

The Paris jewelry trade also specializes in placing back into circulation old stones from formerly wealthy families or inheritances. "We have a more than honorable market," said freelance expert Philippe Serret, who, with Emeric Portier, prepares and catalogues many of the Paris auctioneers' jewelry sales. "Paris is currently one of the best places to sell antique and period jewelry from the 19th century to 1950, up to \$50,000." However, if one adds the sales of competing jewelers and dealers to the nearly 140 auction sales Portier and Serret organize each year, there are days when \$350,000 to \$550,000 worth of jewelry change hands in Paris.