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# Book Review: Diamonds cut it in modern China

By **Marijan Dundek** (China Daily)  
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Diamonds, as the author notes, are the most prized and highly-valued of gemstones. Throughout history they have been admired by royalty and worn as a symbol of strength, courage and invincibility. They are the hardest known substance yet have the simplest chemical composition, consisting of crystallized carbon.

They were first mined more than 4,000 years ago but were created by nature at least 990 million years ago by the elemental nature of heat and pressure 150 to 200 kilometers below the surface of the earth before being forced up by volcanic pressure.

During the Greco-Roman era, diamonds became a valuable commodity in trade and gradually became a symbol of luxury. Romans were known to use diamond fragments set in iron as tools that were traded with China and used for carving jade or drilling pearls.

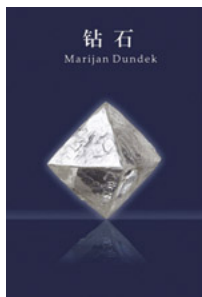
Following the success of two previous editions, this informative guide returns in a completely revised, updated and expanded edition. It is also now available in Mandarin for the first time, in recognition of the growing interest in diamonds in the Chinese mainland (although there are just two diamond processing plants in China, both in Hong Kong).

Clearly written, and presented as a paperback, the book provides the reader with essential information on diamonds and the diamond industry and the tools for recognizing and assessing a diamond's chief properties. It is richly illustrated throughout in full color, with images of some of the world's most beautiful diamonds as well as illustrations of the different types of cut and shape used in the diamond trade. The reader will also find useful grading scales for cut and clarity, a chart of carat weights and corresponding sizes, examples of diamond grading reports, and a directory of international institutes and gem laboratories.

The new chapter on natural color diamonds provides information and illustrations for each main color group, making this one of the few books in the field to offer a basic guide to this expanding and increasingly popular sector of the diamond industry.

Newly added text on the origins of diamonds and the early days of the diamond trade, and on the recent developments of inscriptions and branding, add further value. A final chapter on the life story of one very special diamond, from its discovery to finished jewel, is vividly told through images and text. The popular first edition was praised by readers for its clarity, comprehensiveness and usefulness as a practical guide. This new edition will be of interest both to those already familiar with the book and to newcomers, whether professional jewellers and gemmologists, students and teachers of gemmology, prospective buyers of diamonds, or simply those interested in learning more about this most prized and captivating of jewels. In fact, a gem of a book.

China Daily



**READ IT**  
**Book name:** diamonds  
**Author:** Marijan Dundek  
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**Page:** 96 **Price:** 156 yuan  
**Publisher:** Noble Gems Publications

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