

Rosenberg Library Announces Museum Book Club Winter 2019 Selection

Rosenberg Library is pleased to announce that its selection for the Winter 2019 Museum Book Club series is ***Jewels: A Secret History*** by Victoria Finlay. Blending adventure travel, geology, and exciting new research, Finlay has fashioned a treasure hunt for some of the most valuable, glamorous, and mysterious substances on earth.

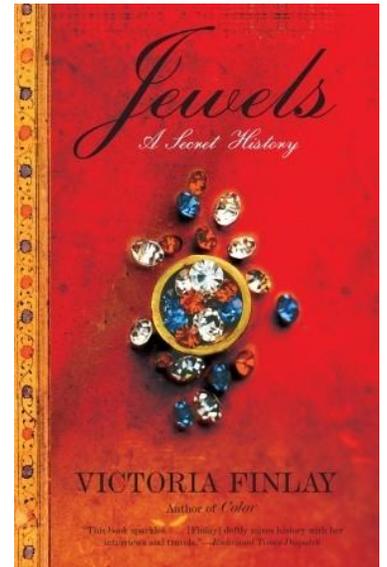
The Winter Museum Book Club meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 30 from 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. in the McCullough Room on the library's 2nd floor. Light refreshments will be provided.

Book Summary

Throughout history, precious stones have inspired passions and poetry, quests and curses, sacred writings and unsacred actions. In this scintillating book, journalist Victoria Finlay embarks on her own globe-circling search for the real stories behind some of the gems we prize most.

Finlay journeys from the underground opal churches of outback Australia to the once pearl-rich rivers of Scotland; from the peridot mines on an Apache reservation in Arizona to the remote ruby mines in the mountains of northern Burma. She risks confronting scorpions to crawl through Cleopatra's long-deserted emerald mines, tries her hand at gem cutting in the dusty Sri Lankan city where Marco Polo bartered for sapphires, and investigates a rumor that fifty years ago most of the world's amber was mined by prisoners in a Soviet gulag.

Jewels: A Secret History is a unique and often exhilarating voyage through history, across cultures, deep into the earth's mantle, and up to the glittering heights of fame, power, and wealth. From the fabled curse of the Hope Diamond, to the disturbing truths about how pearls are cultured, *Jewels* tells dazzling stories with a wonderment truly worthy of its subjects.



Cover image of *Jewels: A Secret History* by Victoria Finlay

About the Author

Victoria Finlay studied social anthropology at the University of St. Andrews and the College of William & Mary, Virginia, before working for Reuters in London and Scandinavia. She spent twelve years as a journalist in Hong Kong, five of them as arts editor of *The South China Morning Post*, where she also presented a weekly radio program. She now lives in Somerset in southwest England, and divides her time between researching her next book and working for an international environmental charity, www.arcworld.org. *Jewels: A Secret History* is her third book.

From the Permanent Collection

Rosenberg Library staff will share examples of antique jewelry from its museum collection, including a ca. 1860 onyx and pearl mourning brooch and a ca. 1900 men's diamond and emerald stickpin. Also displayed will be an assortment of jewelry collected in Morocco during the early 20th century including charms and pendants with rubies and emeralds.

About the Museum Book Club

Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club offers participants the chance to experience art and literature in a more interactive way. Members have the opportunity to view rarely exhibited art and historical artifacts from the library's permanent collection as they discuss related books.

Registration is required for all Museum Book Club meetings. Please visit www.rosenberg-library.org or call 409-763-8854 ext. 125 to register.

Jewels: A Secret History is available for [check-out](#) at Rosenberg Library.