

G.F.WILLIAMS **Passionate about Gems**

Why does my customer want Emerald and how do I source it?



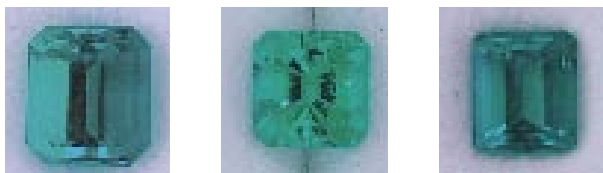
Jason Williams

Emerald is the May birthstone and one gem with much folklore. It can be sold with confidence, but beware of some of its issues.

Emeralds occur all over the world, the UK market favours Brazilian Emeralds for use in calibrated mounts more information on buying in this market will follow in a later issue.

Colombia is considered to be the source of the finest Emeralds and is a recorded origin from around 1000 AD. In the 1500s colonial Spanish sold Colombian emeralds to Europe's royalty, India's Maharajahs, Turkey's sultans and Persia's shahs.

The single stone market for fine bigger pieces is a complex one in Emerald. Fine Emeralds command very high prices and have to be bought with considerable knowledge and skill. For many years we have stocked Colombian Emerald in our single stone stock range. Out of all the single stones we buy, our buyers find that Emeralds require the most care.



A selection of emeralds available from G F Williams

Clean Emeralds are extremely rare, almost impossible to find. So when looking at the stone, it is always important to consider whether any inclusions detract from the overall appearance.

Too critical and you will never achieve a purchase, too accepting of an inclusion and you may find problems further down the selling chain. It's a very fine balance.

Almost all Emeralds are cut for yield. Specific to Colombian Emerald, is the need to retain the colour, this can make big stones unsuitable for recutting or trimming. Frequently, in Bogotá, the stones are kept in large loose packets and can therefore be chipped or rubbed, many hours are spent sorting through huge lots to select a few suitable pieces, only to find that a price cannot be agreed and the hours have been wasted.

Continued in May J-dex