

# From behind the IRON CURTAIN

Glass-bead amulets found  
boxed in Czech basement

**S**INCE THE BREAK-UP of the Soviet Union more than a decade ago, treasures have been trickling out of the area.

One of the most recent discoveries, locked in a Czechoslovakian basement since the 1920s, surfaced at the Vintage Fashion Expo in May.

Czech jewelry collector Jo Addie traveled all the way from La Grange, Illinois,



to unveil a collection of massive Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Egyptian-themed necklaces crafted of colorful glass beads and soldered brass. Although they are so extravagant they look like they might have been crafted contemporaneously from vintage parts, they are all authentic, said Addie.

"They've been packed in a warehouse in the Gablonz region of Czechoslovakia for 80 years," she said. "The company evidently never got a chance to export them."

She wore the most expensive of the necklaces to the Vintage Fashion Expo; the \$1,200 amulet features a four inch-by-two inch cameo glass Mucha-style maiden's head amidst and intricate framework of glistening blue



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# CZECH BASEMENT



and green glass beads.

Many of the necklaces feature delicately-etched central glass

cameos, which range in subject matter from a cicada (\$985) to dragonflies, Nefertiti and King Tut.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Addie, whose been collecting Czechoslovakian jewelry for 26 years, and selling it for 20.

"A tremendous amount of artistry and an awesome amount of time went into each piece."

Prices start at \$395. She also has four and five-inch long earrings that match many of the necklaces.

For more information, contact Addie at (708) 579-3749. ■

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**ART NOUVEAU:** Top, butterfly woman necklace, \$965. Left: Jo Addie is wearing her most expensive necklace with a Mucha-style cameo medallion, \$1,200. She is holding one with a cicada cameo, \$985. Opposite page: Green and yellow glass bead necklace, \$865.