

# AU NATUREL

## The Lotus Gold™ Gemstone Report

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The vast majority of gems traded today have been enhanced to improve their appearance. On rare occasions, precious stones are found which require nothing to reveal their beauty, save for ordinary cutting and polishing. These gems are entirely *au naturel*. The Lotus Gold report is in honor of, and exclusively reserved for, these exquisitely rare, completely unenhanced gems.

42.63 ct

Natural Sapphire  
Myanmar (Burma)  
Report N° 3221-6631

14 July 2021

# LABORATORY FINDINGS

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14 July 2021

01

item

1 Loose Stone

05

Daylight Color

Hue **Blue**

Saturation **Rich**

Tone **Medium**

02

weight

42.63 ct

06

Shape

Antique Cushion

03

dimensions

20.48 x 17.97 x 11.53 mm

07

Cutting Style

Faceted

Crown **Modified Brilliant**

Pavilion **Step**

04

Transparency

Transparent

08

Enhancements

No indications of  
heating/treatment

This report is a professional opinion based on the results of scientific tests, coupled with the extensive experience of Lotus gemologists. The following pages contain information crucial to understanding the results.

# NATURAL SAPPHIRE

Report N° 3221-6631

Identity  **Natural Sapphire**

Origin

## Myanmar (Burma)

Since ancient times Myanmar's Mogok Stone Tract has produced gems of extraordinary quality, including some of the finest rubies, sapphires and spinels in the world.

Color Type

## Cornflower Blue

The lively blue color of this gem earns it the Lotus "Cornflower Blue" distinction.



# ORIGIN MYANMAR (BURMA)

land of pigeon's blood rubies & royal blue sapphires



WHILE THE BURMESE refer to Myanmar as the “Golden Land,” for the rest of the world, this realm is cloaked in an entirely different color – ruby red. For when it comes to the crimson stone, Myanmar’s Mogok Stone Tract reigns supreme.

Since time immemorial, the world’s finest rubies have been clawed, scraped and sieved from the gravels, muds, rocks and caverns of Mogok’s jungled valleys and hills.

Lying approximately 650 km north of Yangon (Rangoon), Mogok is an area steeped in legend. As one writer put it more than a century ago:

*Far away in a remote corner of the Earth is a town of mushroom growth, called Mogok.... It has but one industry, the recovery of rubies from mud and sand. You may be ever so hungry or thirsty, the first things offered or mentioned to you are rubies. No matter what business may have brought you to Mogok, the natives all assume you are there for rubies – rubies, nothing but rubies.... It is said that a king would be ruling at Mandalay today if it had not been for rubies...*

Mogok is not Burma’s only ruby locality. Fine crimson gems have also been found at Mong Hsu and Nanyaseik.

**Valley of Rubies.** Kyatpyin and Pingu Taung in Burma’s Mogok Stone Tract.



# ON SAPPHIRE

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azure and more...

*Oh, darkly, deeply, beautifully blue.*

—Lord Byron

MILLIONS OF YEARS in the making, sapphire is one of the most valuable gems, prized for its blue color. Despite Lord Byron's sentiments, sapphire doesn't need to be blue to be beautiful, with pastel to hot pinks, yellows, greens, oranges, purples and the rare padparadscha all being part of sapphire's color palette. These other hues are often referred to as *fancy sapphires*. In fact, sapphire comes in every color but red, because a red sapphire would be a ruby; both are the same mineral, corundum.

The most sought-after color of fancy sapphire is the rare and beautiful *padparadscha*, a pink-orange marriage of the pink of a lotus flower with the red-orange of a tropical sunset. Found mostly in Sri Lanka, these ultra-rare stones are among the most coveted gems in the world.

Deriving its name from the Latin word *sapphirus*, meaning blue, sapphires are often referred to as the "gem of the heavens." The ancient Persians thought the earth rested on a giant sapphire, whose reflection gave the sky its color.

Sapphires are thought to bring peace, joy and wisdom to their owners. The ancient Sinhalese believed the powers of wisdom were contained within sapphires and that, when the wearer of a sapphire faced challenges, the gem's power would bring forth a solution.

In India it was thought that a sapphire immersed in water formed an elixir that could cure the bite of scorpions and snakes. Alternatively, if it were worn as a talisman pendant, it would protect the wearer against evil spirits.

The original *true blue*, sapphire is the gem of fidelity and of the soul. In ancient times, the gift of a sapphire was a pledge of trust, honesty, purity, and loyalty. This tradition makes sapphire a popular choice for engagement rings.

Certainly the British royal family also believes in the power of sapphire. In 1981, when Lady Diana became engaged to Prince Charles, her ring was a fine sapphire. And when her son, William, proposed to Kate Middleton in 2012, he gifted her the same sapphire ring once worn by his mother.



**Sapphire – A Cornucopia of Colors.** Like snowflakes, each sapphire is unique.

# ON COLOR

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*The sense of sight is indeed the highest bodily privilege, the purest physical pleasure, which man has derived from his creator.*

*– Sydney Smith*

PERHAPS NO ASPECT of a precious stone's beauty is more subjective than that of color, which is why novices commonly ask: "What color is best." The correct answer is quite simple: "The best color is the one you find most attractive."

This is not what some want to hear. They yearn for a plot charting their way to heaven (à la diamond's D, E, F...), or a simple statement that "the color of this stone is better than that one" while not understanding that such a judgment is entirely arbitrary.



**Painting with light.** Instead of asking what color I am, why not ask if you find my palette pleasing?

At Lotus, we appreciate the science of color, and willingly use it. But the notion that a faceted gem possesses a single "color" can be disproved by simple observation.

Faceted stones present a three-dimensional mosaic made up of myriad colors, some bright, some dark, some intense and others dull. Each of these colors changes the moment the eye, gem or light moves. Thus to truly describe the appearance of a faceted gem, one would have to describe hundreds of colors, depending on the light source, viewing angle, background and even the size of the viewer's head (which blocks some light). In essence, gems are like miniature paintings with light as the brush on a canvas that formed millions of years before.

The colors of gems are better described in general terms for the simple reason that increasing specificity implies some higher knowledge of what an individual finds attractive and despite our best efforts, we are still not mind readers. Similar to the appreciation of fine art, one cannot exclude the feelings, experiences and sensibilities of the judge.

As a result, Lotus color descriptions are of a dual nature, expressing both scientific rigor (hue position, tone, saturation) and artistic flair. But we do not attempt to suggest one color is more attractive than another. That is a judgment that only the buyer can and should make.



# CLARIFYING CLARITY

CLARITY REPRESENTS one of the most difficult and simultaneously simple concepts involved with the assessment of precious stones. Gemology books will tell you clarity is judged by the size, number, color, position and nature of inclusions. Obviously there are an infinite number of possibilities.

Allow us to simplify. Inclusions that weaken a gem are the least desirable. This includes cleavages, fissures, cracks – any form of break that might expand with time. Ruby and sapphire are quite tough, so a shallow break is not so bad, but one should be careful with those that penetrate deeply into a gem.

And the rest? Let's reduce them to a single word – Distraction. The more distracting an inclusion, the more it hurts a gem. Imagine a picture of a smiling man or woman. A missing tooth at the back of the mouth is no problem; a missing front lower tooth is less desirable. The worst would be a missing top front tooth.

Gems are no different. When you evaluate a prospective purchase for clarity, concentrate on the distraction level. You can live with inclusions that are difficult to see. Those that are instantly obvious will probably fail your distraction test.

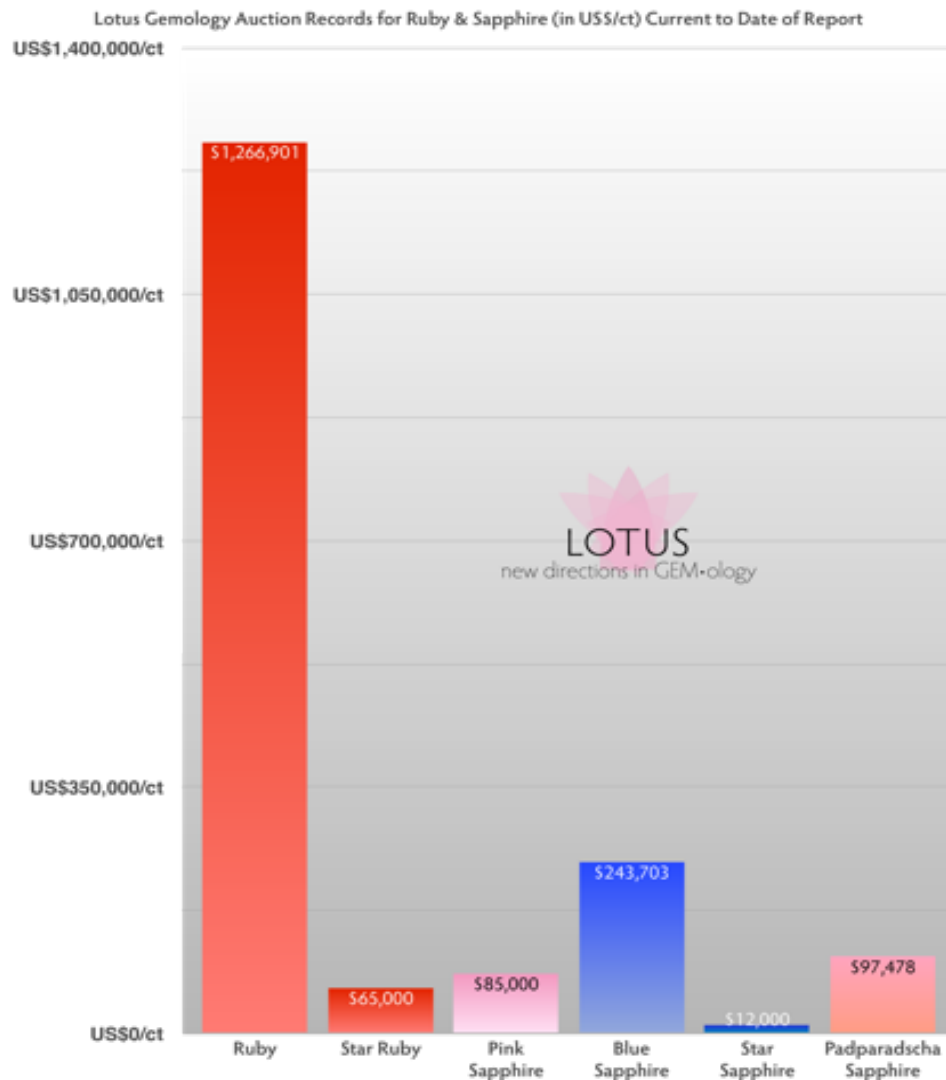
There are many examples where inclusions actually improve a gem. Take for instance a Kashmir sapphire. These often contain extremely small clouds of "silk" that scatter light across the stone. The result is a softness that envelopes all like a sticky blue blanket, banishing darkness with that bluest of blues. The extremely fine silk in Kashmir stones is just enough to exile the night, but not enough to materially affect transparency.

The same can occasionally be seen in sapphires and rubies from other locales, too. Note that this is a direct contradiction of the laws of diamond grading – here we have inclusions contributing in a major way to the beauty of a gem.

One final note on clarity. Unlike diamonds, the clarity of sapphires is always judged with the naked eye.

# ON PRICES

## auction records



**T**HOUSANDS OF TIMES more rare than diamond, ruby and sapphire are among the world's most expensive gems. But like all gem materials, they are found in a number of qualities and across a large range of prices.

Historically, sapphire prices are about a quarter the price of ruby, but this fluctuates from time to time. While even a five-carat ruby of quality is extraordinarily rare, fine sapphires of more than 100 carats are known.

The chart shown here shows world auction record prices for both ruby and sapphire. Note that these do not necessarily represent the highest prices paid; the finest gems often trade hands in private sales at prices above the auction market. We reference them because the auction market is an open reflection of the world gem market. Unlike real estate, gems can and do travel, and therefore have a worldwide value. While auction prices do not always accurately reflect the market (due to bidding wars, etc.), they are public, and thus useful for those wishing to better understand prices.

## caring for your treasure

**G**EMS ARE AMONG THE MOST durable of nature's creations, but still require care to retain their beauty. Caring for your jewelry is a matter of common sense and simple precaution:

- Always remove your jewelry when engaging in activities that risk impact or exposure to chemicals or heat such as sports or housework.
- Always put jewelry on after using lotions, cosmetics, hair spray or perfumes, not before.
- Never remove your jewelry by pulling on the gems.
- The best way to store jewelry is in the compartments of a jewelry box or in pouches. Store each piece of jewelry separately and necklaces flat so that harder stones don't scratch softer ones. Almost every gem is harder than the metal in which it is set. Gems can scratch one another or the finish on your jewelry if stored carelessly.
- Carefully wipe jewelry with a soft lint-free cloth after each wearing to remove oils and salts.
- Clean your jewelry on occasion with a cleaning solution or mechanical cleaner suitable for the gem; use a dish rather than the sink, for if a gem accidentally falls out of the setting, down the drain it goes. When in doubt, just use warm soapy water and a soft toothbrush.

- Think twice before putting gems in an ultrasonic cleaner. Diamonds and rubies and sapphires are generally fine, but other gems may not be. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Opaque gems such as lapis lazuli, turquoise and malachite are porous and may absorb chemicals and soap, discoloring them. Thus they require special care. Never use ultrasonic cleaners, ammonia or chemical solutions. These gem materials should just be gently wiped clean with a moist cloth.
- Opals also require special care. Never use an ultrasonic, never use ammonia, and avoid heat and strong light that can dry out the water in opals.
- Due to their organic nature, gems like pearls, coral and amber are both soft and porous. Thus they should be simply wiped clean with a moist cloth. Be careful about chemicals in hairspray, cosmetics, or perfume; over time they can damage pearls in particular.
- Stones that have a Mohs hardness of 7 or less are subject to scratching; harder stones are less susceptible, but still subject to chipping and fracture.

When it comes to caring for your jewelry, a bit of warm soapy water and a soft toothbrush is usually all that is needed. After cleaning, simply wipe it dry with a lint-free cloth.



# ABOUT LOTUS

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## our philosophy

LOTUS GEMOLOGY begins with a simple idea – beauty is the principal source of attraction for precious stones. Thus it should also be the major focus of gemology. In other words, the gem is the most important part of GEM•ology.

Founded by gemologists Richard W. Hughes, Wimon Manorotkul, and E. Billie Hughes, Lotus operates from a base of close to a century of collective experience in the study, purchase, sale and appreciation of precious stones. Over time, we have come to realize that gemology is not simply counting atoms. Science is a method of organizing knowledge such that it can be rationally explained and reliably tested. And yet today's science cannot accurately explain or test certain phenomena. Which rainbow is the prettiest, what painting speaks to you, which person do you find most attractive? These are personal choices that can never be reduced to a simple set of measurements, anymore than the beauty of a sunset can be expressed by formula.

Rest assured, we are not Luddites. We not only appreciate science, but also use it daily. At the same time, we recognize that many parts of the human experience extend into realms beyond the ability of science explain or test. Thus the gemology at Lotus is wide, including not just science, but weaves into the mix history, culture, art and travel. We do this in the belief that these factors play important roles in how humans perceive desirability and value.

Precious stones are among the most compelling examples of Mother Nature's artistic genius. Our lives have been enriched beyond measure by our involvement with these gifts of nature and we believe if we characterize them with the appropriate reverence and care, we can open this magical world to others. This is our goal. The translation of the intangibles of rarity and aesthetic beauty is our strength.

Finally, like a small French restaurant, we believe that crafting a fine meal takes time and individual care; thus our seating is limited. But we are confident the result will be something special, just like these precious treasures we have the pleasure of working with.

# SUBSTANCE

classic books by lotus gemology's gemologists

**W**ITH NEARLY a century of collective experience, the Lotus team has authored more than 200 papers on various aspects of gemology. We did not simply write the book on ruby, sapphire and spinel, we wrote the books, a collective body of work unsurpassed on the subject. In addition, we have designed, authored and edited other books on precious stones.



# TERMS OF REFERENCE

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## important notes

### limitations

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- Each report contains a description of the article tested based upon tests and techniques used by Lotus at the time of examination. Gemstones can be enhanced at any time after leaving our premises. If there are doubts about an item's current condition, please submit it for rechecking.

### origin opinions

WHEN AND WHERE THE EVIDENCE warrants, Lotus issues an opinion regarding the probable geographic origin of the gem tested. Origin opinions are given solely at the discretion of Lotus. Clients should be aware that

differences in opinion between one lab and another might arise. This is because the geologic conditions in one place sometimes overlap with similar conditions in other localities.

Even in laboratories possessing millions of dollars of equipment, the most important evidence for origin determination is generally collected via the simple gemological microscope. It is the experience of the gemologist with the microscope that largely determines the accuracy of origin reports.

In short, origin determination is not an exact science, and depends greatly on the experience of the individual gemologists doing the testing. The gemologists at Lotus have been involved with precious stones for many decades, including visits to many of the major deposits around the world.

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