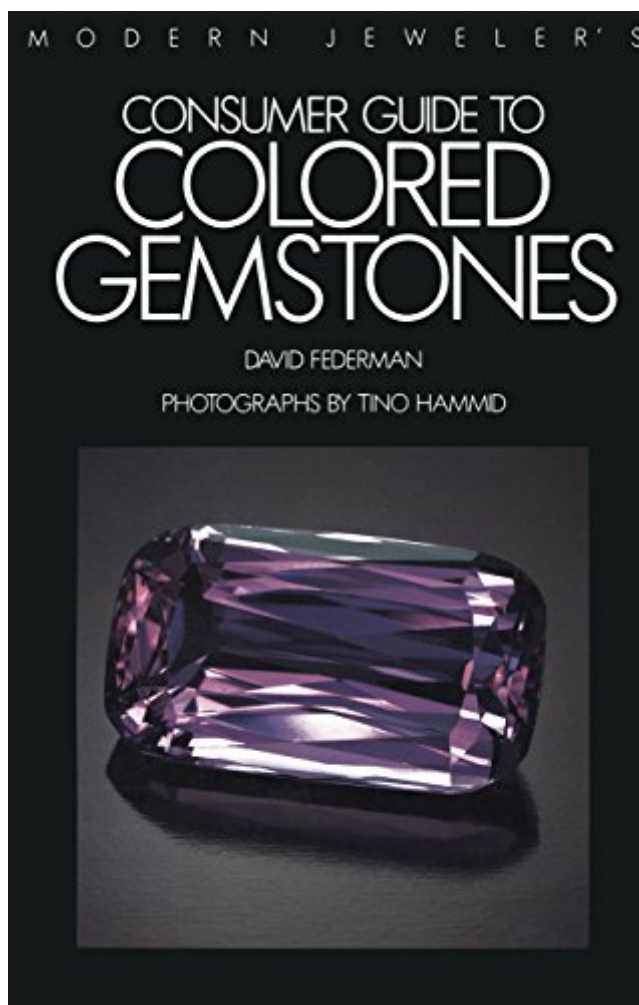


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# Modern Jeweler's Consumer Guide To Colored Gemstones



## Synopsis

Since early 1989, a gem dealer I've known for years has been calling me every few weeks to brief me on mounting mayhem in Colombia's lucrative emerald market. The troubling gist of these calls is always this: There is a full-fledged turf war going on between that South American country's bustling drug and gem trades for control of its emerald export business. According to this dealer and several others, anywhere from two to four thousand emerald industry people, mostly miners and dealers, have been murdered since 1980. No doubt the gem sector, itself never gun shy, has retaliated in full and in kind. After all, the two groups have banded together in an intermittent alliance against a common enemy-Communist guerillas-with results the CIA would envy. I mention this bloodshed because of something the gem dealer once said to me: "I bet you never think of what a gem has to go through to get to a jewelry store." He's right. I tend to think of colored stones as things of beauty, not objects of gruesome power struggles between mining kingpins and drug lords. Can you blame me, or anyone with insider knowledge, if a gem sheds any connection with its past once sculpted by a cutter into the glittering marvel we see in a jeweler's showcase? Like Odysseus listening to the sirens' song, we become victims of an aesthetics-induced amnesia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is good. There is almost a picture of every stone that this author writes about. It doesn't go into detail that other books do. Like being able to tell an emerald from another green stone. The pictures that are in the book show perfect gemstones.

Excellent

This book is very factual, and its non-technical writing, makes it an excellent book for the hobbyist, or collector and yet still it maintains the standards for even the professional gem trade. If used as a guide, it is sure to be helpful in the selection of gems. This book is certain to educate and inspire the beginner with confidence in starting to collect gems. I highly recommend the reading (purchase) of this book. The photographs are excellent, full color, the true representation of the gemstones' is brought to life.

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