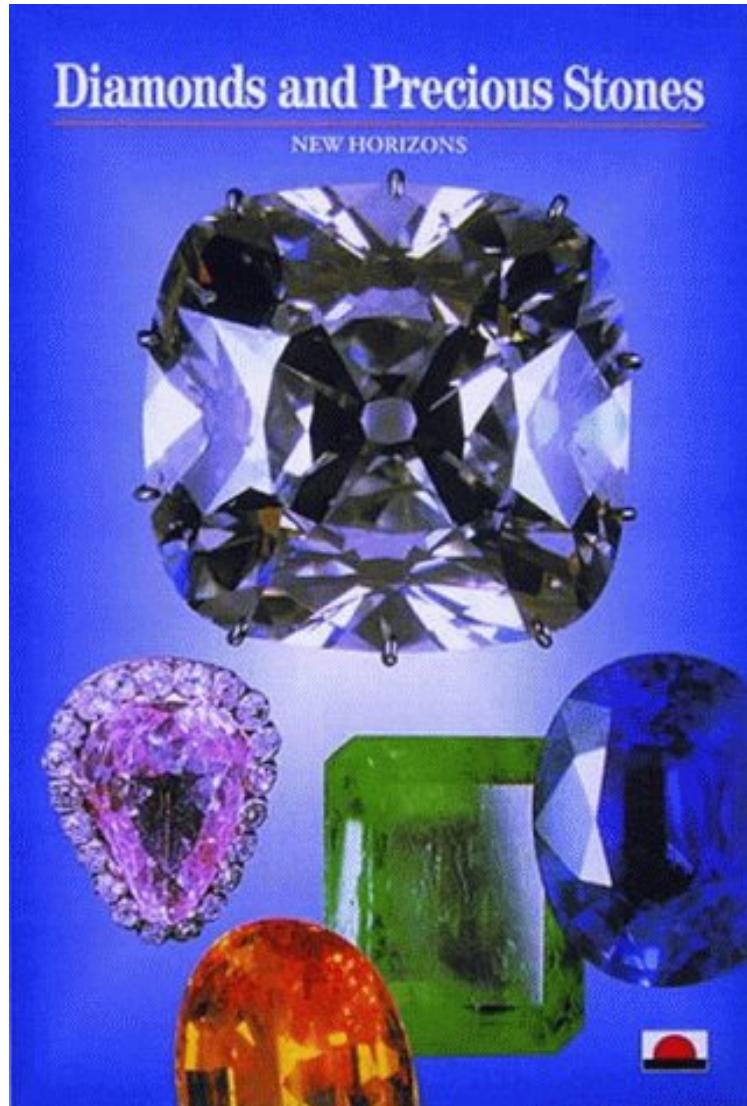


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## Diamonds and Precious Stones (New Horizons)

*Patrick Voillot*

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**Patrick Voillot : Diamonds and Precious Stones (New Horizons)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diamonds and Precious Stones (New Horizons):

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gemBy JohnCarrThis is a translation of a French work and indeed my only quibble with it is that occasionally it reads like an overly literal translation, using phraseology that doesn't sound quite natural to a native English speaker. It is part of a series of pocket sized guides on a variety of subjects. Each is lavishly illustrated on high quality paper. This work on diamonds, sapphires, rubies and emeralds is not a work of chemistry or geology concentrating on explaining how these stones are formed. Rather it is an account of how humans interact with them, the myths, the search for them and the story of the development of stone-cutting. Interwoven with this is the stories of individual stones. When Ali Pasha lay dying after defeat in battle he ordered the destruction of his two most prized possessions - his biggest diamond and his wife. When given the task/privilege of cutting the Cullinan the cutter fainted from stress. An enjoyable, easy read.

Glittering jewels and precious stones, diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires have from time immemorial held a special fascination because of their rarity and beauty. This book examines the techniques involved in mining, cutting and trading in gems - the incredible transformation of precious stones from works of nature to works of art - and the legends associated with such famous stones as the Koh-i-Noor diamond in the British Crown Jewels, the unlucky Hope Diamond and the immense Star of India sapphire. Equally absorbing are the people whose lives have been entwined with famous gems, personalities as diverse as Aztec emperors, Great Mughals, the merchant princes of Florence, European royalty, film stars and duchesses in exile.

Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: French