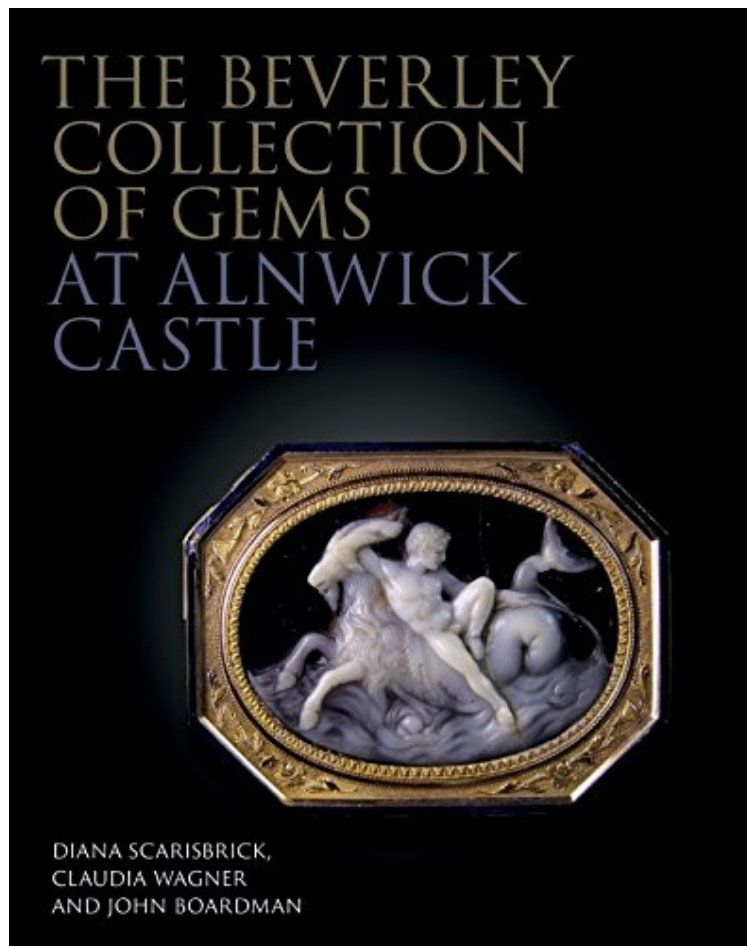


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## **The Beverley Collection of Gems at Alnwick Castle (The Philip Wilson Gems and Jewellery Series)**

**Diana Scarisbrick, Claudia Wagner : The Beverley Collection of Gems at Alnwick Castle (The Philip Wilson Gems and Jewellery Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beverley Collection of Gems at Alnwick Castle (The Philip Wilson Gems and Jewellery Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Magnificent Achievement :By John Silence is GoldenThis book is a terrific combination of an interesting and informative text coupled with the astonishing photos of these "one of a kind" treasures - cameos, intaglios, rings and glass portraits set in gold and semi-precious stones acquired by the present Duke of Northumberland's ancestors almost 2 centuries ago. Their range and quality of the collection spanning from the 1st century B.C thru the 18th century is evident and can be savored no matter how many times you take the book off the shelf. It is amazing that this collection has survived intact into the 21st century given the destructive death duties of the 20th century that forced the dispersal of so much of accumulated treasures of the British aristocracy from

1880 to present. Despite its hefty price tag this book is well worth the purchase price and I give it a enthusiastic 5 star rating - Highly recommended.

Alnwick Castle, ancestral seat of the Earls of Northumberland-the House of Percy-was built as a border fortress against the Scots in the twelfth century, if not earlier. Substantially enlarged in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and remaining in Percy family hands to this day, it stands now as a prime example of robust stone defensive architecture. Much visited and admired for its impressive exterior and interior, this dramatic stronghold and stately home is the setting for one of the most distinguished assemblages of gems in Great Britain still in private hands. The Beverley Collection reflects the longstanding interest of the English nobility in both accumulating and commissioning gemstones. The Collection was begun by the First Duchess of Northumberland in the early eighteenth century; but the greater part of it was made later in the century by Algernon Percy, First Earl of Beverley, during a Grand Tour of Europe while in the company of his mentor and tutor, the writer Louis Dutens. Their success in France and Italy was such that it incited the jealousy of the Empress Catherine of Russia, herself a passionate collector. The range of objects in the Collection-cameos, intaglios and finger rings of the highest quality-is considerable: Greek, Roman and Etruscan, as well as a notable assembly of neoclassical signed gems by British artists. One remarkable group of cameos (made, it seems, for the Roman Emperor Octavian/Augustus) was owned by Cardinal Grimani, who encouraged artist friends to draw the figures on them. One jewel clearly provided inspiration for Michelangelo's painting of Adam on the Sistine Chapel ceiling in the Vatican. The Beverley Collection has been little known, except by connoisseurs. This lavishly illustrated volume, written by three principal authorities on gems and semi-precious stones, brings it to the attention of a wider audience as a demonstration of the finest products of one of the oldest arts of the western world.

'It is not only the gem-specialists among classical archaeologists and art-historians, or students of the reception of antiquity and history of collecting, who will study this publication with the greatest interest, but all lovers of antiquity and art: they will delight in the mastery of the gem-engraver, the beauty of his works and the variety of subjects portrayed, all presented here so captivatingly and so splendidly.'- Erika Zwierlein-Diehl, Honorary Professor of Classical Archaeology, Bonn University, 'This splendid volume for the first time makes accessible a noble collection of the highest importance, combining stunning new photographs with erudite, yet accessible, scholarship. Ancient, Renaissance, and more recent cameos and intaglios - along with their colourful histories - will delight and inform all readers who have an interest in engraved gems, classical art and the history of virtu.' - Kenneth Lapatin, Curator of Antiquities, J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

About the Author Not available at this time. Not available at this time.