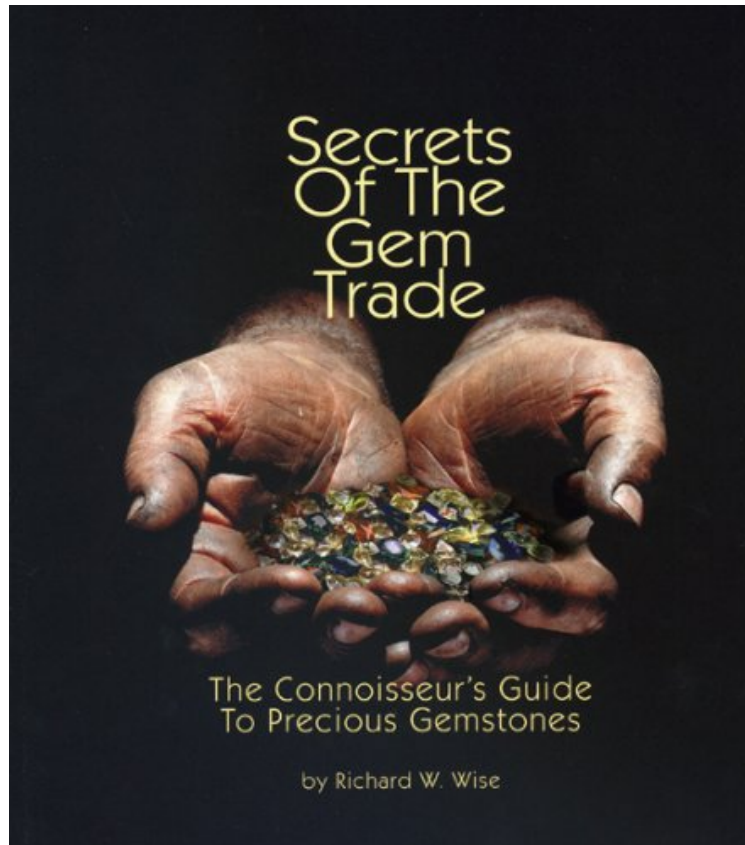


# Secrets of the Gem Trade: The connoisseur's Guide to Precious Gemstones

*Richard W. Wise*

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**Richard W. Wise : Secrets of the Gem Trade: The connoisseur's Guide to Precious Gemstones** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets of the Gem Trade: The connoisseur's Guide to Precious Gemstones:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful Source for Exotic Gems and their AppreciationBy Therese M.Filled with useful information about exotic gems. Great writer with many anecdotes and a sense of the wonderful beauty of gems, their carving, and related jewelry design. Author discusses the sources and chain of logistics with fascinating details. Author does not cover jade, which is appropriate since jade is a topic with books just describing the varieties, colors and history of jade. If you love gems and the extreme efforts of the people who work to bring these beauties to light or sell them then you will enjoy this book.16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. THE best and most thorough introductory book on gems.By Lynn D. GuindonRichard Wise has written an introductory book to gemstones, the gem industry, and the purchase of gems which is completely original, insightful, and valuable.I have been collecting gems and minerals for over forty years, and this is the first time I have read a CLEAR discussion of the difference between hue, saturation and tone. Wise's coining of the term 'crystal' is brilliant; it

describes an aspect of gems which I have always had trouble getting into words; it describes far more than terms such as 'transparency' or 'clarity' can cover. (I should note that perhaps the gem trade is moving towards some formal expression of 'crystal' in future appraisals, since GIA-GTL now considers graining in clarity grading of diamonds.) Some might make much of the fact that the author omits certain gemstones in the section on various precious gems. However, Wise himself states at the beginning of that section that his selection is purely idiosyncratic, and follows his own preferences. This is refreshing, since all gemmologists differ on what they consider precious, but few will admit to being biased. He also freely admits that jade most definitely belongs in any such list, but that his knowledge of those stones is insufficient to allow him to write an adequate chapter on them. Since jade, like the field of organic gemstones, is almost a separate field in itself, this is unsurprising, and it is laudable that he says perhaps with time and study he will be able to add a chapter on jade in some future edition of the book. Wise is a bit arrogant in his approach, but I've never met a good jeweller or gemmologist who wasn't. The man is obviously highly intelligent and competent, and his clear and lively style of writing caused me to forgive the few brief glimpses of arrogance. While this book is helpful even for those with experience and education in the gems and jewellery field, I believe it will also be helpful to the intelligent beginner. It would certainly constitute an excellent introduction to the field, and perhaps provide the beginner with more open eyes as they progress in their education and appreciation of gems. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Useful book, interesting information  
By GuyWhoBuysStuff  
Useful book, interesting information. However, I was hoping for more 'insider' information about where to obtain the gems, how to value them, and when to buy them. This information was very lacking.

The definitive book for anyone wanting to learn how the best gemologists in the world evaluate precious gems, and what makes one stone merely a good stone versus a truly fabulous museum-quality gem. The author, Richard W. Wise, is one of the world's foremost gemologists.

"Every gemstone collector should have a copy of this book" -- Charles Lewton-Brain, Canadian Jeweler, June 2004  
"Richard Wise has lifted the veil ...I highly recommend this book" -- Edward Boehm, Gems Gemology, summer 2004  
The author's writing style and command of the subject matter keeps the reader captivated. --Stuart M. Robertson, G. G., Gem Market News, November 2003  
Secrets Of The Gem Trade is very highly recommended to anyone interested in gemology as a superbly organized, authoritative, comprehensive, and easy-to-follow reference." -- Midwest Book About the Author  
Richard W. Wise is a Graduate Gemologist and Goldsmith and is President of R. W. Wise, Goldsmiths of Lenox, Massachusetts. Mr. Wise is the former Gemology Columnist for National Jeweler a former Contributing Editor for Gem Key Magazine and Gem Market News. His numerous articles have appeared in Gems Gemology, Jewelers Quarterly and Colored Stone Magazines.