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Birthstones, history and symbolism

By Eugen Lisov

From the first time people discovered gemstones, they were amazed by their beauty and grace.

They understood right from the start that they were unlike any other rocks they could see every day. So they started looking for an explanation and a reason why these precious stones were present on Earth.

This has puzzled many people throughout history and yielded to numerous conclusions that were themselves mysterious and romantic. Some said that they were a gift from gods. Others believed they were actually stolen from them. Ancient priest used gems to worship the divinity.

Besides the religious importance, some theories suggested that gems have curative capabilities or even help increase sexuality.

Birthstones were first introduced in the cultures of antiquity as a form of standardization to make it easier for the elite of that time to understand the importance and the role of each stone. They attributed to each of the twelve months of the year a certain precious stone. Thus the wealthy ones could now purchase gems that now had an even more important meaning for them, as they were correspondent to the month they were born in.

Gemstones are almost as old as Earth. Some date back 3.5 or 4 billion years. They are older than the first man or the dinosaurs. This fact has also added to the fascination that people had for them.

Nowadays, birthstone jewels as popular as ever. People love to have something that old them that we've been on this planet only for a short period.

Eugen Lisov is the creator of

<http://www.a1-birthstone-jewelry.com>

where you can find great

information on your birthstone. Also check

<http://www.italian-fashion-designer.com>

to see how

designers skillfully use these stones to create magic.

Fall Birthstones: Personal And Beautiful Gifts

By Dana Bradley

Most scholars believe that the tradition of wearing birthstones descended from the Breastplate of Aaron. In Jewish history, this was a garment worn by priests that was decorated with 12 stones. On the breastplate, they represented the 12 tribes of Israel, and over time came to correspond with the 12 months of the year, or the 12 signs of the Zodiac. While the stones that appeared on the breastplate are not the same stones we associate as birthstones today, the tradition of wearing stones and the belief that they convey power, strength, or protection has continued. Here is some information about the birthstones associated with the fall months of September, October, and November.

The birthstones for September are opal and lapis. Most people associate sapphires with the color blue, and this is the most common and popular color for sapphires, but they can also be found in colors like yellow and white. Sapphires are the same mineral as rubies, corundum, so when sapphires are red or pink, they are called rubies instead. Sapphires are very hard, almost as hard as diamonds, and do not scratch easily. They are sometimes called the gem of the heavens because they are blue like the sky. Their blue color is also linked with loyalty and faithfulness, and many couples choose sapphires as the stone for engagement rings, with or without diamonds. Lapis is more common and not as expensive, but is the same brilliant color blue. It does not shine like a sapphire, but is dull instead.

October's birthstones are opal and tourmaline. Opals are unusual among gems in that you will find many different colors in a single stone. Most of the world's opals come from Australia, and they are sometimes called rainbow stones to reflect their multicolored nature. Opal is the same chemical composition as quartz, but contains water that refracts light, causing the different colors. Unlike sapphires, opal is very fragile and brittle. As such, a lot of opal jewelry is covered with clear protectants like resin or enamel. Opal becomes more brittle as it loses its water, so it should not be kept in very dry areas for lengthy periods of time. In fact, opal jewelry should be worn frequently, as it can absorb humidity from the skin. Like opal, tourmaline is a multicolored stone, but is a different chemical composition.

Yellow topaz, the birthstone for November, ranges from a warm brownish yellow, to shades with more red and orange. Both the ancient Romans and Egyptians associated topaz with their sun gods, and many believe it has protective powers. Citrine resembles topaz, but is a variety of quartz and is much more affordable.

Dana Bradley writes about

<http://www.jewelryanddiamondguide.com/Coupons/ICE.com.html>

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