



The 1st International Symposium on Gemstone Trading in Iran Focusing on Persian Piroozeh (Turquoise) and Agate

Gemstones in the Middle East

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According to the number of gem indexes, the top five gemstone-bearing countries are Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Tajikistan, respectively. Afghanistan is considered to be the most important gemstone-bearing country in the Middle East. Different kinds of gemstones including emerald, ruby and sapphires, lapis lazuli, tourmaline, aquamarine, kunzite and topaz have occurred in Afghanistan. Using and mining of gemstones have been considered by Iranians since ancient times. National jewelry museum (Tehran, Iran) is the best example for cultural and historical connection of gemstones with Iran. Turquoise is most probably the oldest of all gems that is mined with a history stretching back to 7000 years ago. Colored gemstones such as emerald, ruby, sapphire, topaz, aquamarine, and tourmaline are found in Pakistan making the country significant in the mineral world. Zultanite, one of the most rare gemstones in the Diaspore family, only found in one place in the world, Anatolian Mountains, south west of Turkey. The best samples of K ammererite (chromian clinocllore) can be found in Turkey. Ruby and spinel can be found in the Muzkol metamorphic complex in east of Tajikistan. In addition, topaz, amethyst, tourmaline, amazonite, scapolite are found next to Kukurt Lake near Murghab area, Tajikistan.

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