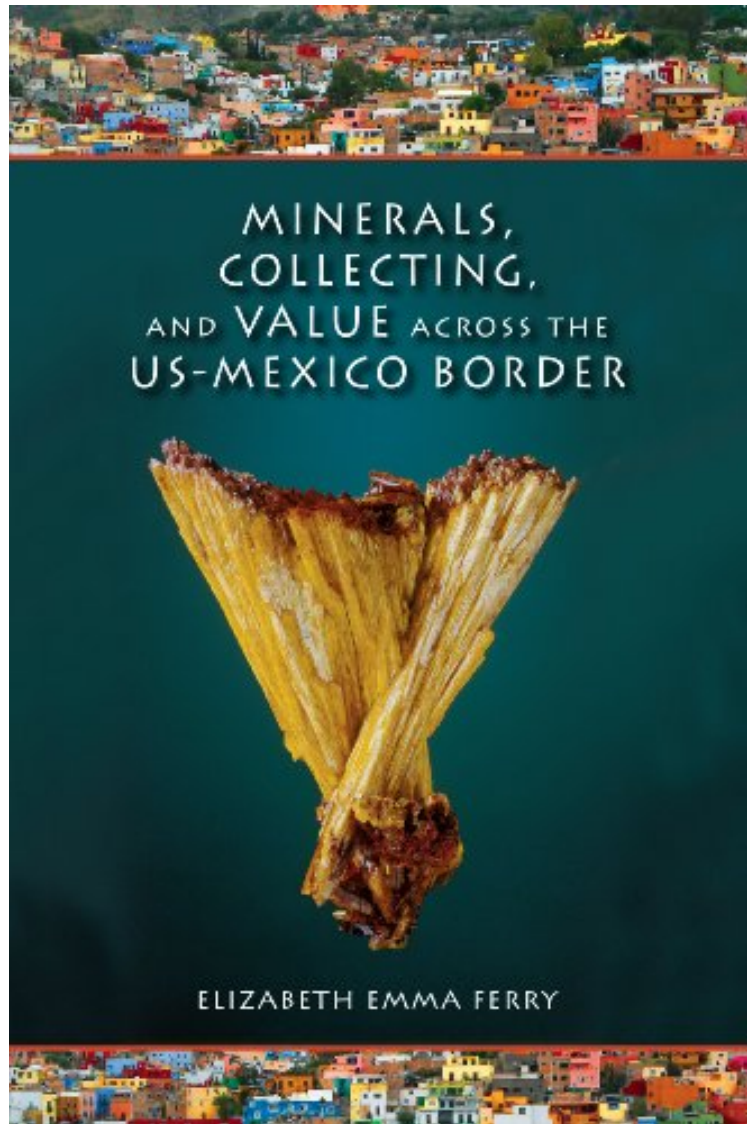


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## Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US-Mexico Border (Tracking Globalization)

*Elizabeth Emma Ferry*

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**Elizabeth Emma Ferry : Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US-Mexico Border (Tracking Globalization)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US-Mexico Border (Tracking Globalization):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US-Mexico Border (Tracking Globalization)By Bill PancznerThis is a most interesting and well written book. It would be of interest to any mineral collector interested in Mexican minerals. It tells the intriguing story of how mineral specimens are found

in the mines and the route they travel to reach the collector's shelves. Having been a part of this business for over twenty years, the names she mentioned and interviewed of these "old" friends were joys to read. Several of these people were at times arch competitors. Having had direct working association with Dr. Miguel Romero, the author did an outstanding job in telling his and his family story. I may be the last of his "five mineral researchers" alive today. I would highly recommend this book to any mineral collector; amateur or professional. William D. "Bill" Panczner, Director of La Ojuela Research Project Group 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Major contribution to study of (high-end) mineral collecting from Mexico. By Carnelian Ferry extensively researched mineral collecting and mining from northern Mexico to the U.S. in this significant contribution to the anthropological study and analysis of mineral collections and traffic to Arizona and elsewhere. As an anthropologist, she provides a cultural analysis of mineral collecting from a few important Mexican mines (and the miners) to wholesale dealers, and eventually to major collections in Mexico and America. Her astute anthropological language may not be understood by the casual reader, but it is no hindrance to enjoying and learning from this work. Most of her terms are clarified for less educated readers. Many readers will appreciate her behind the scenes look at the famous Tucson show and her interviews with dealers and other people connected therein. The only thing lacking is more examples of the prices and how these dollar amounts are determined for common minerals, specifically. She notes that dealers did not want to publicize the prices they paid, but still, some general estimates would be very useful to me, as a long time collector and hobbyist. The author did not respond to my email about this issue. This book is for serious collectors and mineral lovers, and those involved in the mineral business. A useful bibliography and selective index are included--many names were not. I also appreciated her insightful cultural analysis of mineral collecting that could be further developed in future studies.

Elizabeth Emma Ferry traces the movement of minerals as they circulate from Mexican mines to markets, museums, and private collections on both sides of the US-Mexico border. She describes how and why these byproducts of ore mining come to be valued by people in various walks of life as scientific specimens, religious offerings, works of art, and luxury collectibles. The story of mineral exploration and trade defines a variegated transnational space, shedding new light on the complex relationship between these two countries and on the process of making value itself.

"An exciting new contribution to sociocultural anthropology, one that is strongly ethnographic and richly analyzed.... Will make a major and important contribution to the literature on how value is created." Les W. Field, University of New Mexico "Students with little knowledge of the topic as well as scholars in this area will enjoy this book, part of the 'Tracking Globalization' series.... Highly recommended." Choice "An outstanding ethnographic account of the extraction and international circulation of mineral specimens that is sure to be of interest to a broad readership." Andrew Walsh, University of Western Ontario "Ferry is primarily concerned with three fields in which minerals are valued: ore mining, mineral collecting, and mineralogy. As any respectable ethnographer, she aims to understand the intimate bond between the human and the object (in this case, the mineral) and how meaning is attached to it, value created, and value given or taken away... [A] jewel to those interested in ore mining, mineral collecting and mineralogy, or the anthropology of value." American Ethnologist "Minerals, Collecting, and Value makes a novel contribution to the anthropology of natural resources by weaving together theories of value and concepts from actor network theory to historicize the formation of U.S.-Mexico as a transnational space." Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology "What makes things valuable? In this imaginative study of mineral mining and collecting, Elizabeth Ferry takes us from an incidental economy in central Mexico to the high reaches of scientific and aesthetic collecting in the United States. In the first, minerals are ancillary finds in the search for ores; in the second, minerals are expensive markers of taste and erudition. In the first, a miner brings minerals to his doctor's secretary to "smooth the way," or he places them on an altar to the saints. In the second, a dealer makes his minerals "pristine" by erasing all traces of their procurement and photographing them as if floating on air. Between the two, value is remade in the production and performance of difference. There is something to learn here for all students and scholars of value, commodities, and the traffic across nations." Anna Tsing, author of *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* About the Author Elizabeth Emma Ferry is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Brandeis University. She is author of *Not Ours Alone: Patrimony, Value, and Collectivity in Contemporary Mexico* and editor (with Mandana Limbert) of *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities*.