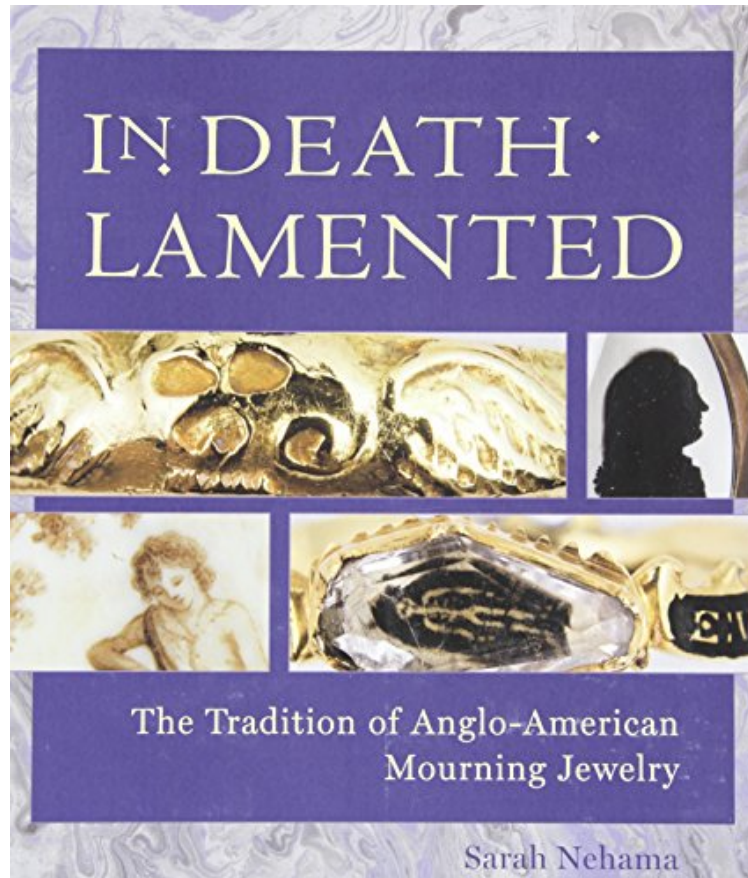


(Free) In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry

# In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry

*Sarah Nehama*

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**Sarah Nehama : In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Mourning Jewellery Must Have Reference Book By Marielle - Museum of Love Mortality This 128-page publication was produced to accompany an exhibition of mourning jewellery at the Massachusetts Historical Society. This is more than a companion piece, it is a well written, well researched stand-alone reference book that is a must have for anyone interested in antique mourning jewellery. For those interested generally in antique jewellery, American history from an interesting angle, mourning customs, I also recommend it. Although adopted from England, this book focuses on the mourning jewellery tradition as it adapted and evolved in the US. There are spectacular examples from the 17th C through to the 19th C, interestingly most pieces are predominantly from the first quarter of the 18th C through to the early 1800s. These exemplify the rarer pieces that are more difficult to find in today's market, unique miniatures, memento mori, rococo, baroque neo-classical examples,

plus exemplary hair work. A final chapter focuses on the Civil war and the End of the 19th Century. Of particular interest is the individual analysis that many of the items receive, the subject (deceased) is discussed in historical context, the design is deconstructed and explained, there is even a short article by a contemporary jeweller who explains the process that would have been used to create Georgian memorial bands by jewellers of the day. There are mourning jewels dedicated to notable historical figures: Abraham Lincoln, Tsar Alexander I Empress Elizabeth, James Bowdoin Governor of Massachusetts in 1785, and so it goes with many fascinating characters, and heartfelt stories. Other aspects about this publication I like is not only the extensive reference sources, but sources broken down with explanation notes for each chapter, plus provenance notes on the pieces. Images are clear and plentiful. As a collector myself I am delighted to have this publication in my library, and know I will refer to it time and time again. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Not quite what I expected but nevertheless lovely. By Cassius Rideout I didn't realize when I ordered this book that it shows examples from just one museum exhibition in Boston, MA. I was anticipating a more broad history of mourning jewelry from other areas of the UK and US besides the east coast. There is plenty of text filling the reader in on the history of mourning jewelry - this isn't just a pretty picture book. There are no examples of vulcanite or Whitby jet jewelry which was the most disappointing for me. Most of the jewelry shown is hairwork lockets and brooches, and gold rings. Nothing wrong with that, I was just hoping to see a more wide range of mourning jewelry. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Reference Book on Momento Mori Jewelry By Lynn Baker "In Death Lamented" is a wonderful treasure of gorgeous photos of memorial jewelry as well as being very historically interesting. The quality of the book is also superb and makes a great statement in my home. Friends of mine have loved going through this book even though they never knew such jewelry existed. The pieces shown in these detailed photos are very exciting and sometimes quite rare. It is nice to be able to see these pieces and Sarah Nahama made this journey through pages very enjoyable and interesting. I will be giving a friend this book as a gift in the near future as I know it will be very much appreciated.

*In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry* illustrates and explains prime examples of rings, bracelets, brooches, and other pieces of mourning jewelry from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Like the exhibition at the Massachusetts Historical Society, this volume showcases the materials in the Society's collection and that of Sarah Nahama, a jeweler and private collector who co-curated the event at the MHS. These elegant and evocative objects are presented in context, including written explanations of the history, use, and meaning of the jewelry, as well as related pieces of material culture, such as broadsides, photographs, portraits, and trade cards. The jewelry included illustrates some of the most exemplary types, from early gold bands with death's head iconography to jeweled brooches and intricately woven hairwork pieces of the Civil War era. Distributed for the Massachusetts Historical Society

Jewelry commemorating dead loved ones often ends up tucked into boxes of family documents rather than kept accessible with baubles more frequently worn. So the evidence of lives mourned gets filed away, sometimes forgotten for decades. The Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston has received gold tokens inscribed with laments, mixed with paperwork donated since the institution was founded in 1791.... Sarah Nahama, a jewelry maker in Boston, is the show's major private lender and wrote the catalog (from the University of Virginia Press). She has acquired about 175 mourning pieces in the past eight years, paying prices into the four figures. She has delved into the genealogy of the deceased and their mourners, identifying cousins of Benjamin Franklin and assorted British aristocrats. (New York Times) The public display of mourning through adornment was popular in the United States from the Colonial period through the Civil War era and beyond. Wearing or giving ornaments that memorialized a loved one or a public figure demonstrated good taste, education, and wealth. These practices are well documented by collector and jeweler Nahama.... From simple gold bands to more ornate woven-hair brooches, the volume illustrates a progression of styles ranging from the baroque- and rococo-inspired styles of the 1600s to neoclassical trends and gothic revivalism in the 1860s.... Collectors will find this volume of interest, as will enthusiasts of historic jewelry. (Library Journal) "Good trim size: inviting to pick up and leaf through. Beautiful reproductions. Good choice of fonts; very legible text. Handsomely done. Again, a book crafted to be a beautiful vehicle for its subject matter: the photography almost is scientific to show the viewer the minute details of very, very small keepsakes holding physical memories (locks of hair, etc.), and rings inscribed in the \*inside\* of the band still manages to be beautiful. The typesetting wonderfully balanced with the images, making this a comfortable read for a sometimes uncomfortable subject." (Award citation in the Pictorial-Print category in the 56th Annual New England Book Show) About the Author Sarah Nahama is a designer/jeweler who works in precious metals and gemstones. She sells her work through galleries, at juried shows, and to private customers. Sarah has a degree in art history and studied jewelry making in Boston and New York. She is a collector of antique mourning and sentimental jewelry and currently resides in Boston.