

connect

Ethnic Jewellery & Adornment - Book Review

Buttons & Beading

A Visit to the Czech Republic

Member's Challenge: Triangle Beads



ethnic jewellery adornment:

australia, oceania, asia, africa

reviewed by christine mole

Author: Truus Daalder (pictured at right)

Photographs: Jeremy Daalder

Editor: Joost Daalder

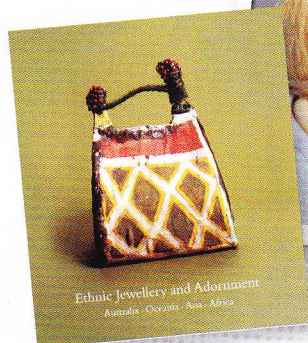
ISBN: 978-1-921394-28-7, Published by Ethnic Art Press, Adelaide, 2009
and Macmillan, Melbourne, 2009

During my recent trip to South Australia I was lucky enough to visit Truus and Joost Daalder at their home in Adelaide and to see part of their fabulous collection of ethnic jewellery in person.

Before setting out on the trip, Marg Mueller and Deborah Zinn suggested I should contact the Daalders, as Deborah had recently visited with Truus and had heard about Truus' book, "Ethnic Jewellery and Adornment: Australia, Oceania, Asia, Africa" and they were very excited to hear that such a book had been produced in Australia and by an Australian author. Once I had seen the book in person and talked to Truus and Joost, it was just inevitable that I would want to buy a copy for myself.

With over 700 detailed colour photographs showing wonderful, inspirational jewellery from Australia, Oceania, Asia, the Middle East and Africa the book is truly a feast for the avid beader or jewellery maker, as well as collectors of such fine work. Each section of photographs is prefaced with a comprehensive and informative text about the jewellery of that particular region. Truus' explanation of the term "ethnic jewellery" was that it was traditional jewellery, confined to one particular area which usually communicates something about the wearer.

In many cases, this applies to the status of women in the community – a particular item may show that this woman is unmarried and available. There are also items which proclaim that the wearer is a widow, or a married woman and even how many children she has! Other items could only be worn by the head of the tribe



Snail-shell rattle also worn as a necklace
Northern Territory, Arnhem Land, Malingrida; second half 20th c.
H (as shown) 35 cm; L of each snail shell approx. 3 cm

or
community or even
in one case, by his horse.

Truus explained that many of the best items in the Australia and the Oceania sections are held by the South Australian Museum. 200 of the photographs are from the Museum collection which is the largest collection of ethnic jewellery from these areas anywhere in the world. Due to the perishable nature of much of the body adornment of the Australian indigenous people, there is an overall shortage of pieces which have been preserved for posterity, but those appearing in the book are a representative selection collected by interested parties more than 100 years ago.

Truus and Joost were given access to the



Wealthy man's chest ornament, widely worn on, and near, the north-east coast of PNG, East Sepik Province; Boiken people; early to mid 20th c.
H (triangular piece without cord) 36 cm, W 22 cm. Dogs' teeth, woven fibre, shells, wood



Neckpiece with prominent cones at the top and silver rods fixed in one position. South-west China, Guizhou: Miao people; mid 20th c. H 32 cm, W 27.5 cm. Silver



Large and heavy necklace featuring attached Maria Theresa thalers, and a Koran-holder (hirs) Oman, Wahiba Sands; mid 20th c. H (without cords) 51 cm; Koran-holder: H 4.5 cm, W 15 cm. Silver, gold, cotton



Ceremonial necklace of woven silver wire, expanded at regular intervals to form beads. Indonesia, Sumbawa; early 20th c. H (as shown) 34 cm. Silver wire. Picture above shows detail.

Museum's

collection and the wonderful photographs taken by their son, Jeremy are quite remarkable.

The beautifully wrought silver items in the Asia and Middle Eastern sections with their intricate engraving show shapes which inspire today's fashionable jewellery. Some of the items in this section are extremely large and heavy and were worn on largely ceremonial occasions. Many also include gemstones mounted into metalwork, or used as beads in fringe decoration or collars.

Once you read this book, I am sure you will find many items which will inspire you to create your own beaded items following the basic forms and shapes of many of those pictured. As I paged through I could see many items which could be interpreted in contemporary colours and beads whether in bead

embroidery, stringing, Viking knit, chain maille or many of the other bead weaving techniques. The Daalders very kindly agreed to my using some of Jeremy's photos to go with this article.

Production of the book has been carefully thought out and quality paper and binding are a highlight. This is not a book you could read in bed, as it is quite heavy and measures some 330mm (h) x 280mm (w). With around 420 pages there is much to occupy the avid beader.

I can recommend this book as a wonderful addition to your beading and jewellery library. The Daalders have very kindly agreed to a very special offer to Bead

Society

of Victoria members who

wish to buy the book, the offer is included with this issue of Connect. If you are interested in purchasing the book, please make sure your orders and payment are sent in before the December meeting. This book would make a wonderful Christmas gift for a beader or collector.



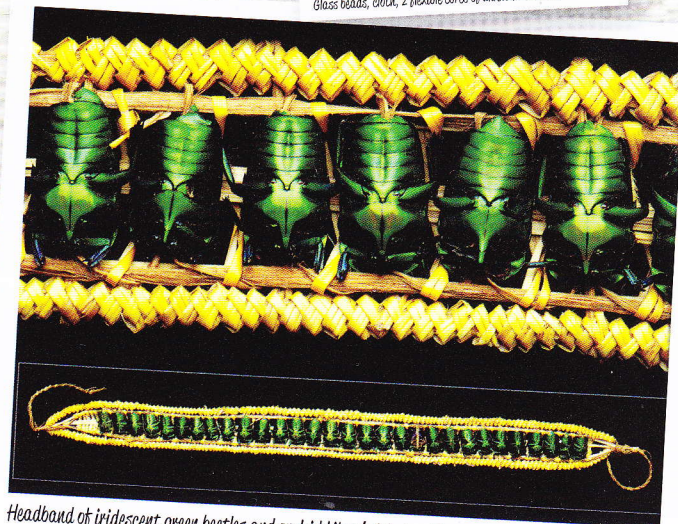
Necklace of two strands, i.e. rolls covered with glass beads of several colours and tied together at the top. Nagaland: Konyak Naga people; mid 20th c. H (as shown) 37.5 cm, W 21 cm. Glass beads, cloth, 2 flexible cores of unknown material



Rigid wire neckring decorated with small, loose rings. South-west China, Guizhou: Ggija Miao people; second half 20th c. H 21 cm; Diam. of small rings 3.8 cm. Silver



Heavy necklace worn with the large shell hanging on the back as a counterweight. Nagaland: Angami Naga people; mid 20th c. H (as shown) approx. 57 cm, W 25 cm; largest cut conch shell 13.5 x 10 cm. Cut conch shells, shell beads, glass and carnelian beads, bone spacers



Headband of iridescent green beetles and orchid fibre (with detail); sometimes attached to wigs (cf. 117) PNG, Highlands; mid 20th c. L 54 cm, H 4.5 cm. Green beetles, plaited orchid fibre. SAM A73431; collected at Nondugl, Waihi Valley in 1960