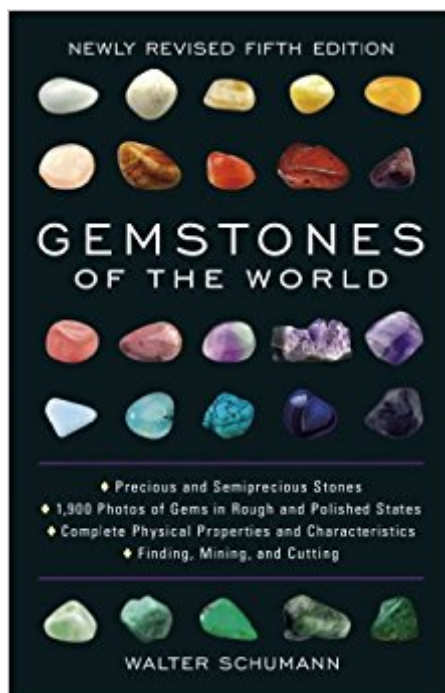


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Gemstones Of The World: Newly Revised Fifth Edition



Synopsis

This is truly the ultimate one-volume book every hobbyist, jeweler, jewelry maker, and rockhound will ever need! Following the spectacular success of the first four editions of *Gemstones of the World*, the revised fifth edition exhibits important updates and a beautiful new cover. All the gemstones ever discovered—now over 1,900—are treated in their many variations. More than 1,500 full-color photos showcase each precious and semiprecious stone in both its rough natural state and its polished and cut renditions. Each entry offers complete information on a gemstone's formation and structure, physical properties and characteristics, methods of working, cutting, and polishing. You'll find full treatments of lesser-known gems, from andalusite to vesuvian, and a special section devoted to rocks as precious stones, including alabaster, onyx, obsidian, and fossils. Organic gem materials, such as coral, ivory, amber, and pearl, are also covered along with new-on-the-market stones like charcoite. Additionally, this all-inclusive volume includes imitations, synthetics, and combined stones. Charts and tables help you identify unknown gemstones and—when you're in the market—how to check for genuineness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walter Schumann is a leading expert and researcher on gemstones. In addition to the perennially successful *Gemstones of the World*, first published in 1976, he has authored *Collins Guide to Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones* and *Handbook of Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones*, among other authoritative guides. He lives in Germany.

I love gems. I have a Graduate Gemologist degree (in addition to a physics degree). I do some high-end faceting and purchase gems and rough for faceting, jewelry making and simply for fun. My lab capability is better than that of most jewelry stores. Schumann's Fourth Edition has been a mainstay of my reference library. I just got his new 5th edition. Outside of an additional chapter on metaphysical attributions of gemstones, it's substantially similar to the previous edition although many updates are interspersed throughout the text and a few mistakes in the previous edition have been corrected. Oddly, the preface inside says "Preface to the 16th edition!" This has been a valuable and well-organized reference book complementing other materials for gemstone identification. It often has more information than other texts about the stones themselves, but doesn't try to be a specific identification manual, especially on separating natural/synthetic. It has a lot of good information about the various properties of gems, a small amount on mining and a good overview of production methods. The entries for common gemstones are quite complete, but it also covers a very wide range of less common stones and materials that are more recently commercialized. This work should be in the library of any gemologist. It's also simply a good reading book, with interesting information throughout the entire work. I find the new metaphysical chapter an eye-roller for me. As my daughter says, "gemstones definitely are metaphysical - playing with them makes me happy!" However, there are many, many people in the world that attribute all sorts of esoteric properties to gems, and it is worthwhile for anyone involved with gems to at least be conversant with that point of view, even if you don't agree with it. He gives a non-judgemental overview of some of the beliefs around gemstones, but it's too short to actually provide much background on origins of the beliefs or to document the sources for modern belief systems. Many statements are attributed to "modern literature" or "a recent author" without specifics. It will, however, provide a quick overview. I understand the demand for this chapter, but I feel it is rather shallow and somewhat detracts from the overall book. Whole books can and have been written on metaphysics of gemstones, and it would perhaps have been better to simply have provided some references to other texts.

I thought that this would have more pictures than it does. I wanted a book that I could use to easily identify crystals by picture like a bird ID book. This is nice but not what I was thinking that it would be.

Great book. If anything it's a little overwhelming - trying to work out all the sections. But it is a wealth of information about the physical properties of gemstones, which is what I wanted. It touches on the

metaphysical properties, but I get the feeling that the author doesn't really believe these!

I always buy the latest version of this book because it is kept up-to-date as much as possible. Earlier versions did not have a listing for 'petersite' - the last 2 or 3 did. Petersite is one of my top four lapidary materials that I work with. 'Gemstones of the World' is one of my first resource references.

I personally own an earlier version of this book and I use it all the time. I have found over the years that I can rely on the information. What I really appreciate about the book is that it gives a description in language that I can understand and then it gives information that a gemologist needs to know. The pictures are quality too. I purchased this book for my grandson (10 years old) who is showing interest in the gemstone world. It could be a bit overwhelming to a younger person, but I also bought the Eyewitness Gemstone book to go along with this one. I wanted to be sure he had a book that gave factual, accurate information and be able to find just about any gemstone he could come across. So at this point in time, this book is more like a reference book for him.

Very complete gemstone book. Great images, different types of information useful for amateurs, more advanced readers and those looking for spiritual properties of stones. Definitely recommend this book.

Not as comprehensive as I thought it would be....it's ok.

A very organized, nifty overview of many gemstones.

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