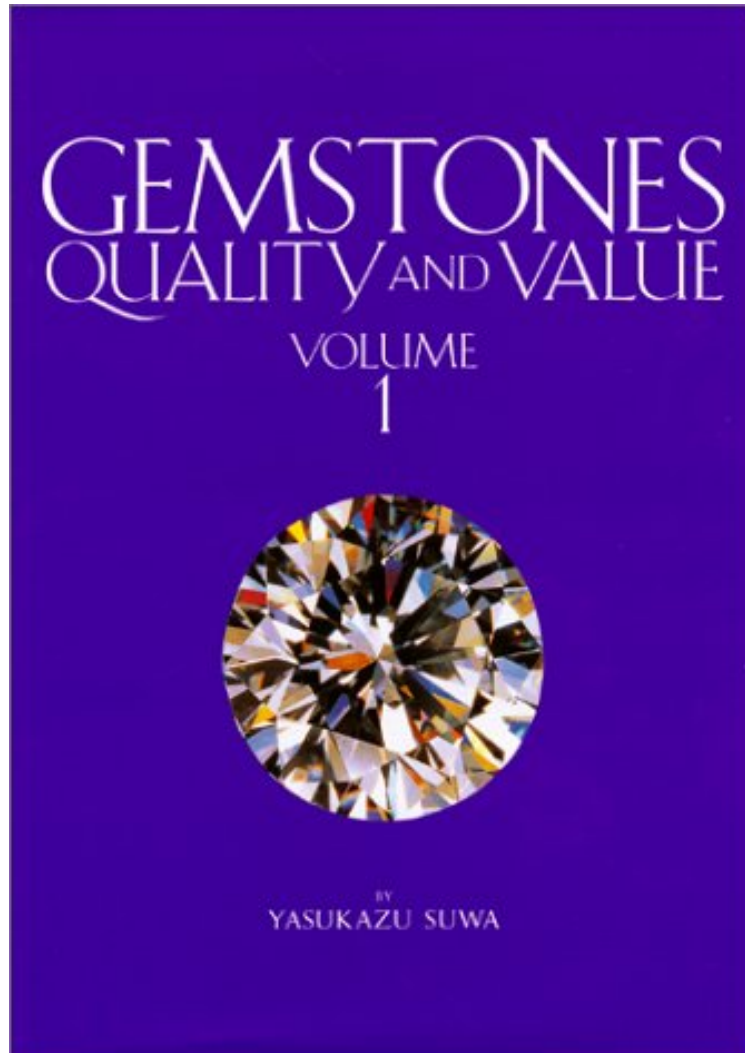


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## Gemstones: Quality and Value, Volume 1

*Yasukazu Suwa*

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ExcellentBy Szarka Orosz CsabaIt is just what I needed.

This definitive work is the first of its kind, an introduction to the quality and beauty of gemstones that assists in judging their value and price. Though there are many publications that deal with the mineralogical properties of gemstones, books that discuss the essence of their beauty, how to verify their quality, and how to judge their value are almost non-existent. Using full-page, high-quality color photographs and a powerful system of quality and value assessment, the first chapter examines 24 gemstone varieties, explaining the subtle nuances that contribute to their unique beauty, the wide range of quality levels they occur in, common treatments, and how these factors interact to affect their value in the marketplace. Chapter 2 discusses gemstones in the context of their relationship with people, from mining, cutting, and manufacturing, to buying and selling, wearing, and secondary markets. While simple enough for a layperson to understand, with a glossary of gemological and trade terms, the concepts introduced in this book are powerful enough to be useful to members of the gemstone and jewelry industry, whether they be cutters, wholesalers, appraisers, or retailers.

About the AuthorYasukazu Suwa is president of Suwa Son, Inc., a Japanese gemstone dealer business established in 1908. Since becoming the first Japanese national to earn his Graduate Gemologist certification from the Gemological Institute of America in 1965, Mr. Suwa has traveled to gemstone mining, cutting, and distributions centers around the globe while establishing his firm as one of the premier wholesale gemstone importers in Japan. Director of the Japan Jewelry Association since 1997, Mr. Suwa has also sat on the Boards of Directors and Executive Committees of major Japanese and international colored stones trade organizations. He has also been educating consumers through the NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) Educational Institute's Jewelry Course since 1991. A strong proponent of educating both the industry and consumers regarding the quality and value of gemstones, Mr. Suwa has written three books on the subject and developed a system for verifying the quality and judging the value of the different varieties of gemstones.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.From Introduction for English Edition: Three conventions are used in this book to emphasize the main themes of gemstone quality and value. First, the beauty and character of gemstones are clearly explained through the use of photographs. Understanding their beauty and character is the first step in discovering the essence of gemstones. Since they are products of nature, there is no such thing as a perfect gemstone. While imperfections often give gems their character and allure, those that have a negative effect on beauty or durability are considered flaws. The degree of beauty of a gemstone, offset by such flaws, is the basis of quality judgement. Second, the values of major gemstones are shown through the use of value comparison charts and reference prices for one- or three-carat stones of jewelry quality. Just as the quality of an automobile and its corresponding value can be reflected in its price-luxury cars may cost \$50,000, family sedans \$20,000, and economy cars \$10,000-the values of each gemstone have been separated into the three quality zones of gem quality, jewelry quality, and accessory quality. The basis of judging gemstone value lies in a full understanding of quality and a feel for the market forces of supply and demand. The value of jewelry also includes the factors of design, manufacturing, and the metals used. Furthermore, a retail price is given for each gemstone and jewelry piece shown in this book. Third, gemstones are classified into those that are untreated and treated, and treatment methods are specified. Recent advances in heating and impregnation techniques have led to heavy treatment of gemstones. Treated stones may appear identical to high-quality gems that have not been processed by human hands beyond polishing, but they are far more common than untreated gems. Stones that have artificially had their beauty enhanced, their tone adjusted, or their flaws hidden are therefore less rare and less valuable. An understanding of untreated and treated gems and degrees of treatment are important factors in judging quality and value.