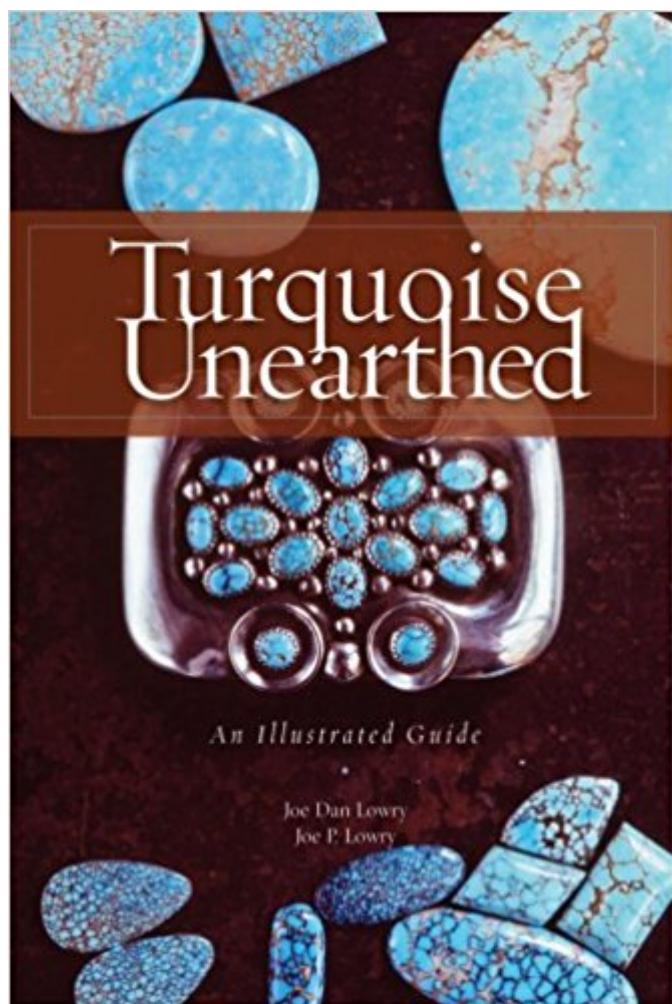


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Turquoise Unearthed: An Illustrated Guide



Synopsis

In the American Southwest, turquoise is a highly prized gemstone with great cultural significance. Author Joe Dan Lowry is recognized worldwide as a leading expert and describes the fascinating history of turquoise mining in the American Southwest and reveals an astonishing variety of colors and forms that make this gemstone like no other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joe Dan Lowry's family has been at the center of the turquoise trade for three generations. He owns and operates the Turquoise Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which boasts the most extensive collection of turquoise in the world. Joe P. Lowry and Joe Dan Lowry operate the Turquoise Museum and are recognized worldwide for their expertise.

This book is a treasure trove of information on the legendary sacred stone of the Southwest. If you're interested in authentic turquoise jewelry, this could help you make an informed purchase. The photography is up-close and vivid and is used very effectively to make points and educate the reader. Content covers the varying hues of turquoise and their significance and what makes turquoise considered "treated" as opposed to natural and gemstone grade. The authors explain the processes behind reconstituted, stabilized, enhanced, waxed or oiled turquoise and imitation turquoise. There are great descriptions of the output of the classic Southwest mines and with photos of their signature gemstones. There are also photos of Chinese

turquoise, so you can see how easy it is to buy Chinese when what you want is Southwestern. There are discussions of turquoise with matrix. Intrusions from the host rock that create desirable patterns like the sought-after spider web matrix. I was fascinated to learn that mine and matrix matter more than color in the value of turquoise. Of all the books on turquoise I have read, I found this one by far the most useful.

It seems to me that it's rather hard to find good information about turquoise, even if sought in person with folks who know it well. And there aren't too many books on turquoise either. This one looked the best, but I was a little disappointed with the brief content. The pictures are beautiful. There are some nice descriptions of the most famous mines. The book also contains some brief, but helpful information about the formation of turquoise, but the one thing it doesn't really do is help the beginner to learn to identify types of turquoise on their own, which really would be helpful. It's like turquoise identification is a SECRET. I so wish this author would write a second book with more in-depth identification information.

I was expecting so much more from this book based on the reviews of others. The pictures are beautiful but this book does not discuss how to spot fake jewelry nor does it discuss how to tell if turquoise is natural or not. The book also does not show pictures of different types of the same turquoise; for example it does not show the wide range of different stones that supposedly come from Kingman. I am a collector and wanted this book so that I could recognize the real deal but while the book is informative it will not help guide you in spotting fake jewelry or stones.

I have been a gem and mineral dealer for over ten years...and a rockhound for a lot longer than that...but this book taught me more in a single sitting than all my years in the business and in the hobby. I have dug, traded, bought and sold a whole bunch of "Turq"...natural, treated and "color-shot"...and this book instantly became my favorite reference for the rest of my life. If you are planning on investing in real American or Persian turquoise jewelry or stones...and it is an investment...then this book is a "Must Have!" No sooner did I put this book down than I called up one of my suppliers and bought all of the Blue Gem and Turquoise Mountain stones they had left in stock...I am sure they are wondering what precipitated that call! My many thanks to the Lowry family for their labor of love...from the "Turq" Museum to this book...and I hope we cross paths real soon.

Very good book from an expert. condition of book was excellent

a good book overall, worth the price. Mostly an introduction and not complete, but have found no book that is. Goes into basic descriptions of history, mining, types of turquoise for jewelry (stabilized, colored, etc.) which was helpful to make one aware of what to look for and what to ask seller's as to the processing of the stone. I also bought the large coffee table book on turquoise, which had beautiful pictures and listed more types of turquoise, but was really not as helpful as this little book.

Though not comprehensive, this little book is a great starting place for learning the history and origins of turquoise in North America. Large, full-color photos aid identification and depict the amazing variety of stones among and between types. Recommended to me by a jewelry dealer at a gallery in Santa Fe.

I found out about this book when buying some Native American jewelry at The Trading Post in Garden of the Gods. It is pretty cool as it tells a lot about where genuine American turquoise mines are and what the turquoise looks like. I have gotten to the point in my Native American jewelry collection that I want a signed piece and what to know where the turquoise originated. I would prefer a US mine but many gem quality stones come from Asia. Beware the cheap, non-guaranteed, non-signed stuff if you really care about what you're buying.

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