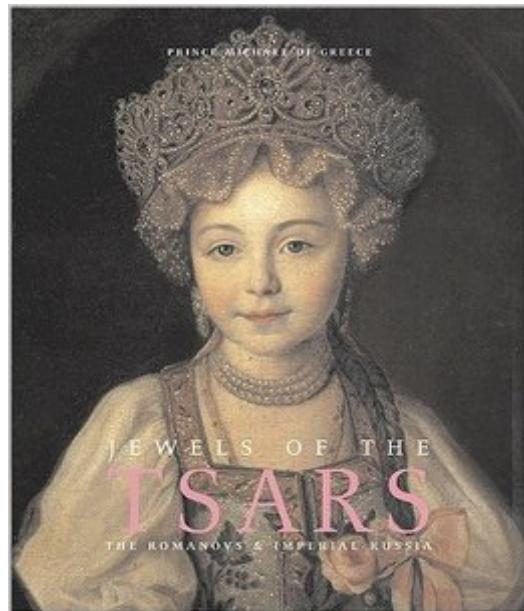


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# Jewels Of The Tsars: The Romanovs And Imperial Russia



## Synopsis

The world's fascination with the Russian imperial family endures, and with this stunning book a new spotlight is added. *Jewels of the Tsars*, the first book to examine the family's unparalleled collection, is illustrated with extraordinary photographs taken under special conditions at the Kremlin's Diamond Fund, and accompanied by 18th- and 19th-century portraits and photographs of the Tsars, their families, and their court. Prince Michael of Greece, a Romanoff descendant, writes with an insider's knowledge of his family's passion for rare and beautiful jewels, and their place in the troubled history of Imperial Russia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I never write reviews but I received this book last night and felt inspired to speak up. This is probably one of the most beautiful books I have ever seen. I devoured it immediately and stayed up late to do it. I was shocked when I got to the end and checked the clock. The entire book is in color, the jewels are shown close up and at times in portraits so you can have an image of how they would have looked or been arranged with other pieces. The book is arranged in chronological order by monarch starting with Catherine the Great through post revolution times, though that material is understandably short. The portraits are typically full page and so beautifully rendered you can almost smell the paint. The paper is of a really high quality, heavy with a nice sheen making the book that much more beautiful. It also offers quite a bit of interesting information about where the jewelry has ended up after the revolution and the history of the family. It's not an in-depth history, but that was never the purpose. It does offer some interesting tidbits and trivia. The author is clearly

passionate about the topics which is infectious and makes you want to keep reading. The pictures almost always have captions that are very informative. If you don't want to really read but just enjoy the photos, you can easily do that and still gather quite a bit of information without being overwhelmed with text. If you are at all interested in the subject matter, this is worth every penny. It's absolutely stunning. I believe there is one about the British crown jewels by Prince Michael of Greece by the same publisher as well. I'm going to go find out!

Very well done book on the crown Jewels of the czar's. The text is light and interesting, not too indepth and the images are superb. I saw many of the crown jewels in Houston during the traveling exhibit on the imperial treasures of the Kremlin, I was blown away by the beauty of the Faberge pieces and the imperial crown of diamonds and Sable that Peter the Great wore, this book is a great deal like the book I bought at the museum on that trip, it was a Russian book and was fantastic, this one is just as good. At any rate, I highly recommend this book. If you appreciate Russian culture or just the beauty of fine jewelry, then I can't imagine you not being pleased with this book.

Everything about "Jewels of the Tsars" is a class act. This is a beautifully-bound volume using the finest heavy glossy paper. The hundreds of photographs are ideally lit and enlarged for maximum impact and enjoyment of precious details. Many of the paintings and photographs are rarely seen and so lovely. This is more than a coffee table book, it is a precious gift, a collectible. The copy is accurate and very well-written by Prince Michael of Greece. No detail from cover to cover has been ignored. This is a labor of love. I highly recommend "Jewels" to everyone who loves Russia, history, and exquisitely crafted jewels as a personal treasure or a gift. Vendome Press obviously used "Jewels" as its vehicle to produce a jewel of its own. It's worth twice the price.

While the subject of the Imperial Crown Jewels has not yet been exhausted, and this book assembles for the first time a large portion of the former collections, Prince Michael of Greece is not an Historian, gemologist, or specialist in decorative arts. While this book, like his others, has a romantic and lyrical chronology enhanced by the ruthless dropping in of uncorroborated family lore, these personal titbits are less interesting than the pieces themselves who have been done a disservice by inadequate research and fact-checking. Page after page of this book are riddled with errors, inconsistencies and projections. Aigrettes are called brooches, diadems called chokers, the immense value of colored diamonds emphasized, which the actual stones shown are foiled to impart color. Members of the family are misidentified, the structure of the Diamond Fund misstated,

and recreations misrepresented. Do buy this book for the marvelous photographs, many taken originally for inclusion in the "Jewels of the Romanovs" Show catalogue at the Corcoran Gallery, but which was never published in full.

Yes, this book is a beautiful book! How can it not be with such magnificent jewels to show? I liked the way in which Prince Michael grouped the pieces by reigns. It makes it easier to follow in this manner. The quality of the photographs is better than in most jewelry books - except for the ones on the British royals. My one dissatisfaction with the work is that it did not include jewels owned by other Romanoffs. It would be great if some author compiled the history of the beautiful pieces owned by other members of that dynasty which survived the revolution and are now in other royal and private collections. The saga of jewels smuggled out during the Bolshevik years and their journey through Europe and America would be very interesting and exciting reading .

I had always thought that, other than the Coronation Crown Jewels, the Bolsheviks had stolen, sold or destroyed a good percentage of the Romanov jewels. This book puts to rest this myth. Excellent photography of the highest caliber fully illustrates that the Kremlin, and a few other places, have a significant number of exceptional jewels. Stunning works of jeweled art are coupled with outstanding pictures of Tzars, Tzarinas, Grand Duchesses, etc. The whole book is magnificent - I keep looking at it over and over again. It is a book long overdue - Thank you Prince Michael for making it a reality.

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