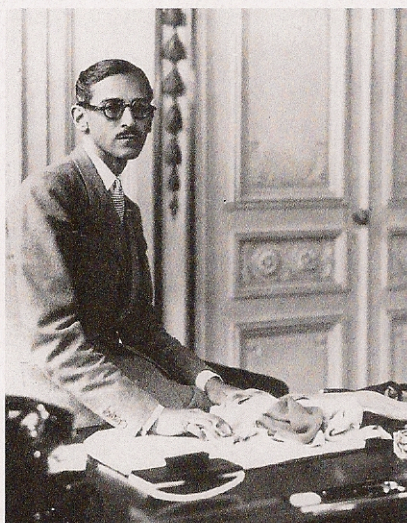


Robert Piguet: As Remembered By An Eighteen Year Old Apprentice Designer, Hubert de Givenchy

Piguet's Atelier, Designs, Perfumes, Friends And Clients

by Sarah Colton



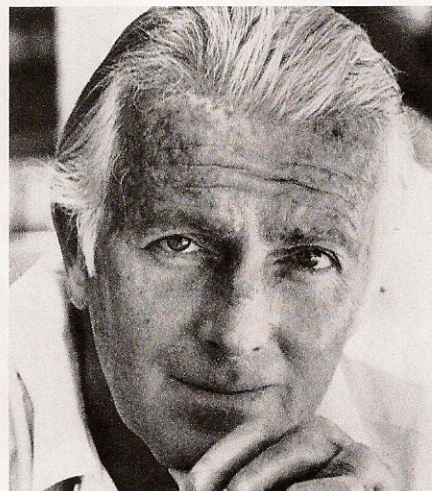
Robert Piguet

When I first contacted Hubert de Givenchy in May 2004 and asked if he could speak to me about his experience working with Robert Piguet in the 1940s, I was immediately touched by his enthusiasm for the man and his fragrances. He said, "I'm glad to hear that Fracas and Bandit are being re-launched in Paris. They are lovely perfumes."

Sixty years after the original launch of Bandit, and half a century after Robert Piguet's premature death in the prime of his life, precious little is known about the man. All that remains of his legacy are a small collection of dresses, perfumes, photographs, and the rare memories of people who knew him. Putting them together, we can almost, but not quite, capture the spirit of a man and a vision, and then—it disappears—eluding our grasp, and we are left with nothing more than an exquisitely haunting memory: bold, classic, sensual, deeply moving, ordered yet not quite understandable, elusive and ephemeral. Perhaps, like the unique sillage of his perfumes, created by the controversial and avant-garde feminist perfumer of the time, Germaine Sellier, this is appropriately so, and what makes his perfumes the signature for those individuals who instinctively stand apart in a crowd. In a world of facts and figures, often glaringly exact and precise, the perfumes of Robert Piguet do not state, but rather imply, the ineffable beauty of the deeply unknown and the desperately unattainable.

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Hubert de Givenchy