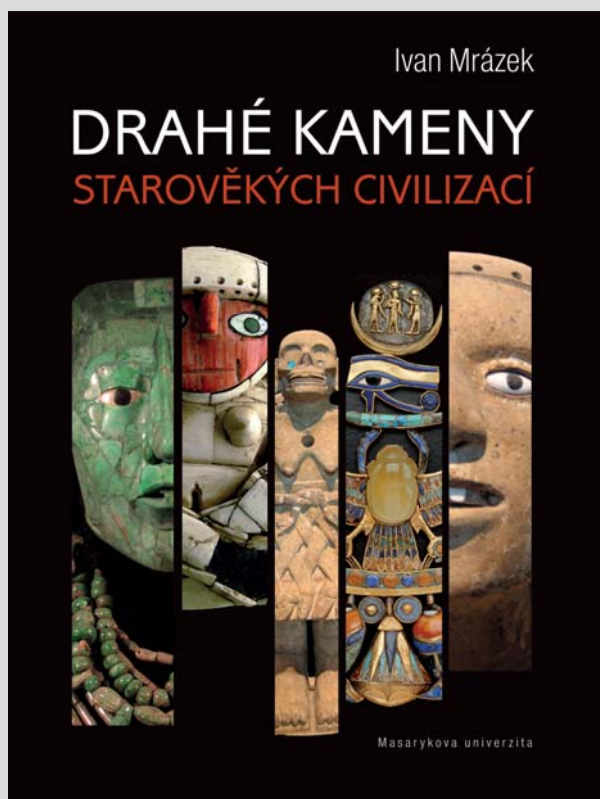


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RNDr. Ivan Mrázek (1940) studied geology at faculties of science at Masaryk University (Brno) and Charles University (Prague). During his professional career he devoted particular interest to gemstones. He published the results of his research in several books; the present volume is his tenth scientific publication. He gathered materials for the book over many years; he critically evaluated published data, he visited the world's major museums and archaeological sites around the world.

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