



JEWELLERY



When it comes to collecting items, jewellery is perhaps one of the first we would consider that can more easily be collected in the personal sphere. These items that can be worn on the body are often chosen for collecting and commemorating, and in contrast to the jewellery collected by museums, **the items in our personal collections don't have to be of high value or rare material but can in fact just obtain individual meaning.**

Since ancient times, rare jewellery, precious metal accessories and watches have been popular among people and collectors, not only because they show one's taste and socio-economic status but also because they are heirlooms and commemorative. Hence, people are more willing to take the trouble to collect them.

We can determine the origin of these earrings and jewellery by the material, style, use, pattern, colour and content form, and the purpose of the jewellery, such as ritual or memorial, by the pattern and content form.





PENDANT NECKLACE

550 - 450 BC

unknown artist / maker

Digital image courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program

This amber and gold foils and filigree bead necklace was recognized by the Getty Centre as an Italian-made amber artefact. Aquileia, an important port city in southern Italy, often had raw amber stones imported from the North Sea and the Baltic Sea at the time, and the necklace had a strong Mediterranean style and was popular at the time, as **amber and gold beads were considered to be a great wedding proposal tool at the time.**

The necklace was donated to the Getty Centre in 1977 by Gordon McLendon, whose father-in-law was a partner in the controversial oil company, **leading us to wonder if the acquisition and donation of this object was solely motivated by monetary value, related to the oil background of the Getty Centre's founder.**

Donated to the J. Paul
Getty Museum 1977





A pair of earrings from ancient Egypt made of feathers, glass and textiles. Why do you think people used feathers, glass and textiles to make earrings in ancient times?

One pair of earrings
4th century A.D.
Unknown artist/maker
Sold to the J.Paul Getty Museum 1982

The snake bracelet was made in ancient Egypt as well. People still make accessories with animal sharps nowadays; think about why people tend to wear animal-sharped accessories, such as lions, tigers and snakes or birds. Do you notice that most of the famous jewellery bands all have their own representative symbolic animals?



Snake Bracelet
100 B.C.–A.D. 100
Unknown artist/maker
Sold to the J.Paul Getty Museum 1984

Digital images courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program

