pharaohs' tombs. In fact, this was one of the reasons his tomb was never molested. Yet in spite of Tutankhamon's unimportance, the richness of his grave goods was enough to dazzle the world, and the name of Tutankhamon — or "King Tut," as he is popularly known — has become famous far beyond his importance in the history of ancient Egypt.

Tutankhamon's tomb is important to the study of ancient jewelry mainly because an ornate throne found in the tomb is decorated with a picture of the Pharaoh and his queen that shows something of the royal jewelry

of those times. The picture itself is made of sheet gold with other materials set into it. The skin of the figures is done in red glass, their royal robes are made of silver, and their wigs and crowns are of blue faience. Both figures are dressed in large, heavy plates, called "pectorals," that were worn over the chest, wide girdles of gold inlaid with precious stones, and bracelets. If these were obscure and unimportant rulers, imagine the magnificent jewelry that the great and powerful Pharaohs must have worn!

The Goldsmiths of Crete and Cyprus

While the people of Egypt and the Holy Land were fashioning the gold jewelry found in the hoard from el-Ajjul and in Tutankhamon's tomb, other Bronze-Age people who lived on two large islands of the Mediterranean were also making gold jewelry.

The larger of these two islands is Crete, located in the southern part of the Aegean Sea. One of the numerous fine pieces that have survived from ancient Crete is a pendant in the shape of a wild goat. This pendant is made from sheet gold that has been embossed — a process in which designs are stamped onto



Pendant in the shape of a wild goat, from Crete

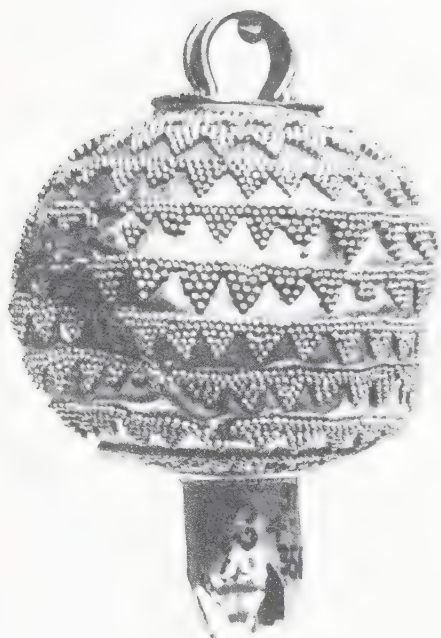
the surface. Three small gold discs hang from the goat's legs.

Toward the end of the Bronze Age, prosperous trade developed among the people of the Eastern Mediterranean. The island of Cyprus, located about halfway between Greece and the Holy Land, was in a good position to profit from this expansion of trade.

The goldsmiths of Cyprus developed a style of their own, and they produced many fine diadems made of sheet gold with decorative designs stamped into the pieces. One elaborate diadem is decorated with rosettes (round, flower-shaped designs), lilies, goats, the heads of wild cats, and the mask of a human face.

By 1200 B.C., ancient people had begun making tools and weapons out of iron, and the Bronze Age was coming to an end. During this period, a group of tribes from the Greek islands—wanderers whom the ancients called “the people of the sea”—invaded Egypt and eventually settled at the edge of the Holy Land, on the southeastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. These people are known to us as Philistines, and it is from them that the name “Palestine” is derived.

Also at the end of the Bronze Age, another group of tribes arrived in the Holy Land from the desert country to the east. These were the Israelites, who brought with them a new conception of religion. In fact, the ancient Israelites not only wrote the Holy Bible but also developed beliefs and ideas that became the basis for three of the world's great religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



Left: A gold pendant from Cyprus, in the shape of a pomegranate fruit. This piece of jewelry was made using the technique known as "granulation."

Right: The back panel of the ornamental throne found in Tutankhamon's tomb

Overleaf left: A mummy portrait from the Roman period in Egypt. (For more information, see pages 59-61.)

Overleaf right: Gold necklace with a crescent-shaped pendant, made in the second century B.C.



A gold diadem found in a tomb on the island of Cyprus. This ancient piece of jewelry was tied across the forehead by means of thongs or ribbons threaded through the holes at each end.











Left: A Roman necklace with a coin pendant. The coin bears the image of the emperor Domitian, who ruled during the first century A. D. *Above:* An elaborate pendant from Crete. Dogs and monkeys are shown in the central circle, and tiny birds and beads of cornelian hang from the many small chains.

III THE ISRAELITES AND PERSIANS OF THE IRON AGE

The Israelite Period

By 1000 B.C., the people of the ancient world had learned how to make tools and weapons out of iron, and the old Bronze-Age cultures had been overcome by societies using the superior iron technology. By this time, the Israelites had conquered the Canaanites and had driven back the Philistines, thus gaining control over most of Palestine. Curiously, in spite of the material prosperity of those times, the quality of jewelry seems to have sharply declined. Very little jewelry from the period has survived at all, and that which has survived is of little artistic value.

There is no doubt that the Israelite women did wear jewelry, however. This information comes to us in the form of a passage from the Bible, in the third chapter of the Book of Isaiah. In this passage, Isaiah criticizes the Israelite women for their love of jewelry and personal adornment. He prophesies that one day God will judge these women harshly

for their vanity. "In that day," he says,

the Lord will take away the bravery of their anklets, and the fillets, and the crescents; the pendants, and the bracelets, and the veils; the head-tires, and the armlets, and the sashes, and the corselets, and the amulets; the rings, and the nose-jewels; the aprons, and the mantelets, and the cloaks, and the girdles; and the gauze robes, and the fine linen, and the turbans, and the mantles.

Obviously, at least *some* of the Israelite women were well provided with finery! Unfortunately, Isaiah fails to mention what these various ornaments were made of. However, archaeologists have found the remains of silver, bronze, and iron, together with semiprecious stones, dating from this period. There seems to have been little use of gold for personal adornment, although the Israelites are supposed to have used lavish amounts of gold to decorate Solomon's Temple.



A hoard of ancient jewelry from the Holy Land, shown with the container in which it was found



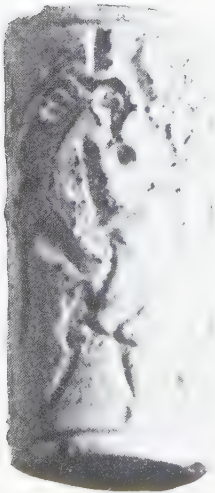
A collection of flat seals

Two hoards of jewelry have survived from this early period of the Iron Age, when the Israelites ruled the Holy Land. One hoard contained carved weights of bronze and ivory that were used in the looms on which cloth was made, two bronze pendants, a ring, iron bracelets, and hundreds of beads. The other hoard also contained many beads of cornelian, jasper, and gold in various shapes and sizes, made to be worn on bracelets and necklaces. In this hoard there were also several hoop earrings of gold and silver, some scarab finger rings, eight small plaques of gold, and a cylinder seal.

Cylinder seals, which were commonly used in the ancient world, consisted of cylindrical-shaped stones

that had various figures and designs carved into the surface. Flat seals, such as scarabs, were *pressed* onto soft wax or clay to make the special impression of the seal's owner, but the cylinder seals were *rolled* across the surface of the wax or clay. This produced a kind of printed strip, in which the carved pattern repeated itself over and over, as long as the seal continued to be rolled. In a way, the ancient cylinder seals employed some of the same basic principles used in the most modern printing presses.

Some interesting flat seals have also survived from the Iron Age. These seals were decorated with Egyptian religious symbols and deities, and most of them were pierced,



A cylinder seal (left) and the impression made by the seal when rolled over soft clay (above)



A flat seal bearing images of a griffin, a locust, and the *ankh*, or symbol of life. (This seal is described on page 44.)



A seal made of quartzite, with the name "Jezebel" carved on it in Phoenician letters

so that they could be attached to a finger ring or worn around the neck on a string. Frequently, the name or the title of the owner of the seal was also inscribed upon it. One particularly interesting seal is made of serpentine and decorated with representations of a locust, a griffin (a mythical beast with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion), and the ancient *ankh*, or symbol of life. Another seal is made of quartzite and is decorated with several symbols and pictures of deities. The name "Jezebel" is carved into this seal in Phoenician letters. The Bible tells of a Phoenician woman named Jezebel who married Ahab — one of the great kings of ancient Israel — but we do not know if this seal actually once belonged to her.

In addition to the seals, some fascinating amulets have been found dating from this period. Faience amulets have survived from Phoenicia, an ancient kingdom just north of the Holy Land, in the territory that is now the nation of Lebanon. Like the seals, these amulets were made in the shape of Egyptian gods and religious symbols. One of the faience amulets was made in the shape of a baboon almost two inches high, with a hook to which a chain

could be attached. (The baboon, which lives wild in the African wilderness south of Egypt, was sacred to the ancient Egyptians.) Another amulet, from Egypt itself, is a pottery figure of a monkey, covered with a blue-colored glaze.

The Coming of the Persians

In the year 587 B.C., the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, the Israelites' principal city, and the period of Israelite independence came to an end. Only 52 years later, the Persians conquered Babylonia and came to rule over a great many lands of the ancient world, the Holy Land among them. In those days, the small territory of the Holy Land was only a tiny fraction of the whole Persian Empire. It lay in a region that was greatly influenced by the ancient Greeks, as well as by the new Persian conquerors themselves. Because so many different societies either lived in this part of the world or made their influence felt there, the jewelry found in the Holy Land during this period shows the influence of many different traditions of workmanship and decoration. For this reason, we have divided the remains of jewelry from this period into three groups: Persian, Phoenician, and Cypriot.

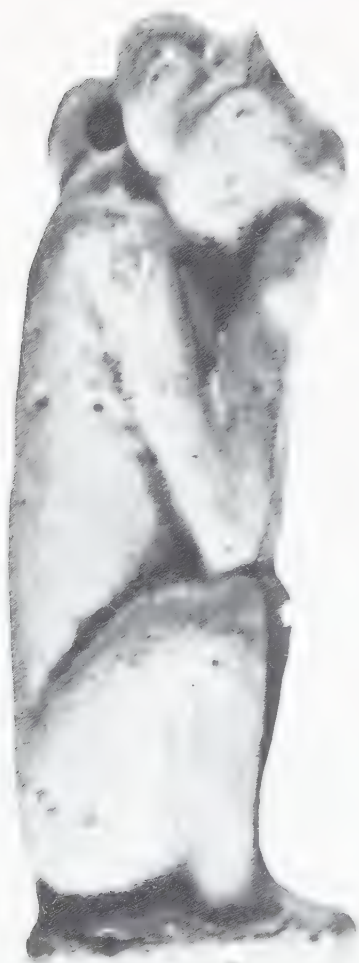


Fig. 1. Fragment of a robe in the form of a tunic, made of (KONIG)



A pottery monkey covered with blue glaze – an amulet from Egypt

The Persian style of jewelry originated in much the same way as did many other distinctive styles of jewelry found in the Holy Land. In earlier times, the people of the area had imitated the style of the Egyptians, since the Egyptians had created the most important civilization in that part of the world. When the Persians ruled the Holy Land, the people who lived there began to imitate the style favored by the Persian rulers. One of the most important features of this style is the use of carved animal heads for decorations and adornment.

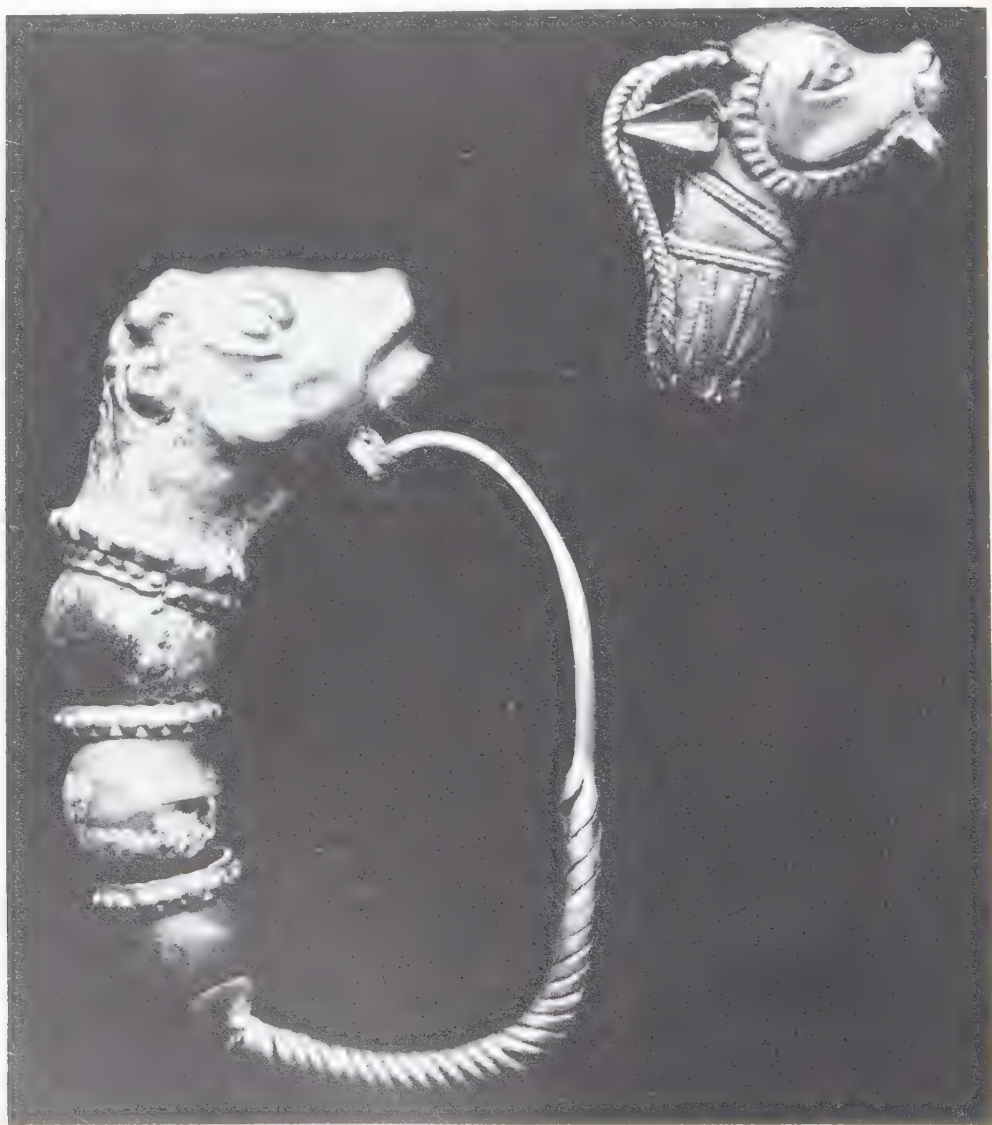
In an ancient town on the shores of the Mediterranean in Israel, archaeologists recently found a tiny earring that — in spite of its small size — provided an example of the Persian style done with fine workmanship. The earring is shaped like a wild goat; when it was worn, the head of the goat dangled upside down. Other earrings nearly identical to this one have been found throughout the widely scattered lands that once belonged to the Persian Empire — from Persia itself westward as far as Italy.

The famous Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem has a similar pair of earrings on display, but this particular pair is carved in the shape of lions'

heads. Earrings like these were also made in the shape of rams, bulls, dolphins, and sphinxes (mythological beasts sacred to the ancient Egyptians, usually having the head of a man and the body of a lion). Occasionally, earrings in this style were even made in the shape of human heads.

Besides earrings, the other jewelry pieces done in the Persian style are mostly bracelets and anklets. In one ancient tomb, archaeologists discovered the remains of a woman who had been buried with two silver anklets. Each one was made from a bar of silver that had been bent around in the shape of a circle. Attached to the ends of the bars were the heads of wild goats made also of silver. Curiously, these anklets were so small that it seemed impossible that the woman could have worn them herself. Archaeologists believe that they may have been given to her when she was a little girl.

Like the earrings, these anklets are typical of many others from this time that have been found by archaeologists and collectors all over the ancient world. Many of these anklets and bracelets were made of silver, but some of them were made entirely of gold. Perhaps the most famous of these pieces is a gold arm-band that



Two earrings, one Persian (right) and one Roman (left), both made in the shape of a goat. Notice that the workmanship of the Persian earring is finer than that of the Roman earring.

is now in the British Museum. The arm-band is made from a bar of gold bent in a circle, with the figures of two winged monsters attached to the ends of the bar. These monsters are made of gold, but their features are formed by many little golden compartments — similar to the cells of a honeycomb — into which small stones of various colors had been set.

A second kind of jewelry found in the Holy Land during the Persian era can be classified as Phoenician. Jewelry in the Phoenician style consists of pendants made of blue, white, or yellow glass. Some of these pendants were fashioned into the shape of human heads — they were worn as amulets on a string or chain. Other pendants, made in geometrical shapes, were worn in necklaces. These pendants seem to have been manufactured in Phoenicia and traded to various parts of the ancient world.

The Cypriot style of jewelry originated on Cyprus, a large island in the Mediterranean Sea, south of the coast of Turkey. The inhabitants of Cyprus, who are called “Cypriots,” produced many ancient artifacts, including jewelry, in their own very distinctive style. Some of the jewelry that has been found in the Holy Land from the period of Persian rule ap-

pears to have been made on Cyprus itself.

This Cypriot jewelry consists of spiral-shaped rings made of bronze, silver, and gold-plated bronze. The rings could be worn either as hair ornaments or as earrings. (We might assume that such earrings were worn in the lower part of the ear, as earrings are in our own society. However, a Cypriot statue has survived that shows a woman wearing one of these earrings — and she is wearing it in the *upper* part of her ear!)

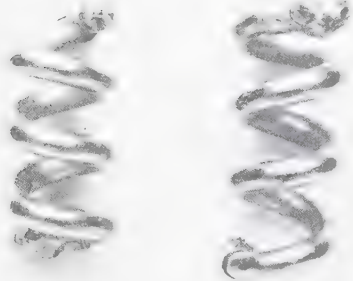
One of the real curiosities of the time of Persian rule is that very little gold jewelry seems to have survived from the period. Archaeologists have excavated numerous tombs from the Persian era, and they have formed a clear picture of what jewelry was worn by the common people. Almost every woman seems to have owned a bronze anklet, a pair of silver earrings, a finger ring (usually of iron) and a necklace of beads. The beads were usually made of glass — which the Phoenicians used with great success — or of faience — which was one of the favorite materials for beads in ancient Egypt. But gold jewelry is very scarce. Someday, some young archaeologist might make a name for himself by explaining why!



A gold arm-band in the Persian style. The faces of the two winged monsters were originally set with small colored stones.



An arm-band from Cyprus



A pair of spiral-shaped rings from Cyprus. The rings were used as hair ornaments or as earrings.

The Persians ruled the Holy Land for many years, but their power came to an end in 331 B.C. In that year, the Greek king Alexander the Great, having conquered most of the lands bordering on the eastern Mediterranean Sea, defeated the Persian army and conquered the entire Persian Empire. For many centuries thereafter, the ancient world would be influenced by a new group of rulers who came not from the east, like the Israelites, Babylonians, and Persians, but from the west. The most important of these rulers were the Greeks and the Romans.

IV THE TIME OF THE GREEKS AND ROMANS

During the first three centuries after the collapse of the Persian Empire, the Holy Land became a part of the Greek-speaking world, which stretched from Italy in the north clear around the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea to Egypt in the south. At this time, the ancient Hebrews were divided into two groups. One group wanted to follow the old traditions of their Israelite ancestors, while the other group wanted to live like Greeks, speaking the Greek language and making their houses and household goods in the Greek style.

When archaeologists study the material objects that have survived from this period, they find two different styles: the Oriental style of the Jews, Persians, and others, and the Western style of the Greeks. Ancient art, architecture, pottery, and coins from this period show these two different influences, and we should also expect to see them in the jewelry of this period as well. Unfortunately, how-

ever, the really distinctive jewelry of the Greeks was gold jewelry, and almost none of it has been found so far in the Holy Land. The reason for this seems to be that the cities that the Greeks established in the Holy Land -- where people are likely to have worn the most gold jewelry -- are still lived in today. Thus, these ancient cities cannot be excavated. After all, people cannot be expected to abandon their homes and move away, simply because some ancient remains lie buried beneath their streets and houses!

In other places in the Holy Land, archaeologists have unearthed simple ornaments from this period, such as small earrings, small carvings of human and animal heads, and pins of silver, bronze, and ivory. Some day, when the cities founded by the Greeks in the Holy Land are finally abandoned, archaeologists of the future will excavate them. Perhaps then they will find the impressive gold jewelry that they believe must be there. For

now, however, we will have to use examples of Greek gold jewelry that have been found in other places.

Achievements of Greek Goldsmiths

Gold jewelry was plentiful during the last three centuries before the birth of Christ, when the Greek towns and cities flourished in the ancient world. The Greeks not only developed their own gold mines in Greece itself, but they also captured the gold mines and treasure hoards of the Persians. In addition to this, the Greek goldsmiths were both skilled and creative, and they soon produced a large quantity of fine gold jewelry, which was traded throughout the ancient world.

The most important achievement of the Greek goldsmiths was their use of stones and glass in combination with gold. This style of jewelry work is called the "polychrome style." Although the polychrome style was not unknown in the ancient world before this time, it was rarely used. Ever since the Greek goldsmiths began to use it in their creations, however, it has been a constant favorite of goldsmiths throughout the world.

Curiously, the main centers of Greek jewelry-making were not in Greece itself. The Greeks built many new towns and cities all over the



A gold earring in the Greek style

Right: A gold chain decorated with a ram's head, found in Syria



ancient world, and these Greek settlements often grew into important cities in their own right. Two of the most important of all these Greek cities in ancient times were Alexandria and Antioch. Alexandria was founded in the year 332 B.C. by Alexander the Great. The city is located in Egypt, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Antioch was founded a few years later near the northeast corner of the Mediterranean, in what is now southern Turkey. These were the cities that produced the finest gold jewelry of Greek workmanship.

Earrings and Necklaces

One of the Greeks' favorite designs for gold jewelry was the use of small animal heads as ornaments. These heads were used in a fairly elaborate type of earring that was made of a hoop of gold decorated with beads of stone, glass, or gold. At the end of the hoop an animal head would be attached. One particularly interesting example is decorated with the heads of dolphins.

Earrings with dangling pendants were also very fashionable at that time, and the Greek goldsmiths made them in great numbers and great variety. The upper part of the earring consisted of a small disc that covered

the hook (the part of the earring that went through the ear lobe). This disc was usually decorated with a stone or with a design made of gold. The lower part of the earring consisted of one or more pendants that hung from the disc, fashioned in the shape of religious symbols, animals, birds, or even common items like wine jugs or bunches of grapes.

Some of these gold pendant earrings were both large and complex. An example from ancient Italy consists of a rectangular shield richly decorated with tiny grains of gold. (You may recall that this method of decorating is called "granulation.") At the bottom of the shield there are two rosettes (flower-shaped decorations) and seven small hooks. The head of a woman is suspended from the hook in the center, and several small pendants are attached to the bottom of the woman's neck. Finally, a replica of a tall pottery jar hangs from each side of the shield. Considering how heavy gold is, the woman who wore these earrings must have had extremely strong ears!

The Arrival of the Romans

In the last centuries before the birth of Christ, a new power was growing in the ancient world. This was the power of Rome, a city on



Greek earrings in the form of gold hoops with animal heads at the ends. The earring on the right bears the head of a dolphin; the one on the left, the head of a goat.



the Italian Peninsula. Rome had begun as a settlement of a few villages early in the first millennium B.C. and had grown into a large and powerful city by the time the Greeks under Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire. Now, in the last hundred years before the birth of Christ, the power of Rome reached as far east as the Holy Land, and the peoples of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, and Greece came to live under Roman rule.

At first, the Romans did not have their own styles of jewelry, art, and architecture. In fact, they so greatly admired the achievement of the Greeks in all areas of art, science, and technology that they enthusiastically continued the traditions of craftsmanship that the Greek artists and artisans had been following.

The two most important centers of Greek jewelry-making, Antioch and Alexandria, continued to work without interruption. They survived the Roman conquest and not only continued their work but actually expanded it. Now their jewelry was being traded throughout a vast empire, in many ways the greatest empire the world has ever seen. Some of the jewelers of Alexandria and Antioch moved to Rome and opened workshops there, attracted by the

wealth and splendor of this great capital city. Soon the Roman rulers were setting the style for much of the ancient world, as the types of jewelry they preferred were copied by many other ancient people.

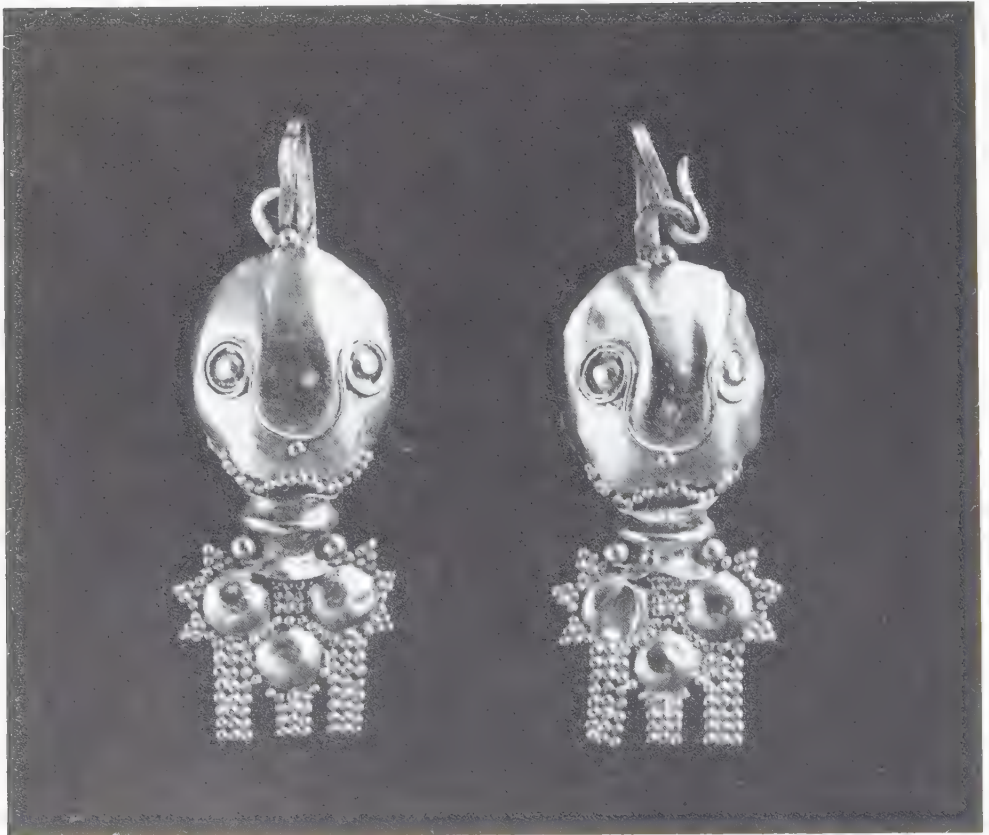
A great deal of jewelry has survived in Egypt from this period of time, especially in Alexandria. But in addition to the jewelry itself, another interesting kind of object has also survived that can give us a great deal of information about the jewelry of that age. This is an object called a "mummy portrait."

Mummy Portraits

A mummy portrait is a picture of a person who has died. The portrait was made on a thin slab of wood called a "plaque," and it was placed over the head of the mummy after it had been wrapped up. The dead person was nearly always shown wearing his or her favorite pieces of jewelry. Thus, from the many mummy portraits that have survived, we have been able to see pictures of a great variety of ancient jewelry.

One mummy portrait from the fertile countryside southwest of Cairo, Egypt, shows a woman wearing a pair of earrings and two interesting necklaces. Each earring consists of a piece of stone or glass cut in the

Left: A very elaborate gold pendant earring from Italy (description on page 56)



A pair of Roman earrings made out of gold

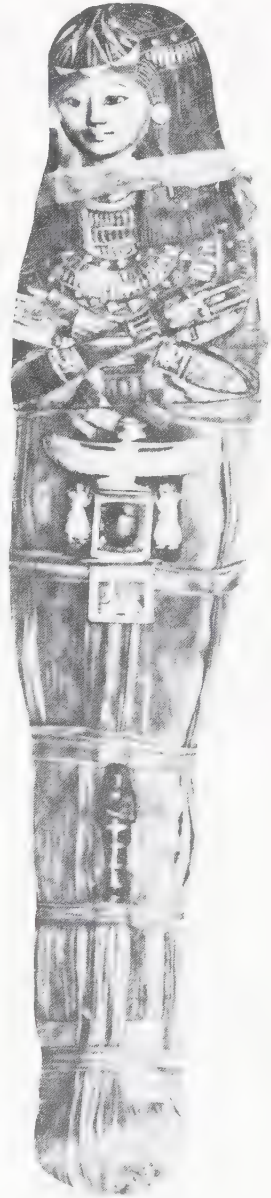
shape of a gem, with a hook attached to it to permit the earring to be hung onto a pierced ear lobe. A horizontal bar is attached to this stone, and three vertical bars are hanging down from it. At the end of each vertical bar, a stone or glass ornament is attached. This was a very popular type of earring. It was worn through-

out the ancient world and continued to be used in Greece and Turkey for several centuries afterwards. One necklace worn by the woman in the portrait consists of a gold chain with a medallion in the center. The other necklace is made of gold beads alternating with blue and green stones.

These mummy portraits almost

always show earrings and necklaces, and they rarely show any other kind of jewelry. They do, however, show hair ornaments for the women, and wreaths of gold for both men and women. A gold wreath was a kind of sculpture, in gold, of intertwined vines (and their leaves), shaped so that it could be worn on the head, almost like a crown. Gold wreaths were first made by the ancient Greeks more than 600 years before the birth of Christ, and they were given as prizes for great accomplishments. These wreaths were dedicated to the gods in the temples and sanctuaries, worn in ceremonies and processions, and often buried with the wreath's owner when he died.

Although little jewelry from the time of the Greeks survived in the Holy Land, this is not the case with jewelry from the time of the Romans. In this chapter, we have seen a few examples of Roman jewelry from outside the Holy Land. The next chapter describes the jewelry found in the Holy Land from Roman times.



Egyptian mummy portrait of a woman adorned with jewelry, from the Roman period

V JEWELERS OF THE HOLY LAND

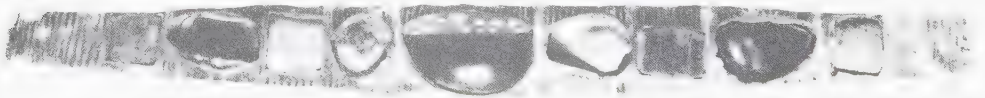
This chapter covers the period of time from the peak of Roman power through its decline and into the centuries that followed the fall of Rome. Throughout this time, the Holy Land was inhabited by members of many different ancient societies, each of which had a slightly different type of jewelry. A wide variety of jewelry has thus survived from these last centuries of ancient times in the Holy Land.

Death Masks

A death mask is a representation of a person's face that is made to be placed over the face after death. Death masks had a long history in ancient times. All over the ancient world, it had long been the custom to cover certain parts of a dead body with thin sheets of gold before it was

buried or wrapped up into a mummy. For example, from a tomb in the ancient seaport of Jaffa in Palestine comes a set of small gold plaques that were used during mummification. There are four plaques for the eyes, nine for the tongue, and two whose purpose is unknown.

Death masks that covered the entire face were used in many parts of the Mediterranean world, including the Holy Land itself. One mask from an area just north of the Holy Land is a realistic representation of a dead woman's face. It not only shows the individual features of her face but her hairdress as well. The Romans improved on this custom by making death masks out of wax, which could be molded more easily into an accurate copy of the dead person's real features.



A diadem of gold and colored stones, from the Holy Land



Small gold plaques used during mummification



A Bronze-Age death mask from Greece, made of gold

Roman Jewelry

Most of the Roman jewelry found in the Holy Land in this period is a continuation of older forms, like the earrings made of a disc or shield hung with pendants. (These first became popular after the conquests of Alexander the Great, many centuries earlier.) At this time, too, a new polychrome style was developed. You may recall that the old polychrome style was a type of gold jewelry

decorated with stones of many colors. In this old style, the stones were small and used purely to make the gold itself — which was the most important material of the jewelry — look fancy.

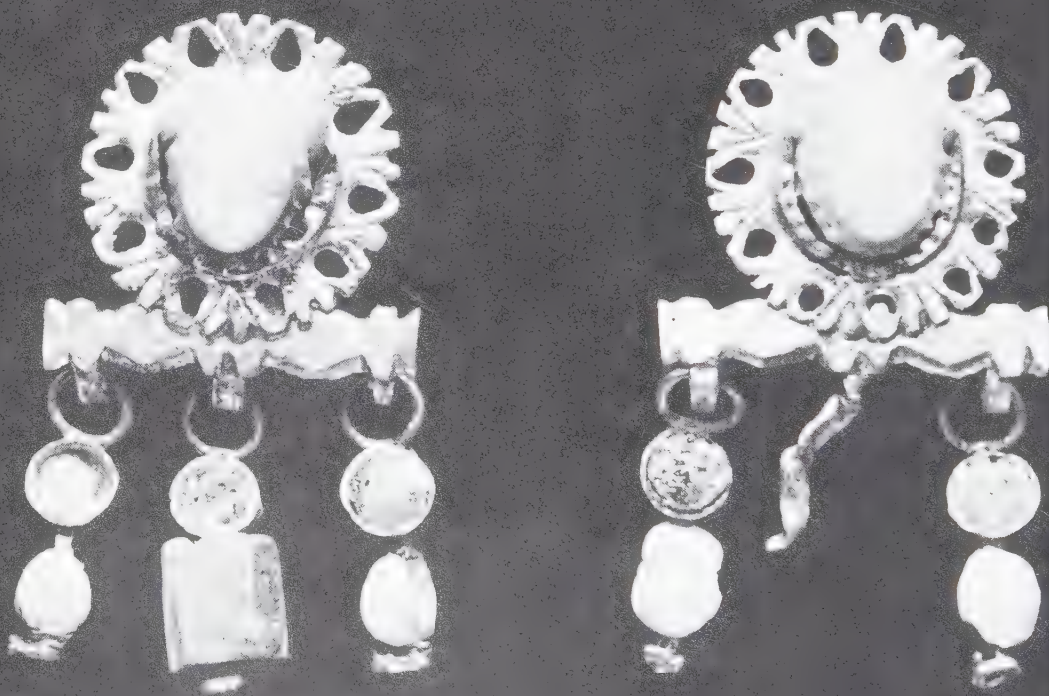
Now, however, the Roman jewelers began to make a kind of polychrome jewelry that featured the stones themselves. They used more beautiful and more numerous stones, and the gold work itself tended to recede into the background, as its main purpose became that of holding the stones in place. This same type of jewelry is still popular today, and you can see dozens of examples of it in every jewelry store window.

Other new techniques in gold work also became popular at that time. One was called “openwork”; it consisted of cutting a shape out of sheet gold and then cutting small pieces out of the shape itself to create a lacy, open pattern. A pair of earrings from Jerusalem at this time shows both the polychrome style and the techniques of openwork: the large stones in the earrings are surrounded by a border of gold openwork.

In the fourth century A.D., as the Roman period was coming to a close, a third new technique was introduced into the making of gold jewelry. This



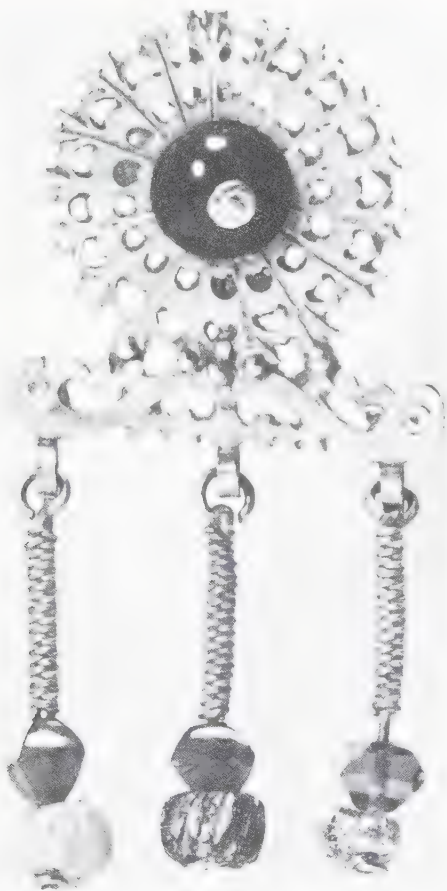
A Roman earring with a gold coin in its center



This pair of Roman earrings found in Jerusalem combines the polychrome style with the technique of openwork.



A gold clasp showing the "niello" technique



A gold earring with an openwork design

is called the “niello technique,” and it consisted of decorating the gold with patterns and designs in black. A black powder was sprinkled on the surface of the gold in a certain design, and then the gold was heated. The heating caused the powder to

melt onto the surface, where it would remain permanently.

Nabataean Jewelry

Southeast of the Holy Land, in ancient times, there was a kingdom called “Nabataea.” The Nabataeans were a desert people who controlled an important caravan route between the Mediterranean and the East, and they prospered as trade between these two parts of the ancient world grew under the Romans. One of the Nabataeans’ important caravan stops was the settlement of Mampsis. A quantity of Nabataean jewelry has been found in the ancient cemetery of this settlement.

Right: A medallion bearing the image of the Byzantine empress Licinia Eudoxia

Overleaf left: A hoard of Arab jewelry from the Holy Land

Overleaf right: The chest-plate ornament of an Egyptian princess







The Nabataean women had all been buried with two pairs of earrings and occasionally a nose ring as well, all made of gold. There were also some bracelets made of other metals, such as silver or iron. The Nabataean men were buried with a single pendant or a coin, which was placed in the dead man's mouth. This was done because the Nabataeans, like the ancient Greeks, believed that the dead person's soul would have to cross the mythical river Styx into the land of the dead. The soul was ferried across the river by a famous ferryman named "Charon." The coins or pendants — and perhaps the extra pair of earrings as well — were payment for Charon, so that he would let the dead person's soul across.

Such a great number and variety of earrings were found at Mampsis that it would be impossible to describe them all here, so we have decided to describe the most interesting of them all. This is a large disc of gold containing the figure of Venus Aphrodite, the goddess of love. She is shown standing among grains of gold that give the impression of being a shrine. In addition, nine other groups of golden grains surround her, two red stones are set on either side of her, and there is a gold wreath around the edge of the disc itself.

More bunches of grains are hanging from the wreath.

The goddess stands upright, facing forward, nude to the waist. The lower part of her body is wrapped in cloth, and her hands are raised to her hair. This is the typical pose of the goddess of love. She was greatly revered and much worshiped by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and her figure has also been found in statuettes of bronze and of gold, in paintings, and in mosaics from ancient times.

Three pendants were found in this desert cemetery, and, strangely enough, they are shaped like dolphins. Dolphins were well known to the ancient sailors and seafarers, and one Roman historian says that humans and dolphins maintained friendly relations in ancient times. Ancient people were apparently just as impressed as we are by the cleverness and friendliness of the dolphins. Many ancient people believed that it was possible to predict the weather by watching the dolphins' movements in the sea.

But what are dolphin pendants doing in the graveyard of a desert people like the Nabataeans? Archaeologists and historians believe that the Nabataean merchants traveled by sea with some of their caravan goods.

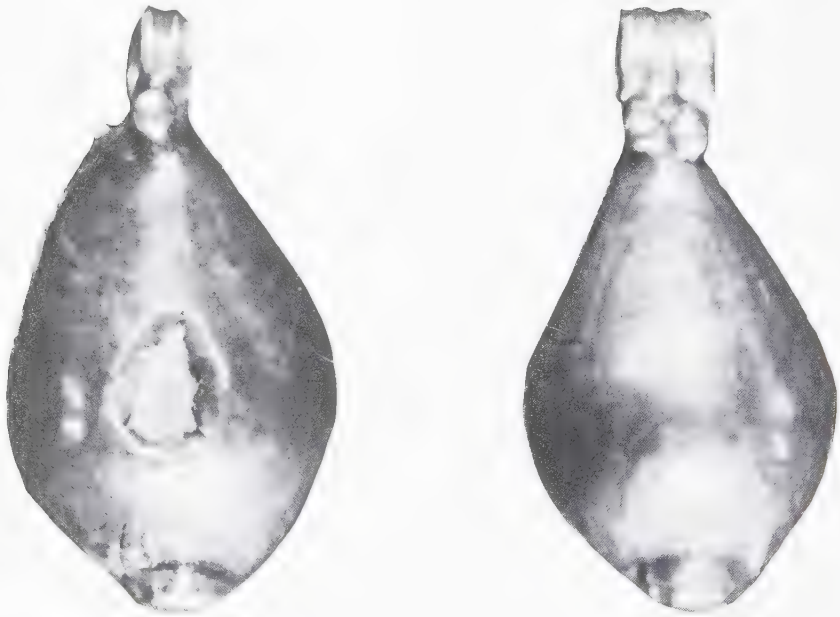
Left: A forehead ornament worn by Jewish women in the southern part of the Soviet Union. This piece of jewelry is made in a style that has changed little since ancient times. (See page 79.)



Earring from Mampsis containing the image of Venus-Aphrodite



Nabataean gold earrings made by using the technique of granulation



Gold pendants shaped like dolphins

In fact, a Nabataean inscription has been found as far away as Naples, Italy. Perhaps the Nabataeans were so impressed by the dolphins they saw on their sea voyages that they kept pendants of this remarkable animal as good luck charms.

The Time of the Byzantines

In the fourth century A.D., the Christian religion was adopted by a number of Roman rulers, and the persecution of the Christians came

to an end in the Roman Empire. At that time, Christian subjects and symbols began to appear on jewelry. During this same period, the eastern part of the Roman Empire gradually broke away from Rome, as the western part of the Empire declined. This eastern empire, with its new capital established in the ancient city of Byzantium, became the first major power to adopt Christianity as its official religion. The empire was called the "Byzantine Empire," and



A Byzantine necklace with a medallion displaying an image of the Virgin Mary



This gold medal contains a representation of the Annunciation — the angle Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she is to be the mother of Jesus.

it lasted for more than a thousand years.

The Byzantines made and used nearly all of the types of the ancient jewelry that you have been reading about in this book. In addition, they wore religious medallions. Although the Christian church prohibited the use of charms, the wearing of charms for luck and protection was so common in ancient times that the early Christians did it anyway.

These medallions were often made of gold, and they usually displayed an image of someone important in Christianity. Often there was an inscription in Greek, which was the language of the Byzantine Empire. This inscription might be a quotation from the Bible, a prayer, or some other religious message.

Although the Jews continued to live and worship in the Holy Land under the rule of the Byzantines, few of the medallions or other jewelry pieces from this period showed Jewish religious subjects. One of the few that did had an inscription on the reverse side in Greek, not Hebrew.

The Last Years of Ancient Society

In the seventh century A.D., the Arab peoples, inspired by a great new religion called "Islam," conquered most of the lands along the

southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, including the Holy Land itself. With the Arab conquest, our study of ancient jewelry comes to an end. (A few pieces of Arab jewelry are illustrated here so that you may compare them with the jewelry of other period.) With the spread of Islamic civilization, ancient society was transformed, and the Middle Ages began.

The traditions and techniques invented by the ancient jewelers are still in use today. This is especially true in the making of gold jewelry; many of the shapes and decorations used by modern goldsmiths are actually copies of ancient jewelry pieces. In some very traditional communities, gold jewelry in ancient styles also continues to be made, each generation of goldsmiths remaining faithful to the work of the previous generation. For instance, a community of Jews in the southern part of the Soviet Union is still using jewelry similar in style to the jewelry of the Byzantines themselves!

It may seem odd to think that jewelry, which is a luxury item worn mostly for fun and for beauty, should have such a long and varied history, reaching back beyond the beginnings of civilization into the dimmest history of the human species.



Arab gold bead



A gold nose ring. The nose ring was a popular type of Arab jewelry.

The next time you look at a piece of jewelry, whether it is an anklet, a bracelet, a pendant, a ring, a necklace, a pair of earrings, or a hair ornament, try to remember how truly ancient an object it is. Today, we use almost none of the objects invented and used by ancient people, except for jewelry. Our clothes,

houses, sources of light and heat, means of transportation and communication, furniture, and tools are all different. But our jewelry is the same — with one important exception. We don't wear nose rings any more. Perhaps we should bring back the nose ring and make it a perfect record!

GLOSSARY

<i>agate</i>	A fine-grained stone, often reddish in color, containing a pattern of light and dark bands.
<i>amethyst</i>	A purple- or violet-colored crystalline stone, often cut in the shape of a gem.
<i>amulet</i>	A small object of religious or magical value used to ward off evil or to bring luck.
<i>anklet</i>	A piece of jewelry made to be worn around the ankle, in the same way that a bracelet is made to be worn around the wrist.
<i>beryl</i>	A very hard stone, often found in large hexagonal crystals and in a variety of colors. An emerald is a green variety of beryl.
<i>calcite</i>	A crystalline form of calcium carbonate, a mineral that may also occur in the form of limestone, chalk, or marble.
<i>cenotaph</i>	A monument erected to the memory of a dead person, whose body is buried elsewhere.
<i>chalcedony</i>	A form of quartz with a lustrous or waxy appearance.
<i>coral</i>	A stone-like substance produced by tiny sea creatures, usually red, pink, or white in color.
<i>cornelian</i>	A red or reddish-brown form of chalcedony. Also called “carnelian.”

<i>cylinder seals</i>	Small cylinders of some hard material, carved with the impression of a pattern or design that can be pressed onto a soft substance, such as wax or clay.
<i>diadem</i>	A headpiece or crown worn by royalty.
<i>embossing</i>	Stamping a pattern or design onto a substance such as metal or leather with a hard tool that has been carved into the desired shape.
<i>faience</i>	A type of pottery made in ancient Egypt, which was glazed with various mineral substances. Faience was used to create small objects in a variety of brilliant colors.
<i>feldspar</i>	An aluminum-bearing stone, sometimes occurring in its pure form as a transparent crystal.
<i>garnet</i>	A crystalline stone often found embedded in other kinds of rock. Garnets come in many colors, but the most common is a dark red variety.
<i>glaze</i>	A hard, glass-like coating, melted onto the surface of pottery during the process of firing the finished article.
<i>granulation</i>	The process of decorating jewelry by applying tiny metal grains to the surface of the ornament.
<i>headtire</i>	An ancient headband or headdress.
<i>hematite</i>	A black crystalline rock, composed mainly of iron.
<i>jasper</i>	An opaque variety of quartz, usually red in color but also occurring in green, brown, and yellow varieties as well.
<i>lapis lazuli</i>	A gemstone of a deep blue color, often flecked with tiny golden crystals of iron pyrites.

- malachite* A chemical compound of copper, dark green in color, used as a gem in its crystalline form.
- mantle* A sleeveless cloak, worn as an outer garment.
- mother of pearl* A pearly substance that coats the inside of certain sea shells. Mother of pearl is used in jewelry and as decorations in fine woodwork.
- niello* A method of decorating the surface of a metal object. A black compound of sulphur is applied in patterns, and then the object is heated, melting the powdery compound onto the surface.
- onyx* A variety of quartz similar to agate, containing regular parallel bands of light and dark stone.
- openwork* A method of decorating jewelry that involves cutting out pieces of the metal in a particular pattern or design.
- pectoral* An ornament or decoration worn on the chest.
- pendant* An ornament that hangs from a necklace, bracelet, or earring.
- pharaoh* One of the kings of ancient Egypt.
- plaque* A flat slab of some hard material, such as wood or metal, containing a decoration and used for an ornamental purpose.
- polychrome* A style of jewelry-making in which stones of different colors were used on the same ornament. The term is derived from Greek words meaning "many-colored."
- repoussé* A technique of decoration in which a design is hammered into the reverse side of a metal sheet.

causing it to be raised from the surface on the front side. From a French word meaning “pushed back.”

sard

A form of chalcedony with a deep reddish color.

sardonyx

A form of onyx containing sard and other minerals in bands of alternating colors.

serpentine

A mineral containing magnesium, usually greenish and translucent, with a silky luster.

sheet gold

Gold in the form of thin sheets that could be easily cut and shaped.

turquoise

A mineral containing a compound of copper and aluminum, blue-green in color. Turquoise is highly valued as a gem stone.

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RENATE ROSENTHAL is a research student of classical archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Miss Rosenthal came to Israel to study archaeology at the age of 20. During the course of her studies, she participated in several major excavations. She first became interested in jewelry and its history while working on an excavation at Mampsis, where many exquisite pieces of jewelry were discovered. Miss Rosenthal has written a number of articles on classical archaeology, and she is now studying for her Ph.D.

RICHARD L. CURRIER received his A.B. and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. He has done field work in Mexico and in Greece and has taught anthropology both at Berkeley and at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Currier now devotes full time to writing and research.

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