



An assortment of garnet-topped doublets showing the wide range. (Photo: AH)

Garnet-topped doublets – As mentioned under the diamond section, doublets and triplets used to be common. Almandine garnet was commonly used as the top stone in doublets with the lower section being coloured glass. They were used to imitate various gemstones such as emerald, ruby, sapphire, topaz, amethyst and peridot, the colour of the glass determining the type of gem. When combined with a bezel or gypsy setting (see Jewellery section) they can be difficult to identify. Unset, the junction may be seen by immersing in water or immersion fluid, if available.



Colour change garnets from Kenya, 226 pt each (Photo: ATG/LAB)

Star garnets – Idaho in the USA is one of the few places to produce these. Mainly translucent purplish-red stones but some transparent deep reds are also found. They are cut *en cabochon*, the star being due inclusions of rutile and may be four or six ray.

Colour change garnets – As with several other gemstones, garnet has varieties that change colour or shade under



Opal, diamond and demantoid garnets, c.1890. (Photo: WL)

different lighting conditions tungsten and daylight. A 'rainbow garnet' has been discovered in Japan that shows iridescent colours reminiscent of Labradorite.