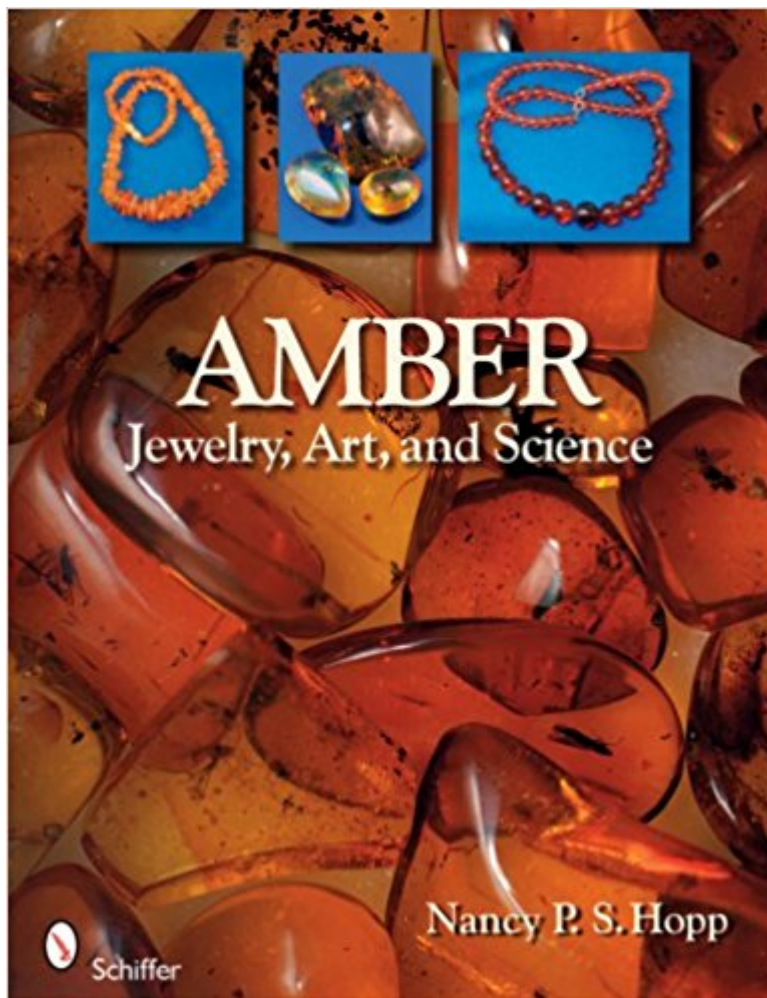


The book was found

Amber: Jewelry, Art & Science



Synopsis

Take a trip through the ages and the world to uncover a unique stone with amazing properties. In this well-researched book, readers discover amber and the products made from it, especially jewelry. The easy-to-read format and over 320 color photographs and drawings make it both informative and appealing. The fascinating history of this ancient and unusual stone is explained, and identification methods, origins, amber products, carving techniques, and care tips are among the invaluable information included. Interesting mysteries, concerns, and triumphs about amber and a discussion of its cost are presented. Mineral and rock collectors, history buffs, and jewelry lovers all will enjoy this freshly compiled and up-to-date reference.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nancy Hopp has a Masters degree in Education and taught for 35 years. She has owned an antiques and appraisal business in Florida, studied silversmithing and gemology, and traveled to amber sources to research and satisfy her deep interest in the stone. Today amber has become a cornerstone of her classes. She lives in Clearwater, FL.

Not bad

Good book on Amber

Bought this as a gift for my mom. She loves it!

An excellent book that gives a lot of amber information in an easy to read format. Lots of beautiful illustrative pictures.

Amber is one of the very few organic gems and the only one with organic inclusions. Formed from tree resin that hardened many millions of years ago, amber was valued for adornment as far back as the Stone Age. This strange gemstone melts and burns, floats in salt water, takes a static charge, and in ancient times was worth ten times its weight in gold. Tricky to cut and difficult to set, amber may also be the most challenging gemstone to write about. Nancy Hopp, trained in gemstones, silversmithing, and jewelry appraising, has successfully met that challenge with this book. She begins by defining amber and showing some simple tests for distinguishing it from its many imitators and from copal (a younger cousin of amber, that is not really defined until 90 pages later). The many varieties of amber are explained and beautifully illustrated in photos of loose stones as well as others set in silver jewelry. The fascinating subject of prehistoric plant and insect inclusions is introduced, along with the first of several warnings that most examples novices will encounter are cleverly made fakes. Hopp even gives a nod to the role amber played in the popular movie Jurassic Park. The worldwide sources of amber are described next, including discussions of the technology (often primitive) and economics of mining and even photos taken inside of mines in the Dominican Republic. Baltic amber, although it constitutes 80% of the world's supply, seems to receive less emphasis than Dominican. The history of amber is covered, from its first decorative use 13,000 years ago to the present. The author interweaves scientific fact with amber myths and lore in a charming way. The historical discussion is brought into the early 20th century with smoking articles (taking advantage of amber's supposed antiseptic properties) and other objets d'art. The chapter "Amber Today" briefly explains carving and crafting, amber care, and how to detect the many imitators and enhancements, such as dyeing to imitate the valuable cherry amber. The amazing Russian "Amber Room" is covered in a short but well-illustrated chapter. Created in Prussia and transferred to the Russian Winter Palace as a gift in 1755, the Amber Room vanished completely during World War II. Its present location remains an unsolved mystery. The book's abundant photographs are supplemented by watercolor drawings by a friend of the author to provide images where photography was not possible. Ample references are provided, including many Web sites, and these are cited liberally in the text. The writing style is informal and breezy, with some oddities such as mentioning by name each and every person who appears in the photos. Certainly this is no dry academic tome. There are more than a few typos, which should be fixed in

the next printing. The book's organization could also use a few tweaks. For example, one entire page of photos (of testing) is repeated twice, 91 pages apart. These few editing quibbles aside, the author has succeeded in providing a valuable introduction to amber that is fascinating to read and beautiful to look at.

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