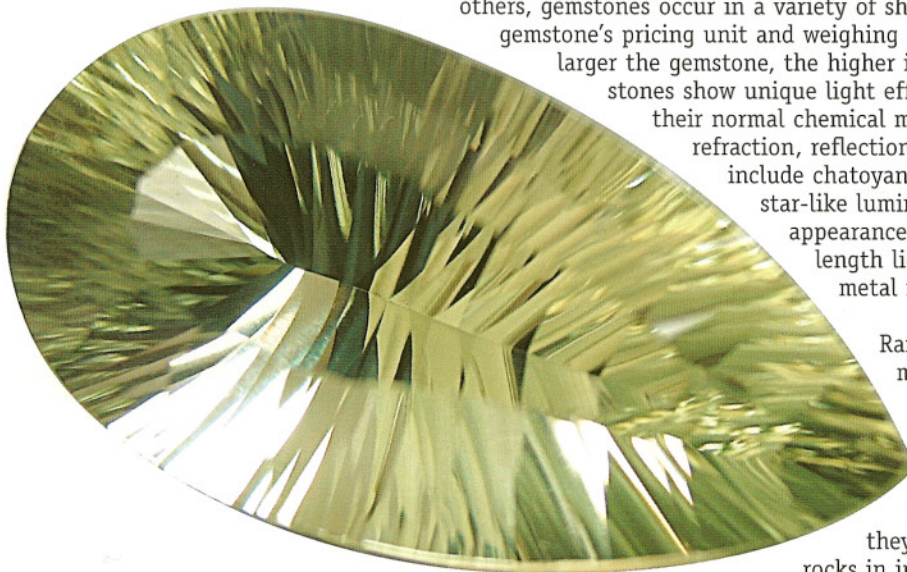


# GEMS

## Legend and Lore

TEXT BY HANIA JURDAK  
PHOTOS BY ALL THAT GLITTERS

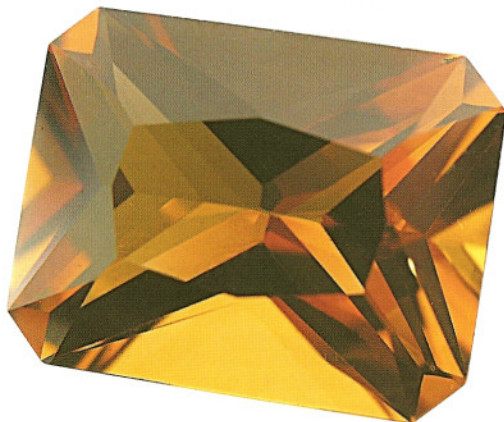
*They're beautiful, durable, and rare - just like true love. What few people know is that those coveted acquisitions, gemstones, have been the stuff of legends ever since the discovery and the tools with which the men and women of ancient times sought to explain their world without the privilege of science. The myths associated with gemstone came to carry the superstitions and interests of different cultures. To each stone, physical and psychological healing powers were attributed. The history of gemstones, as it turns out, is a glittering rendition of the psychology of the past psychology that continues to influence the choice of which gem to purchase today.*



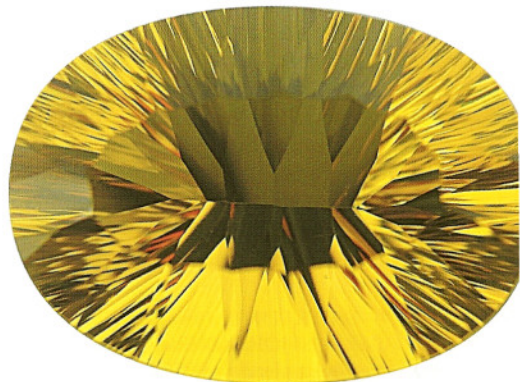
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Emblems of status for some, symbols of romance and sources of inspiration for others, gemstones occur in a variety of shapes, hues, and carats, carat being the gemstone's pricing unit and weighing 1/5 grams. All factors being equal, the larger the gemstone, the higher its price per carat. A number of gemstones show unique light effects related not to their color or their normal chemical makeup but caused by factors such as light refraction, reflection and interference. These light effects include chatoyancy (also called cat's eye); asterism (a star-like luminous effect); opalescence (a "peacock" appearance caused by reflection of short-wavelength light); and fluorescence (caused by metal impurities in gemstones).

Rare fine gems come from the earth mostly as a result of volcanic activity, growing and forming into crystalline structures. But only a tiny fraction of these combinations of elements display the appropriate color, transparency and size to be gems. They conceal themselves beneath the rocks in inaccessible regions all over the planet. Ready to meet some of the world's most famous gems



2







4

**Amethyst:** A purple gemstone, Amethyst was treasured by the Roman gods as a talisman to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus. In its golden form, Citrine, Amethyst was revered by the ancients as a gift of the sun and a powerful antidote to the viper's venom. The traditional birthstone for the month of February, amethyst is available in small and large sizes, although as with all gemstones, very large sizes in rich, deep colors have always been rare. Designers celebrate Amethyst as the ideal choice for jewelry because of its regal color, variety of sizes and shapes, affordability, and wide tonal range.

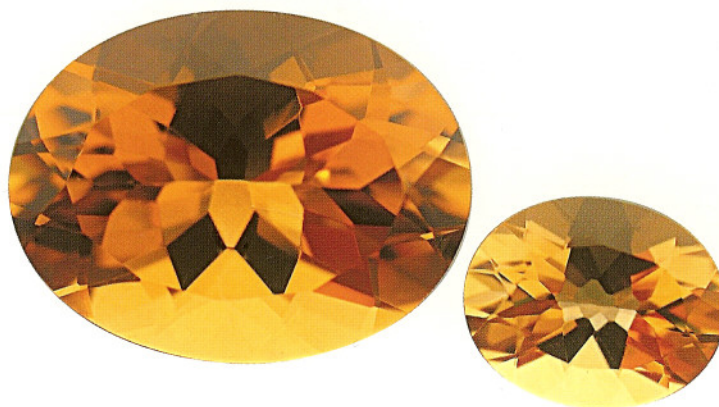
alds have beckoned man with their verdant hues and have long been regarded as the symbol of fertility and rebirth. The ancient Egyptians mined emeralds nearly 4,000 years ago, and it is said that Cleopatra was an avid collector. South America's rich bounty of Emeralds was discovered by 16th Century Spanish explorers who found large Emeralds in the possession of the Aztecs and Incas. Today, most of the world's Emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil and Zambia, and are cut in a variety of shapes. The birthstone for May, Emerald was believed by the ancients to empower

the owner with foresight into the future.

**Garnet:** Garnet was so called by the ancient Greeks because its rainbow of colors reminded them of the "granatum" (pomegranate seed). It is said that Noah used Garnet's inner fire as a lamp on his bow as he cast about on the ocean. Garnet's roots as a gemstone can be traced to the Nile Delta in 3100 B.C., where Egyptian artisans would craft it into beads or inlay it into hand-wrought jewelry. Garnet is the traditional birthstone for the month of January.

**Aquamarine:** Aquamarine is said to capture the beauty of the sea. Neptune, the King of the Sea, gave this stone as his gift to the mermaids, and from then on, it is said to have brought love to its wearers. Aquamarines are found in a range of blue shades, from the palest pastel to greenish-blue to a deep blue, with the deeper blue gems being the rarest. This elegant colored gemstone is the birthstone of March and is the symbol of youth, hope, health and fidelity. Aquamarines are mined in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan and Mozambique, but most of those available today come from Brazil.

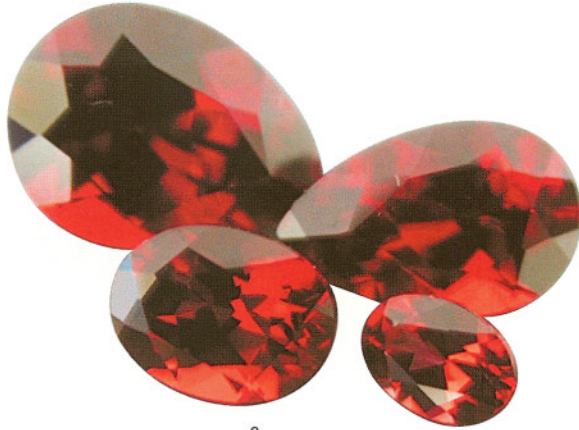
**Emerald:** Emerald's luscious green colors can be found nowhere else in Nature. Since the dawn of time, emer-



5

- 
- 1- 11.07ct Green Quartz Concave Faceted (Brazil).
  - 2- 16.64ct Deep Honey Colored Quartz, Brazilian.
  - 3- 33.25ct Deep Canary Yellow Quartz - Concave Faceting, Brazilian.
  - 4- 11.05cts of Brazilian Amethyst - Concave Faceted.
  - 5- 2 pieces totalling 10.14cts of Topaz Colored Quartz, Brazilian.





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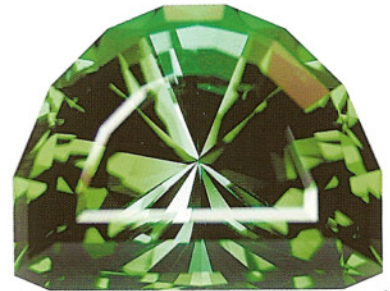
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**Opal:** With the flashes of fire that burn within its depths, Opal has ignited man's imagination for more than 2,000 years. Its multicolored flame makes it unique in the world of gemstones - giving it more variety of color and versatility of wear than perhaps any other gemstone. To the Greeks and Romans,

Opals symbolized hope, innocence and purity and were mined in what is now Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Today's supplies of Opal come primarily from Australia, Mexico and the U.S. Opal, found in several colors including black and white, is the birthstone for October.



12

**Peridot:** Peridot, adored since ancient times, rivals the green of a new spring day. Its history can be traced back more than 3,500 years. Hawaiian legend called it the divine tears wept by Pele, goddess of the volcano. Much of the today's Peridot comes from Arizona. Some are also mined in China, Burma, and Pakistan.

Peridot is readily available in most sizes and a variety of shapes. Peridot has been credited with magical powers and healing properties, such as protection against nightmares and possessing the power to ward off evil. Peridot is the birthstone for August.



11

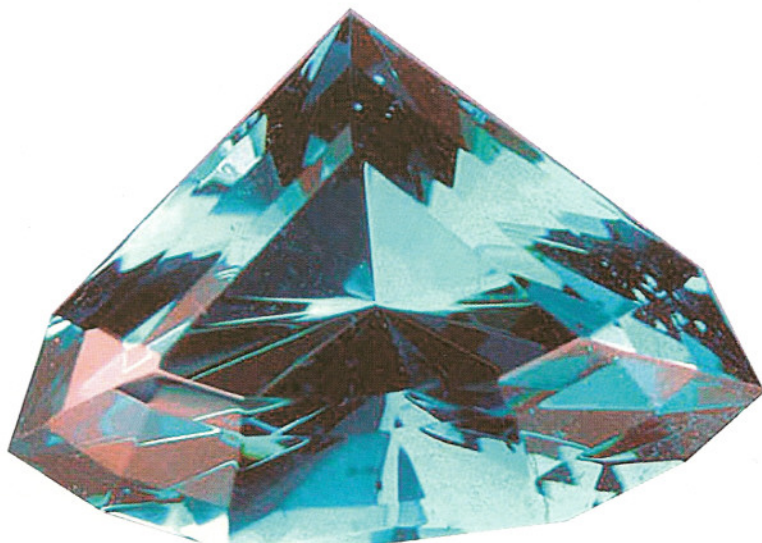
**Ruby:** Ruby, celebrated as the most precious of gemstones, has been the prized possession of emperors and kings throughout the ages. Its inner fire has been the inspiration for innumerable legends. No

red gemstone can compare to its fiery, rich hues. Many people associate its brilliant crimson colors with passion and love, making it an ideal choice for an engagement ring. Ruby is mined throughout Southeast Asia. Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) produce exquisite rubies. This most sought-after gemstone is available in a range of red hues.

*Then they conceal themselves beneath tons of rocks in inaccessible regions all over the planet!*

- 8- 10.21cts, 4 pieces, African Malaia Garnet (Africa).
- 9- A 9.31ct Congo Tourmaline - faceted by Master Cutter and AGTA Cutting Competition Award Winner.
- 10- 4.68ct Color Change Turkish Diaspore, "Gone Askew Rhombus", faceted by Master Cutter and AGTA Cutting Competition Award Winner.
- 11- 7.59ct Luscious Tangerine Citrine (Brazil), U.S. Faceted.
- 12- 9.76ct Teal Green Tourmaline from the famous Golconda Mine (Brazil) U.S. Faceted.



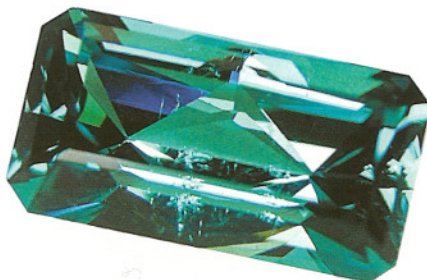


**Sapphire:** Sapphire has been beloved for centuries as the ultimate blue gemstone. The ancient Persian rulers believed that it was Sapphire's reflection that gave blue color to the heavens (its name in Latin, "Sapphiru", means blue). One of Nature's most durable gemstones, Sapphire is found in many parts of the world, but the most prized Sapphires are from Burma, Kashmir and Sri Lanka. The purer the blue of the Sapphires, the greater the price they can command. Sapphire has been credited with profound powers such as the ability to ward off evil.

**Topaz:** This enduring symbol of love was believed to bring friendship and ensure the fidelity of the beloved. Topaz is found in Brazil, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Africa and China. It occurs in an array of colors from red, orange, and peach to pink, gold and yellow.

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13



14

The brilliant blue Topaz is a shade found rarely in Nature. Topaz was used to grace the jewelry of the 18th and 19th Century Russian Czarinas, earning the name of "Imperial Topaz". Topaz is the birthstone for November.



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16





Photos courtesy of All That Glitters.

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 Email: [labrown@atggems.com](mailto:labrown@atggems.com).

- 13- 21+ct Neon Blue Apatite, Madagascar, US Faceted.
- 14- Neon Blue (Paraiba-like) Tourmaline (Afghanistan).
- 15- 18.85ct Deep Yellow Citrine, Brazilian.
- 16- 0.47ct Pale Peach Garnet (Africa).
- 17- 317cts two-toned, hand-carved Burmese Jade Chameleon.
- 18- Bright yellow Brazilian Quartz, Rough.

**Turquoise:** Turquoise is among the oldest known gemstones. With its deep, azure blue, often flecked with golden pyrite inclusions, it was treasured by ancient Babylonian and Egyptian civilizations. Persian legend says that the heavens owed their blue

color to a massive slab of Lapis (turquoise) upon which the earth rested. Turquoise adorned the ceremonial dress of early Native Americans. It has been credited with healing powers as well as the enhancement of status and wealth.



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