

The Necklace Market

by John Ainsley

Outstanding in this selection at **1** is a late Victorian diamond necklace from the classic period. This is exactly what the market is seeking and the price is quite modest. Nine graduated diamonds support nine drop panels each containing nine diamonds, all collet set. At **2** is a *Hermes* of Paris 18ct gold anchor chain necklace and the key to the price is the style and the name. *Hermes* was formed in the late nineteenth century and today has branches worldwide. Go to their website and you will find that even a silver necklace could set you back £2,000-£3,000. In fact go to **30** and you can see a further *Hermes* silver lanyard necklace which sold at Goringes in March for under a £1,000, proving that buying secondhand jewellery always pays compared to new. Additionally the sheer variety available provides an endless choice of periods and styles and the best of antique and period jewellery is in high fashion. Check out this page. In a class of its own is the twentieth century multi-gem set fringe necklace at **3**. Here also are modern necklaces at **4**, **11** and **14** rubbing shoulders with early and mid nineteenth century styles at **5**, **8** and **10**, and there is classic, turn of the century necklaces at **12** and **13** and at **6** a 1940s French 18ct gold torc necklace with a *Cartier* pedigree. Turning the page, will you find on the high street anything to compare with the Victorian gold and amethyst fringe necklace at **16** or the art nouveau *Bonti* necklace at **19**? And certainly don't expect to see anything like the Edwardian split pearls and gold necklace at **21**. More than half of the examples on page 50 are antique. Outstanding and unusual examples can be seen at **22**, **28**, **29**, **39**, **41** and **43**. **28** and **29** are particularly attractive and unusual and for under a £1,000 represent outstanding bargains. The variety and the quality available from about £400 upwards is one of the best displays of good jewellery that we have featured. I have also ensured a good selection of pearl necklaces. These start at **31** at just under a £1,000 and run through to **69** and just under £500. Also popular is coral and I have included two examples at **20** and **25** averaging about £1,100. This is the top end of the market unless the coral is carved. A simple Victorian example appears at **50**. I have also included jade at **35**, **45** and **74**. At **35** £700 hammer suggests quality as does its carved clasp. At **45** jade is paired with coquilla nuts and at **74** the 52 inch necklace at about £450 is good value. The best jade is actually, to give it its correct name, jadeite, but nephrite may also be sold as jade so it is important to know the difference or ensure you buy from a reliable source. The most sought after jade is of a deep blue-green. Translucency is highly desirable as are whitish specks in the green. The Chinese market prefers a whitish jade but this is not so popular in the West. *Cheffins* of Cambridge are offering two jade necklaces in their September fine art sale. The first is catalogued as jadeite, the beads are 16mm and uniform and the colour a mottled apple and pale green and the string is 133cms. It is untested for colour treatment (a problem) but the auction states that the colour appears to be natural. The estimate is £300-£500. Additionally they offer a 138cm necklace of 8.7mm beads of a semi-translucent bright, deep green with flecks of black, again with no evidence of colour treatment at an estimate of £200-£400.



1
Diamond set Victorian necklace c1890, designed as 9 graduated, collet set old cut diamonds, each joined by a concave, diamond set panel, supporting fringe of nine, diamond set drops, set with old cut diamonds within white metal settings, attached white gold chain, unmarked, total weight 21.8gms. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Mar 10. HP: £7,000. ABP: £8,260.*



2
Hermes 18ct gold anchor chain necklace, 17.5in, 180.5g in *Hermes* Box. *Goringes, Lewes. Sep 10. HP: £7,000. ABP: £8,260.*



3
Multi gem set fringe necklace, yellow metal chain suspending a graduated fringe of 21 graduated precious and semi precious stones incl: topaz, amethyst, garnets, citrines, sapphires, tourmalines and zircon, all claw set in yellow metal to square snap clasp, unmarked, assumed yellow gold, weight 27gms, within a fitted Mackay & Chisholm Goldsmiths, Princes Street, Edinburgh case. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Jun 11. HP: £5,500. ABP: £6,490.*



4
Diamond necklace, graduated stones (7ct) claw set in 18ct white gold, 16.25in long. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Nov 10. HP: £5,200. ABP: £6,136.*



5
Gold, turquoise, ruby and diamond snake necklace, c1850, articulated serpent set with turquoise, head with diamond mouth & eyebrows and with cabochon ruby eyes, fitted box, *W Phillips, 492 Oxford Street, London, 16in long. Chorley's, Prinknash Abbey Park. Nov 10. HP: £4,800. ABP: £5,664.*



6
1940s French diamond set 18ct gold torc necklace, of stylish design, in associated fitted *Cartier* box, 16in. *Goringes, Lewes. Dec 09. HP: £4,400. ABP: £5,192.*



7
18ct white gold and diamond necklace, set one hundred and thirty four brilliant cut diamonds, 16.5in. *Goringes, Lewes. Dec 09. HP: £3,400. ABP: £4,012.*



8
Victorian gold and pink topaz drop necklace with triple strand chain and twin drops suspended from a central starburst, 18in. *Goringes, Lewes. Mar 11. HP: £3,200. ABP: £3,776.*



9
Split pearl set necklace with three flowerhead motifs, central flowerhead hung a pierced star shaped pendant centred by a diamond and pearl cluster, 15in long. *Chorleys, Prinknash Abbey Park. Apr 11. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,540.*



10
Gold and turquoise necklace, c1840, designed as an openwork tubular chain with turquoise detailing, barrel filigree clasp, length approx 470mm. *Matthew Barton Ltd, London. Nov 10. HP: £2,600. ABP: £3,068.*



11
Diamond Riviere necklace, graduating row of 123 brilliant-cut diamonds, each four claw set above a fluted setting. *Addisons, Barnard Castle. Dec 10. HP: £2,400. ABP: £2,832.*



12
Edwardian Arts & Crafts enamelled gold French necklace, manner of Carlo Giuliano, with ornate scroll links, each set with a small brilliant cut diamond and a white opal, on fine link chain, 18in. *Goringes, Lewes. Feb 10. HP: £2,300. ABP: £2,714.*



13
Late 19thC/early 20thC diamond/sapphire necklace, yellow metal setting, decorated flower head / scrolling foliage, knife wire mounts, and 3 sections (different lengths) for adjusting the necklace. *Charterhouse, Sherborne. Nov 10. HP: £2,300. ABP: £2,714.*



14
18ct white gold diamond, cultured pearl, tourmaline and tanzanite bead necklace, with diamond set clasp, 36in. *Goringes, Lewes. Oct 10. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,360.*