



Blue Tanzanite. (Photo: ATG)

The Tanzanite Foundation has produced the Tanzanite Quality Scale (see Appendix 5), a grading system similar to that of diamond, covering colour, clarity and cut.

The American Gem Trade Association has now produced its own grading system based on this scale. Other grading systems have been quoted on shopping channels but carry no validity. Prices vary considerably; the higher the degree of violet saturation, the greater the value.

There are several simulants including synthetic corundum and synthetic garnet. As yet, Tanzanite itself has not been synthesized.



Green Tanzanite. (Photo: ATG)

Sales have dropped since its first introduction into the market. Paler stones have now been entering the marketplace with a cobalt coating to darken the colour. The coating may show signs of wear on facet edges.

TOPAZ

There are many treatments applied to topaz. White topaz is in ready supply and cheap, thereby lending itself to methods to make it more interesting and saleable. The most common treatment is to irradiate



White topaz. (Photo: KW)

the white stone to give a range of blues. Depending on the length of time, strength and type of radiation used, the shade of blue varies from Sky Blue through Swiss Blue to the deepest London Blue. Doubts have been expressed for some time as to the safety of irradiated stones and



Russian pink topaz and diamonds, c.1870. (Photo: WL)