

Book REVIEWS

2002

EDITORS

Susan B. Johnson
Jana E. Miyahira-Smith

From Mine to Mistress: Corporate Strategies and Government Policies in the International Diamond Industry

*By Chaim Even-Zohar, 555 pp.,
publ. by Mining Journal Books Ltd.,
Edenbridge, England. US\$495.00*

More and more, governments and corporations around the world are focusing on the diamond industry, for a whole host of reasons: New deposits are being discovered in places not traditionally associated with diamond production, demand for diamonds is growing, and unscrupulous people have been using them as a form of international currency.

The author, who has worked in the industry for 30 years, produced this book as a "one-stop" reference to guide policymakers and corporate executives who have little previous knowledge of the industry through what appears to be a mysterious, jumbled process. This helps explain the price of this volume.

The book is divided into four main sections. The first offers an extensive overview of the workings of the diamond pipeline. It begins with an account of the development of the diamond industry in the 18th and 19th centuries, including government attempts to control new discoveries in Brazil and South Africa. It then traces the rise of De Beers and its struggle to contain and control diamond production during World War II, which led to the U.S. Justice Department's long-running anti-trust action. The subsections that follow provide a general look at how the industry is organized, how De Beers and others market rough diamonds, the economics of each stage of

the diamond pipeline, and the role of De Beers's Diamond Trading Company and others in controlling prices. The section concludes with a lengthy *realpolitik* look at the conflict diamond issue.

The second section is devoted to diamond producers. It opens with an overview of world diamond production, and then offers an in-depth analysis of the political and economic forces that affect diamond mining in each producing country. In Botswana, for example, the author examines the partnership between the government and De Beers, and looks into the controversial practice of setting up local diamond polishing operations to boost employment. The government wants such operations to add value to its diamonds, while De Beers argues that such facilities are too far removed from the mainstream to market their polished goods profitably.

Some nonproducing countries play a vital downstream role in the diamond industry. The third section examines the forces that impact the major diamond-processing centers (labor costs, government policies and assistance to polishing firms, and productivity and banking issues). As with the producers, the author examines each country in turn, assessing strengths and weaknesses and offering an outlook for the future.

The final section considers global issues that affect the diamond trade: political and legal restraints (such as the De Beers anti-trust case); the branding revolution that has brought new marketing initiatives and diamond cuts to the trade; and the complicated world of diamond financing.

Appendices offer documents, such as the official framework for dia-

mond origin certification drawn up by the Kimberley Process, and glossaries of specialized terms dealing with key issues affecting the trade today.

Some of the information published in this book has appeared piecemeal in the author's and other trade publications, but much of it is new. Moreover, all of the information is presented with a greater depth and understanding than any other source currently available. While there is some redundancy of topics between sections, the information is generally concise, well-organized, and very easy to access.

Beyond the wealth of information it contains, the book's greatest asset is its apparent objectivity. Today, as governments attempt to deal with conflict diamonds, fiscal matters affecting the industry (such as the Patriot Act), and a burgeoning trade, numerous groups are offering policy advice tailored to furthering their own agendas and viewpoints. Until this book was completed, there was little objective information to guide policymakers.

The price will, of course, deter the casual browser and the hobbyist. However, this book is a "must have" for any organization, government, or corporation that has a stake in the diamond industry.

RUSSELL SHOR

*Gemological Institute of America
Carlsbad, California*

**This book is available for purchase through the GIA Bookstore, 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008. Telephone: (800) 421-7250, ext. 4200; outside the U.S. (760) 603-4200. Fax: (760) 603-4266.*

Light & Stone: Highlights from the Scott Gem Collection

Photography by Harold and Erica Van Pelt, commentary by Peter C. Keller and Michael M. Scott, publ. by the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Santa Ana, California, 2002. US\$25.00 (softbound)*

This new book offers highlights of an extraordinary collection, that of Michael M. Scott, past president of Apple Computer, Inc. Noted gemologist and author Peter C. Keller calls it "arguably the most important gem collection in the United States." In the foreword, Keller enthuses about the diversity of gems, gem artistry, and minerals. The highlights of the book are breathtaking, encompassing fancy-color and colorless diamonds, as well as important colored gems. Among the treasures: a 400 ct faceted golden sapphire, a heart-stopping 1,730 ct ruby crystal from Mogok, and a 242 ct faceted tanzanite (perhaps the largest ever cut). Glyptic arts and metalsmithing are also celebrated. The last section features the works of Seattle-based silversmith John Marshall, as well as noted Idar-Oberstein sculptors Gunter Petry, Gerd Dreher, and Bernd Munsteiner.

The Scott collection is brought to light through the eyes, lenses, and photographic expertise of Harold and Erica Van Pelt, the world-renowned husband-and-wife team of gem and mineral photographers. Their genius graces almost every page, not only recording the beauty of the specimens, but also interpreting them in such a way that defines how the pieces *should* be looked at. Bravo! The book exhibits the treasures well, too, with its oversize (10 × 14 inch) format, which lends itself to the stunning use of more than 70 Van Pelt images, many of them occupying a full page or two-page spreads.

Mr. Scott dedicates a page of the book to addressing would-be gem and mineral collectors, advising them on how to build a collection by starting with small specimens, and focusing on a single species or even a particu-

lar shape within that species. "My goal has been to collect quality and beauty . . . and for the collection to tell the emotional story of the impact of colors," he writes. Readers of this book will readily see that this goal has been largely accomplished.

The book covers many of the main gem species and varieties, though there are some notable exceptions. For example, spinel, chrysoberyl, feldspars, and pearls are absent (except as side stones). Nor does the book include many ornamental gems, such as jadeite or lapis lazuli. This suggests the possibility that Mr. Scott has not yet reached his goals with regard to those gems, or that a sequel is planned. Finally, it is hard to know whether the book is considered a text or a partial catalogue. While there is a quasi-table of contents, there are no page numbers to which it can refer. An index to the various gem materials and artists represented also would have been a nice addition.

For those lucky enough to peruse the book, those points are minor details. After examining the cover and turning a few pages, the viewer will be lost in the scope of the collection, the beauty of the photography, and the technical perfection of the jewelry and glyptic arts.

ROBERT WELDON, G.G.
Professional Jeweler Magazine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gemstones Quality and Value, Volume 2

*By Yasukazu Suwa, 144 pp., illus., publ. by Sekai Bunka Publishing Inc., Tokyo, (2nd ed., English translation) 2002. US\$95.00**

How much time, money, and effort would it take to "learn the colored stone business"? You would need to be able to recognize the different qualities in which the various gems occur, how they vary in price, and the relative rarity of different sizes and colors. You would also need to keep copious notes, and color-reference photographs would be invaluable. In this one book,

the author offers an excellent reference for such information on 22 of the more important gem materials and four cuts/shapes of diamond. It is information that normally would be difficult, expensive, and time consuming to acquire.

The book features four-page entries on cat's-eye chrysoberyl; citrine; fancy blue, pink, and yellow diamonds; Zambian emerald; iolite; boulder and Mexican opal; Mogok, Mong-Hsu, and star ruby; fancy-color, Sri Lankan, and star sapphire; red spinel; tsavorite; Imperial topaz; bicolored tourmaline; blue zircon; amber; pink coral; and emerald-cut, marquise-cut, pear, and princess-cut diamonds. For most of these items, there is a Quality Scale grid with five "beauty" grades and seven tones on the two axes. Numerous color illustrations of representative gems are provided for these grids. In most cases, these are the best visual representations of gemstone quality ranges I have ever seen. An additional chart shows which of these examples fall within one of three grades: gem quality, jewelry quality, or accessory quality. Also discussed are how prices vary between particular weights or grades. Where appropriate for a specific gem material, the subjects of treatment and origin are covered in a clear and conscientious manner.

A chapter on value covers the impact of factors such as country of origin, treatments, beauty, tone, defects, and size on the value of a gem. Value comparison charts are provided for 42 gem materials, including gems featured in Volume 1. They show relative values for the three quality ranges and three carat weights, but they are not meant to be used as a price list.

The color printing is excellent, and the scope and depth of material covered is amazing. Nothing can replace trade experience, but I believe this book would benefit anyone in the gem and jewelry business.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY
Gemological Institute of America
Carlsbad, California

Murzinka: Alabashka Pegmatite Field

By Valentina I. Popova, Vladimir A. Popov, and Alexander A. Kanonarov, illus., 136 pp., Vol. 5 of the Mineralogical Almanac series, publ. by Ocean Pictures Ltd., Russia, 2002. US\$39.95 (softbound)

The Murzinka mining region in the Ural Mountains of Russia is best known for its production of fine mineral specimens, including beryl and topaz. Historically, specimens from the region have been labeled simply "Murzinka," even though the most important mines are located in the Alabashka field of granitic pegmatites. This book, Volume 5 of *Mineralogical Almanac*, surpasses its predecessors with a complete and updated description of the Alabashka pegmatites. Matching the superb photography and print quality is detailed content written by dedicated experts in the field.

The Introduction provides a brief overview of the region, with maps showing the locations of mines and a table that covers 12 of the Alabashka veins and the minerals they have yielded. Chapter 2 provides an excellent summary of past and recent exploration and mining activities. From the well-chosen citations, it is clear that the authors have spent considerable time searching the literature, especially old archives. The next chapter offers a brief but excellent geologic review, including a simplified geologic map of the region. This is followed by an up-to-date presentation on eight of the most important granitic pegmatites of the Alabashka field.

The fifth and final chapter, Mineralogy, is the most extensive. It is richly illustrated with photos of beautiful crystals, showing a selection of the various morphologies, etched crystals, and somewhat rare species. Each mineral species is thoroughly analyzed as to occurrence, size, and paragenesis. (The authors have made a major effort to describe crystal forms of topaz.)

The book concludes with a Russian-to-English glossary of words related to Alabashka and a references section. The book would have benefited from some additional references, as well as production figures. Aside from these items and a few minor mistakes in the text, it is difficult to find fault with this publication.

In short, this is an excellent volume, the best ever written on the Alabashka pegmatite field. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in mineralogy or geology, and it is an absolute must for anyone seriously interested in classical deposits, Russian mineralogy, or pegmatites.

PETER LYCKBERG
Sweden/Luxembourg

Gemstones and Other Unique Minerals and Rocks of Wyoming: A Field Guide for Collectors

By W. Dan Hausel and Wayne M. Sutherland, illus., 268 pp., Bulletin 71, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Laramie, 2000. US\$20.00 (softbound)

This book is intended as a guide to the gem minerals and related rock occurrences in Wyoming for the gemologist, mineral collector, or rockhound who has some mineralogy and geology background.

The book covers 38 general materials, many of which are broken into more specific categories. For instance, the heading "Ore Minerals" actually comprises 45 different minerals, and "Quartz" covers both crystalline and cryptocrystalline varieties, which this state has in abundance. Most of the general headings include numerous localities, probably more than could be explored in many years.

The book is rich in useful professional maps, rather than the hand-drawn kind found in so many other field guides. (Where a map is not supplied, the appropriate U.S. Geological Survey topographic map or geologic map is recommended for the given occurrences.) As a textbook on miner-

als and gems, however, it is somewhat lacking. The ore minerals are given only brief descriptions; yet, oddly, the statement that certain copper ores "will partially replace a weathered rock hammer with native copper when the hammer is rubbed into the mineral wetted with dilute hydrochloric acid" is made four times. Some of the gemological descriptions contain outdated information, or in some instances are simply in error. For example, in one case the authors cite as a reference two classic works by Max Bauer that were translated into English in the early 20th century. Such early works describe gems that are highly valued by today's standards—such as alexandrite, black opal, and demantoid garnet—as merely "semi-precious." Also, even though the authors correctly state that there is no jadeite jade in Wyoming, they claim that "Imperial" jade (a trade designation for the finest green jadeite) has been found there. Other examples include: The pyro- and piezoelectric properties of tourmaline are attributed to topaz; quartz crystals are reported to be terminated by a pyramid or bipyramids (quartz actually is terminated by two rhombohedra); and iolite is wrongly reported to be uniaxial rather than biaxial.

In addition, table 3 lists some gem-quality diamonds collected from the Wyoming side of the State Line district. It is not clear if the information given is for rough specimens or fashioned gems. The grading terms, taken from Bruton (1976) do not exactly correlate to the GIA system; for instance, VVS is defined as top grade, flawless.

Gemstones of Wyoming does a good job at its primary purpose, that is, to list and locate the gem materials that can be found in that state. However, it is less reliable as a description of the materials themselves. Nevertheless, for those who want to do some serious collecting in the Cowboy State, this is the book to use.

MICHAEL EVANS
*Gemological Institute of America
Carlsbad, California*