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Elizabeth Taylor: My Love Affair with Jewelry

*By Elizabeth Taylor, 239 pp., illus.,
publ. by Simon & Schuster, New
York, 2002. US\$39.95**

Elizabeth Taylor is a living legend, and her magnificent jewels are almost as legendary. As the head of Christie's Jewelry Department, François Curiel, says in his introduction, "Elizabeth Taylor's name is synonymous with jewels. . . ." Immensely entertaining, this book will appeal to a wide range of audiences. Jewelry and gem lovers will enjoy the book because it features numerous pieces of exceptional quality from famous design houses such as Boucheron, Bulgari, Cartier, Chopard, Tiffany & Co., and Van Cleef & Arpels. Taylor fans will enjoy the amusing anecdotes that accompany many of the jewels (including the famous story of the puppy and the pearl), and history buffs will appreciate the descriptions of historically important jewelry in her collection, among them the Taj Mahal diamond and the pearl known as La Peregrina. Her knowledge of the provenances behind these items is quite impressive.

The text contains both the expected—chapters on jewelry given to her by husbands Michael Todd and Richard Burton—and the unexpected: a chapter devoted to her collection of charm bracelets and another highlighting her animal-themed jewels. The book is filled with top-notch photographs of Ms. Taylor's jewelry as well as photos that document her amazing career, many of which show her wearing jewelry featured in the book. Also included is an index of

jewelry with detailed descriptions of each item.

Beautiful and interesting, this book belongs on almost anyone's "to read" list.

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Cameos: Old and New, 3rd Ed.

*By Anna M. Miller, 274 pp., illus.,
publ. by Gemstone Press,
Woodstock, VT, 2002. \$19.95**

One might think that a third edition on the same topic would be redundant—not so with *Cameos*. Whether contemporary or antique, cameos are among the most sentimental and easily recognizable jewelry items. Yet they are often the least understood.

Did you ever wonder why the woman in that classical profile was wearing a winged helmet? Or why cherubs wear two types of wings—butterfly and angel? The story behind cameos is incomplete without the symbolism, myths, historical events, and legends, but this work lays it all out in an uncomplicated manner. A source of confusion for many is the overlapping Greek and Roman influences (e.g., the Greek god Eros and his Roman counterpart Cupid), but the chart on Greek and Roman divinities sorts it out, with a list of mythological figures frequently found on cameos, including 20 other pairings.

One of the important new sections in this edition is "Estimating Cameo Value: Quality Ranking Cameos," information that should be in the

notebook of every auction jewelry specialist and independent appraiser. To determine the quality of a cameo, the jewelry consultant must combine research with hands-on examination. Basic elements such as composition, design, craftsmanship, subject, material, signature, and authentication are used as a guide to determine quality rankings. While this valuation process may sound complex, the clear explanations make it easy to follow.

A new section on buying and selling offers many pieces of solid advice. The one that resonated most for this reviewer was that collectors and dealers should compile their own price guide of auction sales results, which should include notes about conditions that might have affected the final sales price, such as location, time of year, weather, holidays, and publicity.

Anna Miller's considerable expertise in cameos expands the wealth of information provided by this affordable third edition. It will prove very valuable even to those who have read the previous two.

GAIL BRETT LEVINE, G.G.
*Publisher, Auction Market Resource
Rego Park, New York*

Beryllium-Treated Rubies and Sapphires

*By Ted Themelis, 48 pp., illus.,
publ. by Gemlab Inc. (e-mail:
ted@themelis.com), Bangkok, 2003.
US\$20.00.*

Gemologist Ted Themelis has written a very timely and informative booklet on the controversial subject of berylli-

um-diffused sapphire. Ever since stones treated by this new method were first recognized by Ken Scarratt of the AGTA Gemological Testing Center in January 2002, the sapphire community has been in turmoil trying to understand the process and define it for the trade. Initially, Thai processors denied that beryllium was responsible for the color enhancements, arguing that so many different colors could not be caused by a single element. Subsequently, the use of beryllium was proved to be true, and the process is now disclosed by the Chanthaburi Gem and Jewelry Association.

However, very few people in the colored stone community have had a chance to actually *see* what happens to a wide variety of sapphires when subjected to beryllium diffusion. It is in exploring this subject that Themelis's booklet is of significant value. The great majority of the more than 129 color photographs illustrate various types of corundum that have been treated by beryllium diffusion. It is in these photos that the value lies, more so than in the text. The photos clearly show the many different colors produced in various starting materials by diffusion of the single element beryllium.

It should be stated that this is not a technical work, in that no attempt is made to explain the physical processes involved in the treatment. Nor does it attempt to recognize other work being conducted contemporaneously, and its representation of the history of understanding and duplicating this new Thai process is less than global. Its strength (and weakness) lies in the fact that it simply documents, with numerous color photographs, one man's experiments with beryllium diffusion into a wide variety of corundum samples.

I would recommend this booklet to anyone dealing in ruby and sapphire, as it clearly shows those types and colors of sapphire that should receive close scrutiny.

JOHN L. EMMETT
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Jewelry & Gems at Auction

*By Antoinette Matlins, 309 pp., illus., publ. by Gemstone Press, Woodstock, VT, 2002. US\$19.95**

This is the seventh in a series of consumer-friendly books by Ms. Matlins. The gem and jewelry auction is an event that can cause great intimidation and yet offers great possibilities for both buyer and seller. The pages of this book are sprinkled with numerous firsthand experiences, both the positive and the disappointing.

With an in-depth discussion of the various layers of auction procedure and what to expect, Ms. Matlins addresses the contrasts between the traditional auction gallery and the modern Internet auction, including opportunities and risks alike. She recommends a two-step approach to using any auction venue: (1) learn the auction process, and (2) acquire a useful knowledge of gemstones. To help with the first step, she not only explains basic auction terminology in terms a layperson can understand, but she also devotes an enormous number of pages to describing the intricate relationship between the pre-sale estimate and the reserve, how this affects sold vs. not-sold pieces, and ultimately the impact on auction house revenue and profits.

The mantra echoed throughout is *do not bid* on any major gem or piece of jewelry unless you have seen the item. While this is not easily accomplished on the Internet, Ms. Matlins explains that it can be done by employing the services of a "Gemologist Consultant" (as Ms. Matlins refers to this individual) for confirmation and verification of Internet purchases. Gemologist Consultants can help the online buyer or seller avoid costly mistakes, teach good-better-best in gemstones and jewelry, and confirm lab documentation. Concerns about on-site auction gallery condition reports, catalog descriptions, catalog photos, and laboratory reports can be addressed by an experienced Gemologist Consultant as well. Becoming a Gemologist Consultant is a great career move for gemologist appraisers.

Ms. Matlins also provides criteria for selecting a credentialed appraiser and contact information on appraisal organizations. In this regard, it would have been helpful to have Web site addresses listed, because many of these organizations have their member directories online. It also was unfortunate that an important appraisal organization (the International Society of Appraisers), as well as two prominent gem laboratories (the International Gemological Institute and the European Gemological Laboratory), were left out of the listing.

The book includes excellent photos of some extraordinary items of antique and contemporary jewelry, complete with final hammer price, gallery, and location. Regrettably, there are no dates of sale, which would have been useful as time-in-place valuations.

Online and onsite auctions are not for the faint of heart, but Ms. Matlins's book provides common-sense suggestions and clear steps one should take to minimize risks and maximize success.

GAIL BRETT LEVINE, G.G.

Gemstone Buying Guide, 2nd Ed.

*By Renee Newman, 156 pp., illus., publ. by International Jewelry Publications, Los Angeles, 2003 US\$19.95**

Is it a reference manual for gemologists, a source of product knowledge for jewelry salespeople, or a guidebook for gemstone buyers? In many respects, this book is a combination of all three.

With almost 280 color photos and dozens of line drawings and charts, the author shows us the variety of gems and gem-set jewelry available in the market today. From common and inexpensive stones to one-of-a-kind designer pieces, the reader will see a full range of items to appeal to most tastes and budgets.

The book begins with a 10-page preview of the most important gem materials covered and the factors that affect price. The remaining chapters

discuss cutting styles; color; judging clarity, transparency, and cut quality; evaluating stars and cat's-eyes; treatments; synthetics; deceptive practices; and caring for gems. The author covers these subjects in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, although a few line drawings and photos are either mislabeled or ambiguously labeled.

The author provides detailed descriptions for over 100 trade names and varieties, many of which are illustrated in color. The written descriptions often include information on history, lore, sources, appearance of fine qualities, and retail price ranges. There are gem property charts for each species, with optical properties, physical properties, care tips, and treatments.

Gemologists, jewelry salespeople, and gemstone buyers would all benefit by adding this book to their libraries.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY

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Mogok, Myanmar

*By Roland Schlüssel, 280 pp., illus.,
publ. by Christian Weise Verlag,
Munich, 2002 (in German). € 100.00*

This is not simply a book about Mogok and rubies. Nor is it just a travel account. Instead, it is a combination of both—and more. The author, a gem expert with the Swiss retailer Bucherer, takes the reader from his arrival at Yangon (Rangoon), to Mandalay, and finally Mogok, combining the description of his adventures with plenty of background color and information.

The opening chapter provides a general introduction to the geography of Myanmar, its history, its role as a melting pot of cultures, and its civilization, which is deeply rooted in Buddhism. Throughout, Schlüssel stresses the importance of gems (especially rubies and jadeite) in Myanmar society, from the gem trade that goes on across the country to the Gem Emporium in the capital.

Next is a history and description of Mogok itself, its cocktail of peoples, the

mining activities, and the customs and procedures that control the gem trade. The author carries the reader through his visits to several ruby mines and his difficult and delicate negotiations to acquire some exceptional rubies.

From the fourth chapter on, the gemological aspect of the book prevails over the "touristic." Chapter 4 mainly details the geologic setting of Myanmar in general and Mogok in particular. The collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates created several microplates, with subsequent regional metamorphism causing the enormous profusion of gems in the Mogok Stone Tract. This chapter also includes a description of other gem varieties found in Mogok, including danburite and some absolute rarities: painite, johachidolite, periclase, and thorite.

A chapter on the gemology of ruby and sapphire describes the gemological properties of corundums from Mogok, with a special focus on inclusions and treatments. It also discusses certificates and pricing.

Next, the author traces the gem trade routes from ancient times to the present. He then discusses the characteristics, symbolic value, and meaning of colors (especially terms such as *pigeon blood red*, *cornflower blue*, and *padparadscha*), rubies and sapphires in auctions, star sapphires and rubies, the role of spinels and peridots, and quality criteria for gems. He also describes the provenance of some important and historic rubies and sapphires (including the 1,734 ct "Sun of Mogok" ruby crystal).

The final chapter is dedicated to corundum cutting and its challenges, as well as the creation of jewelry. Here, the author allows himself some (pardonable) promotion for Bucherer's "Mogok Collections."

This volume, which is written mainly for the general reader, concludes with a nine-page glossary of gemological terms and Burmese expressions, and two pages of references. It contains a number of interesting maps, lists, and other graphical illustrations, as well as some stunning photographs of people and pagodas,

pits and painites, peridots and precious rubies, mostly taken by the author. In short, the volume is sheer beauty combined with thorough information—a lot of fun to leaf through and to read.

ROLF TATJE

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Crystals: Their Growth, Morphology, and Imperfections

*By Ichiro Sunagawa, 304 pp., illus.,
publ. by Kyoritsu Publications Corp.,
Tokyo, 2003 (in Japanese). ¥7,500*

The many forms in which crystals can occur raise many questions, even for experienced mineralogists and gemologists. Why does a mineral show a particular crystal habit? How do the internal imperfections form? What is the relationship of these imperfections to the crystal morphology and growth mechanism?

With this book, world-renowned mineralogist, gemologist, and crystal-growth scientist Prof. Ichiro Sunagawa provides answers to these and other questions related to crystals. The 14 chapters are divided into two parts: The first describes the fundamentals of crystal morphology, crystal growth theory, and lattice defects; the second addresses how these fundamentals apply to different gem minerals, in particular diamond, quartz, pyrite, and calcite. For example, the quartz chapter describes formation mechanisms of various silica minerals with different imperfections, such as twins, growth bands, and dislocations. The pyrite and calcite chapter summarizes variations in the crystal habit of these minerals, while the final chapter discusses the biomineralization origin of several crystals such as apatite, calcite, and magnetite.

This insightful book represents a summary of the author's 50 years of studies in mineralogy, gemology, and crystal growth.

TAIJIN LU

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