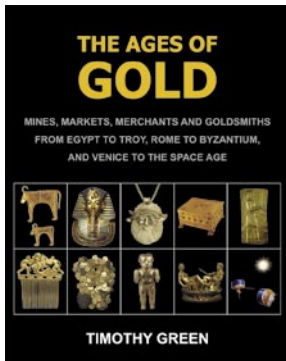


**“The Ages of Gold” by Timothy Green**

***Timothy Green captures ‘The Ages of Gold’ in the most comprehensive book ever written on mines, markets, merchants, mints and goldsmiths***



After tracking modern markets in *The World of Gold* and *The Gold Companion*, Timothy Green now reports on gold as money and a symbol of power and wealth over the last 6,000 years. Gold’s beauty and unique properties of conductivity, ductility, malleability and resistance to corrosion have meant that each age valued it differently.

The book embraces four major periods:

**The Ancient World (pre 4000 BC - 1 BC)**, when the gold trade expanded beyond Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) and Egypt around the Mediterranean. The Phoenicians established international precious metal trading routes, the Etruscans and Scythians became ‘virtuoso’ goldsmiths, Croesus launched gold coins while Alexander the Great seized the Persian treasure.

**Empires (AD1-1200)** reports on the growth of four major empires, China, Rome, Byzantium and Islam, each playing significant, but differing roles in the world of gold.

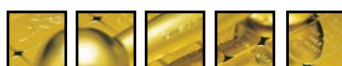
**New Horizons (1200-1700)** reveals the trading power of Venice which held the first gold ‘fixings’ and the unique talents of Pre-Columbian goldsmiths in South America whose ornaments were melted down by Spanish invaders. That gold was squandered furthering Spain’s imperial ambitions.

**Gold Standard (1700-2000)** examines the rise and fall of the gold standard, first in Britain and then worldwide after the Californian, Australian and South African gold rushes. Finally, today’s role for gold as jewellery, in electronics and as an investors’ safe haven in dangerous days is examined.

The Ages of Gold describes the importance of gold throughout human history and, appropriately, is being launched at a time when the precious metal is very much in the news, with its price reaching an all-time high.

**Highlights from the book include:**

- Troy was a jewellery emporium in 2500 BC, centuries before the famous siege described by Homer
- Babylon was on a gold standard in 1500 BC, with temples making gold loans
- A crucial chemical breakthrough in refining (the addition of salt), around 550 BC, enabled Croesus of Lydia to issue the first gold coinage of consistent purity, which soon became the pay for mercenaries and soldiers
- Alexander the Great’s capture of the Persian treasure in 330 BC led to the first major international transfer of gold worth nearly \$1 billion at today’s price. The gold was minted at nearly twenty mints
- China’s official gold reserves today are scarcely four times those of AD 23 under the Emperor Wang Mang. Moreover, Wang Mang’s ministers’ annual salaries, valued in gold, were equivalent to \$400,000, on a par with modern ministers. A good ministerial horse cost \$2,500
- Rome’s gold aureus, in which legionnaires were paid, was common currency across a wider swath of Europe than today’s euro
- The Venetian ducat of AD 1300 had the same purity as the modern London ‘Good Delivery Bar’
- The golden ornaments of the Incas melted down in 1533 by Francisco Pizarro and shipped to Spain were worth \$160 million at today’s price
- A London broker, Mocatta (now ScotiaMocatta), first dispatched gold to India in 1676
- Sir Isaac Newton, Master of the Mint, set a new fixed price for gold in 1717, which endured over 200 years, ‘accidentally’ putting Britain on the gold standard





- The nascent Bank of England built the world's first central bank gold stocks from a gold rush in Brazil between 1700 and 1750
- The 1810 Bullion Committee of the House of Commons provoked "the most famous debate in all history on money and its management"
- The gold rushes to California in 1848, to Australia in 1851 and South Africa in 1886 produced ten times as much gold as in the preceding fifty years, setting all major nations, save China, on a gold standard by 1900
- In 1900, most gold was in coins in people's pockets. By 2000 fashionable jewellery for everyone everywhere was the cornerstone, with the spider's web of thin gold wire providing the arteries of mobile phones, Ipods and space probes (electronics consumes more gold than South Africa produces). Yet investors still eye gold as the metal for all seasons, especially if their country or currency is under siege.

### About the Author:

Timothy Green was born in Suffolk in 1936 and read history at Cambridge. He has been a journalist for over forty-five years, writing for Life, Fortune, The Smithsonian, Reader's Digest and The Observer. He was editor of The Illustrated London News from 1964-66. His first book, *The World of Gold*, came out in 1968 and has been revised many times. He worked as a consultant on the annual *Gold Surveys* of Consolidated Gold Fields and Gold Fields Mineral Services (now GFMS) for almost three decades, focusing on the Middle East, India and the Far East. He has also written *The Gold Companion*, *Precious Heritage* (the story of Mocatta & Goldsmid, the oldest member of the London market), *The Millennium in Gold*, *World of Diamonds*, *The Smugglers* and, with Maureen Green, *The Good Water Guide*. For many years he was a regular speaker at international gold conferences. He lives in London.

### About the Publisher:

GFMS is the world's foremost precious metals consultancy, specialising in research into the global gold, silver, platinum and palladium markets. GFMS is based in London, UK, but has representation in Australia, India, China, Germany, France, Spain and Russia, and a vast range of contacts and associates across the world. This is GFMS' second venture into book publishing.

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Also by Timothy Green:

*The World of Gold*: "Tim Green ... brings the world of gold to life with writing of crystal clarity." Financial Times  
"An able guide to the gold phenomenon." Wall Street Journal