Decorative art created to memorialize and commemorate death has been a part of Western culture for centuries. Extraordinarily beautiful examples of mourning art and memorial jewelry for members of royalty and the aristocracy date back to the 16th century in England and Europe. Medieval references to commemorative art predate even the extant pieces now in museums. During the Georgian and Victorian eras, outstanding pieces of mourning jewelry and artwork were found in a majority of homes in America, Britain, and Europe. Without being morbid or macabre, this book provides a fascinating text about mourning practices and historical influences that shaped individual and cultural perspectives surrounding death in the 18th and 19th centuries. During these centuries, memorial art reached its zenith in artistic beauty and some of the finest examples from collections in America, England, France, Germany, and Switzerland are featured here. Over 500 color photos display jewelry, portrait miniatures, pottery and glassware, paintings and sculpture, posthumous photographs, hair-work memorials, and more. Current values are provided in the captions. Historians, dealers, and collectors alike will find this book an excellent resource for Victoriana, Georgian and Victorian memorial arts, and antique jewelry, subjects never before treated together in a single volume.

Features:
* Notes:
* Click here to view our Condition Guide and Shipping Prices

My Personal Review:
As I research the Victorian era I am starting to have a greater interest in their mourning culture. No one could mourn like the Victorians, that's for sure.
This book is an excellent resource that focuses on art & jewelery from the Stuart, Georgian and Victorian eras. Though I think it should be noted there are far more examples of Georgian and Victorian than Stuart.

I liked this book because it covered a number of different topics and had some amazing pictures. This is not a book that gives you pages upon pages of information. Often times the chapters are only a few pages long and at times the author does repeat herself. That being said, I haven’t come across any other books that explains such a wide variety of mourning mementos.

The pictures in this book are great and the author adds her knowledge to each piece explaining why they are unique. There is also a price attributed to each picture, however the prices seem to be out of date. When I look for various items they seem to be higher now. Perhaps more people are taking an interest in mourning mementos? Or maybe antiques are just overpriced in my area?

The book is broken down into two sections. One is historical background the other Memorial art and Artifacts. There is also a translation for Latin terms and a glossary of symbols.

In the first section we have:
Death in the Middle Ages
Death in the Age of Enlightenment
Death in Colonial America
Death in the Victorian age
Mary Todd Lincoln and Queen Victoria
Death in the American Civil War
Deaths of children in 19 cent

Section II has:
Mourning clothes and ritual
Mourning jewelry
  Stuart
  Georgian
  Victorian
Memorial paintings
Memorial photography
Framed memorials
  hair work
  framed memorials of other materials
  painted
  paper
  lithographs
tokens of remembrance
pottery on glass
unique objects
mourning art among minorities
Death of mourning

Overall, I found this book very helpful. I will confess it was pricey, but I think it was worth the money. However, if you have a casual interest in mourning jewelry and art, I would suggest trying to find cheaper books or borrowing this from the library.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Mourning Art & Jewelry (Schiffer Art Book) by Maureen DeLorme - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!