

The Glory of Diamonds

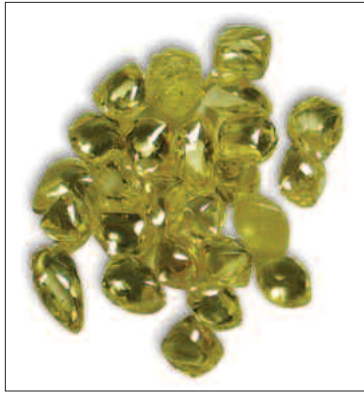
Sparkling diamonds are the most radiantly glorious of all gemstones. But they haven't always been that way. Diamonds were first found about 800 B.C. in the Golconda region of India. From there, traders carried them to Greece and Rome.

The earliest diamonds we know of are set in ancient Roman jewelry. But they were uncut and not very beautiful.

The real glory of diamonds began in 1475 with a talented Belgian lapidary named Louis de Berquem of Bruges. Although facets had been cut on diamonds for many centuries, de

Berquem first discovered how to cut them systematically. He is regarded as the father of modern diamond cutting and portraits of him are still displayed in diamond cutting centers throughout the world.

During this period, the rose cut was developed. It is a dome-shaped cut with a flat bottom and triangular facets that come to a point on top. The rose was the most popular diamond cut in Europe from the 16th century well into the 18th century



and it is still in demand today.

Then around 1700, a Venetian named Vincenzo Perruzzi developed the original brilliant cut which finally released the dazzling fire hidden inside the diamond. The Perruzzi cut had 56 facets plus a culet and a table. It remained a favorite as the cushion-shaped Old Mine Cut until 1919 when Marcel Tolkowski developed a formula for the modern brilliant cut.

This new type of cut made diamonds even more brilliant and glorious than ever. Since then, the glittering diamond has been the most desired and celebrated of all gemstones.



Focus On Fashion

New Ultra-Long Necklaces...Stylish, Versatile and Fun

This season, elongated rope necklaces of every kind are being seen everywhere and with every kind of outfit.

A rope-length necklace is a strand that runs from 45 inches to 120 inches and is usually wrapped several times around the neck. This versatile necklace produces a luxurious layered look with a variety of charmingly different decorative lengths.

A rope necklace of lustrous white pearls was a favorite of Coco Chanel. But today, high-fashion ultra-long necklaces aren't limited to a single kind of gemstone. Fashion forward styles are peppered with a mix of colorful beads including yellow gold balls, red, blue, pink, purple, orange, and green colored gems as well as white and colored freshwater pearls. Many are arranged in different combinations and set in stations on long gold chains.

It's an elegant look you'll be seeing a lot of this season. And a style you'll enjoy wearing day or night.



The Jewelry Doctor

How To Care For Malachite

Named for the mallow plant in ancient times, this vivid kelly green opaque gemstone is banded with circular stripes of darker and lighter tones of the same brilliant green color.

With a hardness of 3.5 to 4 on the Mohs scale, malachite is easy to carve, has a fine, silky luster when polished, and makes beautiful cabochons and beads. It has been a long-time favorite for use in dramatic



necklaces, pins, and pendants.

Because malachite is relatively delicate, always store it away from crystalline gems which are harder and have sharp edges. The safest way to clean it is to wash in cool water with a little soft soap. After washing, place on a clean soft cloth and air dry.

Avoid heat and sudden temperature changes. Do not soak, bleach, or apply any chemicals. And do not use steamers or ultrasonic cleaners.