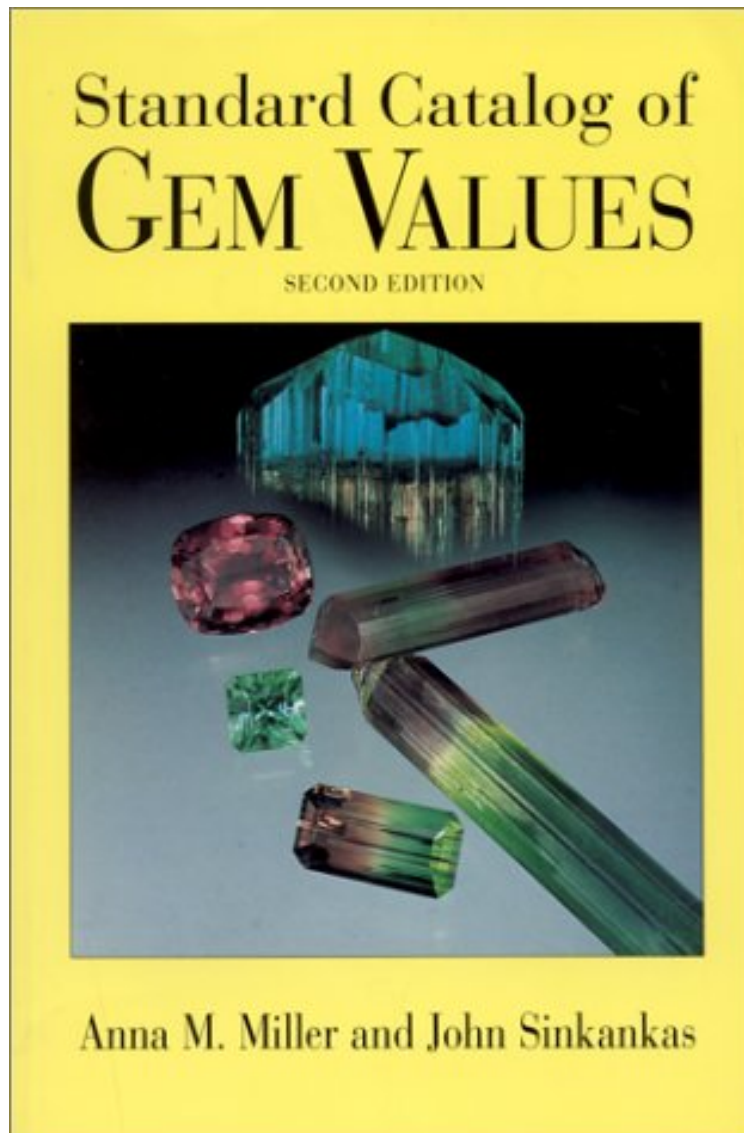


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Standard Catalog of Gem Values

Anna M. Miller, John Sinkankas
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Book by Miller, Anna M., Sinkankas, John

From Library Journal Mineralogist Sinkankas is a long-respected authority on gemology and the author of many books (e.g., *Prospecting for Gemstones and Minerals*, LJ 3/1/72), while Miller has written about appraising jewelry. Their collaboration results in a comprehensive, updated catalog that features current (1993) retail prices for hundreds of gemstones in both rough and faceted or cabochon forms. Well-written introductory material to each section explains gems, their supply and marketing, and the properties of rough and polished gemstones in language even nonprofessionals will understand, yet without sacrificing details. An unusual offering is the section on rarely discussed carvings, which also gives prices. Readers should not expect a picture of each gem; illustrations are mostly line drawings, which helps make this an affordable reference. Dealers, buyers, consumers, and students will want this book. ?Therese D. Baker, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. The introductory chapter to this second edition of the Standard Catalog focuses on two ingredients, namely definitions, and the factors influencing the esteem in which a gem is held. Although the term "gem" means different things to different people, the catalog used it to denote finished top-quality stones read to wear in jewelry, whereas "gemstone" or "rough" designates little-worked rough material. With respect to the all-important objective of ornamentation, the key factors that decide the subjective quality of "esteem" are: attractiveness, durability, rarity, fashion and size.... Despite the merits of the introductory chapters, the true value of this publication is that it demystifies the business of gem pricing and provides a much-needed update to Sinkankas' 1968 Standard Catalog of Gem Values.... Thus, updated and entirely revised, this benchmark text of gem values will be welcomed by gem collectors, buyers, miners processors, appraisers, jewelers, lapidaries, and indeed by anyone interested in the value of gems and minerals. Authoritative, informative, and entirely readable, it represents an excellent buy. -- *The Canadian Mineralogist*, Vol. 33, 1995 The second edition of this gem values catalog has been entirely revised and updated, and will prove an essential reference handbook for any involved in the gem market. The appearance of such a revision, the first since 1968, assures that current market values are reflected and that appraisers and individuals alike have access to the latest facts. -- *Midwest Book* This second edition of the long-awaited update of Van Nostrand's Standard Catalog of Gems (1968) retains its status as a classic. A high standard is expected from a work produced by John Sinkankas, and the reader will not be disappointed. Anna Miller's contributions are also a welcome addition.... For the newcomer to the world of gems, this book is an essential reference work. For the possessor of the first edition, this second edition must also be an essential purchase. The book may be recommended to individuals with an interest in mineralogy, for it will help them to understand the value of the material they are likely to acquire. -- *Geotimes*, February 1996 From the Author Preface: Since first publication of this work in 1968, political events, social trends, and world economics have created dramatic gemstone price fluctuations from explosive highs to depressing lows. But through all these price peaks and valleys, the public's desire for gemstones has not diminished; in fact it is stronger than ever. {art of the reason for the robust colored gemstone market can be explained by the vigorous marketing techniques used by gem dealers over the past two decades, along with mass media advertising by dealers' associations. Parallel to the dealers' marketing is the new and knowledgeable generations of buyers who know more about gemstone identification, treatments, alterations and value than their predecessors. Further, these buyers want more: more product knowledge, more insights into the mysteries of profitable buying and selling, more value for the money. While many collect gems as a hobby, some also see the investment value and note the easy transportability of such a store of value. Other collectors want to be first to display some of the exciting new gemstone discoveries. This new edition reflects the latest prices and trends on rough material, faceted and cabbed gemstones, to which we have devoted hours of research and interviews in the appropriate markets. To inform you about new gem- stones, we went to the source of discover or to its discoverer. To provide an update and indispensable record of gem values, we called upon miners, wholesalers, jobbers and retailers. In all cases, however, the prices given are the latest retail prices available in 10993 from those who deal in these materials. And, while we realize that retail prices fluctuate to some degree across the country and around the world, prices in this book provide a guide to the current average retail prices quoted in the United States. In this way we hop to have taken some of the mystery of gemstone pricing four our readers...while leaving intact the pleasure and magic of owning them. Anna M. Miller, John Sinkankas.