



KEYNOTE

HRH Prince Michael Of Greece and Denmark whose grandmother was Grand Duchess Olga Constantinovna of Russia gives a never before published account of the great history of the Romanov jewellery. This is a fascinating volume that will inspire the jewellery collector, the Russian follower and anyone with an interest in one of the most legendary families in history. With never before seen photographic material sourced from European Royal Archives and the renowned Diamond Fund in Moscow, this book is an exceptional publishing event.

DESCRIPTION

The Jewels of the Romanovs gives a chronological account of the Russian monarchy, and its slow evolution from an almost medieval taste to a sumptuous and westernised society. The book starts with Catherine the Great, the most fabulous lady of its century, a powerful head of state and tireless lover, and her understanding of the prestige that jewellery was to give her, and spans through Paul I, Alexander I and Nicholas I. The latter was married to Alexandra Feodorovna who was the daughter of the immortal Queen Louise of Prussia known for wearing more jewellery than any other empress had ever worn before. The history of the Romanovs carries on with Alexander II, Alexander III and Nicholas II whose wife Alexandra Feodorovna, detested court life, and whose sister Elizabeth was even more beautiful than the Empress herself and was known for changing 'parures' up to four times during the same ball. The tragic ending of the Romanovs during the Russian Revolution in 1917 did mean that most of their jewellery was confiscated by the state, but many members of the Russian aristocracy who managed to escape, saved some of the pieces. Hence Prince Michael of Greece traces some the most important pieces which now adorn not only members of the European Royal Families but also American millionairess' and Hollywood actresses.

AUTHOR

Prince Michael of Greece and Denmark, a direct descendant of the Romanov family, and a renowned historian, was born in Rome in 1939. He has written several books on the Russian Monarchy, including *Nicholas & Alexandra: the family albums*, *White Night of St Petersburg* and *Imperial Palaces of Russia*.

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