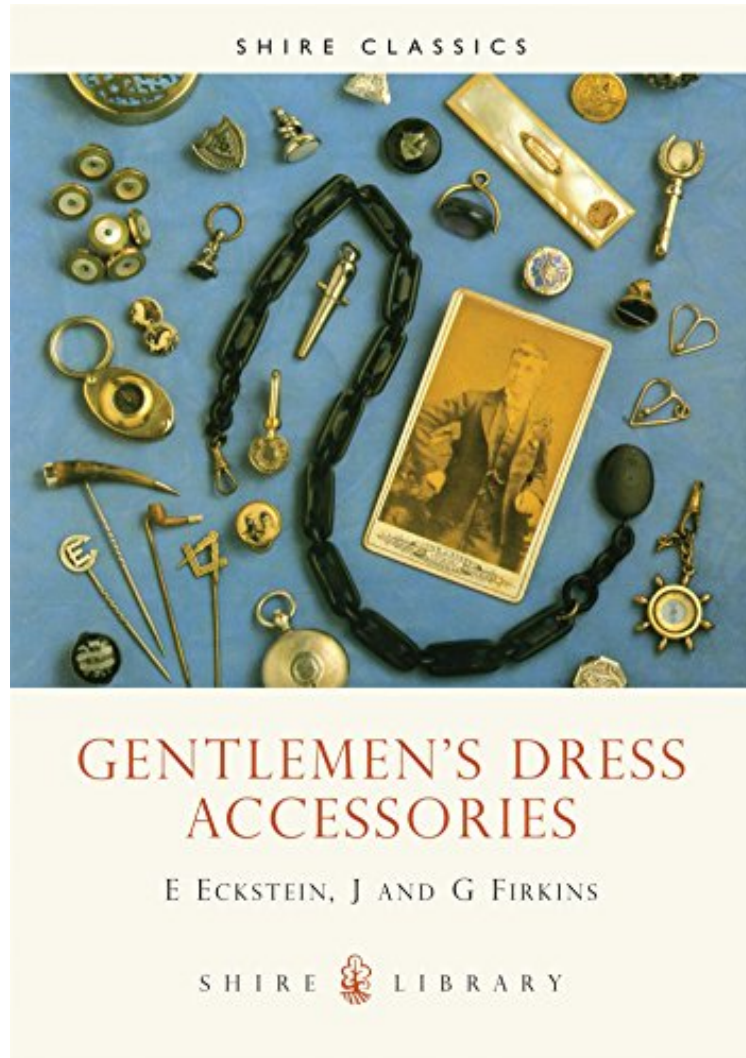


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E. Eckstein, J and G Firkins
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Gentlemen's Dress Accessories (Shire Library)

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A growing population in the mid-nineteenth century and a wealthier middle class, combined with an increased social awareness, greater literacy, better travel facilities, inventiveness and cheaper production through mechanization, all

helped to increase demand for male fashion accessories. Men wished to balance the sobriety of their clothing: if fashion dictated drab coloring, all they could do was to add ornament; hence, gentlemen came to display a selection of male jewelry. The highlight of these accessories was the watch chain or albert with its attachments: watch-keys, seals, fobs, compasses, pencils, vestas and the like. Studs, cravat pins, flower holders, cuff-links and special dress buttons for waistcoats were also widely used. Many of the items described and illustrated here are very collectable and can still be worn today, often providing a stimulating conversation point.

About the Author Eve Eckstein has been collecting hat pins for over twenty years and gathering knowledge of hat pins and their place in social history. June and Gerald Firkins deal in many of the items described in *Gentlemen's Dress Accessories*, and have been actively engaged in the antiques trade since the 1970s. They enjoy researching and writing about such items as bachelor buttons, silver spoons, watercolours and dolls' house furniture. They also give lectures and demonstrations on various aspects of social history.