



The LAPIDARIAN

Maple Ridge Lapidary Club Newsletter

May 2013, Vol.2, Issue 5

RENO UPDATE

If you've been at the Club recently, you will know that we have some renovations underway in our back room. All machines and cabinets removed. Upper cabinets are scheduled to be installed this weekend (May 26) and the lower cabinets next weekend (June 1-2). Carol K. completed some painting this weekend with more to come. The south wall requires washing prior to painting. If you can help with washing or painting, please contact Carol K. Carol plans to work on these tasks again on Tuesday May 28th.

REMINDERS

- Next General Meeting Thursday June 6, 2013 at 7pm
- Friday Night BBQ's will start again Friday June 7th (weather permitting – it's got to stop raining again sometime ☺)
- Youth Group next meeting Saturday June 8, 2013 at 9am
- [Summer Camp](#) August 11 – 16, 2013 in Lillooet, BC – Hosted by Hastings Centre Rockhounds
- Mark Your Calendar
 - Saturday August 17 Picnic & BBQ in the park, more information to follow
 - Friday September 6 – Friday Night BBQ Welcome back from vacation, more information to follow



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club - Valley of Gems**, May 31, June 1 & 2, 2013 Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm, Swiss Park - 9205 198th Ave. E., Bonney Lake, WA
- **RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB**, June 8 & 9, 2013, Timberline High School Gymnasium, 1681 S. Dogwood Street, Campbell River, BC, For more information visit: [Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club](#)
- **KOOTENAY GEM & MINERAL SHOW & SALE**, June 8 & 9, 2013, Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm Sunday: 10:00am - 4:00pm, Castlegar & District Recreation Center; Gold Panning, Geode Cutting, Vendors, Displays, Auction, Bring in your "mystery" Rock and have a Geology Professor help to identify it! Adults \$5, Children 12 & under \$1. Vendor spaces for 2013 are still available. Vendors set up June 7, 2013. Contact: Linda Barber 250-352-0428 or [E mail](#)
- **MT. BAKER ROCK & GEM CLUB Annual Rockhounds Recycling Rendezvous**, June 15, 2013 Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm, Birch Bay Square in Blaine, WA, 1-5 Exit 270. Participant tables, tailgates or tents on a first-come-first-choice basis from \$15 spaces. Public is welcome and there is no admission charge. Rocks, minerals, gems and related material will be swapped, bought and sold. Proceeds from the activity helps fund the club's Western Washington University scholarship program. Come join us! Contact: Candi Gerald, 360-384-3187
- **CANADA DAY SHOW** July 1, 2013, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Blue Loon Grill / Clearwater Country Inn Grounds 449 E Yellowhead Hwy 5, Clearwater, BC. Contact: Fay McCracken, 250-674-2700 or [E mail](#)

FOR SALE

ATTENTION STONE CARVERS - Palm chisel sets available at club.

6 pieces complete with wood case \$15. Contact: adamdonatelli@hotmail.com



PROJECT

This month a blog post from Jewelry Making Daily (May 13, 2013) that tells us more about the language of gemstones:

May 13, 2013

The Language of Gemstones: Acrostic Jewelry Says It All, In Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphires...

From the JMD archives, here's one of my favorite blog posts ever. Judging from the amount of comments and feedback we received, it was one of your favorites, too! Enjoy this look back. --Tammy

Have you heard about acrostic jewelry? I learned about it watching an old episode of *Antiques Roadshow UK*, and now I'm fascinated by it. Just what I needed--a new reason to be hooked on gemstones!

What is Acrostic Jewelry?

Acrostic jewelry is jewelry set with gemstones that spell out a message. Each gemstone represents a letter--the first letter of the gem's name--and they were used like a sparkly alphabet to create messages of love and romance in jewelry. For example, popular gemstones such as diamond would serve as a D, rubies as an R, emeralds as an E, and so on. So if you wanted to spell out "dear," you'd create a piece of gemstone jewelry that featured a diamond, an emerald, an amethyst, and a ruby, in that order. Sweet, isn't it?



The lovely old acrostic key brooch I saw on Antiques Roadshow. Can you read the message in these gems?

Acrostic Jewelry History

Believed to have been created in 18th century Paris by Jean-Baptiste Mellerio, jeweler to Empress Josephine and Marie Antoinette, acrostic jewelry soon became a hit in nearby England. Those Victorians, they had all the cool sentimental jewelry--acrostic gemstone jewelry as well as jet mourning jewelry, hair jewelry, friendship bracelets, and lockets. They were also all about romance, secrecy, amusements, hidden meanings, games of the heart.

Most acrostic jewelry at the time was rings set with stones that spelled out the names of loved ones. According to the expert on *Antiques Roadshow*, in addition to names and romantic words like "dear," other popular words in English acrostic jewelry were "regards" (ruby-emerald-garnet-amethyst-ruby-diamond-sapphire) and "dearest" (diamond-emerald-amethyst/aquamarine-ruby-emerald-sapphire-tourmaline/topaz), and "friend" (fluorite-ruby-indicolite*-emerald-nephrite-diamond). Two popular terms in French acrostic jewelry were "souvenir" (French for "remembrance") and "amitié" (French for "friendship").

**My research tells me that the 1 gemstone is iris (in French), but I can't find out what that was.*



**Can you guess what word I've spelled here in gems?
It's a tough one!**



How about this one? It's one I've written about . . .



And this one? Here's a hint: My beloved guy might wear stones like these in his ring . . .

Oddly enough, I can't think of a gemstone way to spell "love." Lapis lazuli (or labradorite), opal, something that starts with a V, and then emerald . . . but what common gemstone starts with a V? Having started in France, however, early acrostic jewelry used the word "amour"--much easier to spell out in gems than the English "love." But then you have to consider that the French words were spelled using gemstones that also had French names, which adds a whole new layer of complexity to it, even though many gemstone names were the same or nearly the same in both languages. It does make that V easier, however, as hessonite garnet was known as *vermeille* in French back then.

The Language of Gemstones

Naturally being the pearl lover that I am, I've started thinking of all the sweet words that have a P in them. Peace, of course . . . precious, though that one seems a bit difficult . . . lips, maybe? That's probably a little too racy for those Victorians. The name of one's beloved was a popular choice in rings, so much so that a gentleman (who by then had nearly stopped wearing flamboyant jewelry) might give his special girl a nickname if her name was too long to be worn on a ring, as bracelets and brooches for men had fallen out of fashion. I call my favorite guy Prince Charming (aww), so I could spell out "prince" with a pearl, ruby, indicolite, nephrite, citrine, and emerald.

Some folks might have a hard time identifying indicolite and nephrite, but I'd know what they were and what the gemstones meant; isn't that the important thing? How important do you suppose it was to the Victorians that the average observer knew what the gemstones in their jewelry spelled? Would it be important to you, or would it be more fun to have your own little secret?

For the letters that had no associated gemstone at the time, industrious English jewelers resorted to using colors of other gems to fill in the gaps (fire opal for F, for example). If a piece of acrostic jewelry ended up with too many such substitutions, it could be nearly impossible for average onlookers to decipher the jewelry's meaning--the secrecy of which only added to the popularity of acrostic jewelry.

The Gemstone Alphabet

Here's a list of gemstones for the alphabet, off the top of my head--there are others that are less common. Some of them are a stretch, and I can't think of a thing for some letters (X? Y?). Can you think of others?

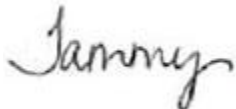
(Update: Thanks for all of your comments! I've filled in the list below with your help, though some of these stones can be difficult to find and/or not suited for jewelry because of their softness or crystal structure.)

- A - amethyst, aquamarine, agate, alexandrite, amber, ametrine, apatite, aventurine
- B- benitoite, bixbite, black opal, boulder opal, beryl
- C- citrine, carnelian, chrysoprase, coral, chalcedony, chrome diopside, chrysoberyl
- D- diamond, demantoid garnet, diopside, diopase
- E- emerald

F- fluorite, faustite
G- garnet, goshenite, girasol
H- hessonite garnet, hematite, hawk's-eye, heliodor, hiddenite, hauyne, heliotrope
I- indicolite, iolite
J- jasper, jade, jet
K- kyanite, kunzite
L- lapis lazuli, labradorite, lepidolite, larimar
M- moonstone, morganite, malachite, magnesite, moukaite
N- nephrite
O- opal, onyx
P- pearl, peridot, pyrite, pietersite, prasiolite, prehnite
Q- quartz
R- ruby, rose quartz, rhodochrosite, rubellite
S- spinel, sapphire, sunstone, South Sea pearl, smoky quartz, sodalite
T- tourmaline, tanzanite, topaz, turquoise, tiger's-eye, Tahitian pearl, tsavorite
U- unakite
V- variscite, vessonite, vesuvianite, verdite, vandanite
W- watermelon tourmaline
X- xenotime, xonotlite (a new favorite!)
Y- yttrium fluorite, YAG, yuksporite
Z- zircon, zoisite, zebra stone

You'd think Z would be hard, but in this case, it's easy, and V, X, and Y left me blank! There are some, of course--mostly collector's stones that are too rare or too soft and not suitable for jewelry. Thank goodness for all the kinds of garnet!

Isn't that fun? To learn more clever ways to incorporate gemstones into your jewelry designs, [subscribe to *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist* magazine](#). There are gemstone profiles, an artists' gallery, and projects in each issue that show how to use gemstones of all kinds in your jewelry designs--even some tutorials for cutting your own gems and cabochons!



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