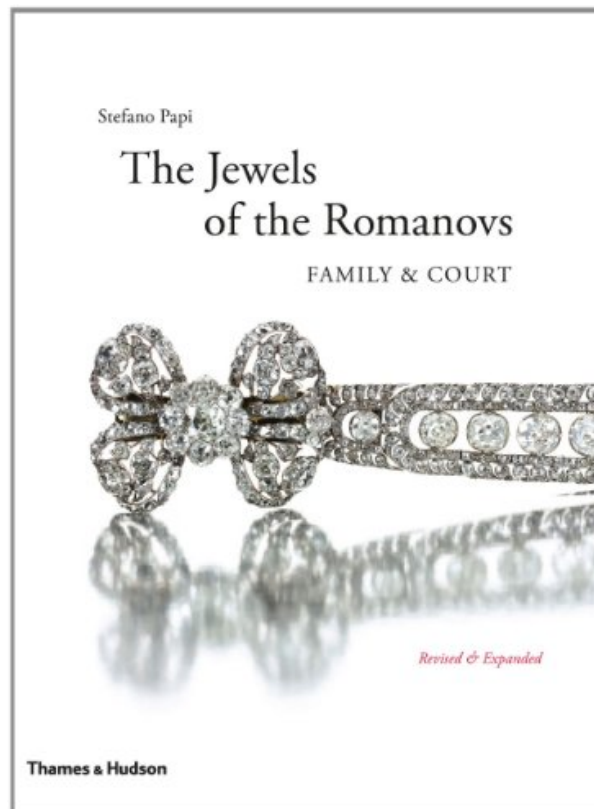


# JEWELS OF THE ROMANOV: FAMILY & COURT BY STEFANO PAPI



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# The Jewels of the Romanovs

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## **Review**

“Stefano Papi has been wise enough to lard his text with photographs of the individual pieces as well as portraits of the Romanovs and their relatives. . . . We can see the effects that such objects d’art had on the mere mortals who wore them.” (The Wall Street Journal)

“A suitably lavish book showcasing the remarkable jewels owned by members of the last Russian czarist dynasty.” (Women's Wear Daily)

## **About the Author**

Stefano Papi is based in London and has worked as Senior European Specialist in the jewelry departments of both Sotheby’s and Christie’s auction houses.

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An amazing collection of images of the Romanovs, their world, and their fabulous jewels brings the last years of the dynasty to life

The Romanovs ruled Russia from 1613 to 1917, when the Revolution brought their reign to an end. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were a time of elegance and extravagance for the tsars and the wealthy families with whom they were linked by marriage, and nowhere are these lavish tastes more apparent than in the imperial jewels.

Every jewel tells a story. Through his work at Sotheby's and Christie's and his own research, Stefano Papi has spent years unraveling the mysteries of Russian imperial jewelry. He identifies pieces with little or unknown provenance and uncovers the fascinating stories behind the jewels and the people who wore them, from the golden years through the Revolution to life in exile in Europe and America. This new edition, published to tie in with the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, features forty-eight additional pages and some sixty new illustrations.

255 illustrations in color and black and white

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## Most helpful customer reviews

61 of 64 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful, but superficial with factual errors

By Robert Atchison

This is a magnificent book. I have never seen diamonds and aquamarines look so beautiful. The photography is great and it is a noble effort. However, I was surprised to find a number of serious mistakes in the book. For example, Olga did not travel to Yekaterinburg with her parents, it was Maria. I found a dozen errors like this, it wasn't a pleasant experience, I wanted the book to be better. The book also is ignorant of many important facts regarding Alexandra, her jewels and their fate. I would say buy the book for the pictures. Let us hope that someday we'll get a great book on Alexandra and her jewels. This is not it.

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

more of a memoir

By Jose F. Santiago-llorens

This lovely book is read more as a memoir than a jewelry book. Many photos are of jewels that were destroyed or lost, so the book also act as an archive of these wonderful creations. The text is very well done but with so many Marias, Alexandras and the complicated system for russian last names, a genealogical tree or guide would have been so welcomed (next edition maybe). If you love russian history or jewelry, a great addition for your library.

33 of 35 people found the following review helpful.

Both stunning and dissapointing

By K. Maxwell

This is a lovely book to look at and the author has unearthed some very rare photos you only normally see in low quality on the internet along with pieces sold long ago at obscure auctions for our viewing pleasure. Having said that I found this book somewhat disappointing. Given the topic there's some unavoidable cross over with the contents of *Jewels of the Tsars: The Romanovs and Imperial Russia*, which is another visual treat. The author has also matched up photos of people wearing their jewels to sold pieces that is very interesting and lacking in "Jewels of the Tsars" on a scale such as this.

What it is missing though is a full list of the jewels sold in 1927 and those taken into exile with the imperial family. To get the 1927 list you have to get *A History of the Crown Jewels of Europe* which is both rare and expensive or for the jewels in exile *The Fate of the Romanovs* where the list is available as an appendix. The lack of this hard, useful information for those researching Russian imperial jewels will make this book of mostly visual use in the future rather than the last word on the subject. One other glaring omission in both of these books is a lack of photos of the jeweled badges the ladies in waiting wore for each empress. These are distinctly Russian pieces of jewellery, and while odd examples are shown neither book goes into them in any detail which is a great pity.

The text is 90% recounting of the biographies of various members of the imperial family and friends lives. I suspect a full family tree would be useful for those not familiar with the Romanovs. The majority of the information about the jewels themselves is to be found in the captions for the pictures and for me that made this a somewhat odd book, but one which nevertheless will have it's place on my bookshelf.

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