

The Encyclopedia of Gemstones and Minerals

Martin Holden

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#1442860 in Books Facts on File 1991-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 12.00 x 9.00 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0816021775320 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Martin Holden : The Encyclopedia of Gemstones and Minerals before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Gemstones and Minerals:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Creative, self-employed wife Loves having this! By booknerd She is building a home/hand-maid jewelry business and this resource was given as Christmas gift and she seems to very much appreciate it. Great, intuitive rock and mineral grading criteria, and great explanations of gem origins and geographies. Thanks again to the seller and thank again to for enabling its online sale redistribution. Life is wonderful! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not what it says it is! By Emptor I'd like to give this beautiful book a higher rating. In what it is and what it does, it is very enjoyable and useful. But the term "encyclopedia" in the title is so patently false that it can't be allowed to be rewarded. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gem book By pkboatwright This book was purchased for my husband who is just beginning his foray into the world of gems. He loves the book and takes every opportunity to relay the information to me and our children. Thank you for offering the book for resale.

This work offers information on the properties/values of over 200 rocks, stones, jewels and other natural substances. From amber to zinc, and from diamond-edged blades to orthoclase-based porcelains, details about characteristic form, specific gravity, symmetry system, refraction, location, use and commercial value are provided. Among the varied types of information given is a description of the largest diamond ever mined, the fist-sized 3106-carat Culliam

diamond which was found in South Africa in 1905 and which now forms part of the British Crown Jewels; an explanation of how the mediaeval alchemists postulated that gold must be divine because it is incorruptible; and an explanation of the low specific gravity of amber and how this can be used as a test for authenticity.

From School Library JournalYA-- This fascinating reference source will be eagerly sought by rock hounds as it pulls together into one book data usually found in a variety of references. It is a perfect balance between an encyclopedia and a rock-identification handbook. Alphabetically arranged, it allows readers to look up groups of or individual minerals and their physical properties. Also included are some history and folklore surrounding the gems. Descriptions move from chemical analysis through geologic formation and on to the use of the stones, stressing the overall role of nature itself in rock formation. The excellent photos and graphics will facilitate identification and provide information on classification, hardness, gravity, etc. The index is a vital tool as no cross references are provided in the basic text (i. e., information on rubies is under corundum). --Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High Sch . , Fairfax, VACopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.