

## A Spark of Gold, A Thread of Time

Imagine stepping back, not just decades, but centuries. To a time when the gleam of gold wasn't confined to royal courts, but danced on the hands of everyday folk. This is the story I long to share with you, a tale woven from the very fabric of my family's legacy, a tradition of Italian goldsmithing that stretches back to the twilight of the 18th century.

Join me as we embark on a journey, a fascinating exploration of the jeweller's art, a craft that once breathed life into the very heart of popular culture. We'll delve into the subtle yet profound differences between the creations meant for the common hand and those destined for the elite, tracing the distinct signatures of Southern Italian artistry against the refined elegance of Northern European goldsmithing.

This isn't just a lecture; it's a living history, illuminated by the passion of my father, a man who dedicated his life to restoring and preserving the whispers of the past. His legacy, a meticulously curated volume of 468 pieces, speaks of a time when jewellery was more than adornment – it was a chronicle of the people, a tangible connection to their stories, their dreams, and their struggles, particularly in the 150 years spanning the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

But our journey won't stop there. We'll also explore the opulent world of the Cheapside Hoard, a breathtaking collection that tells a different story, one of elite patronage and unparalleled craftsmanship. This contrast, this symbolic voyage from the sun-drenched shores of Southern Italy to the bustling workshops of Northern Europe, will unfold across 300 years of jewellery history, from the 1600s to the dawn of the 20th century.

Prepare to be captivated by the stories etched in gold, to witness the evolution of a craft that mirrored the very soul of its time. Join me, and let us trace the shimmering thread of history together.

