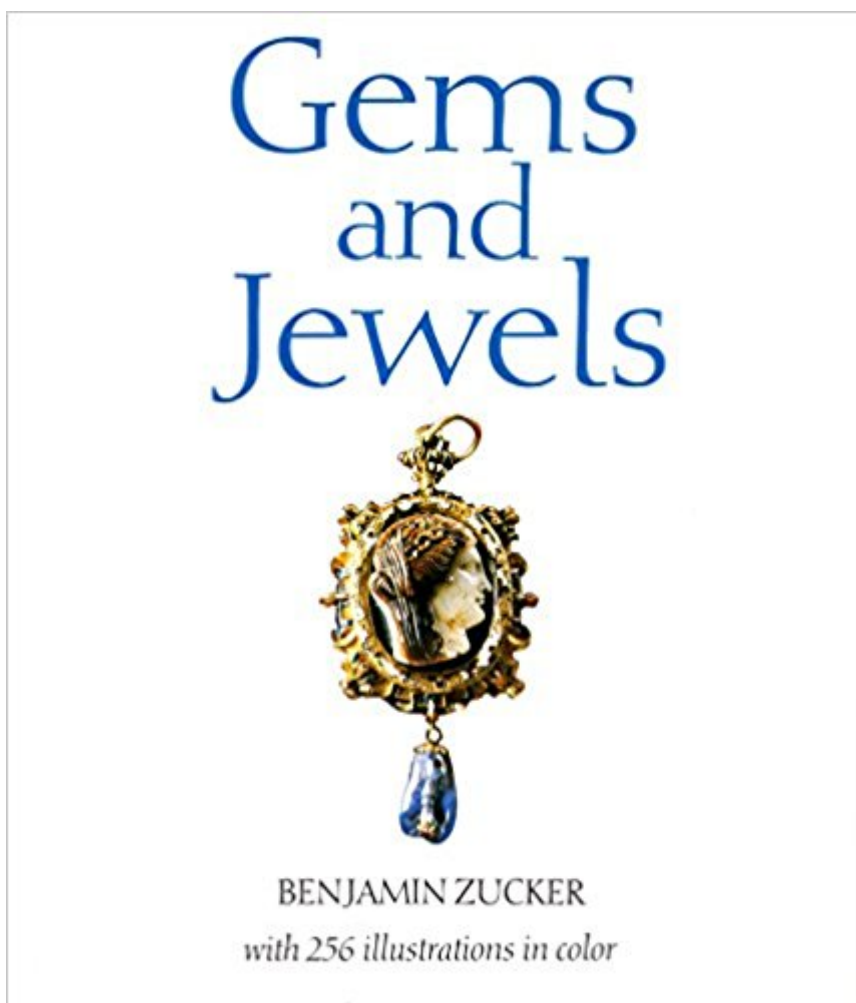


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Gems And Jewels: A Connoisseur's Guide



Synopsis

Gems and jewels have, since the beginning of civilization, been prized as symbols of wealth and social status or as objects endowed with magical or religious significance. This title reveals much of the history and mystique as well as giving technical advice on methods of grading and relative values of precious stones. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Benjamin Zucker, a well-known New York gem merchant, was educated at Yale and Harvard Law School, and followed his grandfather and father into the family business. He is the author of *Gems and Jewels* and the novels *Blue and Green*. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

the author is a remarkable professional dealer with extraordinary cultural enrichment. I'm a super fan of his novels "Blue", "Green" & "White"!

Though dated, Benjamin Zucker's book is still a useful guide towards connoisseurship in gems. Its major value is in its historical perspective. When originally published it was the only guide. Zucker is a wonderful historian of the gem trade. The book provided much of the inspiration that led me to write my own [Secrets of the Gem Trade: The connoisseur's Guide to Precious Gemstones](#). A must have for the true aficionado. Richard W. Wise, author: [The French Blue](#)

When *Gems & Jewels* was first published twenty years ago it was the first book to approach breaking the gem trade's taboo against telling the consumer anything that would help him to develop connoisseurship in gems. I say approached because although an excellent gemological geography book Zucker approached but never really revealed the truth about quality grading. Whenever he came close and he often came frustratingly close, he would take refuge in statements such as "finer jewelry stores have traditionally provided guidance..." As of 2004 the text is dated and color imaging technology has passed this book by. The photos are mushy and dull compared to newer texts. Interested in developing connoisseurship? I recommend a new book entitled *Secrets Of The Gem Trade, The Connoisseur's Guide To Precious Gemstones*. The author, Richard Wise, delivers on the promise contained in the title, it truly is a connoisseur's guide filled with fabulously accurate color photographs of the exceptional examples of the 35 gemstone varieties covered in the book.

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