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VALUATIONS**

by

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THE POWER OF THE PARURE

RARE GEORGIAN JEWELS CONTINUE TO RISE IN VALUE

The release of series 3 of *Bridgerton* on Netflix has provided viewers with a visual feast – brightly hued costumes, sensational floral displays, grand balls, outlandish wigs, and of course – some fabulous jewellery! Whilst adapted to the modern-day audience and of course not strictly true to Queen Charlotte's time, this beautiful display of gem-set jewellery should quite rightly draw attention to the truly amazing pieces produced in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Seen throughout the series and most ostentatiously on Queen Charlotte herself is the parure. Deriving from the French 'parer' 'to adorn,' the Parure refers to a set of jewels intended to be worn together.

The *Bridgerton* books by Julia Quinn are set between 1813 and 1827, covering the Regency period and beyond. By this time, parures set with precious and semi-precious stones were worn for court and formal occasions, with an abundance of jewellery at the very height of fashion.



The finest parures and demi-parures would consist of hair ornaments, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, bodice brooches and stick pins set with aquamarine, topaz, citrine and amethyst. Owing to their age, many parts and the frequent remodelling of jewellery over time, complete parures in their original form, with fitted cases are relatively rare and ever-increasing in value.



A late Georgian gold aquamarine parure of a necklace, a pair of drop earrings, a bodice brooch, a brooch, a hair ornament and a stick pin. Bentley & Skinner, £57,500.

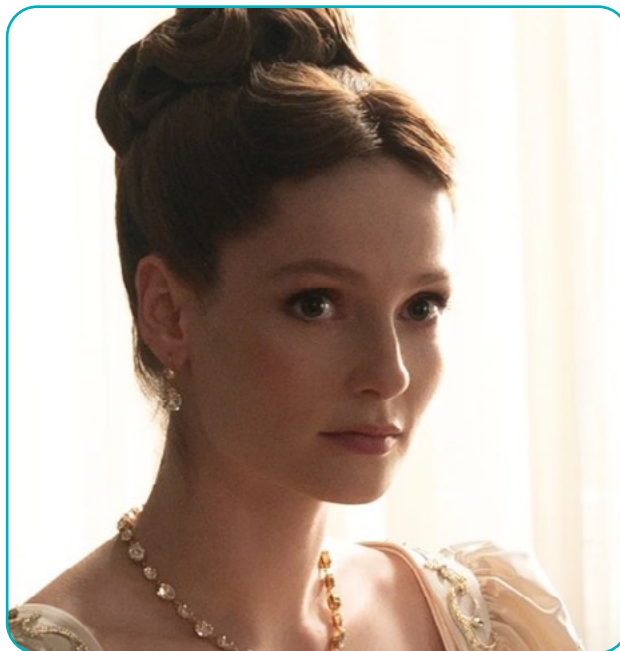
As seen in the aquamarine example above, fashionable, pastel-coloured gemstones such as aquamarine, pink topaz, and golden topaz were set within richly hued cannetille settings. Particularly sought-after at auction and therefore increasing in value are pink and golden topaz, whether in closed or the later open back settings.



A Georgian foil backed pink topaz parure of a foliate necklace, a pair of drop earrings, a pendant and a brooch, in gold closed back settings. Sold at Lawrences in 2015 for £13,000.

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A sub-section of Georgian jewellery that can very frequently be undervalued or even be dismissed as costume jewellery is paste jewellery. Although set with glass instead of crystalline material, this colourful and vibrant jewellery is increasingly sought-after by collectors. Paste is a notoriously soft material, prone to scratches and chips particularly if stored with other jewellery, so survivors of paste jewellery from this time command a premium. As seen with the following two examples, blue paste in particular has been performing incredibly well at auctions, but examples in all colours can be found in jewellery boxes up and down the country!



Rivière necklaces have very much had the spotlight on the latest series of Bridgerton, with the 'diamond of the season' Francesca Bridgerton adorning an array of these classically elegant and universally adored necklaces. Set with a wide range of gemstones, from diamonds to agates to cameos, the rivière necklace consists of a gently graduated pattern and continues in popularity to the modern day! As seen in the example below, rivière necklaces from this time period are frequently seen with a hoop surmount to the principal stone, allowing for the addition of a drop pendant. Values can depend upon the age, condition, gemstone identity, saturation, settings and carat weight.



A rare Georgian blue paste parure, mid-18th century, comprising a necklace suspending a pendant, a bracelet and a pair of earrings. Sold for £20,000 at Woolley & Wallis in 2023.



A 19th century parure of blue paste jewellery comprising a rivière necklace, a pair of bracelets, a cruiform pendant, a pair of pendant earrings, and two brooches. Sold by Cheffins in 2019 for £6,500.



A Late 18th / early 19th century graduated diamond collet necklace, approximately 63cts, c.1800. SJ Phillips, £20,000-£50,000.

For an up-to-date, confidential valuation of your Bridgerton-era jewellery by our nationwide, specialist team, contact us.

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