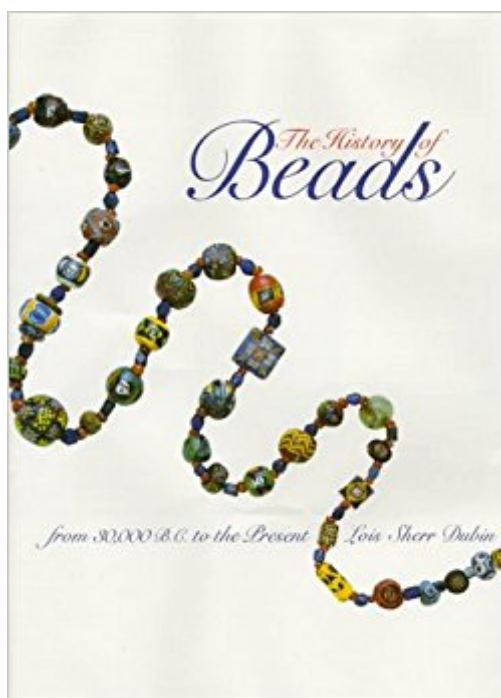


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# The History Of Beads: From 30,000 B.C. To The Present



## Synopsis

In its original hardcover edition (1987), this remarkable book was the first comprehensive history of beads ever published. It includes several thousand examples of beads, beaded jewelry, and beadwork representing 30,000 years of history and drawn from every major culture and region of the world. Now largely unavailable in hardcover and still the most authoritative book on the subject, it is finally available in paperback at a very attractive price. For thousands of years, beads have played an important role throughout the world, from Japan to Cameroon. This highly unusual and innovative volume surveys the fascinating story of their evolution: beads have been used as a medium of trade, as talismans, as personal adornment, as status symbols, and as religious artifacts. They are capsules of cultural, historical, and technological information. This ambitious survey of beads and their unique contribution to history features more than 380 illustrations, most in full color, a spectacular illustrated time line of bead history, detailed maps, a chart of bead shapes, and a highly readable text by Lois Sherr Dubin. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Beads have been used throughout the ages and in virtually every culture, not simply as adornment but to express social circumstances, political occurrences, and religious beliefs; as a form of currency; or as symbolic embodiments of curative powers. And they're colorful, made of various interesting materials, and can be combined in endless configurations. With more than 100 crisp

color photos and intelligently written text that reaps the benefits of the author's 30 years of research, *The History of Beads* documents bead styles and uses in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Far East. Ranging from prehistoric times to the 20th century, this book stops along the way to consider the magic eye bead, prayer beads, and beads with other special attributes. An eight-page color gatefold section offers a fascinating timeline of the bead's history at a glance. Bead devotees can satisfy their curiosity about their medium of choice and draw inspiration for their own creations from the beautiful photos of necklaces, collars, bags, headdresses, and other beaded ornaments. --Amy Handy --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beads have played an important role in every major civilization and have traveled widely as valuable and easily portable objects of adornment. This comprehensive and visually stimulating history focuses on the bead in its cultural context as personal decoration, currency, status symbol, magical charm, and form of cultural communication. Complementing the well-documented text are full-page color photographs of beads from museums and private collections; maps showing bead-making centers and distribution routes; and a fold-out chart of every major bead type (over 1230) from the dawn of history to the present. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries. Janice Zlendich, California State Univ. Lib., Fullerton Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A comprehensive history of beads by type and region from the beginning of recorded history (and arguably, before) to the present day, this book does a great job of establishing the context of why beads and beadwork were important to the cultures they occupied, as well as the significance of their craftsmanship and the surrounding enterprises that supported the various bead industries through time. I highly recommend this book if you have a curiosity for jewelry of any kind, but particularly that of beadwork.

This is a great book on the history and cultural significance of beads throughout the ages. I have been amazed at the historical knowledge presented in this book, the author really did a lot of research. It is presented in a fascinating way, too, which makes reading it very enjoyable. There are tons of interesting photographs which are a pleasure to look at. I think many people would like this book, including anthropologists, people who like or study art, historians, and of course, anyone with an interest in beads and beaded jewelry. All-in-all a really good book. I definitely recommend it if any of these subjects are of interest to you !

Didn't realize this was a condensed version.

.....book is the quintessential source of data on the history of beads in civilized and ancient history. From the organic antler, bone, wood, shell, and stone beads, and fetishes, and symbolic ornamentation of relatively prehistoric times as illustrated by the necklace discovered in northern Europe of circa 32,000 years ago; to the most modern bead and ornamentation currently made the world over; this book covers it all to some extent. From the faience fused glass of ancient Egypt in Pharonic times(abt. 3000 B.C.). To the hand ground stone and agate beads of ancient and modern times(32,000 y.o. to present). To the many different and beautiful Japanese Netsuke of the last thousand years in many, many mediums. To the historical European glass trade beads that made it into every corner of our world during the European age of Discovery and Exploration of new worlds(circa 1450's to 1850's). And to the gemstone and precious and non-precious metal beads and ornamentation of all times. I recommend this book as the primer for all aspiring historical bead and bead art collectors.....

The quality of the book I got was not as good as expected. It was water stained and had broken spine. I also found there is a newer updated version with added material so I returned this one and ordered that one.

nice book,

this is a slightly smaller version of the hardback- and easier to handle~f~ that said, this is THE bead book, totally fascinating, including a lot of cultural history~f~ this is a top expert/author~f~ it came very soon after ordering in excellent shape.thanks !!

This book comes in two versions: a concise version and a huge hardcover version. I own both, but find the unabridged version to be head and shoulders above the paperback "bead history lite" one. This huge tome is a labor of love, and is one of the best books available to learn why every culture devised by man has valued these little objects with holes in them. There are plenty of photos, and the book follows the parallel paths of humans and beads throughout history. It can be startling and amusing to discover that what we consider to be new and exciting has been done many times in the past by people in cultures everywhere. I personally found it facinating to discover that one of the first

things that humans do when we discover a new material is to punch a hole in it and wear it as a bead. Intrinsically, beads are mostly worthless, but this book shows how they bind us all together and add to our knowledge of the people share our planet, both now and in the past. A must read for the serious bead artist.

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