**Annotated Bio-Bibliography of Mineralogy and Crystallography 1469-1919

by Curtis P. Schuh (1959-2007)**



**KUNZ, George Frederick.** (Born: New York City,

New York, U.S.A., 29 September 1856; Died: New

York City, New York, U.S.A., 29 June 1932) *American*

*gemologist.*

Kunz was the son of immigrant parents. At the

age of ten his family moved to Hoboken, New Jersey,

where he attended the public schools. Being poor, he

was unable to afford college, however, Kunz taught himself

enough mineralogy that he was able to secure in 1879 a

position at the famous jewelry manufacturer, Tiffany &

Company. He remained with the firm until his death,

rising to vice president and finally trustee. He was highly

successful in locating American sources of gems to be used

in Tiffany’s jewelry designs, and this brought him the

honorary position of special agent of precious stones for the

United States Geological Survey (1883 to 1909). Among

many honors, Kunz was a founder and president of the

New York Mineralogical Club. In 1903, a pink variety of

the gem mineral spodumene was named “Kunzite” in his

honor.

References: ABA: I 923, 99-113. **•** Adams, *Dictionary*

*of American Authors*, 1904: 222. **•** *American Mineralogist*:

**18** (1933), 91-4, portrait [by P.F. Kerr]. **•** ANB: **12**, 952-

3 [by L.H. Conklin]. **•** *Bulletin of the Geological Society of*

*America*: **44** (1933), 377-94, portait [by H.P. Whitlock].

 **•** Cleevely, *World Palæontological Collections*, 1983: 176.

**•** DAB: Suppl. 1, 476-7. **•** *Herringshaw’s National Library*

*of American Biography*. **•** *ISIS, 1913-65*: **2**, 33. **•** *National*

*Cyclopedia of American Biography*: **4**, 433. **•** *New York Times*:

30 June 1932 [obituary]. **•** Poggendorff: **4**, 818. **•** Sarjeant,

*Geologists*, 1980: **2**, 1495-9, Suppl. 2 (1995), **1**, 814. **•**

Sinkankas, *Gemology Bibliography*, 1993: **2**, 576. **•** WBI. **•**

*Who Was Who in America*: **1**, 695. **•** *World Who’s Who in*

*Science*: 978-9.



**2844**. **English, 1890** [First edition].

[In red:] Gems [in black:] And [in red:] Precious

Stones [in black:] Of North America A Popular

Description Of Their Occurrence, Value, History,

Archaeology, And Of The Collections In Which

They Exist, Also A Chapter On Pearls And On

Remarkable Foreign Gems Owned In The United

States... Illustrated With Eight Colored Plates

And Numerous Minor Engravings By [in

red:] George Frederick Kunz [...7 lines of titles and

memberships...] [in black, rule] New York [in

red:] The Scientific Publishing Company [in black,

rule] MDCCCXC.

4\_: [2], [i]-vi, [1]-336 p., 8 color plates, black and

white plates, text illustrations. Title in red and black.

Page size: 11 x 7.5 in

Contents: [2 pgs], Title page, verso “Copyright,

1890.”; [i]-vi, “List Of Illustrations.”; [3]-5, “Contents.”;

[6], Blank.; [7]-11, “Introduction.”; [12], Blank.; [13]-330,

Text.; [331]-336, “Index.”

Very scarce. A popular author on all aspects

of gemology, this is Kunz’s first major book and is

devoted to a through description of North American

gemstones. The volume contains information on

gemstones and their locations in North America that

Kunz had gathered from correspondents located all

over the continent. These were the same people

that supplied local information for inclusion in Kunz’s

annual contribution to the *Mineral Resources of the*

*U.S.*, for which Kunz wrote the “precious stones”

chapters for many years. In addition, being a vice

president of the famous jewelry firm of Tiffany &

Co. Kunz actively encouraged the exploitation of

gem deposits and stood ready to purchase recovered

material to financially assist such ventures. While much

of the contained information has been augmented or

improved upon in intervening years, the unique nature

and value of this work is unquestioned and it is still

of value today. The handsome colored lithographic

plates included in this book together with those found in

Hamlin’s tourmaline monographs are among the finest

chromolithographic plates of minerals ever produced in

the United States.

References: Dana’s 7th (Bibliography): 75. **•**

Sinkankas, *Gemology Bibliography*, 1993: no. 6353.

**2845**. **2nd edition, 1892:** Gems and Precious Stones

Of North America A Popular Description Of Their

Occurrence, Value, History, Archaeology, And Of The

Collections In Which They Exist, Also A Chapter On

Pearls And On Remarkable Foreign Gems Owned In

The United States... Illustrated With Eight Colored

Plates And Numerous Engravings Second Edition with

Appendix By George Frederick Kunz [...10 lines

of titles and memberships...] [rule] New York The

Scientific Publishing Company [rule] MDCCCXCII.

4\_: [1]-336, [2 errata] p., 8 color plates, black and

white plates, text illustrations. Title in red and black.

Very scarce. Two appendices noting occurence of

gems since the first edition.

**Facsimile reprint, c1968:** *Gems & Precious Stones of North*

*America A Popular Description of Their Occurence, Value,*

*History, Archaeology, & of the Collections in which they exist,*

*Also a Chapter on Pearls & on Remarkable Foreign Gems*

*Owned in the United States reprint of the second edition (with*

*appendix) with new introduction by Edward Olsen*. New York,

Dover Publications, Inc., c1968. 367 p., 9 colored plates.

References: Dana’s 7th (Bibliography): 75. **•**

Sinkankas, *Gemology Bibliography*, 1993: no. 6354.

**2846**. **English, 1907.**

North Carolina Geological And Economic Survey

Joseph Hyde Pratt, State Geologist [rule]

Bulletin No. 12 [rule] History Of The Gems

Found In North Carolina By George Frederick

Kunz, Ph.D. [ornament] Raleigh E.M. Uzzell

& Co., Public Printers and Binders 1907.

8\_: xvii, 60 [2] p., 15 tipped in plates (4

chromolithographic plates with tissues). Very scarce.

**KUNZ, Otto.**

**2847**. **English, 1846.**

A Treatise on Chemical Analysis of Minerals by

Otto Kunz ... Pittsburg, Printed by Victor Scriba, 1846.

8\_: 60 p., 2 folding tables, illus.

Very scarce. Chemical analaysis.

References: *Pure & Applied Science Books*: **3**, 3993. **•**

*USGS Library Catalog*