

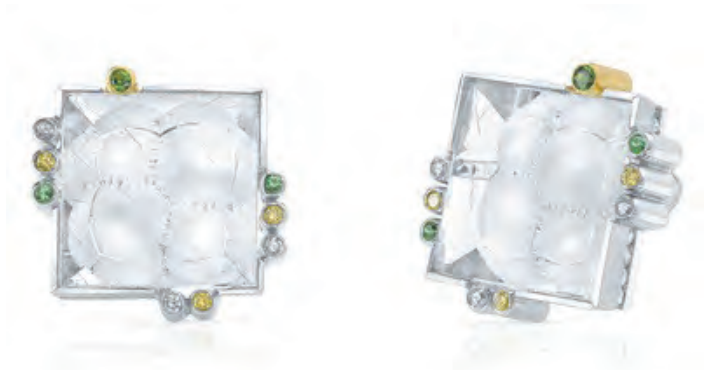
Topics in Gemology

Topics in Gemology is a monthly column written by Diana Jarrett, GG, RMV, based on gemological questions posed to her over the years by beginners and experts alike. Contact her at dianajarrett.com.



Crazy for Crystal Clear . . . Crystal

Good ol' quartz; the second most abundant mineral on the planet. Only feldspar takes the lead in our earth's plentiful components. This copious material has been the stuff of jewelry and carving for centuries.



Mark Schneider Quartz Cufflinks, Courtesy Mark Schneider Design.

Although celebrated for the profuse variety of colors it has, quartz also comes in pure colorless (called rock crystal) and translucent milky quartz which can be an attractive jewel for modern designers to embrace. Actually, milky quartz is probably the most common variety of crystalline quartz. Interestingly, its milky effect is the result of minute gas, liquid, or both trapped within the crystal, rendering a dreamy cloud-like appearance to the stone.



Crystal Cluster from Tibet.

Both colorless and milky quartz are found in imaginative designers creations. Its interesting, appealing qualities make it ideally suited for selections in both stylish manufactured jewelry lines and couture one-offs. Your customers who prefer the

monochromatic and neutral look to their accessories will embrace this ever popular stone with its broad updated vibe.



Chinese Carved Natural Rock Crystal Scholar's Brush Rest.



Rock Crystal Casket, Burgundy, Late 1400s



Herkimer "Diamonds" (Quartz), Upstate New York