

also met Sylvia and John Kennedy in Yemen; the former was Ornament's designer while the magazine was located in Los Angeles.

Since her retirement in late 2001, Marjorie has planned to write a book on her collection of Middle Eastern jewelry but had difficulty proceeding directly. Her participation in this year's Smithsonian Folklife Festival, in which the Silk Road was the theme, did contribute to forward momentum, as she hired six Syrian craftspeople to come to Washington. Among them was George Obeid, a jeweler she had known previously. To further her jewelry book project, Ransom took an anthropology course at a local community college, but it was really the decision of The Bead Museum in Washington, D.C. (formerly the Bead Museum•DC) to organize an exhibition of their collection that was of the most importance to attaining her goal. She realized that this was a fantastic opportunity, even though a tremendous amount of work and organization was required prior to and concomitant to an exhibition. Due to the many years of being hung on walls and exposed to air, an abnormal amount of oxidation had to be removed from the silver jewelry. When jewelry is constantly worn, rubbing of the metal against cloth and skin keeps oxidation buildup to a minimum. After cleaning, the over one hundred pieces had to be photographed for documentation and scanning for the exhibit catalog. Authored by Joyce Diamanti, with captions by



MARJORIE RANSOM, wearing a Middle Eastern silver pendant, in front of one of the velvet wall panels on which are hung part of their collection. Below: OMANI SILVER ANKLET, which is hollow and hinged; worn by women, it is 10.5 cm wide.

