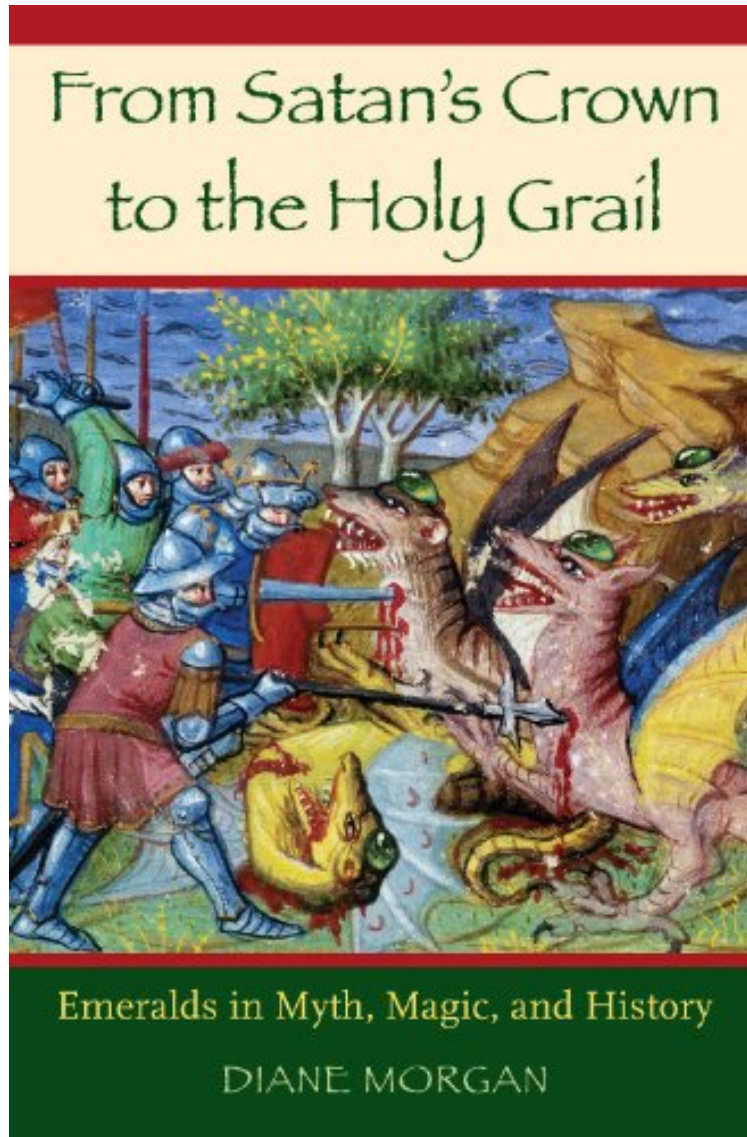


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From Satan's Crown to the Holy Grail: Emeralds in Myth, Magic, and History

Diane Morgan

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2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nice Little Book on the Green StoneBy H. CampbellThis book is a

quick read about this beautiful gemstone. It balances history with science and culture, though unless you're a die-hard emeraldophile you may get more info than you care for. I enjoyed the lore and myth associated with the stone more than anything else. It would have been nice to have had color photos of some of the fabulous stones described in the book, though. I mean, we like these shiny pebbles because they're purdy, right? 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A New Look at Emeralds By John W. Warner I found Diane Morgan's book to be a fascinating blend of history, mineralogy, and the magical, mystical, and medicinal properties attributed to this marvelous gem. If you would like to know more about these subjects, I heartily recommend this very interesting, humorous and highly readable book.

Morgan discusses the origin of the emerald, its peculiar structure, and its strange allure. The story weaves across several continents and thousands of years. It is a tale of conquistadors, treachery, shipwrecks, and alchemy. Along the way, we meet scientists and kings and bear witness as the great emeralds are born, mined, smuggled, cut, and sold. The book also discusses the modern art of making synthetic emeralds. From the fastnesses of Afghanistan to the steamy jungles of Colombia and Zimbabwe, from the sands of Egypt to the bitter Urals, this is the story of a stone whose strange journey reflects the yearnings, greed, passions, and longing for beauty of the human race.

"Morgan traces emeralds through time in an interesting mixture of technical information and completely nontechnical to nearly rhetorical discussions. A significant portion of the work emphasizes mythic and magical aspects of emeralds and related minerals, along with people involved (or allegedly so) in the long history of this gemstone....[t]he treatment of emerald discoveries, worldwide distribution, and mining is very thorough and especially useful in its coverage of the past three decades....For those in the gem industry and nonprofessionals interested in the historical and related aspects of emeralds....General readers." - Choice "Morgan begins with legends of the green gemstone. Then she discusses how they come to be, the emerald business, their appearance in world history, the great emeralds, secrets of the trade, and fake emeralds and their kin." - Reference Research Book News About the Author Diane Morgan is Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religion and author of fourteen books including *The Buddhist Experience in America* (Greenwood, 2004).