



Discover two million years of human history and culture

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Last entry: 16.45

Exhibitions and events

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Hawai'i
a kingdom crossing oceans

Exhibition
15 January - 25 May 2026

[Book now](#)

Visit the Museum

Plan your visit
Book tickets and plan your day including exhibitions, facilities, access, food and travel.

Museum map
Navigate the Museum with base, using our floor-by floor plan and discover what not to miss.

Galleries
Walk through two million years of history and culture across more than 50 galleries

Family visits
From family facilities to activities and events, discover how to make the most of your day at the Museum

Become a Member

Enjoy exclusive events, access to exhibitions and the Members' Room, plus discounts in the Museum shops, cafes and restaurants.

[Find out more](#)

What's online...

The Tudor Heart appeal
Discover the one-of-a-kind gold pendant associated with Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon - and how you can help secure it for the nation.

Family festivities for Halloween
Celebrate the spooky season this half-term with our five-day family festival of storytelling, workshops and performances.

Clocks that brew tea, sing and explode
Join curator Oliver Cooke on a guided tour through some of the Museum's most ingenious and unusual clocks, watches and machines.

Frightening fiestas and sacred ceremonies
Explore how cultures around the world find meaning in the macabre with rituals of remembrance and meditations on mortality.

Explore the collection

[See all](#)

Egypt

Desire, love and identity

Animals

Americas

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Inspired by the Museum

Inspired by the Lewis Chessmen

Inspired by Sutton Hoo

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Inspired by cats

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Free entry

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Circle of Nine

A JOURNEY OF RINGS THROUGH TIME

Exhibition / 03 February - 04 May 2026

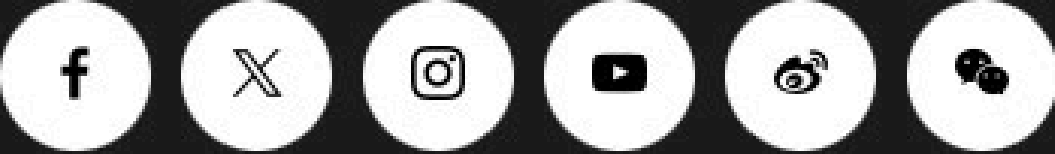
Explore this collection of nine rings from across the world and across time. & Embark on the discovery of their history and the symbolism of their stories.

About the Collection



A collection of infinite beauty in a world that keeps changing. Explore different time periods and the stories of those within them. Reflect upon your own rings, what do they tell you about yourself? The life you’ve lived. If there is no story, go and make one.

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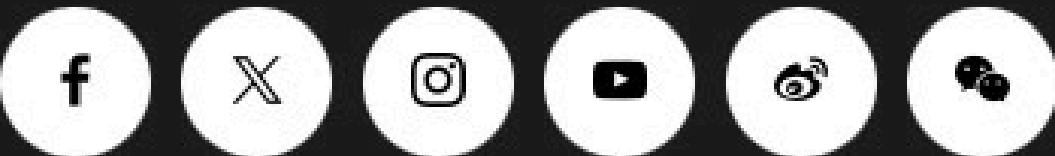


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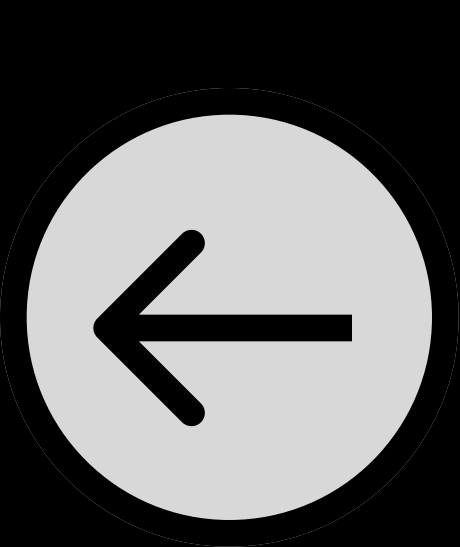
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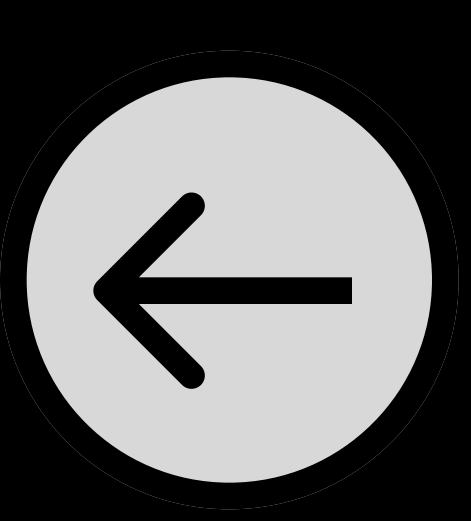
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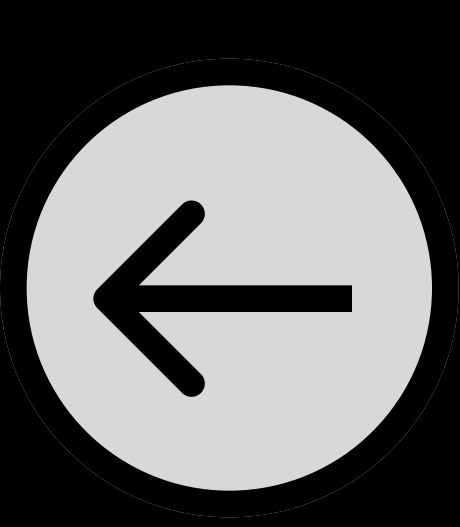
The first European casino was built in Italy in 1638. The Ridotto, a government-owned and controlled gambling house on the streets of Venice.

This ring belongs to a man named Alessandro Giovanni who held a position on the The Great Council of Venice where he took part in the development and success of the casino. This, along with other rings designed with card pictures, was gifted to the members of the council.

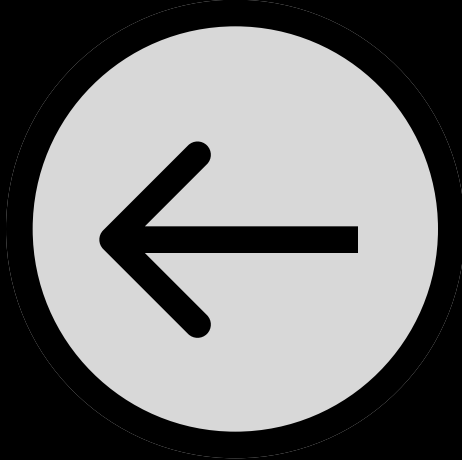


From the depths of the vast coal mines within the rich lands of Africa, this ring was produced. The coal is mined and transported to Abiriba, known as “Small London”, a village in Nigeria. Pure silver, transported on Poland ships, travel across the South Atlantic Ocean.

After an exchange of goods, workers in the jewelry factory begin their work. Melting, bending, and polishing these fine accessories. The ring establishes an appreciation for the natural elements of the land, leaving it as the center piece as opposed to it's silver encasing.



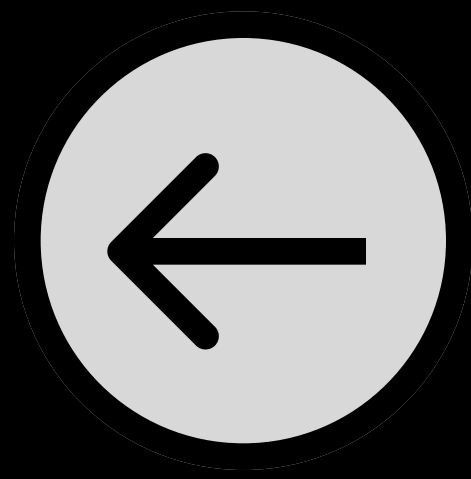
This ring belongs to the farm boy, bestowed to him by Maiden Susan on the day of their marriage. Her family did not approve of this marriage but seeing them so in love with each other, they could not refuse to bless their marriage. With this ring, he became Sir Victor of Tattershall. After years and Maiden Susan's parents passed, he took on their legacy and they ruled the land with protection and knowledge. He became the High Knight Sir Victor and they lived their lives through peaceful diplomacy, consistent leadership, and strong devotion to each other.



This ring belongs to the fair maiden Susan Fletcher who resided in the Tattershall castle during the 15th century. Susan belonged to a wealthy family known across England for their lavish festivities, their riches, and their contributions to society. She spent most her days teaching children literature, despite social retaliation against women and knowledge. Why did she cherish this ring so much when she owned so many beautiful items?

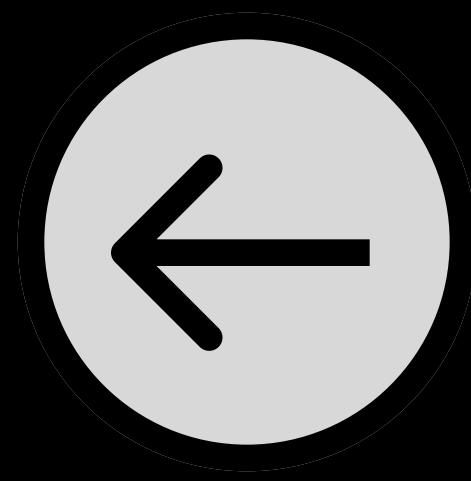
A farm boy, forbidden love. They met by the stables and fell in love, sneaking away on adventures with their horses. One day, he just disappeared and never returned. No letter and her heart broke. She lived her life with less happiness. Until one summer morning, walking through the town she recognized a familiar face - though it was hidden under the shining armor. She saw him everyday, waited to see him but she was scared to approach the man who stole her heart.

Until he saw her, and ran to her and presented her with the ring. He felt while she could give him anything, he had no money to show his love. He left to earn enough wages to buy her the ring and officially announce his love for her. They married that winter.



Found in the mysterious caves of Ireland, it is said by locals that if you discover a ring with no owner - it must belong to the Irish fairies depicted in Irish myths and folklore. They're described as *aes sidhe*, "good people", though they are quite the opposite. Easily offended, malevolent, and dwellers of the hills - when disturbed, they curse you with bad luck, sickness, and even madness.

The mushroom is representation of their homes or forts, where they dance in circles and sing throughout the night. The bowl shape of the top of the mushroom acts as an amplifier for their music, to share an enchanting sound to those near by and compel them to dance to their death.



Created during the “Summer of Love” in 1967. Gifted to a mother to their daughter as they traveled across America in their whimsically decorated van, participating in musical festivals and singing at events songs on peace, love, and appreciation of the earth. Under the sun they danced, sang, made flower crowns, swam in lakes, explored the town, and farmed their own foods. Under the moon, they counted the stars and chased fireflies in the fields.

This mother and daughter duo lived long and joyous, even through the Anti-Violence, Anti-War protests, and far beyond to open their own jewelry and clothing store using natural products, recycling&reuse of products, and participation/by-way of donations.

Circle of Nine

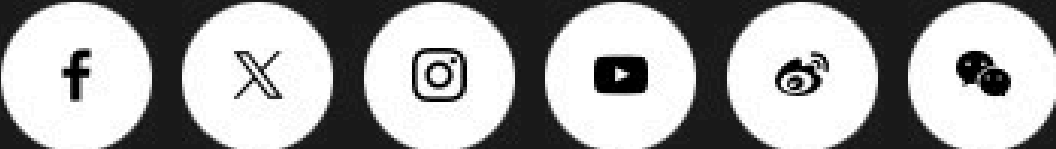
A JOURNEY OF RINGS THROUGH TIME

This gallery was curated by Lily Asselin. She is a second-year BFA Graphic Design Student at Keene State College. The reason she created this gallery was out of love for rings, their design, their history, and personal interest in collecting them.

She finds it fascinating that something so small has the responsibility of holding moments, bonds, and promises that last beyond our time. They capture love, friendship, and achievement. Rings mark the chapters of our lives, each one a constant reminder to who we are, what we cherish, and how much we have accomplished.



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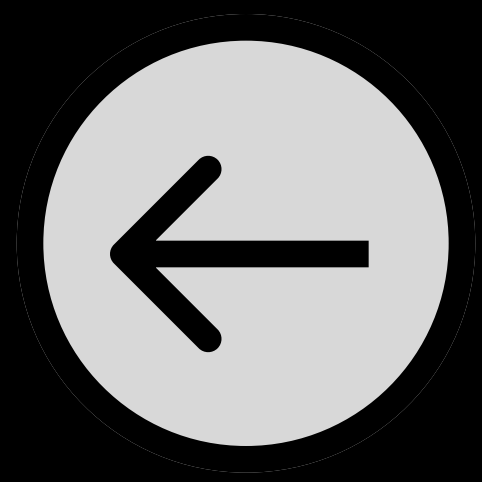
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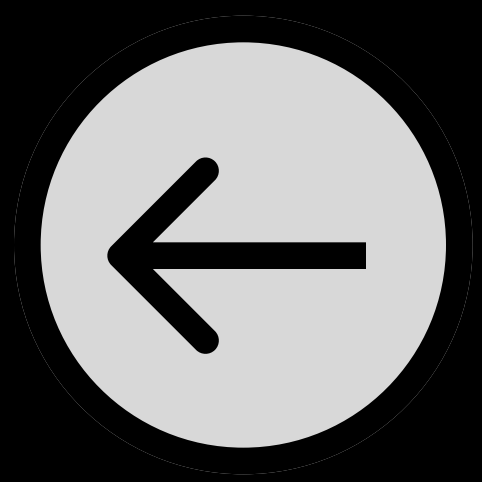
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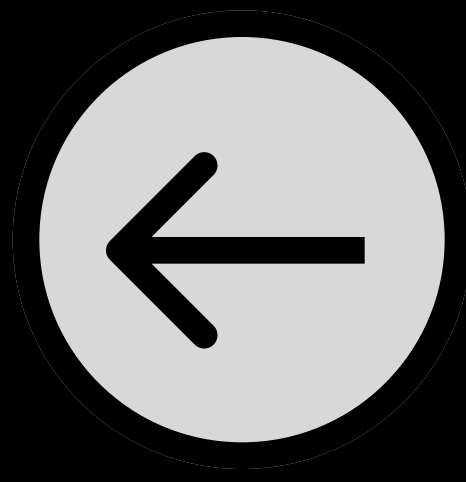
An engagement ring given from a pilgrim named John Brown to his fiancée Elizabeth Taylor. They sailed across the ocean when Europe expanded over to America, landing November 21st, 1620. Both left their families and sailed into the unknown, meeting on the ship and falling in love.

As they settled on the land and officially got married, they soon had a child and named her May Flower Brown. They survived through the harsh winter, he provided food while she provided warmth before spring came and they met the Native Americans.. It was tense at first, their townleader was suspicious of the Native Chief. It wasn't until their daughter, little May Flower, confidently walked over and made friends with the children. Elizabeth and John soon followed and introduced themselves with peace, the town followed and both groups thrived together.



Forged during the Industrial Revolution that began in Great Britain during the mid-18th century leading into the 19th century. The abundance of resources like coal, steel, and iron added to the growth expansion of new machines that orchestrated mass production versus manual labour.

This ring was crafted by a silversmith named Paul Storr, his decorative work presently featured in Tiffany & Company, as the last unique and specialized designed ring before the decline in demand from traditional hand-crafted work. This ring has been passed down through generations and donated by the Storr family to this exhibition.



Approximately 3,000 years ago, there was a time period called “The Long Pause” when there was a gap in voyaging across Polynesian islands. A young women named Nalani joined her father out on the sea from their small island, catching fish to bring back to their village. The tides had been void of fish, as if they disappeared from existence.

While diving under the wave, she saw something sparkle under the coral reef. As she swam deeper she picked it up and in her hand was this ring. She brought it back up to her father who inspected it and said it was a gift from the gods because it is an old tradition passed down by the elders that the stars would guide you to where you needed to go.

The stars had guided her that day, not ones from the sky but the ones on the ring. The place where she had discovered the ring was actually home to hundreds of fish, and with the help of her father, they were able to bring home a large feast to their village.