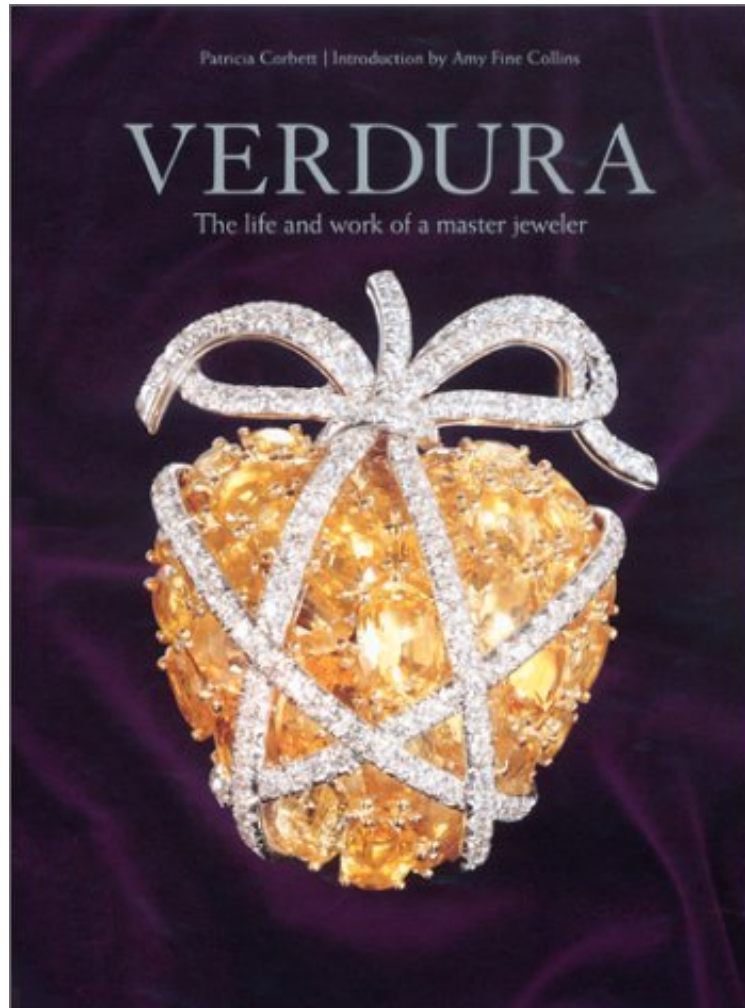


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Verdura: The Life and Work of a Master Jeweler

Patricia Corbett

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Patricia Corbett : Verdura: The Life and Work of a Master Jeweler before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Verdura: The Life and Work of a Master Jeweler:

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A master of metamorphosis, Sicilian duke-turned-jewelry-designer Fulco di Verdura (1898-1978) studded seashells with precious gems, transformed sailor's knots into pearl-encrusted necklaces, and wrapped blazing ruby hearts with braided gold rope. Since the mid-20th century, his ultrasophisticated neo-Baroque pieces have been the status symbols of a near-secret society of European blue bloods, Hollywood royalty, and Park Avenue patricians. Verdura's by-appointment-only patrons included Wallis Simpson, Marlene Dietrich, and Diana Vreeland, who considered his Maltese Cross cuffs an essential part of her daily uniform. In this lavish book, featuring fresh color photographs as well as vintage images, Patricia Corbett presents a deft evaluation of Verdura's work and a glimpse inside his impossibly glamorous world.

From Booklist Every twentieth-century society name, from Coco Chanel to Babe Paley, is mentioned at least once in this meticulous biography of Sicilian jeweler Fulco Santostefano della Cerda, duke of Verdura. Art historian Corbett relishes details, including long descriptions of Fulco's work and play in New York, Paris, Venice, and Hollywood. Augmenting the prose are exquisite color photographs of his creations, reproductions of his drawings and miniature paintings, and illustrations of his art as shown in fashion magazines and by famous photographers. Yet this is not simply a litany of a life; Corbett spotlights Fulco's friendships, family, and personality without commentary or judgment. Plus, she factualizes a life and a name that previously were only a legend and a coveted signature. A wonderful evocation of long-gone elegance and art. Barbara Jacobs Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved From the Publisher "America's Crown Jeweler." -The New York Times About the Author Patricia Corbett is an art historian and curator. She was the European editor of *Connoisseur* and her articles have appeared in *The New York of Books* and *The New York Times*. She is the author of *Verdura: The Life and Work of a Master Jeweler*.