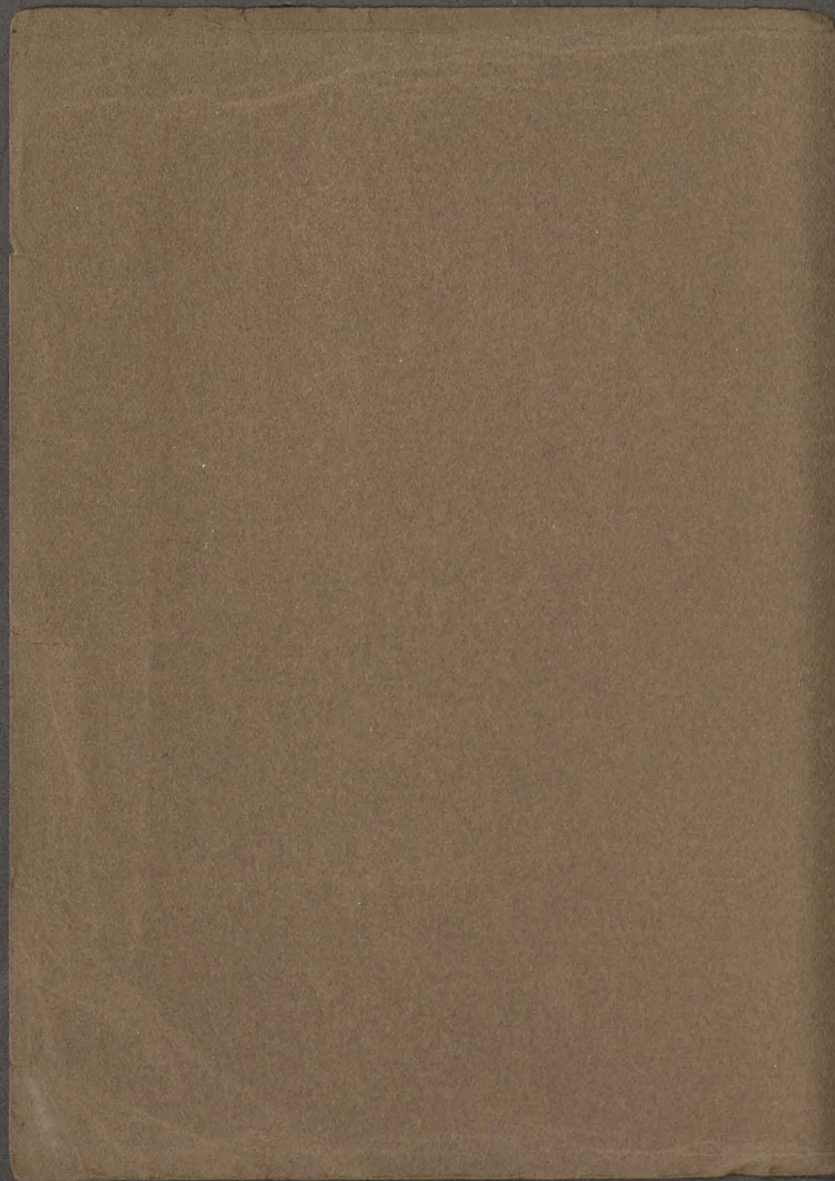


GARNET
CORAL
ALEXANDRITE



SINKENAS
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FOREWORD



THE true garnet of fine quality is one of the most beautiful of the colored gems, and rarely fails to win great appreciation when it is seen. It is an unfortunate fact, however, that certain stones which, to the writer at least, present an unfavorable appearance, are more than commonly sold in cheap jewelry as garnets. Most of these stones are not garnets, but they have, nevertheless, masqueraded as such for so long a time that the mere mention of the name garnet conjures up in the minds of many, a picture that is quite distasteful.

Much the same thing holds true with coral. We have seen so much of it that is of an inferior quality, that many have forgotten the charming delicacy of the fine material.

Of the alexandrite little need be said, for he who sees the gem at once becomes an alexandrite enthusiast.

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SYRACUSE

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THE GARNET

BIRTHSTONE FOR JANUARY
SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP



HE name garnet is derived from the Latin, *granatus* (grain), because of the resemblance of the garnet crystal to the seed of the pomegranate. It is unfortunate that the name is generally used to designate a variety of red stones which are not properly garnets, for the true garnets, almandine, (of a violet-red color), rhodolite (named because of its color-resemblance to the rhododendron), and demantoid (erroneously called olivine), are among the most beautiful of the colored gems.

Garnet is found in white, pale-green, amber, honey, wine, cinnamon, brown, and pale-rose crystals, but the almandine garnet of rich cherry, Burgundy, or blood-red color is the most highly prized. This gem possesses brilliancy, fire, and a sufficient degree of hardness to render it most suitable for use in rings and other gem-pieces which must withstand hard usage. Garnet, like amethyst, topaz, and many other stones, is classed as a semi-precious gem not because it is lacking in true gem qualities, but solely because it is to be obtained in greater quantities and larger size than the precious gems.

GARNET

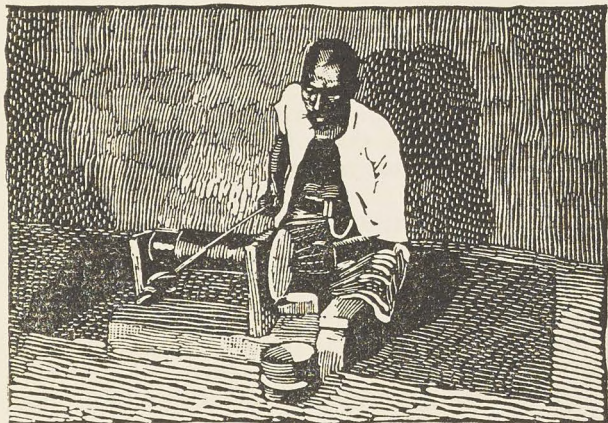
SOURCES OF SUPPLY

The gem garnet is found in Siam, India, the Alps, Siberia, Brazil, Australia, South Africa, and the United States. Siam furnishes the finest gems, while the garnets that are found in New Mexico and Arizona are second in quality to the Siamese gems alone. The South African stone, sometimes known as Cape Ruby, is found in the diamond fields and is also of a very fine quality.

HISTORY OF THE GARNET

The antiquity of the garnet is attested by the fact that it is among the stones earliest mentioned in the surviving literature of the ancients. Then as now, however, the names that were used to designate the stone were also applied to other gems of similar appearance but which could not properly be classified as garnets. Thus the Latin name *Alabandicus* (derived from the source in Asia Minor from whence the gems were introduced into Greece and Rome), was also applied to the true ruby and to other red stones. In this connection it is interesting to note that the term *carbuncle*, popularly supposed to be the name of a specific gem mineral, really has no place in the vocabulary of mineralogy. Probably any red, translucent

GARNET



Gem Cutter, Ceylon

stone in the days of ancient Rome was called carbunculus (derived from carbo, coal), the name being bestowed because of the fire-like color and reflection which are characteristics alike of the garnet, the ruby, and other gems of similar appearance.

A STRANGE FANCY

In common with many other stones, sex was attributed to the carbunculus by the ancients, the

GARNET

more fiery gems being regarded as males, while those of a duller lustre were believed to be females.

GARNET RESERVED FOR ROYALTY

In Persia the stone was evidently reserved for royal use, and from that source we have obtained many fine gems engraved with the portraits of kings.

RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

Throughout the ages the garnet has been put to religious uses. The blood-red hue of the stone suggested its use as a symbol of the divine sacrifice of Christ on the cross. However, not only in Christianity was this stone used to illustrate religious conceptions, for the Koran affirms that the Fourth Heaven is composed of garnet. It is found in the talismans of the Egyptians, and in the votive offerings of the Aztecs. It was one of the stones in the breastplate of the Jewish high-priest. During the Middle Ages it was extensively used for the decoration of shrines and places of worship, and there are many examples of its use in the stained-glass windows of that period.

CURATIVE VIRTUES

In ancient and medieval times the garnet, when worn, was believed to protect the heart against

GARNET

the effects of poison and the plague, and to cure all diseases, particularly hemorrhages and inflammations. It was also supposed to bring honors to the wearer and to protect him from all perils in travelling. The fact that the gem was often quite ineffectual as a cure or a protection seems to have had not the slightest effect upon the implicitness with which the belief in its virtues was accepted. The fault was found not in the therapeutic theory, but in the quality of the gem, or the avarice of the apothecary who had substituted an inferior substance.

A PECULIAR USE

The garnet was also believed to confer invulnerability upon its wearer, but some Asiatic tribes have used garnets as bullets upon the contrary principle that the blood-colored stone would inflict a more deadly wound than would a leaden bullet. Such missiles were used by the Hanzas on the Kashmir frontier, in 1892, during their hostilities with the British troops.

A FINE SPECIMEN

Among the finest garnets extant, the one that is most deserving of first mention is a perfect Indian garnet of unusual size, bearing the en-

GARNET

graved head of the Dog Sirius. It is said that this is the finest example of gem-engraving which has come to us from Greek times.

LARGE GEMS

The magnitude occasionally attained by the garnet is shown by two specimens which were formerly in the collection of the Marquis de Dree. One, a perfect gem of octagonal shape, was $7\frac{1}{5}$ inches by $6\frac{2}{5}$ inches. The other was $10\frac{2}{5}$ inches by $6\frac{1}{5}$ inches.

The inventory of the French Crown Jewels, in 1791, mentions, "An oval cup of a single garnet, rich in color, 3 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and 3 inches high, valued at 1200 francs."

CORAL



PRIOR to the eighteenth century coral was thought to be a marine plant, growing much as any other form of vegetation would grow, and hardening into a stone-like substance only upon exposure to air.

Coral like the other sea-gem the pearl, is essentially carbonate of lime. Its structure is erected by a family of zoöphytes, gelatinous marine animals (not insects as is too often written), called polyps. It is formed by the skeletons of these lowly organized animals.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Although coral is a common submarine feature in the low latitudes all around the globe, the gem or precious coral, *Corallium rubrum*, comes almost exclusively from the Mediterranean Sea off the African, Corsican, and Sicilian coasts. The coral colonies are usually from sixty to one hundred feet beneath the surface of the sea, and most of the present-day supply is obtained by the use of modern deep-sea diving equipment.

Italy is the home of the coral industry, and has over sixty large work-shops employing about six

CORAL



Coral, West Indies

thousand coral workers whose skilled handiwork includes carving of the highest order, engraving and cameo cutting.

While coral is obtained in many shades ranging from deep-red to white, that of a deep wild-rose pink is most highly favored. It is said that the finest rose-pink coral finds its way to America, and the producers who possess the highest grade have to seek no other market.

CORAL

HISTORY OF CORAL

The known history of coral is of greatest antiquity. In the early days of the Roman Empire vast quantities of it were exported to India where the demand for it was so great that beads of this material were as much sought after by the natives as were pearls by the Romans.

ROMAN USES

The Romans seem to have employed coral merely as a medicine and an amulet. The little branches were tied around the children's necks to ward off the Evil Eye. Powdered it was taken in water for various ailments, or used in salves for inflammations and infections, for removing scars, and for complaints of the eyes.

MEDIEVAL BELIEFS

According to medieval beliefs it baffled all witchcraft, counteracted poisons, and protected the wearer from danger of tempests and sea-voyages as well as from robbers in land journeys. It secured the growing crops from damage of thunderstorms, blight, caterpillars, or locusts. Worn on the neck it was a cure for sterility. It was said to prophesy the illness or death of its wearer by showing a change of color. During the terrible plague known as the Black Death,

CORAL

which is said to have claimed 13,000,000 victims in Europe in the years 1347-1348, great quantities of coral were used as a remedy.

The degree of faith which the people of the Middle Ages reposed in the remedial virtues of gems is shown in a poem on precious stones written about 1260 as a rejoinder to the work of another writer, a doubter and an iconoclast, who asserted that a piece of glass set in a ring looked just as well and possessed the same virtues as a genuine precious stone of the same color. The author of the rejoinder does not mince words, and roundly declares that whoever would kill the man who wrote such heresy "would do no sinful act."

MODERN USES

Coral is used in many ways in modern jewelry, but its best application is found in cameos and beads. An illustration of the value of the finest coral is found in the fact that some years ago, when the material was far more abundant than it is at present, a coral necklace was sold for nearly twenty-nine thousand dollars.

The Queen of Italy is very partial to coral and, among other pieces, possesses an umbrella handle made from this material which is valued at two thousand dollars.

ALEXANDRITE



THE gem-lover who is unfamiliar with the alexandrite will experience a genuine thrill of admiration when the exquisite beauty of this unusual stone is revealed to him. Alexandrite is rarely encountered in this country, and those who have the good fortune to possess one of the gems are few.

In America alone is the alexandrite classed as a semi-precious stone, the authorities abroad uniting in giving it rank as a precious gem.

Alexandrite was discovered in the Ural Mountains, Siberia, in 1831, on the twenty-first birthday of Alexander II (then heir-apparent to the Russian throne). The gem was therefore named in honor of that monarch. Subsequent to the discovery of the gem in Siberia, it was also found in Ceylon which is the present source of supply. The Ceylonese gems are somewhat darker than the Siberian variety, and although the stone is very rarely found weighing over two or three carats, some few have been obtained from Ceylon which weigh as much as 60 carats.

ALEXANDRITE

RELATED TO THE EMERALD

While alexandrite is closely related to the emerald in structure, and in fact, is found in the emerald mines in Siberia, it is a harder stone than the emerald, and is but slightly softer than the sapphire.

COLOR PECULIARITIES

In its color-qualities, alexandrite is unique. As one writer has stated, "It is an emerald by day, and an amethyst by night," for in daylight it shows a bright or deep olive-green color, while in artificial light it shows a soft columbine red or raspberry red, a fact which has endeared it to the hearts of the Russian people, for red and green were once the Russian national colors.

Such, however, is the alexandrite's beauty as a gem that its fame is by no means confined to Russia and it is eagerly sought in other lands as well.

