



THE HISTORY OF THE "WHITE METAL" DATES BACK MORE THAN 6,000 YEARS. IN ANCIENT TIMES IT WAS CONSIDERED EVEN MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD. THE BABYLONIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN WORSHIPED IT FOR ITS INCOMPARABLE BRIGHT AND PURE COLOR AND ITS MATERIAL PROPERTIES - CHARACTERISTICS THAT EVEN TODAY INSPIRE ARTISTS TO CREATE EXCEPTIONAL PIECES

SILVER-

AN EMINENTLY MODERN PRECIOUS METAL WITH A LONG HISTORY AND TRADITION

WAY INTO THE 20TH CENTURY silver was believed to bring good luck. In Germany, for instance, silver coins were sewn onto the uniforms of young soldiers to deter the enemy's bullets. Also, the precious metal was always coveted for its everlasting value. Contrary to gold, however, which hardly changes in the course of centuries, silver is very delicate and susceptible to oxidation which slowly destroys it. Although silver played second fiddle to the more precious gold for a long time, it was the original material for precious metal creations in almost all epochs. However, only very little of what was created in earlier centuries or millennia has been preserved for us, and the magnificent silver treasures of long-forgotten dynasties are a thing of the past because the contents of many princely silver chambers were sacrificed to coin production in times of need. Nevertheless, the "white metal" – a symbol of the moon, its purity and its white reflections – has lost nothing of its splendor in all these thousands of years.

Certain cultures, for example in Africa or in the Orient, prefer silver, and people there wear it every day. Gold, which is rarer and more expensive, is worn by city dwellers or is reserved for ceremonial jewelry. For hundreds of years, the silversmiths in these countries have been creating wonderful pieces of jewelry from chased or enameled silver, sometimes adorned with stones that are supposed to bring good luck. In particular the women in India appreciate silver jewelry. For thousands of years the women of the middle and lower castes have adorned their wrists, necks, ankles and garments with silver jewelry, thus wearing their dowry directly on their body.

ANHÄNGER VON TEZER-DESIGN: GETRAGEN AN EINEM OMEGAREIF ODER EINER LANGEN KETTE HABEN SIE DAS ZEUG ZUM KLASSIKER. SILBER 925 MIT SÜßWASSERPERLE



Second to gold, silver is the most malleable and pliable metal. To harden it, it is mixed with other metals, in particular copper, because it cannot be used in its pure form. But contrary to gold which changes its color in accordance with the respective alloy, solid silver maintains its color. In Germany, the silversmithing art has a long tradition. In our day and age, however, there is only little demand for silver cutlery and table utensils because cheaper materials have replaced the precious metal in the course of time. Today these items are produced only in small quantities by very few silverware manufacturers. Nevertheless, the artistic standard of handwrought silver utensils is still being cultivated. There are numerous competitions such as the Silver Triennial which time and again call on designers to maintain this tradition. This competition has been held since 1965 by the Gesellschaft für Goldschmiedekunst (Association for the Goldsmith's Art) in cooperation with the Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus (German Goldsmiths' House) in Hanau.

Not less precious than gold but a little more affordable, silver is an important jewelry material. Designers and manufacturers create wonderful pieces from this "white metal", sometimes classic and straightforward, sometimes modern and inventive, sometimes keeping up with the customers' hype and sometimes creating very special pieces. ■■■ km

SILVER JEWELRY CARE:

In Germany, a silver object has to be stamped with a number hallmark indicating its fineness.

STANDARDS OF FINENESS:	800/1000 for cutlery and utensils
	835/1000 for jewelry
	900/1000 for coins and medallions
	925/1000 for jewelry (sterling silver)

Silver does not oxidize in pure air but easily tarnishes when exposed to air containing hydrogen sulfide with which it combines, forming a black layer of silver sulfide on the surface. This is why silver jewelry should be kept separated from other metals and protected when stored, preferably by wrapping each piece individually in a soft felt or silk cloth.

Silver jewelry should be worn as often as possible; this is how it maintains its sheen. Silver cleansers should only be used when the jewelry is extremely dirty and not adorned with gemstones. Sodium carbonate is the best cleansing agent. Put some powder on your moist hands and rub the piece until it has regained its original color and sheen. To clean reliefs and other structured surfaces you can use an old, slightly moistened toothbrush. Afterwards, rinse your piece with water and dry it with a soft cloth. Toothpaste is another good cleanser but should not be used for vintage jewelry. Lemon juice will also remove stains and make silver shine.

An old housewife remedy:

To clean heavily oxidized silver jewelry, wrap it in tinfoil and put it in a pot with boiling salt water for about 10 minutes. Then take it out and open the tinfoil. You'll see that the foil has turned black because all the tarnish has deposited on it. Then rinse your jewelry with water and dry it with a soft cloth and it will shine like new.

Your jeweler will surely have the best tip for you – tailored to your particular piece of silver jewelry.

1 KLARE LINIEN UND VERSPIELTE DETAILS FINDEN SICH IN DEN STÜCKEN VON AVIANO JEWELS. DAS WELLENFÖRMIGE DESIGN DIESER SCHMUCKSTÜCKE AUS SILBER 925 – ANHÄNGER 109 EURO (OHNE OMEGAREIF) UND RING 159 EURO – ERINNERT AN DIE WELLEN DES MEERES. DIE DIAMANTEN AUF DER KANTE SETZEN DEZENTE HIGHLIGHTS UND GLITZERN WIE DIE BRANDUNG. **2** ARMBAND AUS SILBER 925 VON ZAREMSKI, AB CA. 238 EURO. **3** ELIPSENKETTE VON FRANZISKA RAPPOLD, LANGE TEILE, PLATTIERT, SILBER 925. **4** COLLIER VON SIM, AUS SILBER 925.

