

From

The Collector

to You...

A Visit to Russia's Demantoid Mines

by William Larson

It's late August, 2002, and I'm exhausted, flying Aeroflot from Los Angeles to Moscow and then a domestic jet to Ekaterinburg, jumping-off point for the Ural Mountain gem mines. Yes I'm tired, but – damn the torpedoes – somebody has to do it. Why, you ask? Because the Reds have just dug up what promises to be one of biggest finds of green in a century. Green as in demantoid garnet, imperial gem of Fabergé and the Czars.

After arrival, Vadim, the mine manager, meets us and we drive out to the mines. In the Urals, the mining season is short – just three to four months – and only in the last two weeks has the insect population become bearable. It was at the Kladovka site that demantoid was first found last century. Indeed, researching that historic discovery is what led Vadim and his team here.

Exploration started in May, but by July, they were on the verge of giving up. Then, Mother Russia threw her children a little treasure. Workers exposed a vein and before long, green

Ural pearls were being unearthed in unheard-of quantities.

In one vein, I see green garnets formed in crystals and aggregates. The best pieces are isolated in lines of nodules, glistening like green, polished tears. These are up to a quarter inch in diameter.

Above the pit, pea-sized pieces of demantoid are scattered across a piece of canvas in a spectacular display of newly dug treasure. We marvel at the scene, turning beautiful, crystal-clean demantoids in our fingers. The likes of this have hardly been seen since the time of the Czars.

A few of the rocks are broken up, revealing nodules of an extraordinary green color. As the last sunlight fades, we retire to camp, where a barbecue has already begun. We take several fine demantoid samples back and display them like hunting trophies on the dinner table.

That evening, over a toast, our Russian friends invite us to return again. As Nicolai raises his glass, he winks at me and says: "I love this business. We travel far and wide in search of these charms of nature. And in doing so, we are exposed to the charms of people from opposite sides of the globe. Here's to our business..." We raise our glasses once more...

Yes, I will definitely be back for more. All in all, it is one of my most memorable days in prospecting.



Burma Bill and Nicolai Kuznetsov

Demantoid garnet is one of the rarest colored gemstones. It was first discovered in the Urals of Russia in 1886 and had not been actively mined since the Bolshevik revolution. Fabergé used the stone in his creations because the Czar's court was obsessed with it. Demantoid garnet became extremely desirable in France and England in the late-nineteenth century after George Kunz, a buyer for Tiffany's, was instructed to buy all the demantoid he could get his hands on.

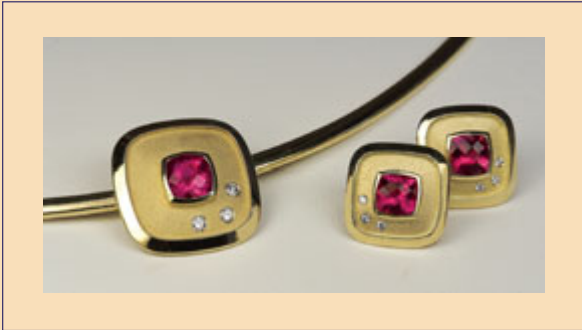
Thanks to the Russian partners of Pala International, the Russian demantoid was rediscovered in the Ural mountains in the summer of 2002. It is a rediscovery of the original demantoid mine of the 1800s. This brilliant and bright green stone is very durable and therefore a wonderful choice for any jewelry lover, particularly those who love the color green or who were born in January. Demantoid can also come from Namibia, Iran, Italy and Mexico but one thing that distinguishes the Russian demantoid is the mysterious "horsetail" inclusion. These radiating needles can create a fascinating display that is prized by gem collectors.



The Collector's Stefanie Fremdling runs her fingers through several kilos of fine demantoid garnet rough.
Photo by Jeff Scovil - Pala International

Designer Spotlight ~ Ilka Bahn

Master Goldsmith and The Collector's Jewelry Designer



Ilka Bahn has been working as a goldsmith for over 30 years. She was born in Germany and became a goldsmith's apprentice in 1959 at the age of 15. After three and a half years under his instruction, Ilka was qualified to work as a goldsmith and became a journeyman.

In 1964, Ilka had earned enough money to make her long awaited trip to the United States and decided to

settle in Detroit. She spent three years doing custom work for a company called Motif and ten years with the prestigious David Wachler & Sons.

In 1977, it was on to the sunny state of California. Ilka, with her

family, moved to La Costa and continued with contract work until 1981 when she became The Collector's own custom design specialist. Ilka's superior workmanship and sense of design has made The Collector a place known for its style and quality. Whether redesigning your family jewelry or creating something brand new with The Collector's vast inventory of exquisite gemstones, the

final creation will WOW the eye! Ilka, along with owner, Jeanne Larson, and The Collector staff, is responsible for the dazzling jewelry creations that adorn the store. The Collector is a full service jewelry store that specializes in custom design. We invite you to come in to have the jewelry of your dreams created especially for you.



Ilka Bahn

Appraiser Notes *by Jo Ellen Cole*

So You Thought Garnets Were Red?

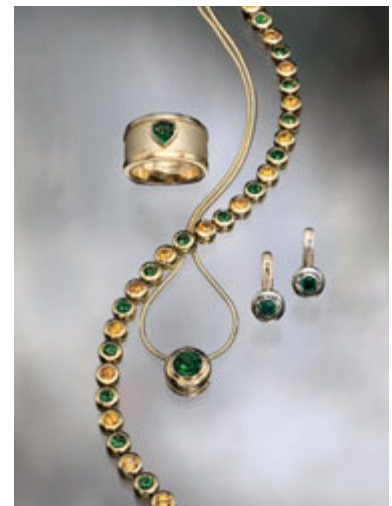
Demantoid, with its high dispersion, is indeed a spectacular green member of the garnet family, but not the only one. The garnets are actually a group of minerals with similar chemical composition and a common crystal habit. Demantoid is a variety of the andradite species of garnet. Another wonderful green garnet for use in jewelry is tsavorite, a transparent variety of the grossularite species of garnet. Although tsavorite does not have the dispersive "kick" of its andradite cousin, it makes up for it with a generally richer depth of color. While demantoid garnets are primarily found in Russia, tsavorite garnets are found only in eastern Africa. The name "tsavorite" comes from Tsavo National Park in Kenya, where gemologist and miner Campbell Bridges first found the garnets in 1965. Uvarovite garnet is another green garnet species from Russia

but the crystals are too small for cutting. Hydrogrossular garnet from South Africa occurs in a light translucent green color and is often used as a carving material.

For a professional appraisal or any further information, please contact Jo Ellen Cole, GG., FGA. at 760-758-8315 or jocole2@cox.net



Two fine faceted gems are flanked by a bevy of Ural pearls. Photo: Jeff Scovil



The Collector's Tsavorite, Demantoid & Mandarin Orange Garnet jewelry.

From the Executive's Desk

'Tis The Season To Be Dazzling

With the holiday season fast approaching, we at *The Collector Fine Jewelry* extend our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season. This is the season to ring in the holidays with style and give those on your gift list the most enduring, precious gift of all – a Collector Fine Jewelry collectible.

The holidays are a perennial favorite for engagement rings and birth stone pieces. For the man in your life, consider a lasting heirloom like a beautiful cufflink set to complement his best dress shirts or a platinum money clip that will elegantly and securely safeguard his Benjamins, Lincolns and Jeffersons.

Whether it's the annual office party or New Year's Eve bash, the holiday season is notorious for its endless round of parties and other festivities. Hoop earrings, stacked enamel rings and creatively-designed necklaces are the sophisticated choice and will have heads turning your way from the minute you arrive. And don't forget our unique collection of gifts for the hostess or boss.



Our friendly and knowledgeable staff looks forward to assisting you with your holiday jewelry and gift selections. Enjoy the sparkle in your loved one's eyes with a lasting treasure from *The Collector Fine Jewelry*.

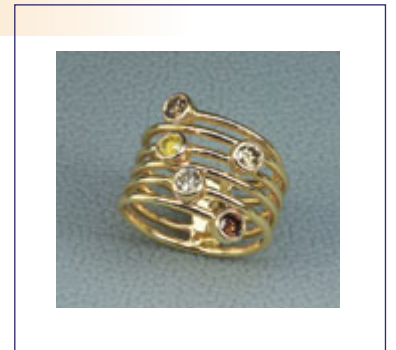
Sincerely,
Jeanne Hancock Larson
Executive Director



Fashion Forward Trends

The Right Hand Ring ~ *"Women of the World Raise Your Right Hand"*

The next must-have style is all about celebrating you, the independent woman. The right hand ring can be contemporary, romantic, modern vintage or floral. There is sure to be a gorgeous style to meet every woman's desires.



White Hot Sterling Silver

This ancient white metal is elegant, bold and fashionable yet unpretentious and affordable. Sterling silver jewelry can fit every mood and add that needed touch of elegance to the latest fashions. Make a statement with a bold black onyx and silver pendant or show off your class with a gorgeous amethyst and diamond ring in sterling silver and 18kt gold.

Rainbow of Gold

The latest style in multicolored gold jewelry is mixing and matching all the colors of the golden rainbow. As always, there is yellow and white gold but how about pink, a color that blends with both? Or even black, gray and blue for the customer wanting to try something new. Multicolored jewelry is incredibly versatile and when paired with that perfect colored gemstone, absolutely stunning.





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What Does Your Favorite Color Say About You?

Everyone has a favorite color and that color preference says a lot about you and your personality. Read below to find out what it means.

◆ **RED:** If you love red, you probably enjoy being in the thick of things and are passionate and intense. You search for excitement and love being active. People who love red strive to make their lives happy ones. **Red Gemstones: Ruby, Spinel, Garnet, Carnelian, Coral, Tourmaline**

◆ **ORANGE:** People who love orange are social, good natured, agreeable and get along with others. You smile a lot and see life as bright. You are conscious of design and structure and keep things neat. You are motivated and a self starter.

Orange Gemstones: Citrine, Fire Opal, Sapphire, Garnet, Topaz, Coral

◆ **YELLOW:** Yellow personalities have the brightness of the sun and radiate warmth. You are logical, intellectual and a great communicator. You think things through and welcome a challenge in life.

Yellow Gemstones: Sapphire, Topaz, Citrine, Garnet

◆ **GREEN:** Green is the color of spring and symbolizes healing. Green lovers are educated, civilized and moral. You might make a good teacher. You strive for health and balance in life.

Green Gemstones: Emerald, Tourmaline, Garnet, Peridot, Malachite

◆ **BLUE:** If you love blue, you are cautious, honest, sensitive and trustworthy. It is likely you are creative and enjoy the arts. You have a great imagination and get things done through patience and perseverance.

Blue Gemstones: Sapphire, Tourmaline, Zircon, Lapis, Topaz, Aquamarine, Turquoise

◆ **PURPLE/VIOLET:** Purple symbolizes spirituality and sensuality. Purple lovers are artistic, sensitive and visionary. You are observant and quick witted with good self-esteem. You adapt well to others.

Purple/Violet Gemstones: Amethyst, Tanzanite, Spinel, Iolite, Garnet, Sugilite

To find your favorite colored gemstone, please visit *The Collector* at 912 So. Live Oak Park Rd., Fallbrook or *The Four Seasons Aviara* at 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad.

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