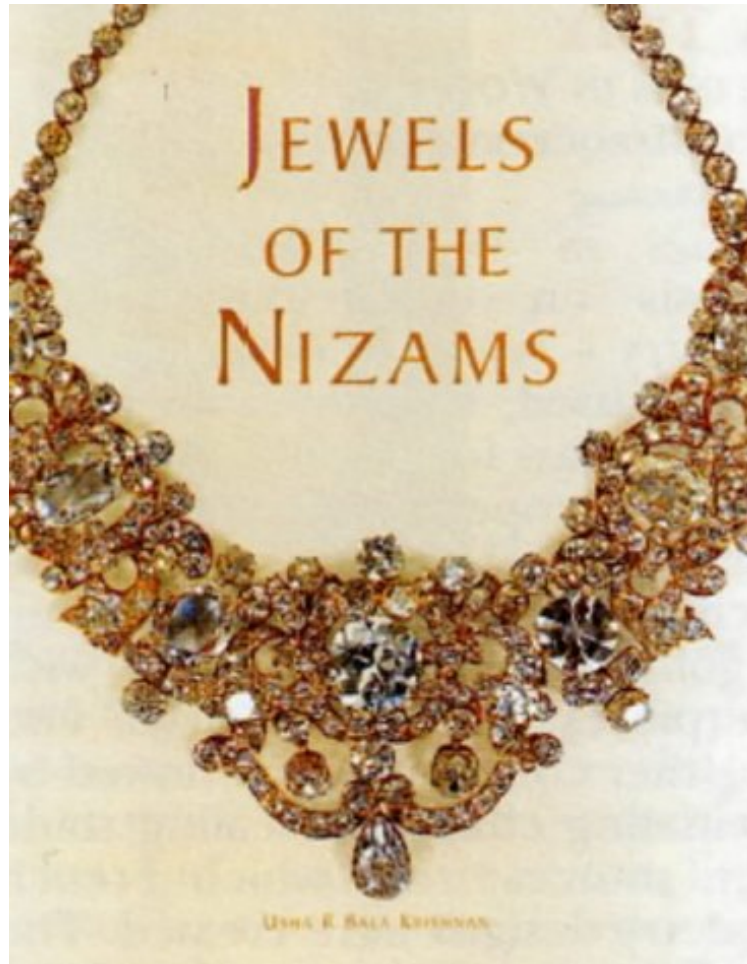


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Jewels of the Nizams

Usha R. Krishnan

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Usha R. Krishnan : Jewels of the Nizams before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jewels of the Nizams:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing...By RahulAmazing coffee table book.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. beautiful bookBy silvermaneSFi collect large "coffee table" style books on jewelry and this is an excellent one, beautifully photographed and well written.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting BookBy Bookworm70Among the five hundred plus rulers of Native States of India,Hyderabad was the biggest and its Prince called Nizam the richestof all. According to Times Magazine (22 February 1937)"India has no native state so rich, potent and extensive asHyderabad which is about the size of the United Kingdom andthere last week the Royal Family of the Asatia Dynastycelebrated the Silver Jubilee of "The Richest Man in the World,"Although Hyderabad had a Muslim ruler, his Subjects were mostlyHindus. The last Nizam refused to join the newly formed IndianState in 1947. As a result, the Indian Army invaded his countryfrom all points of the compass.

Nevertheless, they kept their jewels for a time. The Princely jewelry collection was famous for their exquisite designs and beauty. In this book, each item is categorized and discussed in an interesting fashion. Unlike the other royal collections of Native States which were sold, disappeared or broken and distributed, the bulk of the Nizam's collection remains in India. It was purchased from the Royal Family by the Government thus it secured they remain within the country as patrimony of the Nizams.

One of the most outstanding collections of gemstones and jewellery was acquired by the Indian government in 1995. Sometimes worn but never shown, these jewels once belonged to the Nizams of Hyderabad, reputed to be the richest men in the world. Jewels of the Nizams is the first ever study and documentation of this collection. Once part of the Nizams' state regalia and personal heritage, the ornaments date from the early 18th century to the early 20th century. Finely crafted from gold and silver and highlighted with exquisite enamelling, the jewels are set with Colombian emeralds, diamonds from the Golconda mines, Burmese rubies and spinels, and pearls from Basra and India. Though only a fraction of the legendary wealth of the Asaf Jah dynasty, the collection is breathtaking when translated into gem weights. There are over 25,000 diamonds weighing in excess of 12,000 carats, more than 2,000 emeralds weighing over 10,000 carats, and pearls exceeding 40,000 chows. Jewels of the Nizams documents this unique collection of jewels that give credence to legends, apocryphal tales and fading memories of a fabulously wealthy dynasty that ruled the Deccan for seven generations.

From Library Journal A dynasty of seven generations that spanned 224 years, the Nizam-ul-Mulk (Asaf Jah) rulers of Hyderabad assembled a legendary collection of priceless jewels whose mystery only increased with a 23-year legal battle between the government of India and the heirs of the Asaf Jah dynasty. Worn primarily for ceremonial occasions, these jewels now belong to India, following one of the most anticipated, costly, and lengthy jewelry sales in history, lasting from 1972 until 1995. In this splendid work, Indian jewelry scholar Krishnan (coauthor, *Dance of the Peacock: Jewellery Traditions of India*) tells the story behind the jewels and the jewelry trust, the Asaf Jah dynasty, and the sale to the Indian government. Each item is among the finest specimens of Deccami, Rahasthani, and Lucknavi workmanship and is spectacularly photographed with accompanying description and brief historical context. Among the items included are gemstones, turban ornaments, necklaces and pendants, belts and buckles, earrings, armbands, bangles and bracelets, anklets, cufflinks and buttons, watch chains, and toe rings and nose rings, each encrusted with diamonds, rubies, spinels, emeralds, or pearls. Highly recommended for collections focusing on decorative arts and jewelry. Stephen Allan Patrick, East Tennessee State Univ. Lib., Johnson City Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. [A] beautifully photographed and catalogued book; sparkles with the vivid descriptions of the Nizam's untold treasures -- Sunday Mid Day, Jan. 13, 2002 [S]pectacularly photographed with accompanying description and brief historical context; splendid work -- Library Journal, Editorial [T]he first ever study and documentation work; of the Nizams of Hyderabad's legendary jewellery. --The Asian Age, Dec. 12, 2001 About the Author Usha Ramamrutham Bala Krishnan has a PhD in Ancient Indian Culture and a post-doctorate degree in Museum Studies. She has worked for the Brooklyn Museum, New York - where she pioneered and steered the museum's Mughal Jewellery project - and has also catalogued Indian jewellery in the collection of the Musée Barbier-Mueller, Geneva. Bala Krishnan has been researching, writing and lecturing on the subject of Indian jewellery for many years. A fine arts consultant based in Mumbai, she writes on various aspects of classical and contemporary Indian art for publications around the world. Usha R Bala Krishnan is also co-author of *Dance of the Peacock: Jewellery Traditions of India*.