

General Information

Admission is Free

Opening Hours

Weekdays 10-5

Sundays 2.30-6

Closed 23-26 December, 1 January

Good Friday and 7 May

Public Lectures and Films

The lectures, gallery talks and films are free.

Lectures and films are held in the Lecture Theatre in the Assyrian Basement. Lectures Tuesday to Saturday, films Tuesday to Friday each week. Full programmes are available on request.

The public lectures are not intended for parties from schools and colleges. Introductory talks for such parties may be arranged with the British Museum Education Office.

The Museum does not provide general guided tours.

Coffee Shop

The British Museum Coffee Shop is open weekdays 10.30-4.15, and Sundays 2.30-5.15.

Wheelchairs

Wheelchairs are available by prior arrangement, at both the Main Entrance in Great Russell Street, and the North Entrance in Montague Place.

Lifts at both entrances give access to the upper galleries.

Toilet facilities for disabled visitors are located in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery and the New Wing Special Exhibitions Gallery, both on the ground floor.

Book Shop

(British Museum Publications Ltd)

Books, postcards, posters, replicas and other items are available from several sales points.

(Please note that these close 10-15 minutes before the galleries.)

**BRITISH
MUSEUM**

Great Russell Street
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The Jeweller's Art

The Hull Grundy Gift



The Jeweller's Art

The Hull Grundy Gift

A special exhibition has been mounted to acknowledge the magnificent gift which Professor and Mrs Hull Grundy made to the Museum in July 1978. Arrangements are being made for its permanent installation within the suite of galleries devoted to the European decorative arts.

Rich in fine jewellery of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Hull Grundy Gift presents technically and historically an unparalleled range that will both delight the eye and repay close study. Gem-set and paste jewellery, so rarely found unaltered, is splendidly represented by continental and English pieces; an Italian aigrette of gold and diamonds have survived with its screw attachment and pin in the original form, rare evidence of the mechanics of these glittering eighteenth century hair ornaments.

An important group of nineteenth century "historical revival" jewellery includes unpublished pieces with rare signatures, key documents in the study of relationships between archaeological discoveries and jewellery design.

Exceptional in its completeness is the group of sculptural gold jewellery, dragons, grotesque beasts, birds, etc., which originated mainly in Paris in the 1870s and 1880s. Strikingly accomplished examples of rare techniques, like plique-a-jour enamel survive from the Art Nouveau period, each conceived as a miniature work of art.

In complete contrast, delicate work in the Japanese taste is seen at its best in some rare gold jewellery from Tiffany of New York, pieces perhaps made by Japanese craftsmen in the Tiffany workshops.

Less spectacular but historically most valuable is the vast variety of sentimental and mourning jewellery. Charms and "toys", often with their humorous and rather personal messages, form another interesting group.

In the area of cameos and engraved gems, the Hull Grundy Gift complements the Museum's comprehensive survey from the earliest period, enriching the weakest section, the 18-19th centuries. Fortunately, many of the cameos and engraved gems in the Gift are still in their original, splendidly designed settings: pendants, bracelets, finger-rings or brooches. Examples from earlier periods show the broad pattern of development; there are classical cameos and intaglios set in contemporary, medieval or later gold finger rings. Similarly, the 19th century fashion for classical coins set in the centre of pieces of jewellery can here be compared with a most rare early Byzantine gold chain of coins of the Emperor Justinian I.

The collection of chatelaines and boxes, especially gold snuff-boxes and piqué tortoiseshell boxes is an important adjunct to the group of *objets de vertu* which contains, for example, a unique French gold tambour-hook holder of Madame de Pompadour's time (c. 1760). Luxury objects of this small scale formed a significant part of the "Jeweller's Art".

**BRITISH
MUSEUM** *Main Entrance
Great Russell Street*