



Gem Facts & Fantasy

Opal: In ancient times opals were thought of as bringing good fortune and were sought after. This reputation was sullied in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Anne of Geirstein*. Here a baroness wears a dazzling jewel in her hair, which seems to resemble an opal but was not named as such. The stone reflected the baroness' moods: it sparkled when she was gay and flashed red when she was angry. When a few drops of holy water were innocently splashed on the stone, it shattered into powder. The baroness fell into a swoon and the next day all that remained on her bed was a heap of ashes!

Opals are delicate and too much warmth may evaporate some of their water content and cause them to lose their lustre. Also moving from a hot room to the cold outdoors may sometimes craze the surface of a polished opal while too much pressure can cause cracks. These mishaps seem to have given rise in some quarters to the idea that opals are unlucky, although they are generally seen as bringing good fortune to those who take good care of them.

Amongst opal's claimed healing powers is that it can cure eye diseases. Wearing opals was believed to shield the wearer from contagion, and warn of the presence of poison by losing its play of color. It is worn as a pendant to dispel melancholia, while an opal necklace was worn by those who wanted their hair to remain blonde.

NOTE: I only sell opal triplets which have a layer of quartz crystal over the opal to protect it.

*Reproduced from *The Power of Gemstones* by Raymond J.L. Walters

Paul Hapip Jewelry Gems of Antiquity

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What gemstone is described as being the **color** of an **apple** because it looks like a Pippin apple?

Upcoming Shows

Bristol Renaissance Faire

July 8th - September 4th (weekends only, plus Labor Day)

visit: www.renfair.com for discount coupons

Please bring with you any jewelry bought from me for a free cleaning and inspection.

Arts & Crafts Festival, (Rochester, MI)

Rochester, Michigan at Municipal Park • Sept. 8-10th

Fine Arts Festival

Walnut Creek, California • Sept. 22-24th

My booth is located on the East side of Locust Street, ½ block South of Civic Center Drive, and in front of Massimo Restaurant.

Sugarloaf Craft Festival

Novi, Michigan, Rock Financial Showplace • Oct. 20-22nd

www.sugarloaforcrafts.com

Autumn Festival

Villa Park, Illinois at the Odeum (West Chicago suburb)

Nov. 16-19th

\$1 off coupons at: www.hpifestivals.com

Gems of Antiquity



Paul Hapip Jewelry

Spring 2006

New Gemstone in my Collection!

I returned to the largest gem show in the world this past February. It's in Tuscon, Arizona and has now grown to occupy 39 hotels, expo centers and tents the size of half a city block! 10,000 gem dealers from all over the world descend on Tuscon to sell to manufacturing and retail jewelers. Competition is high, so that one can find great values if you diligently shop the shows. I attended eight of the best shows in five and a half days, literally dropping from exhaustion and an intense headache at noon on the sixth day. You are continually looking at various qualities of gemstones, evaluating quality versus the asking price, and then vigorously discussing the price with the seller. This is repeated hundreds of times each day. At the end my mental faculties shut down!

My three most amazing discoveries this year are:

1) Grossular Garnet (light yellow to light orange) from Africa – This is only the second time I've seen this gem in 37 years of making jewelry.

2) **APPLE JADE – Translucent light green resembling the color of a Pippin Apple.** This beautiful jade came out of Central Siberia in the early 70's as a by-product of digging the footings for one of the world's largest dams; then millions of tons of concrete were poured over the remainder. I bought a lot of this in 1972-3 from one of four Americans allowed into Moscow to buy and export it. My collection, 33 years later, is almost gone. This year I found a dealer in Tuscon selling off the private collection of one of the other three Americans who had gone to Russia. There has never been another source for this beautiful light green jade!



3) Andalusite – Originally discovered in the Spanish province of Andalusia; nowadays it is sporadically mined in Brazil. This gem has green and orange colors intermingling; but it takes superb cutting to dramatically show both colors. The gems I bought are wonderful!

Other great purchases in Tuscon:

- 1) Sapphire – Not only blue, but also lemon yellow, white and pink, Padparascha (orangish pink) and color change (blue to purple or purple to violet).
- 2) Alexandrite (green to pink color change)
- 3) More amazing large freshwater Pearls from China – in coin shape (flattened oval) with great lustrous colors.
- 4) Very clear Bi-Color Tourmalines (pink to green or blue)
- 5) Color change Garnets (mauve to violet)
- 6) Wonderful Tanzanites – 1 carat up to 3.6 carats!
- 7) Star Ruby

Most of these I have in extremely short supply; in other years I have had none to offer.

Lastly, in gems I regularly offer, I was able to restock several in good qualities and decent quantities: Aquamarine, Citrine Quartz, Opal Triplets, Spinel, Blue Zircon, Kunzite, Iolite, Rhodolite Garnet and Peridot.

At the Renaissance Fair only I'll have a good selection of loose gems from which you can choose to put in one of my designs; or you can see these at my studio by appointment. Also, at any show, feel free to bring your own gems and we can discuss putting them into one or more of my settings.



4 New Designs: Another Productive Winter

- 1) In the continuation of designs inspired by European flowers is a ring with a Mountain Avens flower found in the highlands of the British Isles. This design features the contrast between brushed and polished gold.
 - 2) A ring with more three dimensional design of Crocus flowers (The stamen of one variety of this flower is collected for use as a rare spice – Saffron).
 - 3) Another ring with Irises and long slender stalk leaves.
 - 4) Lastly, I converted last year's Alpine Forget-Me-Not ring into a delightful pendant and earrings.
- I would like to extend a special invitation to each of your to come and see my latest designs!



Alpine Forget-Me-Not flower with small round gemstone.



Last years ring design that inspired the pendant and earrings: Alpine Forget-Me-Not flower and Philodendron leaves with small round gemstone.

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Crocus flowers with faceted oval gemstone.



Iris flowers and leaves with faceted rectangular gemstone.



Mountain Avens Flower and leaves with small round gemstone.