

PRESS RELEASE

Cazzaniga Historical Jewellery Collection

*A celebration of the **Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga** style in its
early days*

at

The Residence of The Italian Ambassador to Japan

H.E. Ambassador Domenico GIORGI

on

Sunday 8th of December 2013

This event is promoted

by

The Italy Japan Foundation

President, H.E. Ambassador Umberto VATTANI

2:00 p.m. Arrival of guests;

3:00 p.m. Reception;

- Speech by the Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Domenico GIORGI;
- Speech by H.E. Ambassador Umberto VATTANI;
- Speech by Mr Paolo CAZZANIGA;

3:30 p.m. Afternoon tea, cakes and wines from Italy;

4:15 p.m. Mime performance by Mr Tetsuya IZAKI;

4:30 p.m. Special welcome from Ms Tetsuko KUROYANAGI;

5:30 p.m. Press Conference

Cazzaniga Historical Collection

A very special selection of jewellery from Cazzaniga, dating from the mid-1950s to mid-1960s, has been assembled for display at the Residence of the Italian Ambassador to Japan, at the request of H.E. Ambassador Domenico GIORGI.

It is the celebration of the ***Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga*** style, by one of the cornerstones of Italian style in Jewellery.

Cazzaniga's production has passed through different stages. Starting with the ***Art Deco Period***, 1920s - 1940s, Cazzaniga then moved on to design ***Fine Jewellery*** from the 1940s to the present day. But it was in the mid-1950s that the house of Cazzaniga developed its own peculiar style, ***Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga***.

Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga

From the mid-1950s to the present day

Around the mid-1950s Angelo Giorgio Cazzaniga, with his wealth of experience accumulated from working with jewellery and thanks to his exceptionally cultured sensibility in the field of decorative arts, began to use his courage and inventiveness to realize completely new objects.

This gave rise to the style "Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga", a kind of summary of diverse genres, each one of which rides on the back of various centuries but when combined with the fervid imagination of the "Maestro" Angelo Giorgio Cazzaniga, produced a style never seen before. All the colours of gold are used: yellow, red, white, rose, green, fine gold and palladium as well as a large variety of gemstones. Marvellous Austrian enamels of different shades are applied onto a guilloché base in the

workshops in Rome and the extraordinary carved stones from Idar-Oberstein are used in necklaces, brooches and rings.

In the same period, Angelo Giorgio Cazzaniga travelled widely in the Far East, China, Thailand, Japan and Russia. He bought porcelain, jade, *objets de vertu*, refined *chinoiserie* and other antiques at the auctions houses of London, Geneva and New York. Extraordinary corals, formed in branches or worked into beautiful carvings of different colours - white, rose *peau d'ange* and lobster pink - were selected and purchased in the town of Kochi on the Japanese island of Shikoku, just as pearls were purchased in the Gulf of Toba.

The Maestro Angelo Giorgio Cazzaniga was hungry for beauty. A quantity of beautiful objects, sought and found all over the world, spilled over each other in the workshop of Cazzaniga in Rome where they were used in making objects d'art designed by the "Maestro".

During his travels to the Orient, Angelo Giorgio Cazzaniga did not however limit himself to the purchase of materials for jewellery; he was also interested in the local culture. He would study the character and styles of the various regions that he visited and would collect printed matter, pictures, furnishings and antiques. All this contributed to the birth of the Cazzaniga style - refined, eclectic design - the result of a combination of Orient and Occident born out of Rome and the extraordinary intuition of the Maestro. It is a style of colours and shapes, the fruit of an explosive imagination.

Giorgio Cazzaniga knew nature, plants, trees; he had a rare knowledge of botany and he loved beauty in all its forms. He considered nature to be the ideal model for a great artist. But he would say, "it is not enough to look at nature and copy it just as it is, only the eyes of a beautiful soul rest on beautiful things". So he did not restrict himself to the production of jewellery. His inspiration also manifested itself in marvellous works in silver, marble fountains and stone statues.

The coral statues mounted on 24 carat gold plated silver bases with floral borders of fine gold and white gold set with gemstones come from this period; as do the series of ostriches, kangaroos and kiwis in 24 carat gold plated silver with bases of rutilated quartz, green aventurine, lapis lazuli, malachite and agate of all colours.

Everything created by Cazzaniga has always followed a certain standard of technical production - craftsmanship of the highest level. In the Cazzaniga by Cazzaniga line there has always been engraving by hand, according to the ancient rules of the Romano-Greek goldsmiths; bringing to mind the golden mask of Priam discovered by Schliemann in the excavations of Troy.

From here followed the production of "Roman-baroque masks" that Cazzaniga began to create at the beginning of the 1950s and which would receive an extraordinary consensus in the magical Rome of *La Dolce Vita*. Actors and actresses from all over the world purchased the masks from the Cazzaniga atelier, which were mounted as pendants or brooches.

The creations by Cazzaniga thus became an expression in jewellery of that extraordinary sense of happy exuberance that characterized all those years of euphoria.

The masks became a great classic of the Cazzaniga style. Throughout the world there are collectors who crowd the auction rooms of Christie's and Sotheby's to bid for the rarest pieces.

Cazzaniga has never produced a work with an unfurnished border or an object without a frame; the reverse side of one of their pieces has always been a work of art in itself. No item leaves the Cazzaniga workshop until it has been minutely examined by Giorgio or Paolo personally.

The passion for work, the attention to detail, the wholly unique designs, the extraordinary chromatic sensibility in the choice of colour and the highest professionalism has made Cazzaniga jewellery famous and appreciated worldwide.

Even now, nothing has changed in terms of style, taste and quality.

Today as in the past, Cazzaniga creates unique objects, one is never exactly the same as the next, and purposely so.