

**BOOK REVIEW:  
KAMIENIE JUBILERSKIE KOŃCA XX W.  
(GEMS OF THE END OF THE 20th CENTURY)**

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Tomasz Sobczak Publishing House, Warsaw 2000, in Polish, 85 pp., paperback,  
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The book distinctly intends to introduce the “new gemstones” to the readers, who are to a certain degree familiar to the basic definitions and terms of mineralogy and gemmology. The readers touching for the first time the knowledge on gemstones would need some additional introduction. On the other hand, this issue could be useful for interested mineralogy students, as a textbook for the participants of the gemmological training courses and for mineralogists, who would like to have handy information on the precious and decorative stones newly available in the market.

The authors are outstanding specialists in gemmology and jewellery art, experts in most important Polish educational and evaluating commissions in their field, moreover they are very active in publishing articles and books, both professional and for general public. The reviewed book is one from a series published by the same authors, describing various groups of gemstones.

The book consists of a foreword and three parts: “Gemstones”, “Jewellery and collector novelties” and “Gemmological curiosities”. The first part contains characteristic of ammolite, charoite, moissanite, nuummite, sugilite, tanzanite and tugtupite. Each of these “new” gemstones is quite extensively described. The authors present the history of the discovery of these minerals or substances, or their recognition as a gem, briefly characterize their properties, use, evaluation of quality as a gem, gemstone fakes and methods of their identification. The part “Jewellery and collector novelties” is in fact a kind of dictionary with brief explanations of the gemmological and related names, which appeared lately in the literature (and in shops selling gemstones and mineralogical collecting items) like *allura*, *amethyst leopard spot*, *amphora gems*, *neon apatite*, *cathaystone*, *caymanite*, *Yerilla chrysoprase*, *combarbalita*, *congrero*, *douros*, *near gem diamonds*, *Yehuda diamond*, *dong*, *Glory Blue*, *heitorita*, *egg crust jadeite*, *rainbow lattice sunstone*, *wasp-tail quartz*, *Marienfluß*, *optical inley* (this form in the book, a misspelling for “inlay”?), *opal encapsulado*...this is only small part of the explained terms.

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The third part “Gemmological curiosities” is also a kind of concise dictionary of the names, which are used in various senses, *e.g.* for description of peculiar artefacts, or simply occur rarely. Here the reader may learn, what is the proper understanding of *Ah nuts*, *geshenite* (don’t misuse for *goshenite!*), *hornbill ivory*, *Yogo sapphire* or *matrix emerald*.

I think that this small book is a useful addition to any collection of mineralogical or gemmological handbooks, because the interested reader may find here explanation of names, otherwise available only after boring literature search. Imperfections in this book are minor and not numerous. The most obvious of them is visible at the first glance – the book cover is rather poorly designed: white letters on black background and not very impressive photograph of a polished piece of ammolite (*korite*), I believe. Several photographs of gemstones in the text are of moderate quality as well. I would also suggest rather the term “crystal structure”, not “crystalline structure”, as given by the authors, and better proof-reading, which would avoid *e.g.* “*jadeit*” (in English, page 63) instead of the correct *jadeite*.

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