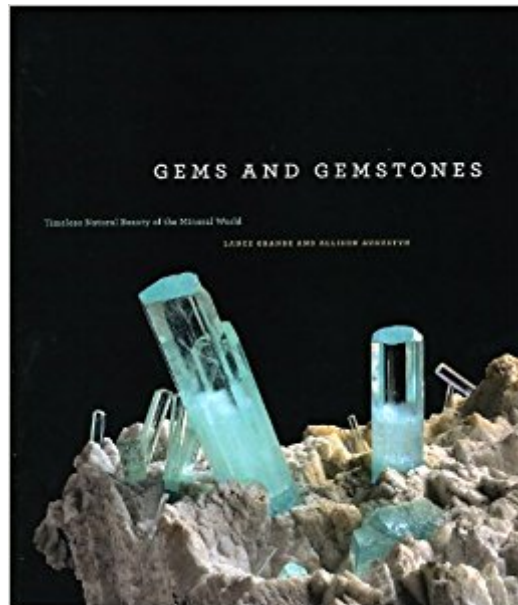




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# Gems And Gemstones: Timeless Natural Beauty Of The Mineral World



## Synopsis

Gems are objects of wealth, icons of beauty, and emblems of the very best of everything. They are kept as signs of prestige or power. Given as tokens of love and affection, they also come in a kaleidoscopic array of hues and can be either mineral or organic. Gems can command a person's gaze in the way they play with light and express rich color. And they can evoke feelings of passion, greed, mystery, and warmth. For millennia, gems have played an important role in human culture: they have significant value, both financially and within folklore and mythology. But just what are gems, exactly? This lavishly illustrated volume "the most ambitious publication of its kind" provides a general introduction to gems and natural gemstones, conveying their timeless beauty and exploring similarities among different species and varieties. *Gems and Gemstones* features nearly 300 color images of the cut gems, precious and semiprecious stones, gem-quality mineral specimens, and fine jewelry to be unveiled in a new Grainger Hall of Gems at The Field Museum in Chicago this October. The book and exhibition's overarching theme will be the relationship between finished gems and their natural origin: while beautiful as faceted and polished pieces of jewelry, gems are often just as lovely "or even more so" as gemstones in their natural state. For example, an aquamarine or emerald as originally found in a mine with its natural crystal faces can be as stunning as any cut and polished gem prepared for a ring, bracelet, or charm. Thoughtful of both ancient and modern times, *Gems and Gemstones* also includes fun-filled facts and anecdotes that broaden the historical portrait of each specimen. When Harry Winston, for instance, donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian in 1958, he sent it through the U.S. mail wrapped in plain brown paper. And for anyone who has ever marveled at the innovations of top jewelry designers, *Gems and Gemstones* features a dazzling array of polished stones, gold objects, and creations from around the world. Diamonds, sapphires, rubies, amethysts, pearls, topaz, amber "every major gem gets its due in what will be an invaluable source on the subject for years to come. *Gems and Gemstones* is the basis for the iPad app, available in the Apple iTunes App Store, *Gems and Jewels*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Published to coincide with an expanded Grainger Hall of Gems in Chicago's Field Museum, *Gems and Gemstones* displays beautiful gemstones (cut and uncut) and explains the geography and science behind their creation. Photos of creations such as the Aztec "Sun-god Opal," in which a human face is cut into a spectacular 35-carat white opal, show just how long gems have retained their hold on the human imagination. • (Seattle Times) Tired of regular jewelry gifts? Take a tour through the mineral world, from Alexandrite, known for its color-changing properties and named after Russia's Czar Alexander II, to Zoisite, which only attains its blue color after a 700-degree Fahrenheit heat treatment. Created as a companion to the 2009 opening of the Grainger Hall of Gems at Chicago's Field Museum, the volume dazzles with its displays of gems and other precious jewelry. A feast for the eyes, and a break for the wallet compared with the treasures it contains, *Gems* delves into the science and crafting of gems "and brings the bling, too. • (USA Today) Eye candy abounds in this volume on gems based on the newly revamped Grainger Hall of Gems at the Field Museum in Chicago. The book covers such topics as how gems form in nature, how they are classified, and the fascinating history of humanity's love of jewels. • (Scientific American) Since 1854, my family has run a small Iowa City jewelry store specializing in quality gem stones. I inherited the love for diamonds, but with my writer's salary, money's better spent on the lush pictures in *Gems and Gemstones*. Penned by the senior veep of the Field Museum, this new tome is the definitive book on precious stones. Hey, diamonds might be a girl's best friend, but a good book is also a good friend...um, yeah. • (Time Out Chicago)

Lance Grande is senior vice president and head of collections and research at The Field Museum. He is a curator in the geology department and a general content specialist for The Field's new Grainger Hall of Gems exhibit. He is also a member of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago and is an adjunct professor of biology at the University of Illinois. Allison Augustyn, a funding specialist at The Field Museum, was previously an exhibition developer there,

where she prepared such exhibits as The Ancient Americas, George Washington Carver, and The Grainger Hall of Gems.

Well balanced in terms of geological information, history, and aesthetic presentation (images are outstanding and the book is well designed.) Much of the text is legitimately interesting to read; I found myself reading through large portions, which is rare for gem book. The book begins with well written introduction that properly prepares the reader for the information laid out throughout the book. Short chapters at the end on simulated stones, mining, and ethics were welcome additions. My only gripe (not important enough to detract from my rating) is that materials from the Grainger Hall of Gems collection that were too soft for practical use were omitted with exceptions for commonly used organic materials, e.g. pearls, amber, ivory. This was somewhat frustrating, and I'm sure they would have used beautiful images to represent them. A condensed "too soft for jewelry" chapter would have been nice., the chapter on metals, aptly titled "Precious Metals (Primarily Gold)" only deals with gold; I expected at least silver to get an equal treatment. Of course, this book is plenty satisfying already, and a great buy for the price

This is a most excellent book for for any lover of earth's crystals and gemstones. A great variety of popular / traditional gemstones are presented both in a well written text describing the properties and origin of each type of stone. Excellent photography of the stones in their natural cristalline state, and their use in both antique and modern forms of je which I really apreciate, as I already have a number of books such as Walter Schumann's 'Gemstones of the World' (Â Gemstones of the World: Newly Revised Fifth EditionÂ ). This book is worth the money just for the pictures alone, and I did learn a few new things from the text as well. I will be leafing through this book many times for certain.

Yes we like it and carry it with us to help identify stones.

This is one of the most beautiful books I've seen recently, but the well-written and informative text gives it value beyond the awesome photos. It's not only a perfect gift, it's a book you'll want to dip into, learn fascinating facts you could never have imagined, and just totally enjoy.

Excellent!!!

Great book

This book has everything you'd want to know about gems and gemstones. Also, the pictures within really bring the minerals and gems alive. The artwork these gems are fashioned into are often quite intriguing.

Great book for facts about gems. Great pictures also. \*\*\*\*\*I will always keep this book for reference.  
Great buy!!!!

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