

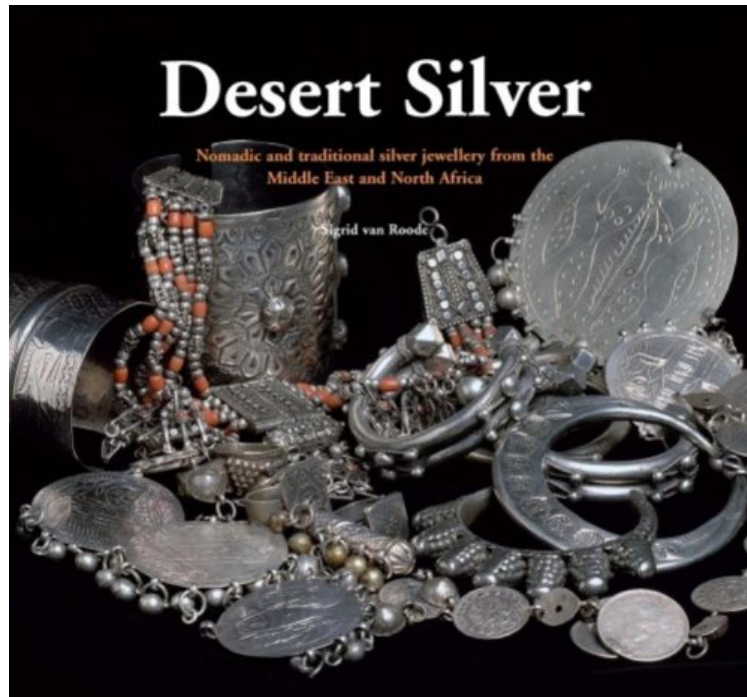
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Sigrid van Roode

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(Mobile library) Desert Silver: Nomadic and Traditional Silver Jewellery From the Middle East and North Africa

Desert Silver: Nomadic and Traditional Silver Jewellery From the Middle East and North Africa

Sigrid van Roode : Desert Silver: Nomadic and Traditional Silver Jewellery From the Middle East and North Africa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desert Silver: Nomadic and Traditional Silver Jewellery From the Middle East and North Africa:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AerdnaGreat reference book for my business0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy martin Isaacsonthe best11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A fine and helpful monographBy Joost DaalderSigrid van Roode has produced a short but value-packed book on her chosen topic. In fact it is remarkable how much she has managed to cover, and without superficiality, while yet her book is eminently readable, and indeed enjoyable to anyone who wants to learn about her subject. The book is very intelligent and scholarly, yet written most attractively in a style at once engaging and lucid. Few native speakers of English write so well as this Dutch author! As the husband of Truus Daalder, whose heavy tome *Ethnic Jewellery and Adornment* has been very well received, and as a passionate collector myself, I feel I have learned a good deal from van Roode's book, and I am sure she has a great future ahead of her as a student of ethnic jewellery who is sure to write a great deal more on that subject and to do so authoritatively. Many have praised this book, and have done so justly: we shall all be looking out for publications to come.

Some of the oldest civilizations in the world originated along the fertile banks of the Nile, Tigris and Euphrates rivers,

and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa have been cultural melting pots ever since. The trade routes adopted by the regions nomads linked colorful cultures and time-long traditions like so many beads on a string. And indeed it is in the regions jewelery that its many-layered history of tribes and empires, nomads and villagers is perhaps best seen. From an archaeological point of view, decorative details and motifs can be traced back centuries, sometimes even millennia. This book, *Desert Silver*, explores the social, economic and religious background of this jewelery. The traditional silver jewelery of the region combines a variety of aspects of desert life. As the unalienable property of a woman, it has practical, economic value; it serves as a social indicator and reveals where the wearer comes from, how rich she is and her status as a wife and mother. Perhaps more importantly it is frequently worn as a powerful amulet.

Jewelery plays a subtle role in everyday society as communicator, messenger and bank account, and all of these aspects are discussed in the book and illustrated with rich examples, from Palestinian wedding necklaces made from fragrant cloves to the brightly enamelled bracelets of the Maghreb. The different functions fulfilled by jewelery are rooted deep within society, so changes within that society inevitably impact its jewellery. Now that traditional societies are changing fast, what does the future hold for the traditional silver jewellery of the Middle East and North Africa, jewelery that has remained unchanged for centuries?

"The ancients embraced silver just as much as gold for their decorative needs. *Desert Silver: Nomadic and Traditional Silver Jewelry from the Middle East and North Africa* investigates the styles used throughout the southern half of the Mediterranean sea through some of Humanity's oldest civilizations. This jewelry proves to have practical value and comfort for the peoples of the desert life that managed to tell their status without being too clunky. *Desert Silver* is a must for anyone with a taste for the ancient classical styles of history. About the Author Sigrid van Roode is a heritage management consultant and an expert in traditional jewelry from the Middle East and North Africa. For nearly 15 years, she has been studying traditional jewelry. She is the author of two books for children on Egypt and Oman, as well as of several publications on heritage management and archaeology. Sigrid lectures on traditional jewelry, richly illustrated with both colorful photographs and original pieces. In addition, she provides consultancy to museums on items of nomadic, tribal and traditional silver jewelry from the Middle East and North Africa in their collections. Upon request she researches background information on collections or individual pieces and provides exhibitions with a selection of jewelry. Her field of consultancy, in which she is a Marie Curie Research Fellow, focuses on drawing sustainable policies for heritage sites, including legal and financial implications as well as embedding the sites in a wider cultural context.