

Cartier and Company

(Art Deco designer)

Where/when was he born....?

Cartier and Company was founded in Paris in 1847, by Louis-Francois Cartier. Cartier and Company was a jewellery, silver and watch making company.

Who was he - what did he do...?

Louis-Francois Cartier, was the son of a powder horn maker. Cartier became a supplier to the court of France, selling Empress Eugenie a silver tea service in 1859. In 1874, Cartier's son Alfred took over the business and expanded it considerably adding watches, which Louis-Francois had only dabbled in. In 1899, Alfred's son Louis Cartier entered the firm.

His main works are....?

Cartier's jewellery was characterised by a light, airy touch, in contrast to the very formal and highly decorative jewellery of the period. **Many of his designs were very expensive and designed for the rich and the elite in society.** The cases and bracelets in particular are meticulously handcrafted , using hand tools, and processes, such as inlay of precious stones etc, and exude quality in every sense of the word.

Today, Cartier's best-sellers include the classic "Tank" watch , the "Panther" watch , which features a beautiful bracelet available in 18K gold, stainless steel and gold, or stainless steel and other pieces of high end custom made jewellery in precious materials.

What materials did he use.....?

Cartier's jewellery designs are made in silver, with precious gems and onyx - a black stone used in many Art Deco designs. Other Cartier jewellery designs are heavily dependent upon precious stones such as diamonds, sapphires and rubies.

What themes did he use in his designs.....?

Cars/planes/ ships /speed/ mechanism and machinery are all themes which occur during this period in Cartier's work. **Cartier was also influenced by Egyptian art - due to the opening of Tutankhamun's tomb - some designs featured scarab beetles and Egyptian motifs.** Other themes followed by Art Deco jewellers included **Tribal Art of Africa, Aztec Temple geometric motifs/patterns etc.**