

in the techniques section. The appendices include a useful glossary and various summary tables of properties. This eighth edition containing the latest information and practical techniques will be welcomed by all who are concerned with the identification of gems.

R. A. HOWIE

DESAUTELS (P. E.). *The Gem Kingdom* (with special photography by Lee Boltin). London (Macdonald), 1971. 252 pp., 70 figs., 72 coloured pls. Price £5.25.

This magnificently produced book is in the same style as *The Mineral Kingdom* (M.M. 37-631), and here again the author's stimulating narrative is accompanied by colour photographs expertly displaying faceted gems and other worked mineral specimens. The text brings to life both the science and the romance of gems; the great gem species—diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald, and opal—and the less precious but equally interesting species favoured by collectors and craftsmen are all illustrated and described. The qualities of gemstones, the art of the lapidary, the fashioning of jewellery, royal jewels, and the carving of jade—the 'sometimes green stone'—are included. But for many readers it will be Lee Boltin's incomparable colour photographs of many of the finest gems and minerals in the Smithsonian Institutions collections that make this a highly desirable work for all who admire, collect, or search for gems and gemstones.

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LIEBER (W.). *Der Mineraliensammler. Über den Aufbau von Sammlungen und was man dazu wissen sollte* (fifth edition). Thun and München (Ott. Verlag), 1972. 274 pp., 73 figs., 40 pls. (16 in colour). Price Sfr. 34.80; DM 29.80.

This latest edition of a book for mineral collectors, first published in 1963, gives a general account of elementary mineralogy and the geological setting of mineral deposits. It also deals with the problems of collecting, identifying, classifying, and storing mineral specimens. The largest chapter is devoted to giving details of 259 mineral localities, mainly in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland but also in the rest of the world (including 21 British localities, from Strontian to Geevor mine). The plates are excellent but leave one salivating unnecessarily as they often present enlarged views of the original specimen (hematite rose $\times 20$, prismatic vivianite $\times 20$, a gold crystal $\times 80$, prismatic erythrite $\times 80$).

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