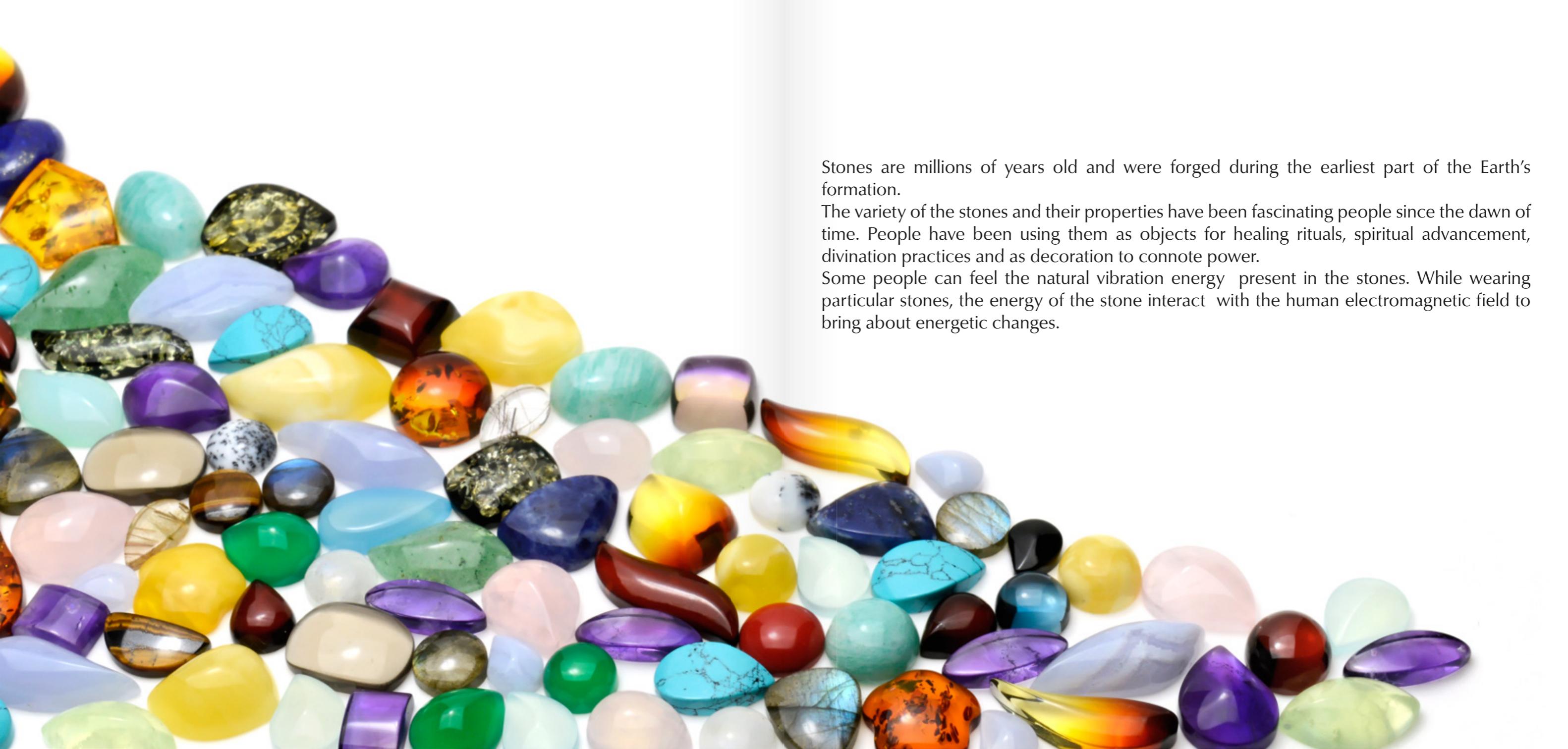




S&A
jewellery design

Gemstone guide book



Stones are millions of years old and were forged during the earliest part of the Earth's formation.

The variety of the stones and their properties have been fascinating people since the dawn of time. People have been using them as objects for healing rituals, spiritual advancement, divination practices and as decoration to connote power.

Some people can feel the natural vibration energy present in the stones. While wearing particular stones, the energy of the stone interact with the human electromagnetic field to bring about energetic changes.

AMBER

Origin

Amber is the fossilized tree resin. Different kinds of fossilized resins can be found in different places around the world, however in each region they were created from different tree saps, under different conditions and at different times.

Amber that can be found in the countries around the Baltic Sea is generally considered the highest quality. Baltic amber derived from a conifer tree and is around 40 million years old.

Millions of years ago there was a lush forest at the place where the Baltic Sea now lies. It is probably the warm climate that caused trees to lose their resin. A sticky, gold substance flowed down the tree, trapping small insects, pieces of plants, sand or even drops of water. Such organic particles inside amber are called inclusions. These inclusions are an excellent research material for scientists.

Baltic amber has also the highest content of amber acid compared to other fossilized resins and is most prized for medicinal use and considered to be the most beautiful. It makes it the most favored kind of amber used for jewellery.

The scientific definition of other younger and therefore softer resin fossils is copal as they are too young to be called amber.

Name

Amber derives its name from the ancient Greek word "electron" which means "made of the sun".

World electron then involved into word "electricity" as amber can generate static electricity and it was the first human experience with electricity.

German called amber "burning stone" (bernstein) because the catches on fire has a light flame.

History

Baltic amber was highly valued for its beauty and properties since Paleolithic times what made amber one of the first traded commercial goods. Amber was especially valued in Ancient Greece, Rome and Arabian countries. Ancient Roman traders built 1000 km long track from Italy to North Poland just to carry amber. Amber route was the best secured and well-kept road of that times.

There is plenty of myths about Baltic amber. The most beautiful one, from Greece, says that amber was frozen sunshine, broken away from the heavens and sunk into the sea.

Ancients believed that amber had magical and healing power therefore it was the most popular amulet. People believed amber can attract luck and it wards off evil.

For centuries amber was deemed to be one of the most important medicaments. The first records of its beneficial properties can be found in descriptions by Hippocrates. Beneficial properties of Baltic amber follows from the fact that Baltic amber contains from 3% to 8% of succinic acid. Baltic amber has anti-bacterial and antiseptic properties. Amber is electronegative; therefore when it comes in contact with the body, it ionizes it in a beneficial way, improving the body's energy.

Amber is also used as an ingredient of contemporary cosmetics and medicines.

Attributes

Stone that attracts good luck. Amber is also believed to be a protective stone, as well as an indication of luxury and wealth. It activates dormant potential and purifies from negative energies. It strengthens patience, relaxes nerves and the mind.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Gemini, Leo

Amber is connected with two chakras: Solar Plexus Chakra which is the seat of your personal power – the internal wisdom and confidence within you and Sacral Chakra responsible for the creative life force energy.



K2079

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AGATE

Origin

Agate has been formed around 50 million years ago and can be found throughout the world. Usually it occurs in cavities in eruptive rocks or ancient lavas. It is characterized by colored band patterns inside various rocks which has been formed during the process of lava cooling. Agates in S&A collections are sourced from Brazil.

Name

The name comes from the river Achates (today Dirillo) in southern Sicily, Italy, where it was mined already in ancient times. The island was a Greek colony before it was conquered by the Romans and was the source of agate gemstones for many centuries.

History

Agate is the first gemstone mentioned in ancient documents. Already 3500 years ago it was brought out of the Achates River by the Egyptians. This can be proved by the multitude of jewellery and ornaments with agate found in the tombs of an ancient Egyptian royal family. The Ancient Romans set up sophisticated gem-cutting facilities, powered by the running water of the river and this technique of cutting the stones remained in existence for over 2000 years. The Ancients discovered also that agates can be processed to enhance its colour and such techniques have been going for thousands of years.

Attributes

Stone of Strength. Agate gives courage, emotional strength, self-confidence and eliminates fears. It improves self-esteem. It is great at reducing anxiety and stress. It was used by the Ancients as an element of armor to give strength to warriors and ensure their victory in battle. Agate is also the Stone of Love, because it is good to give it to loved ones with the belief that they will awaken or strengthen the big love.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Sagittarius, Capricorn



K3722-AGZ

S&A
jewellery design

BLACK AGATE - ONYX

Origin

Both onyx and black agate are varieties of agate (chalcedony). Onyx is a kind of black and white banded agate. Black agate is plain. Since the Ancient times onyx and black agate have been processed to enhance and unify its hue. Onyx deposits are found in countries all over the world, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Uruguay and the USA. Black agate used at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name

The name comes from Greek and means claw (nail, hoof), it refers to the hardness, appearance and sharp edges of this mineral.

History

At the ancient times people respected this gemstone for its mystical powers and used it for performing magic. It has been long appreciated as an amulet but also as an intaglio, sculptures and seals. The personal seal of the Emperor of China was made out of this mineral, and the subordinates were forbidden to use this stone. Breaking the ban could end in the death penalty.

Attributes

Onyx also known as the Stone of Wisdom, helps to focus attention, teaches patience and self-discipline. It supports making difficult decisions, because it increases courage and firmness. It gives strength to people who are exposed to extreme stress - emotional and mental.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Capricorn



K3615-ON

S&A
jewellery design

BLUE LACE AGATE

Origin
One of the most beautiful kinds of agates, its pale blue color is caused by copper salts. It can be found in very few places in the world and the best blue lace agate comes from the farm in Namibia which belongs to its discoverer. Blue lace agate at S&A collections comes from the original source in Namibia.

Name
The name comes from the delicate lace pattern on the agate stone.

History
Blue lace agate was discovered in the 1960's by George Swanson on his farm in Namibia. He called it "Gem of Ecology" because of the swirling blues and whites which reminds clouds above the Earth as seen from space.

Attributes
Blue Lace Agate is a Soothing Stone that gives you a calm feeling and helps you to see the world in a positive way. It is perfect for communication problems, both at work and at home, it also eliminates negative emotions and feelings of hostility.

Astrology
Stone associated with: Aquarius
Blue Lace Agate with its predominantly blue color is the most beneficial for the Throat Chakra



K3796-ABL

S&A
jewellery design

DENDRITIC AGATE

Origin

A member of agate family characterized by black branch-like dendrite inclusions, which are made up of iron oxide or manganese. It is considered to be one of the rarest and more sought-after varieties of agate stone. Dendritic agate deposits are found in Brazil, India, USA, Mexico and Turkey. Dendritic agate at S&A collections comes from Turkey.

Name

The term "dendrite" comes from the Greek word dendron which means "tree" due to the plant-like structure of the stone.

History

Agates are one of the oldest gemstones mentioned in recorded history including the ancient civilizations. Dendritic agate was believed to aid communication with all things in nature. In Russia, dendritic agate was prized as a stone of prosperity, good health and longevity. The famous Russian jeweller Carl Faberge, used dendritic agate along with diamond and other precious stones for many of his pieces.

Attributes

Dendrite agate is the Stone of Abundance. It provides it in every area of life, including business. It helps to enjoy every moment of life, increases the bond with nature. It gives support in moments of doubt and struggle, calming emotions.



K3618-AGD

S&A
jewellery design

AMAZONITE

Origin
Amazonite is a mineral of limited occurrence and mysterious source of its color. It may be caused by the content of copper, iron or lead and most probably is the aggregate effect of several mutually inclusive and necessary factors.
Amazonite is a stone of limited occurrence and it can be found in Brazil, Russia, China, Mongolia, Libya, South Africa and USA.
Amazonite at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name
Amazonite name is taken from that of the Amazon River, from which green stones were formerly obtained.

History
Amazonite, under different names, has been cut and set in jewellery since the Ancient times. Beaded amazonite necklaces have been even found in Egyptian tombs including the King Tutankhamen grave.

Attributes
For the sake of youth, wear jewellery with this stone like the ancients did calling it the Stone of Youth. It also helps fight fears and worries, and brings back hope, optimism and faith. It also stabilizes changing moods and gets rid of sadness, and helps in relationships with proper communication.
Amazonite is the favorite stone of writers, musicians, dancers, painters and sculptors. Not only it releases creativity but also brings happiness, money and financial prosperity.

Astrology
Stone associated with: Leo, Sagittarius, Virgo
Stimulates Heart Chakra



AMETHYST

Origin

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz and its purple color is caused by the presence of iron. The largest deposits of amethyst are present in South America and Africa. Amethyst used at S&A collections comes from Zaire and Congo.

Name

Greek legends associated amethyst with the god of vine - Bacchus, because of its wine-like color. Ancient Greeks believed that wearing amethyst prevent drunkenness therefore they named it amethystos which means "not drunk".

History

Until the 19th century, when large deposits of amethyst were found in Brazil, they were very expensive stones, worn by the aristocracy and dignitaries of the Catholic Church. As the purple is very unique color in nature that is why it is called the color of the lords and is associated with the power and wealth. Amethysts were part of the five cardinal gems considered the most valuable. Diamond, emerald, ruby and sapphire being the other four. To this day amethyst stones grace the royal scepters and crowns of the most powerful monarchies - Russia, Great Britain, Bavaria.

Attributes

It is called a Stone of Harmony and relaxation, it helps to deal with emotions, brings patience, relieves fatigue and everyday problems. Positively affects the family situation by mitigating conflicts in your personal life.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Aries, Gemini, Aquarius, Pisces
Corresponds with Crown Chakra responsible for connection to consciousness.



K2963-AM

S&A
jewellery design

CARNELIAN

Origin

Carnelian belongs to chalcedony quartz family with its red - brownish color caused by the impurities of iron oxide. Found mostly in Indonesia, Brazil, India, Russia and Germany. Carnelian at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name

The name carnelian comes from Latin word cornel which describes cornel cherry fruits.

History

The earliest sources of carnelian are not known but some evidences of ancients mines have been found in the Nubian Desert in Egypt however most probably it is India that supplied carnelian to Egypt and Greece already 5000 years ago.

Carnelian was commonly used as amulets by the ancient kingdoms. In Ancient Rome carnelian rings were used as seals by the officials as the wax did not stick to the gemstone.

In Ancient Egypt mummies were adorned with carnelian, representing the strength of Horus, the Sun God.

Taj Mahal in India, iconic monument to love, has been decorated with thousands of carnelian gemstones.

Attributes

Carnelian is called the Stone of Courage because it strongly influences our activity in all areas of life, including relations with the opposite sex. It unleashes our hunger for life. It motivates us to do "more" and "better". It improves concentration and regenerates the creativity, while at the same time establishing a balance between the spiritual and the material.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio



K3266-KRN

S&A
jewellery design

CORAL

Origin
Coral is an organic material and is a hard skeleton secreted by polyp colonies, animals from warm seas. Coral can be found in warm seas in all locations around the world with largest deposits in the Red Sea, the Malaysian Archipelago, Australia, Hawaii and Mediterranean
Corals are very rare and delicate. At S&A we care about the environment and do not waste its resources. That is why we also use reconstructed material - small chips of coral or its powder are combined using resin and then heat treated.

Name
The name originates from the Latin name of marine organisms from the subclass of Corallium corals, living in hot and warm seas.

History
As early as the time of the Roman Empire it was used for the production of ornaments and jewellery and for decorating armor and dishes. Ancient Egyptians placed coral in tombs to protect against evil spirits because they believed each coral gem actually contained divine blood. The Romans hung branches of coral around the necks of their children to protect them from danger.

Attributes
Called the "flower of the sea" and in the waves brings a lot of good. Wisdom and penitence, love and passion, tranquility and balance. It reduces anxiety, stress and supports a happy family life. It is also believed that it protects against demons and temptations.

Astrology
Stone associated with: Aries, Taurus, Scorpio, Pisces



K3799-CR

DUMORTIERITE

Origin

Dumortierite belongs to the family of silica mineral. Its color can range from blue to reddish-brown, and its blue shadow resembles lapis lazuli or sodalite and is the most favorable one.

Some studies indicate that pink quartz owes its color to the tiny growths of dumortierite, whose violet microfibers color the quartz crystals, giving it a light pink shade.

Sources of dumortierite are Europe, USA, Canada and Brazil.

Dumortierite at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name

The name comes from the French paleontologist M.E. Dumortier who discovered and described this mineral in 1881 for an occurrence in Chaponost, in the Rhone-Alps of France.

History

Due to its attractive blue color that is suitable for both men and women, dumortierite quickly gained popularity as a jewellery gemstone.

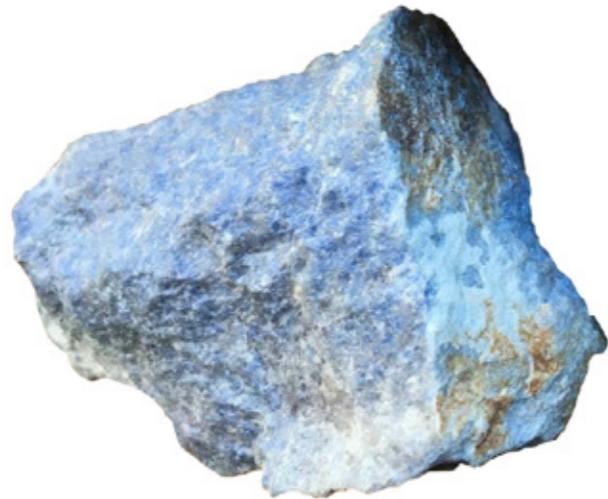
It is also an excellent alternative to the more expensive lapis lazuli. It is also desired for ornament carvings including cameos and figures.

Attributes

It is called the Stone of Patience, as it makes it easier to work on strong will, consistency, self-discipline, helps to rest, relax and accomplish inner harmony. It helps express thoughts and is an effective guide for making difficult decisions, both personal and business.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Libra



FLINT STONE - STRIPED

Origin

Flints have been found in many places in the world, but their formation is still a mystery to scientists. Generally known flints are formed by the transformation of chalcedon and opal. But the Polish flint is different, it comes from quartz precipitated directly from sea water, which makes it unique in geological terms. Silica is found in sea water. As a result of a shallow water state and a change in pH, silica is deposited at the seawater bottom, often in old crustacean holes - this is how flint is formed. One estimates that the silica contained in Polish striped flint comes from the skeleton of sea sponges. It often contains fragments of fossilized marine fauna - sponges, mussels, snails. Striped flint found in Poland is distinguished by beautiful patterns that are unusual for flints found in other parts of the world. It is also harder, so it has a more beautiful polish, which is also unique feature.

Name

The lump is surrounded by white bark, after its removal the inner part is exposed, which is darker and brightens closer to the center of the lump. The center of the stone is the brightest and has no stripes. From the bark there are lines filled with flint. They create beautiful and unique patterns, from which the name of the flint found in Poland comes.

History

Flint is, beside the wood, the oldest raw material used by Homo Sapiens. In addition to the typical functional features, it also had a symbolic meaning. It was used for making cult items, such as amulets. It was believed that it had a special magical influence - the ability to expel negative energies, eternity, stability and sanctity. The Egyptian clergy sculpted scarabs from flint, which were supposed to have a beneficial effect on the heart and to extend one's life.

Flints slapped on each other are sparking. A spark is a sign of fire, so it is believed that the fire of life is contained in flint. The flint was also a stone symbolizing the Roman god Jupiter. The oldest attribute of this god was the lightning, with which the sparks of flint were connected - this is why it was called the "lightning stone".

The largest complex of flint mines in the world was discovered 85 years ago in Poland in the Holy Cross Mountains. On 80 hectares over 400 mines are located, which were established about 4000 - 5000 years ago. The miners working in the mines had an exceptional, almost magical bond with the flint. They built temples in the mines and performed their work by vocation.

Due to its uniqueness and scientific value as one of the most important objects in the history of our continent, the area of the mines is under archaeological and natural protection and has the status of a Monument of History. The Prehistoric Flint Mining Region, where the original flint mines are located, was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on the 6th of July 2019.

Attributes

Stone of Optimism. Helps to tone down emotions and pushes away bad energy. Protects against life's mistakes, helps make good decisions, mobilizes and stimulates activity. It also eliminates fatigue, adds vitality and strengthens optimism.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Aries, Sagittarius, Capricorn



JASPER

Origin

Jasper is a compact and fine-grained sedimentary rock. It is mainly formed of chalcedony and quartz (in various proportions) and may occur with hematite, manganese, magnetite, etc., and iron deposits give it a brown, yellow, red, or green color. It is usually found in the form of small inserts, as the filling of cracks or veins. Sometimes it forms large concentrations of a reservoir character.

Name

The name jasper comes from the Greek word "iaspis" meaning "spotted stone" and was given to any spotted stone in ancient times.

History

This mineral was already known in ancient times, and the first mentioned in the John's Book of Revelation, where it was described as a crystalline green stone, referred to by the word "jashpeh". Due to its properties and appearance, it was used by ancient nobles and religious as a material for making talismans and amulets that protected and brought fortune to their owners. In the Middle Ages red jasper was considered to be perfect for warriors as it increased their strength and courage. Legend states that a piece of the red jasper was placed on the "Balmung," the sword of the legendary Norse hero.

Attributes

Jasper is often called the mother of all stones. It is a symbol of happiness and health. It protects its owner from negative energy and provides them with peace of mind.

Brecciated jasper is a dynamic stone that combines courage and strength with love and sensitivity.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Scorpio, Virgo, Gemini, Aries



K2489-JB

S&A
jewellery design

LABRADORITE

Origin

Belongs to feldspar family and its uniqueness follows from the beautiful play of colors that flashes over the stone. The effect is made by the thin layers of different minerals that split the white light into all the colors of the rainbow. This unique optical effect is called labradorescence.

The main source of labradorite is Canada but smaller amounts of the stone can be found also in Norway, Finland and other worldwide locations, with notable distribution in Madagascar, China, Australia, Slovakia and the USA.

Labradorite used at S&A collections comes from Madagascar.

Name

It is named after its source in Labrador on Paul's Island in Canada

History

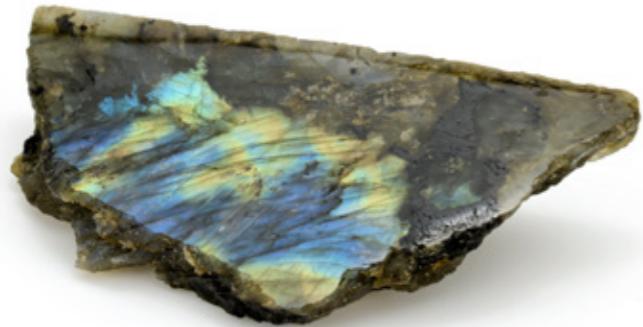
A legend preached by the Eskimos says that the labradorite hides a polar aurora. The Innuits warrior, when he stuck his spear into the rock, freed it and the time of impenetrable darkness was over. Some consider this stone to be the Temple of the Stars, because it appears to have locked millions of stars in it.

Attributes

Stone that brings good luck. Carry it on you and your mind will be clear, your concentration will increase, and life becomes harmonious and joyful. It also makes its owner gain extraordinary self-confidence, which helps to overcome the most difficult life situations. It gives you the opportunity to avoid toxic items and people.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Scorpio, Sagittarius, Leo



K3117-LB

S&A
jewellery design

LAPIS LAZULI

Origin

Lapis Lazuli is a rock which is a combination of lazurite and some other minerals like calcite which appears on the stone in the form of white streaks and pyrite which create attractive patterns of golden spots.

The traditional source of the finest lapis lazuli is the same today as it was thousands of years ago—the mountains of Afghanistan. Other major sources are in Chile and Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia. Minor sources are in Angola, Canada, Colorado (US), and Pakistan.

Lapis Lazuli used at S&A collections comes from Afghanistan.

Name

The name of the stone refers to its blue color.

Lapis in Latin means stone, and Azulain Arabic means blue.

History

For thousands of years, lapis has been valued for its vivid, exquisite color and prized just like other blue gems, for example sapphire. It was treasured by the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome.

Ancient Egyptians believed it is a heavenly stone and often used it on the statues of their gods and in burial masks, as protection for the next life.

The stone has been used in the mask of Tutankhamen.

Ancient women ground down lapis into powder to make eye shadow.

Renaissance painters used lapis to make “ultramarine” blue, an expensive pigment of unrivaled brightness and stability. Michel Angelo used lapis lazuli powder for the blue colors in his frescoes for the Sistine Chapel.

Attributes

Lapis Lazuli helps to stimulate the creativity and facilitates communication with the outside world. It is called the rock of truth and spiritual knowledge, supports our own development.

In many cultures it is considered a Holy Stone, a messenger of Heaven, who brings wisdom to people, driving the mind to look inside the soul and bringing comprehension.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Aries, Virgo, Libra, Aquarius



K3157-LS

S&A
jewellery design

MOTHER OF PEARL

Origin

Mother-of-pearl is the inner, highly opalescent layer of the shells of some shellfish. Like natural pearls, it consists mainly of calcium carbonate (aragonite) and has similar properties to those of natural pearls. It comes in a variety of colors - most commonly in white, but also in silver, cream, mild yellow, bluish gray, gray and rainbow colors that shimmer in different shades, what is called the iridescence effect.

Around 1910, the era of cultured pearls began in Japan. They are a natural product, but produced with the help of man. Today, more than 90% of the pearls on the market come from these specialized farms.

Name

The name "mother of pearl" comes from the German word: "Perlmutter", which translated means "mother of pearls". Due to its similar color effects as opal (iridescent colors of blue, green, purple, green-yellow), it is called "sea opal" in the trade.

However, the origin of the name "pearl" is not entirely certain. It may be due to the type of shell (Latin: perna) or its round shape (Latin: Sphaerula).

History

Pearls were first mentioned by a Chinese historian as early as 2,206 BC. Initially, they were mistakenly treated as precious stones like diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires. However, since pearls are of organic origin, they cannot be called stones.

Mother-of-pearl was already used by the ancient Egyptians to create functional objects as well as jewellery. But it was during the Victorian era that its popularity flourished. It is from this period that many valuable items such as caskets, handles, countertops, cups, silverware, holders and cigarette cases have been preserved.

Pearls have always been considered a symbol of power and wealth. They were used by Cleopatra to win a bet with Mark Antony over which of them would serve the most expensive dinner of all time. The Queen of Egypt took off one of her pearl earrings, crushed the gem and dumped it into wine (some sources say it was vinegar). She drank the liquid so prepared. She offered the other earring to a Roman general. He refused and acknowledged Cleopatra's victory.

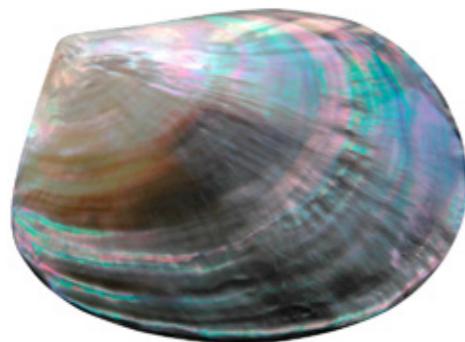
Attributes

Mother of pearl is used to make cosmetics due to its healing properties. Additionally, it stimulates emotions and makes feelings more balanced and tuned, and the expression of them easier. It calms anxiety and nervousness. It supports intuition.

In many cultures, brides are wearing pearls on their wedding day as a sign of their purity and devotion.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Cancer



K2794-MPW

S&A
jewellery design

MOONSTONE

Origin

One of the most extraordinary minerals because of the "unearthly" glare, which emits a lunar glow (this phenomenon is called adularescence).

This pale opalescent lustre is caused by fine-scale oriented microstructure.

Belongs to the family of the mineral potassium feldspar.

The traditional source of moonstones is Sri Lanka, and recently, India and Switzerland have become the source of moonstone.

Moonstone used at S&A collections comes from India.

Name

The name refers to the optical phenomenon of the moon-like glow.

History

Moonstone has been used in jewellery for millennia, including ancient civilizations.

The Romans believed that the moonstone was derived from solidified rays of the Moon and associated it with the goddesses Luna and Diana. In

Greek mythology it was represented by Selene and Artemis. Both the Romans and Greeks associated moonstone with their lunar deities.

Many believed that you could see the future if you held a moonstone in your mouth during a full moon.

Attributes

This stone is strongly associated with female energy. It is called the Stone of Intuition, which helps to follow the path of destiny.

It has a calming effect, and at the same time helps us to learn about our own feelings and emotions. In contacts with others, it facilitates the feeling of falsehood and bad intentions.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Cancer, Gemini

Moonstone is connected to the Third Eye and Crown Chakras and even the Soul Star Chakra dealing with clairvoyance and telepathy.



K3267-MNS

S&A
jewellery design

BLACK OAK

Origin

This unique beautiful material comes from oak tree trunks that have been preserved in moist soil or water for a few hundred up to a few thousand years. Due to the fact that oak contains tannins which react with iron salts present in water and soil, this wood will change its colour over time gradually becoming grey-black and even navy blue-black.

Black oak can be found in central Europe, especially in river basins. Because of its rarity only the best artisans use it in their work, be it as inlays, incrustations, valuable veneers or artistic wooden furniture, art objects or jewellery. The limited availability and high value of the material means that there should be no compromise as to the quality of the handiwork, which should strive to bring out the beauty of the wood grain.

In S&A we use black oak that was found in a river in Gdansk, the Motlawa and carefully transported to the factory. The tree trunk dried there for eight years and no chemicals were used during the process.

Name

Historians believe that the word Oak comes from the Irish word "daur" or the Greek one "druns" which stand for "the tree". The Sanskrit word Duir, meaning door, is more persuasive, as the oak was believed to be a sacred spiritual gateway.

History

In Gdansk area in northern Poland the black oak wood trunks found during archaeological surveys were dated to be as old as the 14th century. In Russian Empire, you could be sentenced to death for having black oak furniture, as it was reserved for the royal family.

Attributes

The oak tree is identified with the honor, nobility and wisdom due to its size and longevity. There are specimens that live over 300 years, making oak tree a life-affirming symbol.

Ancient monarchs wore crowns of oak leaves, a symbol of the god they embodied on earth. As well as Roman commanders, that were awarded with crowns made of oak leaves during victory parades.

Many believe that oaks have a healing influence on stress levels, fatigue, weakness, and decreased mental health, so walks among these large trees are strongly recommended.

It the dream of an oak tree is considered to predict a long and prosperous life.



K1492-WD

S&A
jewellery design

OBSIDIAN

Origin

The crystal, made almost wholly of volcanic glaze, is formed by the coagulation of magma. Hence obsidian is found in places that have experienced volcanic eruptions such as Italy, Japan, Turkey, Peru, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Kenya, and the United States. Obsidian at S&A collections comes from Turkey.

Name

There are two versions of the origin of its name. From the name of Obsius, the Roman, who discovered this rock, or the Obsius tribe, who once lived on the territory of modern Ethiopia.

History

The use of obsidian dates back to the Stone Age. Early man chip pieces of obsidian into arrowheads and blades. Obsidian was also one of the first materials to be used as mirrors. Original obsidian Aztec cult mirror made of obsidian can be seen in the British Museum. Native Americans traded obsidian beads and figurines. The famous Moai statues on Rapa Nui or Easter Island have eyes made with obsidian.

Attributes

The obsidian protects against negative energy as well as against own negative thoughts and feelings. Helps to accept your own appearance and get rid of complexes. It makes it easier to notice the truth, to see the world and people objectively.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Scorpio



K3795-OBS

S&A
jewellery design

PINK OPAL

Origin

Pink opal is an opaque kind of common opal, without the play of colors typical for precious opals. The rainbow color effect on precious opals is caused by light interference on regularly arranged microscopic silica balls.

It is found in the same environments as precious opals, very often associated with volcanic activity.

Deposits of opal are very limited and there is no mechanized mass mining organized. Very often it is mined by small teams of people or families.

Around 90% of all precious opals in the world come from Australia. About 100 million years ago there was a massive sea in a what is now central Australia. This ocean provided the water needed to create the opals that are now found there.

Interesting thing is that opals were also found on Mars.

Pastel colors of pink, green or blue opals are found in Peru and this is where pink opal at S&A collections comes from.

Name

The name 'Opal' comes from the Greek word Opallios and the Roman word Opalus which both mean 'precious stone'.

History

The famous anthropologist, Louis Leakey, during his researches in Kenya, discovered man-made artifacts with opal that are more than 6000 years old. This means that people crafted opals thousands of years before the Egyptian pyramids were built.

Attributes

Stone of Acceptance. It is a stone that makes it easier to close certain periods of life and look at them objectively, to understand and accept difficult life experiences. Opal helps us to understand that everything that happens to us benefits us, and helps us to develop, make our dreams come true, appreciate and recognize people who really wish us well.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Gemini, Cancer, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio



K3762-OP

S&A
jewellery design

PREHNIT

Origin

Is a silicate mineral that appears in many colors, from light green to yellow.

It was first described in 1788 for an occurrence in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. In fact, it is one of the first minerals to be named after a historical person.

Also, prehnit was the first mineral to be named and described from South Africa, long before the country became an important source for precious gems, including diamond.

The most important source of prehnit is Africa but it can be also found in Australia, Canada, China, and the United States.

Prehnit at S&A collections comes from China.

Name

The name comes from the name of the Dutch Colonel Hendrik von Prehn, who had described and brought this gem from the Cape of Good Hope to Europe.

History

Prehnit is one of the rarer and lesser-known gems and first was adored as a rare collector's gemstone. Recently it is becoming more and more popular as a jewellery stone, as new deposits have been found so it became more affordable.

Attributes

Prehnit is the Stone of Unconditional Love. It helps not to give up during relationship crises. The stone strengthens self-confidence and intuition. Increases knowledge about yourself and helps you cope with painful memories.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo



K2997-PRH

S&A
jewellery design

QUARTZ WITH CHRYSOCOLLA

Origin

Due to its vibrant color chrysocolla is sometimes confused with turquoise. It belongs to a small family of copper-bearing gems that include also larimar, azurite, malachite and turquoise. Pure chrysocolla is softer than turquoise and too soft for jewellery purposes but it is often found as a mixture with quartz which makes it more durable and provides interesting patterns on the stone.

Chrysocolla deposits are found in Chile, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Russia, the USA (Nevada) and Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Name

The name comes from the Greek words 'chrysolos' and 'kolla' meaning 'gold' and 'glue'. In ancient times, the mineral was used as a sealant to solder gold.

History

Chrysocolla has been known for centuries. The first mention dates back to 315 B.C. and is connected with the name of the Greek philosopher and botanist - Theophrastus. Legend tells that the stone was mined in the mines of King Solomon in Africa.

In ancient Egypt, this stone was called "the wise stone" because it was believed to protect and strengthen the mind during the negotiations, suggesting interesting ideas and wise compromises. That is why Cleopatra wore jewellery with chrysocolla when she travelled or had meetings.

Attributes

In esotericism it is a stone ascribed to the archetypal goddess of the Earth. It symbolizes the power of female energy - it is responsible for sensuality, emotions, inner wisdom. It helps to choose words more intentionally, speak with passion, yet understandably and convincingly. Improves mood, strengthens patience, and helps to turn character flaws into advantages.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Libra, Sagittarius.



K3800-CHK

S&A
jewellery design

GREEN QUARTZ

Origin

Green Quartz is a type of quartz, which gets its beautiful, deep color as a result of the green color of the mineral growths: actinolite, fuchsia, chlorite.

Sources of quartz are located in Madagascar (where the best quality quartz comes from), Sri Lanka, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Brazil, USA (Maine, Colorado, California, South Dakota, New York, Georgia), Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Japan, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Poland.

Green quartz at S&A collections come from Mozambique.

Name

The name "Quartz" comes from three languages: the Old German word "quarz", used by German miners to describe this stone and meaning "rasp", the Slavic word for "kwardy" which means "hard" and the Greek word for "krystallos" meaning "ice". And the other part of the name comes from its green color.

History

This stone was already revered in the Ancient times. It was believed that quartz was actually water from the heavens, which was frozen by the gods to eternal ice. Hence the Greek name "krystallos" meaning "ice".

Attributes

Stone of New Challenges. The energy of this stone is essential for entering new and better stages of life, especially if the past was hard and stressful. It supports the regeneration of body and mind, stimulates creative thinking, adds self-confidence, encourages self-acceptance, one's possibilities and limitations. It also helps to accept and understand other people as they are, without intending to change them.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Cancer



K3798-QG

S&A
jewellery design

ROSE QUARTZ

Origin

Rose quartz belongs to a wide family of quartzes and is distinguished by a pale pink color. The color is considered as due to trace amount of iron, titanium or manganese.

Rose quartz is found in Madagascar, India, Germany, South Africa and the USA.

Rose quartz used at S&A collections comes from Madagascar.

Name

There are three versions of the origin of the name of this stone: from the Old Germanic word "quarr" ("quarz") used by German miners to describe this stone as "rasp", the Slavic word "kwardy" means "hard" and the Greek "krystallos" means "ice".

History

Rose quartz has a rich history. The oldest rose quartz beads are dating back to 7000 BC and were found in the area of Mesopotamia (Iraq). The ancients believed in magical powers of quartz and from the very beginning rose quartz symbolized love. The Egyptians believed also that the stone could prevent aging, the Greek and Romans used rose quartz as potent talismans.

Attributes

Stone of Love. According to legend, it was used by Cupid to spark love and passion.

Quartz also was the patron of Astarte - Queen of the Stars, who was the Phoenician goddess of fertility, love and war. That is why, it is called a Stone of Love, but not only in a romantic sense but mainly love for yourself. It helps you to see the beauty of this world and accepting yourself and the closest ones.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Gemini, Libra, Capricorn



K3295-QR

S&A
jewellery design

RUTILE QUARTZ

Origin

Rutile quartz is a transparent quartz with fibrous inclusions of rutile inside in red, yellow or brown color. The silky hair inclusions can be curly, frizzy or straight, light or dark colored. They are forming different patterns which makes each stone unique. Rutile quartz is sometimes called "Venus hair" because it is most often in the form of fine threads inside quartz.

Rutile quartz at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name

The word quartz has its origins in the German "quartz", while rutile comes from the Latin "rutilus" meaning red, as the early material studied by German scientist Werner, who gave the mineral its name, was primarily that color.

History

Quartz itself has been used as an adornment for thousands of years. However the rutile quartz has a more recent history. In the 1950's people still did not pay much attention to quartz with rutile, but it changed when the collectors began to appreciate its unique beauty, and then it gained value.

Attributes

Rutile quartz calms the mind, strengthens confidence. It stimulates brain function, fights depression, improves communication. Also helps you to focus and direct your actions, especially recommended for people who put everything off. It increases awareness and intuition in evaluating people and situations.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Gemini, Leo, Taurus, Aquarius.



K3781-CM-2

S&A
jewellery design

SMOKY QUARTZ

Origin
Quartz is one of the most common and important minerals on earth, at the same time being one of the most popular gemstones for jewellery. The smoke-like brown color of smoky quartz is the result of the natural process of exposure of a colorless quartz to gamma rays. Quartz gemstones are found in locations all around the world. The most important sources are in Brazil, Madagascar, Russia, Switzerland and Ukraine.
Smoky quartz used at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name
There are three versions of the origin of the name of this stone: from the Old Germanic word "quarr" ("quarz") used by German miners to describe this stone as "rasp", the Slavic word "kwardy" means "hard" and the Greek "krystallos" means "ice".

History
Smoky quartz was used by humans for centuries. Today it is set in jewellery but the Ancients considered smoky quartz sacred. It was a power stone for the pagan Druids used for their ceremonies and rituals. It is also the National gem of Scotland and is used by the Highlanders in their shoulder brooches and kilt pins.

Attributes
The perfect stone for business people. It improves memory, supports logical thinking and facilitates decision making. The energy of this stone helps to overcome lack of self-confidence and fear of change as it strengthens courage and self-esteem.

Astrology
Stone associated with: Taurus, Leo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Pisces



K3853-CAM

TURMALINE QUARTZ

Origin

Tourmaline Quartz is a transparent quartz with black tourmaline crystal inside.

Tourmalines can be found in a wide variety of colors also in combinations of two or three colors. The most common color of tourmaline found in nature is black, it is called Schorl. It is rarely used as a gem. However when black tourmaline inclusions occur in clear crystals creating eye catching pictures they become very attractive, sought-after gem set in jewellery.

Largest deposits of tourmaline are found in Brazil and USA.

Quartz with tourmaline at S&A collections comes from Brazil.

Name

People have probably used tourmaline as a gem for centuries, however because of their variety of colors they have been mistaken for other gemstones such as emeralds or rubies. That confusion about the stone's identity is reflected in its name - 'toramali' means "mixed gems" in Sinhalese (a language of Sri Lanka).

History

Ancient Egyptians believed that tourmaline has such an amazing variety of hues because it traveled through the rainbow and gathered all its colors.

Basing on the different colors of tourmaline people have been mistaking it with other gems until the 1800's when its large deposits were found in Brazil and scientists took a closer look at this gem and recognized it as a distinct mineral.

Attributes

Stone of Harmony. This powerful combination of quartz with tourmaline helps to balance our extremes, so that they can remain in harmony. It disperses negative feelings and has protective properties. It purifies and balances the whole body's energy.

Also known as Schorl, it is considered to have the highest positive energy. It inspires to look at the world with optimism and supports prosperity and happiness. It is also associated with the Arabic goddess of fate and time - Manat.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Capricorn



K3888-QTR

S&A
jewellery design

SODALITE

Origin

Sodalite is a blue opaque mineral almost always veined with white streaks or markings. The high level of sodium (salt) in the composition of sodalite makes it a mineral, not a rock.

It is very similar to Lapis Lazuli and may be used as its less expensive alternative, though Lapis Lazuli is usually associated with sparkling pyrite which sodalite lacks.

Sodalite is found in Brazil, India, Canada, Africa, Russia and the USA.

Sodalite at S&A collections comes from Africa.

Name

Sodalite gets its name from the combination of two words - soda and rock - because this rock consists mainly of sodium.

History

Sodalite is newly discovered as its deposit was found in Greenland in 1806. Then sodalite ornaments were seen in 1891, when larger deposits of gem-quality material were found in Ontario, Canada.

Sodalite gained popularity in the 1800's during a royal visit to Bancroft, Canada by Princess Margaret of England. The princess fell in love with the mineral and chose it as interior decoration for the "Marlborough House". For this reason, sodalite from that Canadian area is sometimes called Princess Blue.

Sodalite is a versatile gemstone appreciated by jewellery designers and gem lovers. Rolex have used sodalite in the dials of watches for ladies.

Attributes

It is a Stone of Logical Thinking. Also helps with confusion and emotional chaos when you need to focus and think clearly. It improves concentration, frees the mind from negative thoughts and fear. It brings out wisdom and allows to look at life from a new, better perspective as it calms the nerves, brings peace and quiet.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Sagittarius



TIGER'S EYE

Origin

Tiger's eye is a gold-brown, opaque gemstone from the quartz family.

The special thing about its creations is that it began as a different gem called crocidolite that was later transformed into quartz. The attractive pattern of the stone is created when fibers of quartz replace crocidolite. Tiger's Eye may contain also red jasper or black hematite.

When the gemstone is polished, it's silky luster creates a beautiful chatoyant effect of moving layers of brown and yellow lines and waves resembling the eye of the tiger.

The two most important sources of Tiger's Eye are Thailand and the Republic of South Africa.

At S&A we use tiger's eye with hematite that comes from the Republic of South Africa.

Name

The name comes from the luminescent effect that resembles a tiger's eye.

History

Tiger eye stone history dates back thousands of years to when the golden-brown quartz was believed to symbolize the Egyptian Goddess of War Sekhmet depicted as a lioness.

Tiger's Eye was carved into amulets and talismans worn by ancient Roman soldiers to help them remain calm and courageous, stay focused and persevere.

Attributes

Stone of Bravery. Its energy helps us to get rid of our inner struggle and to overcome emotional barriers. It gives confidence and eliminates the depression. It stimulates to work on emotions, brings joy, satisfaction and relief from anxiety. It gives you the drive and helps to achieve the goals.

It's also called the Allergy Stone because it helps to relieve symptoms.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Gemini, Leo, Sagittarius.



TURQUOISE

Origin

Turquoise occurs as masses. Its blue color is due to presence of copper and occasional traces of iron causes the greenish tint. Turquoise deposits usually form in iron-rich limonite or sandstone. The dark brown markings are remnants of the host rock within the turquoise, and can resemble splotches or veins. They're called matrix.

The best quality turquoise is located in Iran. Turquoise deposits are also found in Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, Mexico, Tanzania and the USA.

Most of the turquoise that comes out of the mines is pale and has a rather greenish tinge which is not as attractive. Therefore there are some techniques to bring the quality of the gemstone up to higher levels. Turquoise might be also reconstructed - small chips of turquoise or its powder are bonded together with resin and then heat treated.

Name

The name comes from Turkey, through which the trade route from Persia to Europe used to pass - Turkish stone.

History

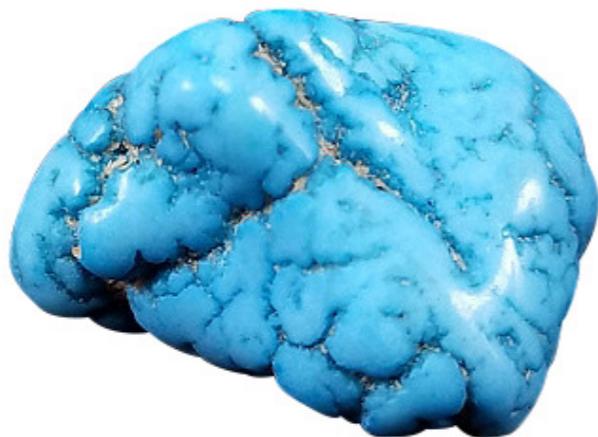
Turquoise was one of the first gems to be mined. It was known by 3000BC and possibly prior to the first Dynasty of ancient Egypt. King Tutankhamen's burial mask and tomb was inlaid with turquoise. The ancient Egyptians believed that the color blue was a symbol of regeneration, so turquoise was treasured for both decorative and superstitious purposes.

Attributes

The Stone of Winners for centuries chosen by warriors as a talisman full of energy and luck, reuniting enemies and ending conflicts. Turquoise jewellery protects against bad luck and accidents, encourages intelligence, optimism and vitality.

Astrology

Stone associated with: Taurus, Libra, Sagittarius, Pisces

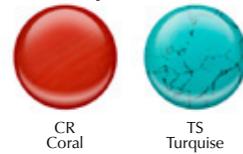


K3805-TS

S&A
jewellery design

Colour stones available in S&A offer

Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4 - Individual

