

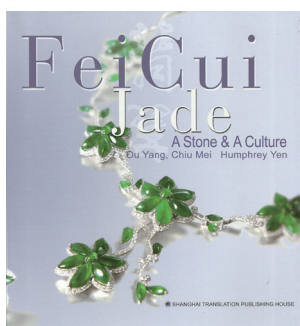
Book Review 書評

Fei Cui Jade - A Stone & A Culture

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筆者誠意推薦歐陽秋眉教授和嚴軍先生去年底出版的英文新書 — Fei Cui Jade - A Stone & A Culture。該書分為10個章節，作者們系統化地展述他們三十多年來在翡翠和玉的歷史及文化背景、學術性、科學性、地質學及寶石學方面的研究，輔以約380多幀彩色照片、插圖和圖表，詳述翡翠從產出、加工以至市場的狀況，並論述各種模擬品及處理方法、命名系統和寶石評價概念等。



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Over the past 2 decades, I have been asked time and time again by students and international colleagues alike, if there were any gemmological information on jade and Fei Cui in English, or if I could translate Chinese gemmological articles about jade into English for them.

These requests can be answered easily now as this book records more than 3 decades of scientific research and gemmological studies on jade and fei cui by Professor Mimi Ou Yang and Mr Humphrey Yen, clearly presented so that even the most complicated gemmological details are accessible to English speaking gemmologists.

Fei Cui Jade - A Stone & A Culture is a valuable addition to the literature. The book is lavishly presented, on quality paper and with more than 380 stunning colour photographs, illustrations and diagrams many in print for the first time.

As a textbook it provides in-depth information systematically presented and is highly recommended to gemmologists, mineralogists, collectors, students, jewellers and traders but it is also a good read for anyone who is simply interested in jade and fei cui. The colouration, science and classifications of fei cui are investigated in detail and it provides a significant English language record of Chinese culture and the scientific study of this precious gemstone.

Highlights of the book are:

- An introduction of China's jade culture from antiquity to the present
- The characteristics of the colours of Fei Cui Jade: how it grows and how it affects value
- How to spot simulants and treatments of Fei Cui Jade
- A new definition of Fei Cui Jade
- The varieties of Fei Cui Jade and classification of the rough
- A description of the journey from mine through rough stone auction, cutting, design and polishing to market
- Valuation of Fei Cui Jade: the principles of 4C2T1V

Professor Ou Yang, who is the Honorary Chairlady of The Gemmological Association of Hong Kong, is renowned for her work on Fei Cui in both Hong Kong and China where she is known as “the Jade Lady”.

“Since finishing this book,” she told me “I am continuing my research into the technical and gemmological aspects of Fei Cui and I shall be writing more on the subject. It is my lifelong contribution to the world of jewellery.”

I, certainly, look forward to reading more about Professor Ou Yang's study of Fei Cui Jade in the future.