

Cultural Daily

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7 Most Famous Brooches Through History: Symbols of Power, Style, and Prestige

Our Friends · Friday, January 17th, 2025

Among all imaginable kinds of jewelry, brooches have had perhaps the most versatile purposes: they served as practical fasteners for clothes, badges of allegiance, and simply ornaments. From sparkling heirlooms passed down in royal families to glamorous jewels worn by celebrities, such pieces have never ceased to astound us with their opulence. Let's take a look at some of the best-known historical **custom brooches**.

1. Queen Victoria's Sapphire & Diamond Brooch

An iconic royal brooch was designed as an oval or cushion-cut deep-blue sapphire encircled by 12 diamond stones, set in gold. This famous piece was presented to the Queen by Prince Albert the day before their wedding, in February 1840 (this is why



it's sometimes called the "Prince Albert Brooch"). Over the years, the brooch became very

recognizable as the Queen wore it on quite a few official occasions.

2. The Cullinan V Brooch

The history of this personalized brooch begins with a lucky find in 1905 in South Africa's Premier Mine. A massive 3,106-carat diamond was eventually cut into several stones. One of these is the Cullinan V, a heart-shaped gem weighing about 19 carats. Set in a platinum frame for Queen Mary in 1910 by Garrard, it graciously entered her regal collection. Apart from a heart-shaped centerstone, there were several smaller diamonds used as accents and set in a filigree. It was later given to Queen Elizabeth II, who wore it when meeting foreign diplomats.

3. The Williamson Pink Diamond Brooch



Few colored gems inspire as much admiration as pink diamonds, and the Williamson stone is one of the best-known examples. It was mined in Tanganyika, Africa in 1947 and was approximately 54 carats. After being cut down to 24 carats, it was presented to Princess Elizabeth as a wedding gift from the rock scientist Dr Williamson. And it was Cartier who designed the brooch, setting the famous pink stone among a flower arrangement of white ones.

4. Empress Eugénie's Pearl and Diamond Bow Brooch

During the Second Empire period in France, Empress Eugénie became famous for her exquisite taste in custom brooches, commissioning them from various jewelry makers. Among them was a dazzling diamond-and-pearl bow-shaped **designer brooch** that embodied the era's obsession with bow- and ribbon-shaped designs. Each bow's "loop" was studded in diamonds, and two European-cut diamond tassels and five graduated old mine-cut diamond cascades were mounted in silver-topped gold. It might blow your mind, but the piece is estimated to be worth 5,000,000 US dollars!

5. The Duchess of Windsor's Panther & Flamingo Brooches



The Duchess of Windsor, Wallis Simpson, possessed an enviable collection of jewelry, some by Cartier, while others by Van Cleef and Arpels. The famous Cartier Flamingo Brooch was commissioned by the Duke of Windsor in 1940 and has become one of the most celebrated items. The design has a bird with calibr -cut emeralds, rubies, and sapphires for feathers and the body set with diamonds. The shape of the flamingo was well-suited for the Duchess' bright personality — she commonly wore flamboyant and colorful designs that were far from traditional royal austerity.

The Panther Brooch was also designed by Cartier. It was finished in the 1940s and depicted a feline shape atop a cabochon emerald or sapphire (there were several versions), its body clad in diamonds and black onyx spots. Some critics still debate the symbolism of the panther motif. Personally, we believe it represents independence and loyalty to values. If you would like to order something no less eccentric, we recommend checking out some forward-thinking jewelry makers like [Olertis](#).

6. Queen Elizabeth II's Cullinan III & IV Brooch

While the Cullinan V may be recognized as the most well-known piece of jewelry, Cullinan III and IV combined (94 and 64 carats respectively) create another beautiful brooch in the British Crown Jewel collection. The combination of these two large stones forms a striking double-diamond design: one was pear-shaped, while the other was cushion-cut. Interestingly, Queen Elizabeth II dubbed them "Granny Chips" and wore these pieces at Diamond Jubilee celebrations along with her almost invisible pins for clothing.

7. Elizabeth Taylor's Iconic Brooches

Although the actress is best known for diamonds such as the Taylor-Burton or pearls like La

Peregrina, she also owned brooches. She made them a part of her Hollywood looks, complementing them with couture dresses. Some of her custom brooches and pins had floral designs encrusted with emeralds or rubies, and others had platinum settings with sizable centerstones. The actress had a particular passion for emeralds, believing in their mystical properties.

Thus, brooches will always hold a special place not only in our wardrobes but also in our hearts. After all, who wouldn't want to wear an over-the-top royal piece or show-stopping Cartier design just like a movie star? Or perhaps, you feel completely differently and are looking for a simple unassuming piece like a custom enamel pin? The truth is, everything is possible if you know exactly what you want and have a reliable jewelry maker such as Olertis.

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Managing Rheumatoid Arthritis with Ayurvedic Treatments

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Arthritis is something that you usually associate with old age- but the same is not true with Rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease that affects people in the prime of their life. For reasons yet not fully understood, in RA the body's immune system attacks the lining of the joints, causing swelling, pain, stiffness and deformity. Early on, the disease is more or less silent- with less obvious symptoms like tiredness, low-grade fever and weight loss. RA is progressive and irreversible, making an early intervention is crucial for a pain free better life, free from remission. Each flare up can leave you physically and emotionally drained and will leave you wondering how life will be different if you have your RA symptoms under control with minimal use of NSAID painkillers, steroids, surgery or DMARDs. This is where **Ayurvedic treatments for arthritis** can help, by ensuring lasting relief, leading to long-term remission and preventing further disease progression. In this blog, we will learn more about **rheumatoid arthritis treatment in Ayurveda** and its management.

Symptoms of RA

The most common symptom of RA is aches and pains- that you can easily discount as a sign of aging, injury or overuse of joints. It might take you a while to figure out RA being the reason for your joint stiffness and thus it becomes essential to pay attention to other uncommon symptoms, that can help in early diagnosis and intervention to prevent permanent damage.

- Persistent, sharp joint pain that affects the small joints first whether resting or moving

- Joint stiffness, especially after rest or upon waking up, may affect tendons and ligaments later on
- Inflammation of joints, making them tender, warm and appear reddish and puffy

If pain, tenderness, swelling or stiffness last for six weeks or longer, it's time to suspect RA.

- Usually, but not always, joints of both sides are involved
- Untreated or advanced RA might lead to the appearance of lumps under the skin of affected joints — often on the hands, elbows, forearms or knees.
- Fatigue, disturbed sleep, weight loss and low-grade fever
- Dry eyes and mouth are characteristic of Sjogren's syndrome.
- Mood changes

Risk Factors of RA

- Women are more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis.
- Rheumatoid arthritis can occur at any age, but it most commonly begins at the ages of 30 to 60.
- If your parent or sibling has rheumatoid arthritis, you may have an increased risk of the disease.
- Smoking increases the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis, particularly if there is a genetic predisposition for developing the disease.
- People who are overweight have a higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis.

Complications of RA

- RA and certain medications used to treat it can raise the risk of osteoporosis, making them more susceptible to fractures.
- Rheumatoid nodules, firm lumps of tissue often appear around pressure points, like the elbows, but can also develop in other areas of the body, including the heart and lungs.
- Rheumatoid arthritis increases risk of developing Sjogren's syndrome, which reduces moisture production in the eyes and mouth.
- RA and many of the medications used to treat it can weaken the immune system, making you more vulnerable to infections.
- Inflammation in the wrists caused by rheumatoid arthritis can lead to carpal tunnel syndrome.
- RA increases the risk of arterial blockages which may lead to heart complications.
- Those with rheumatoid arthritis face an elevated risk of lung inflammation and scarring, which can result in progressive shortness of breath.

Rheumatoid Arthritis Ayurveda Treatment at Apollo AyurVAID

Ayurveda considers RA as Vatarakta. According to a 2011 study sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), **Ayurvedic treatment for arthritis** can be helpful in reducing inflammation, easing RA symptoms and limiting flare-ups. Apollo AyurVAID is an expert in RA treatment, delivering exceptional outcomes through a protocols-driven approach that blends classical Ayurveda medications and therapies with targeted functional rehabilitation. The evidence based treatment is further enhanced by personalized diet and lifestyle adjustments, ensuring a whole person treatment experience.

Key Aspects of Apollo AyurVAID Approach

Comprehensive Diagnostic Protocols

A detailed diagnostic process to understand the condition and its severity:

- Standard blood tests to evaluate inflammation and autoimmune markers.
- Assessment of Ayurveda parameters to determine the individual's constitution and imbalances.
- X-rays to assess the extent of joint damage and inform the treatment plan.

Uncovering Hidden Causes of RA

Going beyond symptoms to identify underlying triggers, including:

- Diet-related issues that contribute to inflammation.
- Stress and emotional factors impacting immune response.
- Lifestyle habits that exacerbate joint problems.
- Genetic predispositions influencing susceptibility.

Individualized Management Plans

Designing tailored management plans, collaborating with experienced Ayurveda specialists as needed. These plans are highly personalized to address each patient's unique requirements.

Comprehensive Treatment Strategies

A protocol that incorporates a variety of interventions, including:

- Panchakarma treatments to detoxify the body and restore balance.
- Internal medications targeting inflammation and immunomodulation.
- Anti-inflammatory diets to reduce systemic inflammation.
- Stress reduction therapies, such as yoga and meditation, to enhance overall well-being.

Expert Supervision and Disease Control

Experienced Ayurveda physicians and therapists deliver systemic treatments with:

- Strict control over disease activity, ensuring minimal flare-ups.
- Daily adjustments to treatment plans based on patient progress for optimal results

Minimizing Dependence on Medications

A core goal of treatment is to:

- Gradually reduce reliance on DMARDs and NSAID painkillers.
- Maintain remission through natural and sustainable methods.

By integrating a protocols-driven approach, classical Ayurveda principles, and functional rehabilitation, Apollo AyurVAID aims to provide long-lasting relief and a pathway to better health for those living with rheumatoid arthritis, reducing their dependence on DMARDs that suppress the immune system, steroids that can hamper kidney or surgery that can make them undergo

significant risk

References

1. World Health Organization. "Indian Council for Medical Research Collaborative Study on the Efficacy of Ayurvedic Treatment in Rheumatoid Arthritis." *Coimbatore, India: The Ayurvedic Trust* (1984).

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