

FIGURES

Frontispiece. A junk and pearl-divers in the northern Indian Ocean.
Catalan World Map, 1375, attributed to Abraham Cresques.

1. Gold dish from the tomb of the Ming Emperor Wan-li, 1573–1620.
Engraving of dragons attacking a flaming ‘pearl’.
2. Chinese ritual vessel, carved in white nephrite; probably eighteenth century.
3. Nestorian monument and inscription (AD 781), Hsi-an-fu (Ch’ang-an), Shensi.
4. *Pteria* sp. (*Pectinibus margaritifera*). M. Lister, 1685.
5. *Pteria* sp. (*Concha aliformis*). N. Gualtieri, 1742.
6. *Pinctada* sp. G. Rondelet, 1554–1555.
7. *Pinctada* sp. (*Conca margaritifera*), with pearls. F. Bonanni, 1681.
8. *Pinctada* sp., with pearls. M. Lister, 1685.
9. Gold-clad bronze pin, crowned by two pearls, from the sanctuary of Aphrodite, Paphos, Cyprus; probably 3rd century BC.
10. Mummy (panel) portrait, Egypt, ca. AD 14–54, showing hooped earrings, each with three pearls.
11. Earrings of the *crotalia* type, from Tel Umar (Seleucia), Iraq, ca. AD 40–120.
12. Hunting scene on a silver-gilt plate. King Khosrau II (590–628) wearing earrings of pear-shaped pearls and a tiara surrounded with pearls.
13. Portrait of ‘Abbās Mīrzā, son of Fath ‘Alī Shāh, ca. 1840. Artist unknown.
14. Fishing for pearl-mussels: 1–India, 2–the (West) Indies, 3–Persian Gulf (Hurmuz), 4–Scotland (freshwater). Malachias Geiger *Margaritologia*, 1637.
15. Fishing for pearl-mussels and the extraction of pearls, Baḥrain. André Thevet, 1575.
16. Sri Lanka, ca. 1602. Pearl-fisheries of Mannar, off the north-west coast. Jean Théodore de Bry *Indiæ Orientalis*, 1606.
17. India and Sri Lanka, showing the ‘pearl coast’. John Fryer, 1698.
18. The pearl-fishery near Tuticorin, southern India. John Nieuhoff, 1662.
19. Painting of a Mughul prince, ca. 1650.
20. Painting of two ladies beside a Tulsi plant (a species of basil, *Ocimum*, sacred to Viṣṇu). Golconda (Deccan), ca. 1680.
21. Painting of a courtesan, Golconda, Deccan, 1675–1700.
22. A black princess, Ajaṇṭā, north-west Hyderabad.
23. An *apsaras*, spirit or nymph (*devastrī*), Ajaṇṭā, north-west Hyderabad

24. A *bodhisattva* or potential buddha (Vajrapāṇi), Ajaṇṭā, north-west Hyderabad.
25. Birth of the Buddha, Ajaṇṭā, north-west Hyderabad.
26. A royal procession, Ajaṇṭā, north-west Hyderabad.
27. 'Pearl' and 'jade' in the *Erya Yintu*, a pre-Han glossary.
28. Consort of the Emperor Ying-tsung (1063–1067), Northern Sung dynasty.
29. Consort of the Emperor Shih-tzu (1260–1294), Yüan dynasty, wearing a *boghtaq*.
30. Consort of the Emperor Wu-tsung (1307–1311), Yüan dynasty, wearing a *boghtaq*.
31. Consort of the Emperor Hsiao-tsung (1487–1505), Ming dynasty.
32. Consort of the Emperor Mu-tsung (1566–1572), Ming dynasty.
33. Headdress of one of the two consorts of the Ming Emperor Wan-li (1573–1620), from his tomb near Beijing.
34. Gold filigree and pearl hairpin, T'ang dynasty (618–906).
35. Woman wearing a *boghtaq*. Wall painting, Bezeklik (Turfan), eastern Sinkiang, ? 9th to 10th centuries.
36. Figured silk with 'pearl'-bordered medallions, Astāna (Turfan), eastern Sinkiang.
37. Fragment of a wall painting, probably from Balawaste (Khotan), south-west Sinkiang.
38. The *bodhisattva* Vajrapāṇi. Wall painting, Kyzil [Kizil Ortang] (Kucha), west-central Sinkiang.
39. Head of a woman. Wall painting, Kyzil [Kizil Ortang] (Kucha), west-central Sinkiang.
40. Fresco with duck-pattern medallions, Kyzil [Kizil Ortang] (Kucha), west-central Sinkiang.
41. Patterned silk with duck motifs, late Sassanian, 7th–8th centuries.
42. The *bodhisattva* Mañjuśrī. Silk, from Tunhuang, north-west Kansu, T'ang dynasty (9th century).
43. The *bodhisattva* Jizō (Ti-tsang, Kṣitigarbha), Japan: left 794–1195, above 1192–1333 or later.
44. The *bodhisattva* Kṣitigarbha in Lamaism (Tibet).
45. The Empress Theodora (ca. 500–548) and attendants. Mosaic in the 6th-century church of San Vitale, Ravenna.
46. Late Saxon brooch, from Dowgate Hill, London.
47. Tablet-weaving (Brettchengewebe) with pearl embroidery. German, 11th century.
48. Russian ikon, Madonna and Child, decorated with pearls and precious stones.
49. A pearl-dealer. Johannis de Cuba *Hortus Sanitatis*, ca. 1483.
50. Russian ikon, SS. Paraskeve (?), Gregory of Nazianzus, John Chrysostom, and Basil the Great. School of Pskov, late 14th century.
51. Fishing for river pearls in northern Europe, and illustrations of treasures including pearls. Olaus Magnus [1555], 1558.
52. Valve of a pearl shell (*concha seu concha margarifera*), (?) floating on water. English 13th-century bestiary.
53. A device for drilling pearls ca. 1600. Boëtius de Boodt, 1609.

54. Section on pearls (*aliofar*) in the *Lapidario* of Alfonso X of Castile, *el Sabio* (1252–1284).
55. Miter trimmed with pearls. Detail from a portrait of William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury (1504–1532), by Hans Holbein the Younger, 1527.
56. Covers, front (a) and back (b) of the *Lindau Gospels*, 9th century.
57. Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603). Portrait by or after George Gower, ca. 1588.
58. Lady Dorothy, wife (1595–1619) of Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland. A necklace of large oriental pearls; the parrot adds to the Eastern effect.
59. Louise Renée de Penancoet de Kéroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth (1649–1734). Portrait by Pierre Mignard, 1682. A Negro boy offers branches of coral and a shell partly filled with pearls. Pear-shaped pearls in earrings and on the dress.
60. Sleeve of a “wide velvet surcoat”, embroidered with pearls. Detail of a portrait of King Henry VIII (1509–1547) by Hans Holbein the Younger, ca. 1536.
61. Robert Carey (1560–1639), 1st Earl of Monmouth (1626). British School. The portrait, which hangs in Montacute House, Somerset, was long thought to be of Thomas Cavendish (ca. 1560–1592), circumnavigator, buccaneer and courtier.
62. George Villiers (1592–1628), 1st Duke of Buckingham (1623), Chancellor of Cambridge University, 1626–1628.
63. Fortune-teller or sorceress holding a red shell, probably *Spondylus princeps*. *Codex Maliabechiano*, ca. 1553.
64. “Mural showing a shell-diver, head down-turned, putting a shell into the net bag around his neck”. Tetitla, Teotihuacán, Mexico, 300–600.
65. Flask (“vase de Cumana”, Titicaca region), embossed with representations of *Spondylus pictorum*.
66. *Epyollotli*, the pearl. Bernardino de Sahagún *Florentine Codex*, ca. 1570: (a) the pitted shell (*eptli*), (b) hieroglyph for the heart (*yollotli*). F. Paso y Troncoso, ca. 1910.
67. “Moctezuma’s messengers present gifts to Cortés”. Bernardino de Sahagún *Florentine Codex*, ca. 1570.
68. A “chief lady of *Pomeioc*,” Virginia (now North Carolina), wearing an arm-sling of pearls. John White, ca. 1585, engraved by Théodore de Bry *America* IV, 1594.
69. A “prince” of Virginia, with earrings, necklace and bracelet of pearls, and an apron decorated with pearls. John White, ca. 1585, engraved by Théodore de Bry *America* IV, 1594.
70. Ordinances on pearl-fisheries, *New Laws of the Indies*, 1542–1543.
71. Pearl-fishing around Cubagua. Théodore de Bry *America* IV, 1594.
72. The *quinto* on the pearls of (a) Cubagua, and (b) the Indies, 1510–1600.