

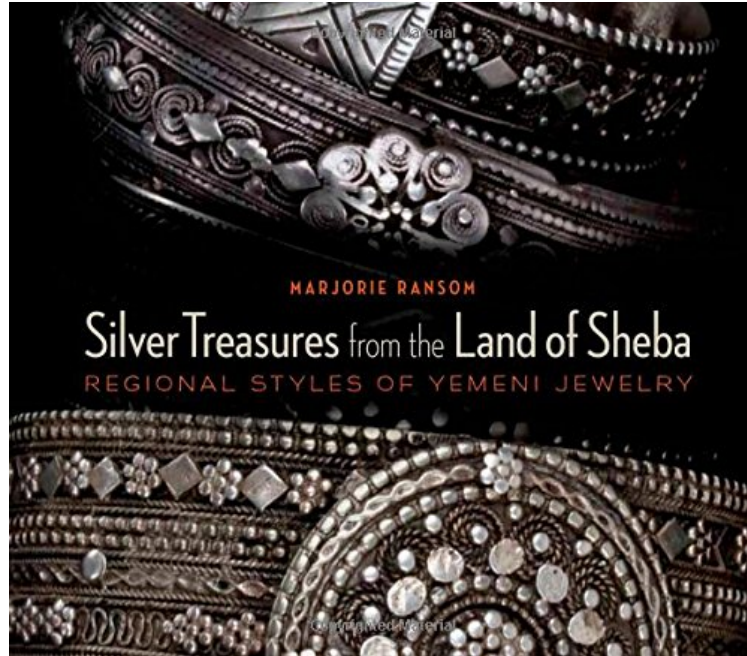
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*Marjorie Ransom*

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(Download ebook) Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba: Regional Styles of Yemeni Jewelry

## **Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba: Regional Styles of Yemeni Jewelry**

**Marjorie Ransom : Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba: Regional Styles of Yemeni Jewelry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba: Regional Styles of Yemeni Jewelry:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Magical look into the secret lives of women!By Peggy in VirginiaMarjorie Ransom has broken new ground with this delightful "coffee table" book. It is far more than just startling pictures of jewelry--it takes the reader into places few have gone and introduces us to women in this tribal society. It goes beyond that, too, offering pictures of the settings, the costumes, the everyday life in Yemen. Since most of the silversmiths are men, they get their fair share, too. Marjorie Ransom has spent many years meticulously researching the dying art of silver working in Yemen, living there, visiting there, traveling to every corner of the land.

This book is a tribute to her passion and patience in helping to keep alive an art form that is quickly moving into history. I shall buy several of these books as gifts for very special friends!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This Book is a Treasure in ItselfBy Sultan of BubastisThis wonderful culmination a fifty-year process of learning and collecting will startle even readers who think themselves conversant with Yemeni silver, a genuinely-unique art form, and with the country of Yemen itself.Casual readers will revel in a brilliantly-produced tome with more than 300 color plates, but serious readers will also benefit from the historical, ethnic, and cultural backdrop of this splendid jewelry and accompanying costumes, most of which were accumulated personally by Marjorie Ransom during her decades in the Middle East. With the insights gleaned as a seasoned, senior Foreign Service Officer, she weaves a tale of beauty and art with economics, religion, commerce, ritual, politics, and geography.The photography alone will astound readers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous Photos, Remarkable InsightBy

Dagmar Painter In *Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba*, author Marjorie Ransom has produced a remarkable book of historical scholarship, chronicling a culture not only unknown to most Westerners, but also fast disappearing. But her greatest achievement in this decades long quest is to write a charming, readable book that introduces us to a host of memorable people, from the talented jewelers whose work is becoming a lost art, to the old village women with stories to tell, who bring forth their little daughters to model jewelry for the author's photographs. Marjorie Ransom's encyclopedic knowledge of jewelry styles and regions, coupled with her understanding and cultural sensitivity and obvious respect for the land and the people of Yemen gives her readers an insight obtainable nowhere else. Lavishly illustrated with her own photographs and the stunning photos of jewelry and costumes by Ornament magazine's Robert K. Liu, the book offers hours of pleasure to ethnographers, historians, and most of all, lovers of simply gorgeous jewelry. I look forward to reading the companion volume in which she will discuss the remarkable and vanishing jewelers who create these treasures.

*Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba* documents a disappearing artistic and cultural tradition with over three hundred photographs showing individual pieces, rare images of women wearing their jewelry with traditional dress, and the various regions in Yemen where the author did her field research. Ransom's descriptions of the people she met and befriended, and her exploration of the significance of a woman's handmade jewelry with its attributes of power, protection, beauty, and personal identity, are a rich source of information that will appeal to ethnic jewelry fans, ethnographers, jewelry designers, and art historians. Amulet cases, hair ornaments, bridal headdresses, earrings, necklaces, ankle and wrist bracelets are all beautifully photographed in intricate detail, interspersed with the author's own photographs of the women who shared their stories and their hospitality with her. A chapter on the history of silversmithing in Yemen tells the surprising story of the famed Jewish Yemeni silversmiths, many of whom left Yemen in the late 1940s. This is the first in-depth study of Yemeni silver, uniquely illustrated with photographs of a world that is transforming before our eyes, and animated with the portraits of a precious legacy.

"This beautiful book is a fitting tribute to the rich culture of Yemen, and its people's appreciation of fine craftsmanship. Marjorie Ransom spent three decades collecting Yemeni jewelry, and many months traveling to the remotest regions of Yemen to interview the women who wore it and the silversmiths who made it. The result is an indispensable reference work for specialists, and an enjoyable feast for all who love the region and its culture."--Shelagh Weir, former curator for the Middle East at the British Museum

"Marjorie Ransom's *Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba* is a superb work, carefully researched and documented. We in Yemen will always be grateful to Marjorie for preserving for us the real character of Yemeni jewelry, keeping the past alive in the present in this true jewel of a book."--Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, professor of Archaeology and Epigraphy, University of Sanaa, Yemen

"Here is a long-awaited treasure trove. Marjorie Ransom's love of the country, her knowledge of its highways and byways, and her anecdotes about those she meets in her journeyings add a rare and warm dimension to our understanding of this beautiful country and its silver."--Sarah Searight, author of *Yemen: Land and People*

"This inspiring book is the work of a passionate collector, a dedicated researcher, and a patient, sensitive interviewer. Working against difficult odds, Marjorie Ransom found the last knowledgeable sources of information and reveals to the reader not only the story of silver jewelry, but the multicolored mosaic of an elaborate but quickly changing culture."--Shahira Mehrez, researcher, collector, and promoter of traditional Egyptian crafts

"Rarely is a research book considered an interesting read outside its particular academic circle. But while author Marjorie Ransom repeatedly refers to *Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba* as a "study" this book is much more than that. In her effort to document the dying art of Yemeni jewelry making, she created a tome that is part travel story, part coffee table book and all tribute to the author's passion for a country she has grown to love." *Egypt Today*

"With more than 300 color plates, this lavishly illustrated tome offers a wonderful introduction to Yemeni crafts, touching on embroidery as well as the silversmithing. Marjorie Ransom includes stunning examples (all expertly shot by Robert K. Liu) of a variety of hairpieces, headdresses, necklaces (lazem), earrings, bracelets, belts, swords (jambiya), anklets, and amulets. Luckily for readers, she proves an enthusiastic guide with a very readable and engaging style."--*Al Jadid Magazine*

"As a scholarly document, the book is a useful and timely tool for students of cultures and for people researching their own collections. It will also be of value to dealers needing to make appraisals. . . . As a cultural interpreter and documenter of a dying art form [Marjorie Ransom] has presented a gift to scholars, to fellow collectors and to the society of Yemen itself."--*HALI: The International Magazine of Antique Carpet and Textile Art*

"This book glows with the author's love and respect for the country and people of Yemen, and it does them proud. Everyone who shares her fascination with Yemeni culture will want a copy. It will also be an indispensable reference for collectors and museums."--*The Middle East in London*

"This is a study that could not have been delayed another decade. The book has more than 300 beautiful illustrations, some drawn from the author's extensive collection, and much interesting sociological information on the roles of the different pieces."--*Saudi Aramco World*

About the Author Marjorie Ransom is a Middle East specialist who has lived and worked throughout the Arab World, where she began researching and collecting traditional silver jewelry, particularly from Yemen. Her renowned collection of Middle Eastern jewelry has

been exhibited at American museums.