



## Ruby and Sapphire: a gemologist's guide

By Richard W. Hughes with  
Wimon Manerotkul and E. Billie Hughes

In 1908, George Fredrick Kunz produced a gemmological masterpiece dedicated to a single gemstone in the form of his publication *The Book of the Pearl: History, Art, Science, & Industry of the Queen of Gems* (Kunz & Stevenson, 1908). During the intervening 109 years there have been very few publications of a gemmological nature that can compare in terms of content and subject matter. Examples would be Eduard Josef Gübelin's *Internal World of Gemstones* (Gübelin 1974, Len Cram's four book series on Australian opal fields titled *A Journey with Colour* (Cram 1998, 2002, 2004, 2006) and Richard Hughes' *Ruby and Sapphire* (Hughes 1997). All these publications followed Kunz's lead in one important aspect; they went beyond just detailing gemmological information by expressing a real passion for their subject matter. Remarkably Richard Hughes, in association with his wife Wimon, and daughter Billie, has managed it for a second time in producing *Ruby and Sapphire: A gemologist's guide*.

In every way this is a BIG book, big in content with twelve chapters covering every aspect of corundum, big in imagery—around 1000 fine illustrations (Richard, Wimon and Billie are all photographers of great talent), big in references—over 3000 of them make the book a superlative research tool, and big in size—731 pages weighing in at 4.035 kilograms. However, not big in price, at around \$70/kg it is much better value than the steaks at Li'l Abner's in Tucson!

It takes a special person with specialised knowledge, experience and talent to produce a publication such as this. It also takes something else, and that is an absolute love of the subject, something that Richard and his family have in large measure.

There is little point in detailing the contents of *Ruby and Sapphire: A gemologist's guide*; sufficient to say if you wish to know anything, anything at all about ruby and sapphire, then you will find it in this publication—presented in an entertaining and passionate way—making it an informative and enjoyable text for all gemmologists.

**Ruby and Sapphire: a gemologist's guide**

Richard W Hughes with Wimon Manerotkul & E. Billie Hughes. 2017

ISBN 9780964509719

Published by: RWH Publishing/Lotus Publishing, 45/1 Soi 19, Silom Rd, Silom 19 Bldg, Suite 411, Bangkok, 10500, Thailand.

Distributed by: Lotus publishing

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