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Rings: Symbols of Wealth, Power and Affection

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Showcases over 480 examples of rings dating from the Middle Ages through modern times while exploring the history and symbolism of the finger ring

From Library JournalAfter briefly explaining the ancient origins of finger rings, art historian Scarisbrick examines this most personal item of jewelry. She presents over 480 examples of rings from British and European collections representing many forms from the Middle Ages through today. Using close-up photography to augment her in-depth treatment of the examples' provenance, history, and symbolism, Scarisbrick offers a well-documented, scholarly

treatment emphasizing the symbolism of authority--princely and ecclesiastic--as well as piety, fidelity, love, and remembrance. Though fascinating and well illustrated, this excursion into the messages of rings worn by European aristocracy may be too technical and detailed for the casual reader. Recommended for academic and special libraries as well as comprehensive public library collections.- Therese D. Baker, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green
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