

“The Precious Stones Industry for 1903”

Stone, An Illustrated Monthly Magazine Devoted to
Granite, Slate, Cement, Contracting and Building,
Frank W. Hoyt, Publisher, New York
Vol. XXVII, Vol. 2, December 1903, pp. 137-138

The article begins:

“Every jewel, except perhaps consistency, is on the roll of the country’s previous stones that the United States Geological Survey calls each year. There is no telling but the exception mentioned may be put there some day too, for new names are made as fast as new stones are found, and the list grows larger year by year. The chief gem discovery of 1903 in this country was named kunzite by Dr. Charles Baskerville....”

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

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March 2016

THE PRECIOUS STONES INDUSTRY FOR 1903.



EVERY jewel, except perhaps consistency, is on the roll of the country's precious stones that the United States Geological Survey calls each year. There is no telling but the exception mentioned may be put there some day too, for new names are made as fast as new stones are found, and the list grows larger year by year. The chief gem discovery of 1903 in this country was named kunzite by Dr. Charles Baskerville, an appropriate designation, as every one will feel who reads the annual report on the precious stones industry written by Mr. George F. Kunz for the volume of Mineral Resources published by the Geological Survey.

The most interesting feature of Mr. Kunz's preliminary review of the industry for 1903 is the emphasis laid on the hopefulness of California as a field for gem discoveries. Pala, in San Diego County, is the recognized locality for the remarkable new variety called kunzite. It is a beautiful lilac-colored spodumene. Crystals of great size, beauty, and perfection have been obtained. It has been cut into very beautiful gems for jewelry, and bids fair to become a popular stone. Certain unusual physical properties which it possesses make it especially interesting also to scientists.

New discoveries and developments of very fine rubellite and other tourmalines have also been made at Pala and likewise near Coahuila, in Riverside County. Topaz, both white and pale blue, has been identified for the first time in the State of California. It was found at Coahuila in distinct and beautiful crystals, the dimensions of the largest of them being three-quarters of an inch by one inch. Magnificent spessartite garnets were obtained near Ramona, in San Diego County. Chrysoprase was also extensively mined during the early part of the year in the Tulare County locality. The massive green vesuvianite from Siskiyou County, which so resembles jade that it was first mistaken for that stone, has been further analyzed and examined and the name californite bestowed upon it. A second locality for it was found in Tulare County. The deposits of colored tourmaline at Mesa Grande were further developed during the year.

Outside of California both prospecting and development work have been carried on in a few scattered districts. Turquoise has been mined at several places in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and in California, and many gems of great beauty have been obtained. The sapphire mines of Montana were worked by three different companies, two developing the fine blue gems at Yogo, in Fergus County, and the other the multi-colored or variegated stones at Rock Creek, in Granite County. Much of the material from all three lo-

calities, when not fine enough for gems, found a ready sale for watch jewels, principally among European manufacturers. The old beryl locality at Grafton, N. H., was reopened and some development was attempted. Very little was done with the tourmalines in Maine, although some prospecting took place at several localities in that State. In North Carolina prospecting for beryl, amethyst, and emerald matrix was continued.

The facts and theory as to the occurrence of diamonds in Indiana were presented in an able paper by Mr. W. S. Blatchley, the State Geologist, who records the finding of nine small different diamonds up to 1903 in Brown and Morgan counties. The fact that diamond-cutting continued with as much activity as in the preceding year would seem to indicate that the market for diamonds in the United States is not falling off.