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By Eileen R Eichhorn

What is La Belle Époque?

Recently, an elaborate pair of drop style platinum diamond earrings crossed my desk. In an effort to communicate the design style and describe in detail the ornate complicated hand made wire structure of the duo in my appraisal, it occurred to me someone reading my document might not be aware of the history of these fabulous earrings.

The French called the era from 1895 to 1914 La Belle Époque. French for "Beautiful Era" it was an epoch of beautiful clothes and the peak of luxury living for a select few - the very rich and privileged through birth. Costumes of the day demanded attention and collecting accessories for the clothes that would make heads turn was a mission.

Jewelers were kept busy designing high styled phenomenal jewelry that may only be worn but for one special occasion.

These pieces of jewelry are highly sought after today not only for the art and history but for the value that these intricacies represent. Countless man-hours can be witnessed in the design of these platinum earrings. Knowing the construction techniques of the day, I can see under the microscope where the teeth of a fine jewelers saw painstakingly cut the metal. Each and every one of the 170 diamonds is meticulously set showcasing glistening quality!

Just as in the past depressions some people today are selling their jewels from the vaults while others are buying. In fact, the highest end jewelry especially from the Belle Époque era is bringing record prices at auction.

Should you have an important item of jewelry you wish to sell please contact Eileen Eichhorn at Eichhorn Jewelry, Inc. www.eichhornjewelry.com International contacts allow us to compete in today's highly competitive global marketplace. We will work to obtain a fair offer for you, our client.