



Emerald

Birthstone Month: **May**

Anniversary: **20th and 35th**

Season/Zodiac: **Cancer**

Interesting Facts/History

The earliest Emeralds were found in Egypt almost 4,000 years ago, and were highly prized by Cleopatra. It was said that Emperor Nero wore glasses with lenses made of Emerald when viewing the gladiators in battle to "soothe his eyes". Emerald is also believed by some to improve one's memory including sharpening the wit and quickening our intelligence, or helping a person to become an eloquent speaker. A symbol of the Greek Goddess Venus, Emerald is reported to reveal the truth or falsity of a lover's oath. It is also said to provide the owner with the ability to see and foretell the future bringing good fortune.

Name Derivation

Emerald got its name from the Latin word "Smaragus" to the Persian "Esmeraude".

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

Emerald is the most rare variety of the gem species Beryl that includes Aquamarine (blue), Golden (yellow), and Morganite (pink), to name a few. The most valuable Emeralds are medium in tone, the most vivid possible, and slightly bluish Green in hue. The finest quality Emeralds in sizes over 15 carats extremely rare and rivaled only by Ruby in value. Green is the colour of rebirth, nature, the forest, and creation. It conjures up diverse images such as "green thumb", money, and even "green with envy."

Where the Gem is Mined

Egypt was the ancient historical source mined since over 1500 BCE. Today the majority of the world's Emeralds are from Columbia since the 1500's, and more recently Brazil, and Zambia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Russia, and Australia.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 7 1/2 - 8 on the Moh's Scale.

Toughness (*resistance to breaking, chipping, cracking*) = Poor to Good. All Emeralds are fragile and should not be subjected to rough wear, especially those set in rings.

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Heat must be avoided, as it may cause fracturing. Emeralds are stable to light, yet should be kept away from solvents, and hydrofluoric acid, that may damage oiled gems.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic/ Steam Cleaning = Never.

Repair Recommendations = Emeralds must be removed from their settings for most repairs, as they cannot be subjected to heat.

Enhancements

Since ancient times, Emeralds with fissures reaching the surface have been oiled to improve their appearance. Even Emeralds found in King Tut's tomb (1300 BCE) were found to have been oiled. Today, this enhancement includes oils such as linseed, cedarwood and Canada balsam to sophisticated resins, polymers, and sealers. One should assume that if the Emerald is included, it has probably been "oiled" by some means.

Fashion Significance

Emeralds have been the most treasured green gemstone for centuries. Though rich and vibrant, the finest Emeralds are also soft, velvety and elegant. Symbolizing youth, vitality, and rebirth Emerald is the right choice for one to enhance their spirit. A gem with calming and relaxing powers, Emerald will remain one of the most sought after varieties of the gemstone kingdom.