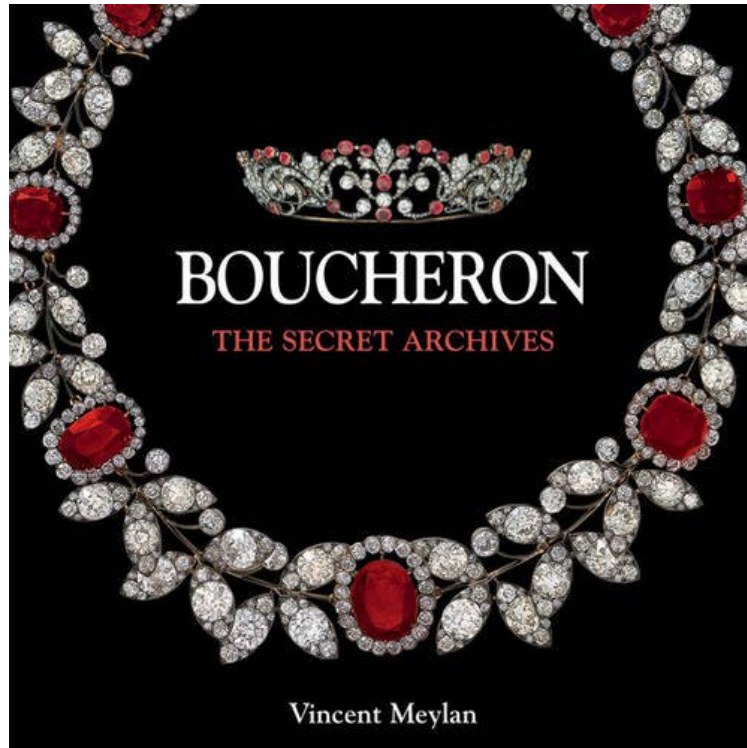


Boucheron: The Secret Archives

Vincent Meylan

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Vincent Meylan : Boucheron: The Secret Archives before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boucheron: The Secret Archives:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Jewelries with intrigues, affairs and mysteries By Bookworm70I had only a glance of this book and what caught my attention was the stories behind these wonderful creations. From courtesans to royalties, from femme fatale to philanthropist, they all share the same passion Boucheron. This will be a jewel on your coffee table and Boucheron will never fail to entice your guests. I salute the author for his research. 23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. An excellent work By Customer An excellent work showing quite a bit of early Boucheron jewelry and showcasing the clients who made the house. Their personal stories were both heartbreaking and riveting, and the biographies were told well. The illustrations of the historic gemstone registers with descriptions and pricing were most interesting. These pages alone were worth the cost of the book. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. just beautiful! By maritz just breathtaking and inspires me for my abstract paintings! great book as a gift or to start a collection. enjoy!!!

The House of Boucheron represents one of the great Parisian jewellers of the last 150 years. Founder, Frédéric Boucheron opened his first shop in 1858. Many of his clients were not women of society, but femmes fatales of the demi-monde. Nonetheless, his skill with precious stones and his absolute discretion made him a favorite of both courtesans and princes. In turn his business flourished allowing him to move to the famous Place Vendôme in 1892. Having been given unprecedented access to the Boucheron vaults, the book's author, Vincent Meylan, made some

remarkable discoveries. Perhaps the most significant was a register labeled Book of Stones. It is a record of all the precious stones that have entered Boucheron's stock; diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, rubies and pearls are all indexed according to weight, price and, most importantly, who bought and sold them. Meylan also uncovered almost 200 order books and 150 letters. It is these Secret Archives that have enabled him to reveal the fascinating history of Boucheron and his extraordinary, colorful clientele. From the Ladies of Sin to the King and Queens of the World Meylan reveals the riveting stories behind the jewels that the Parisian jeweller sold; the desires they aroused, the madness they provoked, the love they formalized, and the deaths they caused. Boucheron's clients included Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, La Belle Otero, King Farouk of Egypt, and the Shah of Iran. The demands of these wealthy individuals led to the sensational orders that elevated Boucheron to the highest level of creativity. This captivating and revealing publication includes original design sketches, black and white archive images and sumptuous color photographs of the exquisite Boucheron creations, including Tsarina Alexandra's pearl and diamond coronet and The Queen Mother's tiara.

The documentation paired with the quality of the jewelry makes this volume a real treat for students, gemologists, appraisers, and any jewelry professional who seeks to understand the Art Deco style that Belperron exemplified so masterfully. (Gems and Gemology) About the Author Vincent Meylan is responsible for the 'history and royalty' pages in *Point de Vue*. He is also a specialist in precious stones and in 'haute joaillerie'. He is the author of several biographies and of *Queens' Jewels* (Assouline, 2005).