

JEWELLER TO THE STARS, *Jeweller of Love*



Visitors to the recent "Cartier. The Style and History" exhibition, which opened on the 4th of December 2013, at the Grand Palais in Paris, were fortunate enough to view magnificent displays of some of the Maison's most iconic pieces of jewellery. Of particular interest to the romantic visitor was the display of engagement rings and commissioned pieces, all of which were created with exceptional stones in spectacular ensembles. These radiant pieces revealed the role that Cartier has played

throughout the years in some of the 20th Century's most legendary love affairs.

There are many wonderful stories behind the individual pieces which belonged to the 20th Century's mythic couples including: the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, John and Jackie Kennedy, Jean Gabin and Marlene Dietrich, Brigitte Bardot and Gunther Sachs.

TAYLOR, TODD AND BURTON

Elizabeth Taylor's intimate relationship with the House of Cartier is as legendary as her many passionate love affairs. She remained loyal to the Maison all her life, finding in each new jewel the reflection of her many great loves.

Admired for her voluptuous figure, dark hair and violet eyes, Elizabeth Taylor was one of the most bewitching women of our time. She was a passionate woman who, from an early age, lived her life in the media spotlight. Her film career spanned an incredible sixty-two years, during which time she received some of the film industry's top awards and honours.

For all the time she spent on screen, it was likely her tempestuous love affairs that gained her greater notoriety in the public's eye. She was married a total of eight times, twice to Richard Burton, with whom she starred in eleven films.

Taylor's third marriage was to producer Michael Todd, who had a fondness for lavishing her with exquisite jewellery. In 1957, while sitting poolside at the Villa Fiorentina near Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, he gifted Taylor a set of ruby and diamond jewels, comprising a necklace, earrings and a bracelet, which were purchased from Cartier. The 37.5cm necklace was crafted from platinum and gold and featured brilliant-baguette-and fancy-cut diamonds, as well as eight cushion-shaped and oval-faceted certified Burmese rubies that have never undergone heat treatment. The necklace's tiara fitting allows it to be worn as a head ornament.

In March 1964, she married her fifth husband, Richard Burton, who offered her equally unique and lavish gifts commissioned from Cartier, always commensurate with their boundless love. In 1969, Burton purchased the world's most beautiful diamond from Cartier, a day after losing to them in an auction for the 69-carat, pear-shaped stone. The stone, which would be known as the 'Cartier Burton-Taylor' diamond, weighed 69.42 carats and was the twelfth largest diamond in the world at the time. The Burton-Taylor diamond was transformed into a dazzling pendant necklace that Taylor wore at Princess Grace of Monaco's 40th birthday celebration.

The couple also acquired Cartier's famous Love bracelets.

Particularly symbolic of Cartier's attachment to love, the bracelets were created by the Maison in 1970 at a time when love was championed like never before and a whole generation was embracing "make love, not war." Cast in gold at the Cartier workshops in New York, this simple and straightforward bracelet was a manifesto to love. Its modernity was expressed both in its newness and sense of purpose, as well as in its totally original design: a flat, linear oval bangle studded with screws, worn tight around the wrist and removed with a special gold screwdriver supplied with each bracelet.

Amongst other pieces Burton gifted Taylor was The Taj Mahal ruby-and-gold chain by Cartier, 1972. In 1979, after twice divorcing Burton, Taylor auctioned off the Burton-Taylor diamond to fund a hospital in Botswana. In addition to auctioning off the Burton-Taylor diamond, she also auctioned off the diamond and emerald engagement ring he had given her, to fundraise for an AIDS charity.



Photo: © Nick Welsh Collection Cartier © Cartier

Photos: © Marian Gérard Collection Cartier © Cartier, © Toni Frissel (Liza, Liz [Elizabeth Taylor] and Mike Todd, September 1957)





PRINCE RAINER III AND PRINCESS GRACE OF MONACO



Grace Kelly began her acting career at twenty, appearing in New York City theatrical productions as well as more than forty episodes of live drama productions, which were broadcast during the early 1950's Golden Age of Television. With the release of the film *Mogambo* in October 1953, she became a movie star and secured leading roles in five films including *The Country Girl*, her performance in which earned her an *Academy Award*. She was the epitome of beauty, style and grace and remains a leading fashion icon to this day. Rainier Louis Henri Maxence Bertrand Grimaldi ruled the Principality of Monaco for almost 56 years. He was responsible for major reforms to Monaco's constitution and for expanding the principality's economic base beyond its traditional gambling platform. Kelly met Prince Rainer Grimaldi III when, as head of the United States delegation at the Cannes Film Festival in April 1955, she was invited to participate in a photo session at the Palace of Monaco. On her return to the United States she started work on *The Swan* and began privately corresponding

with Rainier. During a tour to America that December, Rainier met with Kelly and her family, and three days later proposed to the serene beauty. Kelly accepted and preparations began for the elaborate wedding. On the 4th of April 1956, Kelly, her family, bridesmaids and her poodle boarded the ocean liner *SS Constitution* for the French Riviera. On arrival in Monaco, more than 20,000 people lined the streets to welcome their future princess consort. The couple were married in an elaborate, star-studded wedding on the 19th of April 1956. Kelly's final film, *High Society*, was released that same year; in it she can be seen wearing her 10.47 carat, emerald-cut diamond Cartier engagement ring. To capture the moment she became princess at the great wedding ball, Grace of Monaco once again chose a Cartier ornament of rubies and diamonds. The princess also enjoyed wearing her hen brooch created by Cartier Paris in 1957, from repoussé gold, platinum, and diamond brilliants with a cabochon emerald for the eye and mother-of-pearl, pearls and coral.



Photo: © Vincent Wulverryck © Cartier
Photo: © Grace Kelly waves goodbye. Photo: Courtesy New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection (Library of Congress), photographer: Joe Schuppe



THE WINDSORS

In what has been described as “the most romantic act of the century” King Edward VIII relinquished the throne of England in 1936, so he would be free to marry the woman he loved. He had met the American, Wallis Warfield Simpson in 1930, when he was still the Prince of Wales. Her first marriage had ended in divorce, and at the time of meeting the prince, she was still married to her second husband, Ernest Simpson. It was Christmas 1935 that marked the beginning of a long history between the Duke and Duchess and Cartier, when Simpson gave the Prince of Wales a cigarette case in rose gold signed by Cartier and engraved with the message, “David from Wallis, Christmas 1935” with a map of all the capitals they’d visited, each in a different gemstone, with enamel lines connecting the cities together to evoke sweet memories.

By then, the playboy prince had fallen deeply in love with Simpson, but after he succeeded his father George V, who died in 1936, he was unable to convince the royal family or government officials to accept the now divorced Simpson as his queen.

Photo: © Nick Welsh, Collection Cartier © Cartier

Photo: © Rue des Archives

On the 10th of December 1936, the king signed the ‘Instrument of Abdication’ in the presence of his three surviving brothers. A day later, Edward VIII officially abdicated, explaining his decision in a radio broadcast that evening, saying, “I have found it impossible to carry on the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge the duties of king as I would wish to do, without the help and support of the woman I love.”

His younger brother succeeded him as King George VI and granted Edward the title Duke of Windsor. Among the pieces Cartier created for the couple was an engagement ring engraved with the message, “We are ours now,” offered by the king to his future wife, as well as their two platinum wedding bands and a cross bracelet, composed of a chain of brilliant-cut diamonds, to which the Duchess, between 1934 and 1944, attached nine gem-set Latin crosses, each given to her by the Duke to mark the milestones of their life together.

The couple married on the 3rd of June 1937 at the Château de Candé, lent to them by French millionaire Charles Bedaux. Their love was unconditional and they shared a tender complicity nourished by reciprocal care.

In 1940 Edward commissioned a whimsical flamingo brooch for his love, featuring diamond brilliants in platinum with calibré-cut rubies, sapphires and emeralds for the plumage, citrine for the beak and cabochon sapphires for the eyes. She wore this during their stopover in Hamilton, Bermuda where they met the press. In 1947, the Duke of Windsor commissioned the breathtaking bib necklace, created from twisted 18-carat and 20-carat gold, platinum, brilliant and baguette-cut diamonds, one heart-shaped faceted amethyst, 27 emerald-cut amethysts, one oval faceted amethyst and turquoise cabochons. The Duke supplied all the stones for the magnificent creation, with the exception of the turquoises. Emblems of a true style, this legendary couple of the café society—a term denoting a sophisticated and international elite—adored by photographers and the press, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor made Cartier jewels the public symbols of their love. A year after Wallis’s death, in 1987, many of the jewels appeared at auction. Aware of the priceless value of these unique ornaments, Cartier purchased some of the pieces to enrich their own collection, including the famous Panther brooch, created in 1949 by Jeanne Toussaint, Cartier’s artistic director at the time.

The Panther brooch marks a special milestone in the history of the Maison. Even the newspapers of the time referred to it as the “atomic bomb of jewellery.” Conceived like a sculpture, this three-dimensional creation, which was not made on commission but intended as a stock piece, is striking for its

sophistication and the cat’s naturalness and elegance, and exudes a genuine magnetism. A creation of Jeanne Toussaint’s unerring intuition, it appealed immediately to the Duchess of Windsor—this Panther could only be for her! This historic brooch appeared amongst the Duke and Duchess’s other jewels on display at “Cartier. The Style and History” at the Grand Palais. This panther is the second three-dimensional example that Cartier made for the Duchess of Windsor, (the first one surmounted an emerald cabochon).

In 1955 the Duke and Duchess commissioned a pug’s head clip-brooch from Cartier Paris. Inspired by their own pugs, the brooch was crafted in gold, and featured two citrine cabochons for the eyes, ochre-colored, brown, black and white enamel for the head, and cloisonné enamelled red, blue, white and green for the collar.





THE KENNEDY'S

Jacqueline Bouvier's first job was the "Inquiring Camera Girl" for the Washington Times-Herald newspaper. Her task was to roam the city, photographing those she encountered, and asking them questions about the issues of the day. During her time there, she interviewed Richard M. Nixon, and covered the first inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

It was during this period that she met John F. Kennedy, a congressman from Massachusetts who would soon be elected a Senator. They were married on the 12th of September 1953 at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island and honeymooned in Mexico.

While he was recovering from back surgery, Jackie Kennedy encouraged her husband to write a book about several U.S. senators who had risked their careers to fight for the things they believed in. The book, called 'Profiles in Courage', was

awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1957. That same year, the Kennedys' first child, Caroline, was born. Senator John F. Kennedy announced his candidacy for the presidency of the United States in January 1960. While she accompanied him on his travels around the country in the early stages of the campaign, on learning she was pregnant, Jacqueline Kennedy heeded the advice of her doctors and remained at home.

On November 8, 1960, John F. Kennedy beat Republican Richard M. Nixon, in a hard fought race. Two-and-a-half weeks later, the new First Lady gave birth to their second child, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr.

The Kennedy's brought a refreshing modern style and grace to the White House. Cognizant of what the White House meant as a symbol to Americans, Jacqueline was instrumental in refurbishing and restoring all of the public rooms while Kennedy was in office.

The striking couple had a fondness for Cartier Tank watches. On their fourth wedding anniversary, Jacqueline gave JFK an 18 carat gold Cartier which was inscribed with his initials, the Kennedy family arms, and their wedding date. Later, just a few short months before his assassination in Dallas, President John F. Kennedy gave his wife, Jacqueline, a Cartier Tank watch, inscribed "To Jackie. Love, Jack." the day he was assassinated in Dallas Texas, President Kennedy was wearing the Cartier Tank given to him by his wife for their fourth anniversary. The watch was removed from the president's wrist and given to the first lady.

In 1964, a candid photograph was taken of Jackie Kennedy, dressed in black, still mourning the loss of her husband. The only jewellery she is wearing in the photograph is her Cartier Tank watch. The famous photograph gave us momentary insight into the life of a courageous woman.

WITH LOVE FROM CARTIER

Love shimmers throughout the history of Cartier. Love of the finest materials, love of exceptional craftsmanship at the service of a unique and instantly recognizable style in the image of these star couples, who became Cartier's faithful ambassadors, marking their passion with the House's creations. With a long history of special commissions, the jeweller consistently dreamed up exceptional pieces for exceptional couples, pieces that even today convey deep emotion. It is this unique talent that makes Cartier the true jeweller of love. ■ Lindsay Grubb

Photo: Frissell, Toni, 1907-1988, photographer



Photo: E. Sauvage © Cartier