

**January 2012 Chamber Article**  
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**Can You Circa Date That?**

Clues about a piece of jewelry will allow us to accurately determine approximately when an item was manufactured. Sometimes, modifications to a pin stem or earring back will be a hint. Certain gemstones may be an indicator. Popular gemstones when they were discovered in history and or used, such as moonstone, would be great evidence of 1900. If a gemologist were to identify a tanzanite in an antique ring it would certainly be a giveaway that even though the style of the ring could be from the 1920's or 1930's someone would have had to alter the ring supplying the tanzanite AFTER 1968 – the first year commercially available tanzanite was known. Even shapes of gemstones can designate an era. Similarly, types of enameling detail can point to the Victorian period or Art Deco period. Hand engraving with a specific date can assist in determining with some accuracy when the item was made. The color of rose gold and the karat of the gold is sometimes a huge factor in determining the wide cigar wedding bands of 1880 to 1895. Combinations of early stampings of jewelry then assembled indicate the industrial revolution. Obviously, a registered trademark is a great clue when referenced precisely. Relying on a combination of clues is usually the best way to evaluate any item of jewelry.

It has become more challenging in recent years to circa date with copies of antique and period jewelry entering the market from overseas. With the advent of commuter aided design styles that were hugely popular during bygone eras are commonly replicated. Only an expert can tell for sure! At Eichhorn Jewelry we take pride in being able to research thoroughly your treasures and the jewelry we offer for sale in our estate collection available at [www.eichhornjewelry.com](http://www.eichhornjewelry.com).