

Quest for the Crest of Weimar



How did my search begin? My obsessive quest originated from the slightly yellow, slightly crisp pages of the 1960 Weimaraner Club of America's nationally distributed 'Weimaraner' magazine.

Many years ago, I was lucky enough to have a collection of old 'Weimaraner' magazines come into my possession. The issues went back into the 1950's and offered a wealth of information on what the Weimaraner world was like in years gone by. After devouring issues after issue, learning about the dogs and people who populated the Weimaraner Club of America, I spotted an advertisement that haunted me. It jumped off the page and shouted, "You have to find this."

This tempting advertisement brought together two of my interests...Weimaraners and vintage designer jewelry. In 1960 the Weimaraner Club of America offered for sale a brooch that was based on the crest of Weimar. It was designed by a famous fashion house of the time and only a limited number were going to be produced for the Weimaraner Club of America. Here's some of the text from that ad:

Beautiful rhinestone studded Crest of Weimar is being offered to the ladies of the Weimaraner Club of America for a very limited time.

The brooch was designed by Hattie Carnegie Inc. especially for you.

Place your order now. Don't be disappointed. Only enough brooches will be ordered to fill your requests.

I wondered how many existed. Could I track one down? Could I find a person who owns one? While I had a picture, what was the size and what did it look like in person?

I started looking and asking Weimaraner people about the brooch. No luck finding anyone among my Weimaraner acquaintances who knew what I was talking about. When I say that I started this search, you probably think I dashed off a few Internet searches. Oh no, my quest started in the pre-Internet days. No one had Ebay, google was a nonsense word and Amazon was a river. Instead of electronically searching, I asked "old timers" in the breed, haunted antique shops and dug through piles of old costume jewelry. Nothing turned up and as time went by my zeal to find a crest of Weimar brooch waned but was not totally extinguished.

With the advent of the Internet, I'd occasionally look at likely websites but nothing came close to the picture that I had. If I didn't have the persistence of a Weimaraner, I probably would have abandoned the search. I've learned from my dogs to not give up. Persistence is often rewarded. And at last it was.

An Internet search on the name of the designer narrowed the possibilities but still produced a seemingly infinite number of sites that listed hundreds of pieces of jewelry. I decided to limit myself to an occasional search but I didn't give up. Then one day, a single query brought up a page of an antique dealer in Ohio who specialized in fine vintage jewelry. In went the name of the designer and there it was. It was simply listed as a Hattie Carnegie brooch; no mention was made of the crest of Weimar. Apparently, the seller knew nothing of the history of this piece.

Credit card in hand, I plunked down the asking price and in a couple of days I was finally in possession of a crest of Weimar brooch. When the brooch was offered for sale in 1960 it cost \$10. Curious what that would equate to in today's dollars, I found a conversion table and it showed that \$10 in 1960 was equivalent to \$85 today. It was close to what I paid for my long-sought treasure.

It's time to check through Granny's old jewelry and see if you're as lucky as I was in my search for the crest of Weimar brooch. If anyone does find one and knows any additional history about the piece, please drop me an email, I'd love to hear about the one that you have.

Carole Lee Richards

zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com