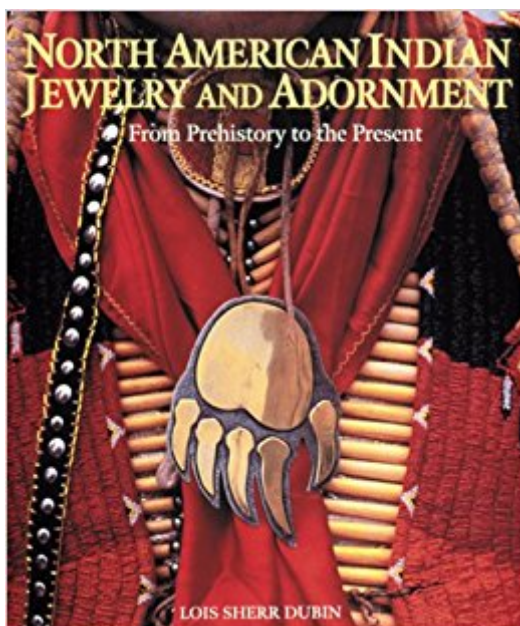


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# North American Indian Jewelry And Adornment



## Synopsis

Adornment - jewellery, beadwork and ceremonial regalia - is a defining element of cultural expression for North American Indians. This study is based on a decade of research and interviews with elders and artists, excerpts from which are presented in the book, and extends in scope from the Arctic Circle to northern Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Thousands of distinctive objects are reproduced, among them Southwestern turquoise jewellery, Plains beadwork, "carved" metal bracelets from the Northwest, quill and moose-hair work from the Subarctic, etched horn jewellery from northern California, and engraved mussel-shell gorgets from Oklahoma and the Southeast. Also included are regional maps, and diagrams of jewellery techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don't waste time reading this review; order this book now for whatever kind of library you may have. This big, beautiful, knock-your-socks-off title covers not only Native American adornment but also its history, the uses of materials, the spiritual meaning, the archaeology and oral traditions, and the artists. As treated here, adornment means not just jewelry but robes and headdresses, horse decoration, masks, and more. Modern work holds its own with the ancient in dazzling photographs, and occasional fold-out pages show staggering displays on themes such as beadwork as seen in Northwest Coast bracelets. Dubin (*The History of Beads*) follows themes as they develop, such as pictographic details used throughout the history of a tribe. There has not been such a broad and informative book before, and this will likely become the standard reference. Recommended for all

libraries. AGay Neale, Southside Virginia Community Coll. Lib., Alberta and Keysville Copyright 1999  
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"...a colorful heavyweight, packed with information and images...The author's passion for her subject underlies the scholarly detail of her text..." -- Associated Press  
"...beautifully written, generously illustrated and carefully researched...A personal and intelligent compilation of stories and information...a vital resource." -- American Craft  
"Destined to become a classic." -- Southwest Museum  
"Don Imus' Pick of the Week." -- Don Imus  
"Offers a sweeping view of a wide range of stunning objects." -- Publisher's Weekly

This is by far the very best book I have ever seen on the subject! It will no doubt take days to just look at the beautiful pictures. The author, Lois Sherr Dubin, has outdone her previous book, "The History Of Beads", which I also highly recommend. This book follows thousands of years of Native adornment, dividing the continent into sections such as the Arctic, the Plains, the Southwest, and more, and goes into the jewelry, symbolism, and purpose of these exquisite artworks in great detail. I had never seen most of the photographs in this book before, and the text is most informative as well. I simply cannot say enough good things about this book, and I'd give it ten stars if I could! The author has obviously put much thought, time, and careful research into this wonderful book!

Lois Sherr Dubin says in the introductory chapter of her beautifully written, generously illustrated and carefully researched book that Indian concepts of connectedness merged neatly with her education in landscape architecture and ecology. She cites examples of appropriate use of material as indications of links to a belief system. How we regard materials can reveal how we think. In a telephone interview with me she said, "It is that profound respect for their materials as they use them that drew me initially to the subject of Indian adornment and the people who make it." The book demonstrates not only her understanding of fundamental concepts of Native North American thought that have led to the production and use of an astounding array of objects loosely grouped under the title of jewelry and adornment, but shows as well her deep regard for the subject and its makers. She writes, "In my New York apartment I touch a beaded Lakota pouch and reflect on the colors, textures, and sounds of a northern Plains powwow. Native American adornment, layered with artistry and content, stimulates thought. How, I wonder, have the Indian people not only survived near annihilation but also continued to produce such a concentration of superb artisans ...." Throughout the book the reader will meet many of those artisans and hear their words as they share

with the author their knowledge of the present and past. Along with her refreshing writing and brilliant illustrations showing connectedness between past and present, Dubin traces congruences of thought among cultures and communities. Prominent are the similarities among Native American cultures regarding the recent florescence of artistic expression attributed to a resurgence of cultural identity. Personal adornment communicates strong messages. Indian identity is recognized in choices made about personal appearance. What was in the past often used as communication in the absence of common language is today a statement about Indian presence in our democratic society. Nine chapters are organized around concepts that define regions, often entwined in content and context. Dubin's journey snakes across the continent from the Arctic where tribes arrived from Asia, finds imagery of flower and fur in the Subarctic, cites trading among the Woodlands and vision quest imagery on the Plains. Converging traditions in the Great Basin illustrate continuity and innovation as do beadwork and baskets of the Plateau. Whether two or three dimensional, art of the Northwest Coast is described as sculptural, and materials representing sky, land and sea appear in California. Last on the journey is the presence of turquoise stone in religion and commerce in the Southwest. Rarely isolated, the regions are connected by time, trade and ideas about life. The book begins and ends with essay chapters where the circle is evoked as the continuum and essence of the Native spirit. By no means an encyclopedia, Dubin's book is a personal and intelligent selection of information collected during a decade-long journey through communities and cultures. She weaves her information from ancient and contemporary sources into patterns easily understood, and takes the reader down paths of knowledge that show meanings behind intriguing objects that enrich their mere visual appeal. (Robert Kasal lives in the desert in Arizona amid Indian art.)

I received my copy of this book with the expectation, like several others who have reviewed this book, that it was 600 pages of material. This is woefully short of the full version. I had to go back to the listing to see if there was a disclaimer and the title does include the words concise edition. I am not a professional in this field and had no idea that there were two versions. I feel misled since the bigger description said clearly that it was hardcover. Most lesser editions of titles I'm familiar with are published in softcover. The description should have made a full disclaimer NOT THE FULL 600 PAGE ORIGINAL EDITION.

This is a lovely work but I bought it without realizing that the "CONCISE" edition is somehow abbreviated. I had spent time with the book belonging to a friend and wanted to buy one. However, this book is much smaller. Without comparing both books, I would have no way of determining what

is missing. Even with this disappointment, I think that perhaps the concise edition makes sense. It is chock full of beautiful photos and there are two fold out pages that have three pages worth of illustrations and photos on both sides. I'm thinking it's not a bad buy. It's just not what I thought I was buying. My bad.

This book is a must have for people wanting a comprehensive overview of Indian work from the past and present. It is really nice to see the work in the context of why it was made, not just as "artifacts". I am really happy to see the vibrant new work done by really creative people who, while keeping traditional imagery are pushing the boundaries of art and jewelry. Please be sure to get the 600 page book! The concise version is like the commercial where the little girl only gets to ride the bicycle in the little box!

this is a major book, very large , best read at a table..one of the very top books in the field by a great expert. Highly recommended.

Great book. Very informative but the better version is the original 623 page book. This concise edition is about 1/3 rd of the original.

Beautiful illustrations and extensive research went into this book. The references to seasonal cycles of various cultures was spot on and so informative in understanding the ceremony and spirituality of the various tribes. Very, very well done!

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