



*Paris:
Jewelry, Glamour
and a Glorious Past*



April 19TH - 24TH, 1998

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Paris, synonymous with glamour and a glorious past, has enticed European royalty and American high society since Napoleon restored the luxury trades in the early nineteenth century. Its streets today are corridors of temptation with glittering shop windows offering an unimaginable array of luxury. It is this fairy tale world of fashion, jewelry, and high taste that we explore in this five day program with jewelry historian **Diana Scarisbrick**, and decorative arts specialist **Emmanuel Ducamp**.

Our journey in time will take us back to the days of Napoleon and Josephine to capture the neoclassical mood of their flamboyant court. We will study the opulence of the Second Empire when high society women dressed in gowns by **Worth** rode in their carriages on the **Bois de Boulogne**. And we will follow the footsteps of royalty, Indian maharajas, and grand dukes and duchesses to the **Place Vendôme** where we will view jewelry by **Chaumet** and **Van Cleef & Arpels** in settings that speak of the highest form of the jeweler's art.

The study of jewelry will begin with a visit to the exhibition "**Chaumet Paris: Deux Siècles de Création**" at the **Musée Carnavalet**. Led by **Diana Scarisbrick**, we will examine stylistic change, looking at tiaras, necklaces, earrings and bracelets as well as ancient cameos and objets d'art. We will then explore the interrelationship of fashion, jewelry, and taste with **Emmanuel Ducamp**. He will take us to the homes of the great patrons of **Chaumet**, including courtesans of the Second Empire

whose conquests led to the acquisition of fabulous jewels such as Empress Eugénie's necklace of faultless diamonds. The program also includes a private visit at the **Louvre** to view the crown jewels; a study at **Musée de la Mode**; as well as entrée to a young jeweler's studio to see how the artist of today responds to his times. The program will conclude with a black tie evening and period entertainment at **The Château de La Petite Malmaison** where fashion, jewelry and art will come together to recreate the atmosphere of Napoleon and Josephine's court.

Participants will be accommodated at **The Lancaster Hotel**, one of the most elegant small hotels in Europe filled with 18th-century antiques, paintings, and fine furnishings. With cocktail receptions at **Chaumet**, **Dior** and **Chanel** and visits to private apartments and collections, this program offers a rare experience of the opulence and magic of Paris. ♦

Schedule

Sunday, April 19th

Participants will be met at the airport for a transfer to **The Lancaster Hotel**. Situated off the Champs Elysées, the hotel was built in 1889 and was one of the most fashionable hotels in Paris in the 1930's attracting **Greta Garbo**, **Clark Gable**, **Noel Coward**, and **Marlene Dietrich**. Today it imparts the feeling of being in one of the famous salons of late 19th-century Paris, such as that of Comtesse Greffulhe. Participants will have time to recover from their journeys in the hotel spa.

Gather for tea in mid-afternoon and an opening lecture by **Diana Scarisbrick** on **Chaumet**, his patrons, artisans, and two hundred years of magnificent jewelry. **Emmanuel Ducamp** will then give us an overview of the social milieu of the periods we will be studying. Dinner in the hotel.

Monday, April 20th

We spend an intense morning at the **Musée Carnavalet** where we visit the exhibition of **Chaumet's** designs in a historical context through the oil paintings, photographs and documents that enhance the jewelry exhibition. Wherever possible jewels and objets d'art will be identified through their original owners or the patrons who requested them. We will view a magnificent display of tiaras in the "Salle de Diadèmes" and in other areas of the exhibition our study will take us from finely wrought gold snuff boxes commissioned by Napoleon to fashionable "Chinoiserie" vanity and cigarette cases of the 1920's and 30's. We will also see **Fouquet's** original workshop which is housed in the museum. Late lunch on the **Champs-Élysée**.

After lunch we visit the **House of Dior** and explore why the 1947 "New Look" of an opulent feminine collection shattered fashion headlines and catapulted **Dior** to fame. Participants will be shown what is involved in the creation of a "haute couture" garment. Visit to a private apartment and collection. Return to hotel to change for an evening walk on **The Ile St-Louis** where the architecture of our surroundings, and atmosphere of the restaurant where we later dine, take us back to 17th and 18th-Century Paris.

Tuesday, April 21st

Remaining as symbols of the Second Empire – intensely ornamental and opulent in the extreme – are the former *hôtels* of famed courtesans. To enhance our understanding of the style set by Empress Eugénie, in fashion and in jewelry, we pass by these homes and enjoy a visit at one of the residences. Here **Emmanuel Ducamp** takes us into the heart of the age with anecdotal stories of renowned salons such as that of **La Paiva** of whom it was written that wherever she

went she encountered a prince, a count or duke who invariably fell in love with her and "he went to her, not to offer her his hand – *La Paiva would have no use for it – but the accessories*". With the fall of the Empire she had her final triumph. Marrying a German nobleman, **Henckel von Donnersmarck**, she received as a wedding present Eugénie's necklace of diamonds which the fleeing Empress had been forced to sell.

Visit to **Louvres des Antiquaires** to select jewelry dealers where participants, guided by the program faculty, will have time to shop. **Ms. Scarisbrick** will give discreet pointers to collecting and buying antique jewelry.

After lunch we visit the **Musée Nissim de Camondo**. Dating from the early 20th-Century it once belonged to the Count de Camondo and is one of the best examples of a luxurious private Parisian home, retaining all its original furnishings and artwork. **Mr. Ducamp** will discuss the collector, how the house reflects the taste of the period, and the collection. Visit to **Place Vendôme** where jewelry dazzles us at **Van Cleef & Arpels** and at **Chaumet**. At **Chaumet**, **Ms. Scarisbrick** conducts a connoisseurship session on workmanship and design. She discusses how standards of perfection and secrets of craftsmanship are passed down from one generation to the next. The archives of the firm, as we see in her magnificent book on **Chaumet**, reflect a continued loyalty amongst families who have returned to refashion family heirlooms according to the style of their times. Cocktails in the Grand Salon. Free evening.

Wednesday, April 22nd

Although most of the crown jewels of France were sold after the fall of the Second Empire in 1871, **The Louvre** has taken great care to recover some of the jewels, particularly from the sale of the **Thurn und Taxis** collection which included the pearl and diamond tiara of Empress Eugénie.