



# Gems and Gemstones: Timeless Natural Beauty of the Mineral World

By Lance Grande

University Of Chicago Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 352 pages. Dimensions: 10.2in. x 8.7in. x 1.2in. Gems are objects of wealth, icons of beauty, and emblems of the very best of everything. They are kept as signs of prestige or power. Given as tokens of love and affection, they also come in a kaleidoscopic array of hues and can be either mineral or organic. Gems can command a person's gaze in the way they play with light and express rich color. And they can evoke feelings of passion, greed, mystery, and warmth. For millennia, gems have played an important role in human culture: they have significant value, both financially and within folklore and mythology. But just what are gems, exactly? This lavishly illustrated volume, the most ambitious publication of its kind, provides a general introduction to gems and natural gemstones, conveying their timeless beauty and exploring similarities among different species and varieties. *Gems and Gemstones* features nearly 300 color images of the cut gems, precious and semiprecious stones, gem-quality mineral specimens, and fine jewelry to be unveiled in a new Grainger Hall of Gems at The Field Museum in Chicago this October. The book and exhibitions' overarching theme will be the relationship...



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