

MEN'S JEWELRY DURING THE MODEL A ERA

By
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In her September 2004 Era Fashion website article, Marie Robinette provided an excellent review of men's attire during the years 1928-1931. Little jewelry was worn to accessorize their fashions and chosen carefully so that a gentleman had the correct piece for every occasion. A man's watch would probably be the most prominent jewelry worn, followed by cuff links and studs, rings, belt buckles and pen knives in addition to other items.

Pocket watches remained very popular and were often worn with business suits. A white metal pocket watch and key chain were considered most correct with evening attire. Wrist watches were the new trend of this generation and worn with bracelets of flexible metal or mesh links or leather straps made of calf, ostrich, snake or crocodile. Even if the man chose to wear a wrist watch, a chain was still worn to protect and keep his keys, pen-knife or golf pencil handy. This may have been a Waldemar or Dickens chain attached at the vest or with a belt guard and chain that matched his belt buckle and pen knife.



Younger men, while in town and for business, set a new style trend with starched collars and French cuffs. Cuff links were designed quite simply and included semi-precious stones such as carnelian, lapis lazuli, garnet, topaz as well as engraved or engine-turned metals in keeping with the modernistic trend of the Art Deco period. As part of a

gentleman's country attire, October 1930 Vanity Fair pictured an animal head crystal belt buckle with matching cuff links. Separable or "Kum-a-part" cuff buttons with a snap closure were considered smart and easy-to-use with soft-cuffed shirts. For evening attire full dress sets were designed with matching cuff links and studs of pearl, onyx and diamond and also included matching waistcoat buttons.



KUM-A-PART CUFF BUTTONS		GIFT BOX WITH EVERY PAIR	
DESIGN GREEN AND WHITE GOLD PLATE	DESIGN SOLID STERLING	DESIGN SOLID STERLING WITH STERLING GIFT BOXES OF SILVER AND GOLD PLATE AND SOLID STERLING	DESIGN GREEN AND WHITE GOLD PLATE
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Tie clasps and scarf or lapel pins were in style during this period. When soft collars became popular, men wore collar pins fastened like a safety pin or collar holders clipped to the collar.



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Rings were worn on a man's ring finger or little finger. Styles included birthstones, initial, signet and emblem rings, and were designed using precious, semi-precious and imitation materials which may have included diamond, ruby, sapphire, amethyst, bloodstone, tiger eye, topaz, carnelian and onyx.



During the Depression men's fashion and jewelry were considered a low priority, but the paradox remained...there were still many people of great wealth who dictated much of fashion and the design of jewelry.

Pictures for this article are from original catalogs and fashion magazines published during 1928-1931.

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