

AN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF JEWELRY

By Harold Newman, 334 pp., illus.,
Thames & Hudson, New York, New
York, 1981. US\$29.95*

Gem scholars and those with only an embryonic interest in jewelry will enjoy this beautifully executed book. Containing over 2,500 "pearls of wisdom" with 685 illustrations, it would be a welcome addition to any library, and would collect neither dust nor cobwebs.

Compiling any dictionary is obviously a monumental undertaking. Here, however, the author succeeds in creating enjoyable, informative, and succinct definitions. Mr. Newman has written two other illustrated dictionaries (one on glass and the other on ceramics); he certainly has the magic touch with this format.

The dictionary includes data concerning famous gems, cutting techniques, trade grades, jewelry-making materials and processes, designers, styles, methods of decoration, and the major gemstones used in jewelry. Also included are brief biographical notes on some outstanding firms and individuals, past and present. The author has employed cross-referencing extensively both to avoid repetition and to provide ideas for locating related subjects.

The author also provides a superb display of illustrations that are by no means ordinary. Of the 685 illustrations, 16 are in color and 37 are line drawings. In addition, the craftsmanship is excellent, with well-printed glossy pages. *An Illustrated Dictionary of Jewelry* is full of information and is perfect for reference or just browsing. Mr. Newman has put together a *quality* book.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Michael Ross, Editor

PHOTOGRAPHICAL ATLAS OF DETRITAL MINERALS

By Pierre Devismes, 203 pp., illus.,
Bureau de Recherches, B.P. 818, 45
Orleans, France, 1978. US\$89.00.

This book is a marvelous pictorial essay, with 641 excellent color plates that vividly illustrate over 18 different microscopic alluvial minerals from localities all over the world. The minerals illustrated represent a nearly complete listing of the various species that are likely to be encountered when examining micro-alluvium from virtually any locality.

The book is written in both French and English, which will surely broaden its audience.

After a short forward and introduction, the author briefly describes the basic methodology of sample preparation and concentrate separation and illustrates the apparatus used to take the photographs contained in the book. The major part of the book, presenting the color mineral photographs, immediately follows.

At first glance, there seems to be no obvious order to the minerals described. Neither a chemical nor an alphabetical system of classification was used. The author chose instead to classify and group the minerals according to the particular rock type with which they are commonly associated. This classification system sometimes falls short, though; for example, chrysoberyl, which is known

to occur in pegmatites, is found nowhere near the other pegmatite minerals such as tourmaline or topaz. Since certain minerals can grow in a variety of environments, it might have been better to use either the well-known Dana System of classification or a standard alphabetical method, and to add a paragraph at the beginning of each mineral section stating the various rock types and environments in which that particular mineral can crystallize. However, this minor drawback is adequately handled by the inclusion of an alphabetical index of minerals in the back of the volume.

Also included in the back of the book is a geographic index of the various localities represented by photographs of mineral detritus in the main section.

This book is somewhat limited in its gemological applications because localities of major importance to the gemologist, like Sri Lanka, are not covered. However, all of the major and many of the minor gem species are represented, so the gemologist, who is accustomed to working with faceted gems, can get a good education on how these materials look in their natural state. As stated by the author, this book is intended primarily for mineralogists and prospectors. But this reviewer recommends it for research and prospecting gemologists as well. Anyone who appreciates the beauty of nature's mineral treasures will surely enjoy this volume.

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*This book is available for purchase at
the GIA Bookstore, 1735 Stewart
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