

coro jewelry a collectors guide identification values

Coro jewelry a collectors guide identification values is a fascinating topic for both seasoned collectors and newcomers alike. Coro, an American costume jewelry manufacturer founded in 1901, is renowned for its innovative designs and high-quality craftsmanship. Over the decades, Coro has produced a vast array of pieces, from whimsical brooches to elegant necklaces, making it a staple in the world of fashion jewelry. This article delves into the history of Coro, tips for identifying genuine pieces, and the values associated with various items, ultimately serving as a comprehensive guide for collectors.

History of Coro Jewelry

Coro was established by Emanuel Cohn and Carl Rosenberger in New York City. The brand quickly gained recognition for its stylish and affordable jewelry, catering to a wide audience. Coro's innovative spirit is exemplified in several key developments within the company:

Key Milestones

1. The Introduction of the 'Coro' Mark: In the 1940s, Coro began using the signature "Coro" stamp on its jewelry, which became a symbol of its quality and design.
2. The Launch of CoroCraft: In the 1930s, Coro introduced the CoroCraft line, which featured higher-end pieces made from more expensive materials.
3. The Advent of the Duette: Coro created the Duette pin in the 1930s, a two-part brooch that could be worn separately or together, showcasing the brand's ingenuity.

Coro's production continued until the 1970s, when the company faced financial difficulties and eventually ceased operations. Nevertheless, Coro jewelry remains highly sought after by collectors today.

Identifying Coro Jewelry

For collectors looking to identify Coro jewelry, understanding the various characteristics that distinguish genuine pieces is crucial. Here are some essential tips for recognizing authentic Coro items:

Understanding the Marks

- Coro Stamp: Most Coro pieces will feature a "Coro" signature. This mark can vary in style depending on the era, so familiarity with these variations is essential.
- CoroCraft: If you come across a piece marked "CoroCraft," you are likely looking at a high-quality item made from premium materials.

- Coro Duette: Look for pieces with the Duette mark, which indicates a two-part design. This is a distinctive feature that adds to the value of the piece.

Material and Craftsmanship

- Materials: Coro often used materials such as gold-tone or silver-tone metal, rhinestones, and enamel. Pay attention to the quality of the materials used, as genuine Coro jewelry will have a well-crafted finish.
- Construction: Authentic Coro pieces display excellent craftsmanship, with sturdy clasps, secure settings for stones, and smooth edges.

Design Details

- Styling: Coro's designs vary widely, from Art Deco to Retro styles. Familiarity with the design trends of these eras will help you identify the period of a piece.
- Innovative Features: Look for unique features like the Duette pins, which showcase Coro's inventive spirit.

Values of Coro Jewelry

Understanding the value of Coro jewelry requires knowledge of various factors, including rarity, condition, style, and demand. Below are some key considerations for evaluating the worth of a piece:

Factors Influencing Value

1. Rarity: Limited-edition pieces or those from specific collections, such as CoroCraft, tend to command higher prices.
2. Condition: The overall condition of the piece significantly impacts its value. Items in excellent condition with original stones and finishes are more desirable.
3. Demand: Popular styles or trends can drive demand for certain pieces, influencing their market value.
4. Provenance: A piece's history, such as previous ownership or notable associations, can enhance its worth.

Price Ranges

While the value of Coro jewelry can vary widely, here are some general price ranges based on the type and condition of the piece:

- Brooches: Prices can range from \$20 to \$1,000, with rare or intricate designs commanding the highest prices.
- Necklaces: Typically, Coro necklaces can be found from \$30 to \$500, depending on the design and materials used.
- Bracelets: Coro bracelets often range from \$25 to \$300, with some unique styles fetching higher prices.
- Earrings: Prices for earrings can start as low as \$10 and go up to \$200 for more elaborate designs.

Where to Buy Coro Jewelry

For collectors seeking to expand their Coro jewelry collections, several avenues exist for purchasing authentic pieces:

Online Auctions and Marketplaces

- eBay: A popular platform for finding a wide range of Coro jewelry, but be sure to verify the seller's reputation and the authenticity of the item.
- Etsy: This marketplace often features vintage and handmade items, including Coro jewelry.
- Ruby Lane: Known for its antiques and collectibles, Ruby Lane is a reliable source for Coro pieces.

Antique Shops and Estate Sales

- Local Antique Stores: Visiting antique shops can yield hidden gems. Knowledgeable staff may assist in identifying and appraising items.
- Estate Sales: Keep an eye out for estate sales, where you may find Coro jewelry among other vintage treasures.

Jewelry Shows and Fairs

- Gem and Jewelry Shows: These events can be great opportunities to find Coro pieces, interact with other collectors, and learn more about the brand.

Caring for Coro Jewelry

To ensure the longevity of your Coro jewelry, proper care and maintenance are essential. Here are some tips for preserving your collection:

Cleaning

- Use a soft cloth to gently wipe the surface of the jewelry after wearing it to remove oils and dirt.
- For more thorough cleaning, use a mild soap solution and a soft brush, but avoid soaking the pieces.

Storage

- Store Coro jewelry in a dry, cool place, preferably in separate compartments to prevent scratching.
- Consider using anti-tarnish pouches or cloths to protect metal pieces from tarnishing.

Regular Inspection

- Periodically check your jewelry for loose stones, damaged clasps, or signs of wear, and address any issues promptly to prevent further damage.

Conclusion

Coro jewelry is not only a testament to the artistry of costume design but also a rewarding area for collectors. By understanding the history, identification methods, and valuation of Coro pieces, collectors can navigate the market with confidence. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or just starting, the charm and elegance of Coro jewelry continue to captivate, ensuring its place in the hearts of collectors for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Coro jewelry and why is it significant for collectors?

Coro jewelry refers to a brand that was established in 1901 and became one of America's largest costume jewelry manufacturers. It is significant for collectors due to its historical importance, unique designs, and the quality craftsmanship that reflects various fashion trends from the 20th century.

How can I identify authentic Coro jewelry?

Authentic Coro jewelry can be identified by its signature markings, which often include the name 'Coro' or 'Coro Craft' stamped on the piece. Additionally, collectors should look for the specific design features typical of various eras, like the use of rhinestones, enameling, and intricate metalwork.

What are some common styles of Coro jewelry that collectors should look for?

Common styles include Coro's 'Duette' clips, which feature two pins that can be worn together or separately, and their 'Coro Craft' line, known for higher quality materials. Other notable styles include floral motifs, animal designs, and Art Deco influences.

What factors influence the value of Coro jewelry?

The value of Coro jewelry is influenced by factors such as rarity, condition, historical significance, and demand among collectors. Pieces from limited editions or specific design periods tend to fetch higher prices.

Are there any specific Coro pieces that are considered highly

collectible?

Yes, highly collectible Coro pieces include the 'Duette' clips, the 'Coro Craft' line, and designs featuring colorful rhinestones or intricate enameling. Vintage pieces from the 1940s and 1950s are particularly sought after.

Where can I find information on the value of my Coro jewelry?

You can find information on the value of your Coro jewelry through online auction sites, vintage jewelry appraisal services, collector forums, and reference books dedicated to costume jewelry. Local antique shops may also provide insights.

How do I care for and maintain my Coro jewelry?

To care for Coro jewelry, clean it gently with a soft cloth and avoid exposure to harsh chemicals or excessive moisture. Store pieces in a dry, lined jewelry box to prevent tarnishing and damage.

What are some online resources for Coro jewelry collectors?

Online resources for Coro jewelry collectors include websites like Etsy, eBay, and specialized vintage jewelry forums. Social media platforms and groups dedicated to vintage jewelry can also provide valuable information and community support.

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