



GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

# The Australian Gemmologist

April – June 2011

Volume 24  
Number 6



## In this issue:

Alexandrite from  
Zimbabwe

The hill of the  
precious stones

Hand held polariscope

# DIAMONDS

Marijan Dundek



## Diamonds

By [Marijan Dundek](#)

Noble Gems Publications, UK 2010,  
96 pages

This is an updated version of the book that was first published in 1999, with a new chapter on natural colour diamonds. It is a prolifically illustrated colourful little book, which captures the variety and beauty of different diamonds. It aims to provide background knowledge about the diamond industry and a more in depth view of how value and quality are assessed.

Chapter one commences with a concise, but fascinating history of diamonds and the diamond industry. Interestingly different cutting centres have different strengths, a factor that might influence potential buyers. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is explained. Major diamond producing countries and cutting centres are mapped.

The bulk of the first chapter focuses on the quality of diamonds with a detailed analysis of the '4Cs' (colour, clarity, cut and carat weight). Various grading scales are represented. Diamond branding and inscription is discussed - you can even have your own personal message inscribed! This is logically followed by a presentation of the many different cuts available.

The extremely interesting second chapter deals with natural fancy coloured diamonds. The author explains how this amazing phenomenon occurs and that

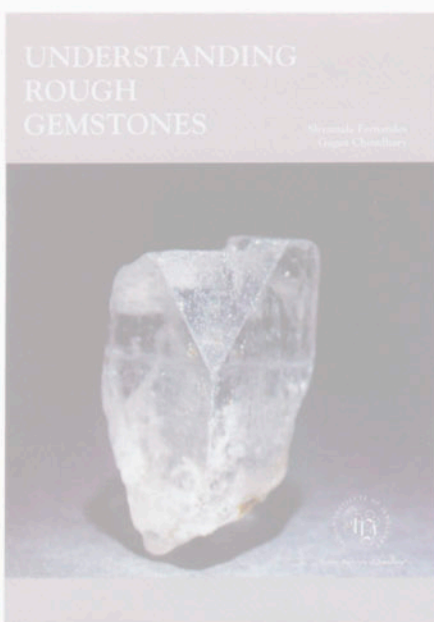
over 300 colours have so far been identified! The causes of specific colours are explained together with a wealth of other fascinating information - heard about the Chameleon diamonds?

The final chapter traces the journey of the Lesotho Promise, the 15th largest diamond and the 10th largest white diamond in the world, from discovery to transformation into a fabulous 26 piece diamond necklace, thus fulfilling the aim of keeping all the diamonds together.

From a gemmological point of view, chapter 2, especially, about natural fancy coloured diamonds offers a wealth of information. Thoroughly interesting and informative, with mouth-watering illustrations, this nifty little book will appeal to the layperson and student of gemmology alike. The compact size makes it an ideal 'pocket guide'.

Carol Resnick

*Review Copy courtesy of Peter Cartwright  
– [since1976@optusnet.com.au](mailto:since1976@optusnet.com.au)*



## Understanding rough gemstones

By [Shyamala Fernandes](#) and [Gagan Choudhary](#)

Indian Institute of Jewellery, India 2010,  
213 pages

This book with its comprehensive nature, simple language and multitude of colour photographs, should be of interest to those who wish to deal in rough gemstones.