



T O U R M A L I N E

First Draft

11.07.06

- Origin** Tourmaline is a family of minerals with closely related chemical compositions. They form in igneous (volcanic) and metamorphic rocks and are occasionally formed in alluvial deposits and sedimentary rocks.
- Composition** Tourmalines are complex silicates containing boron and a range of other elements which determine their colour.
- Structure** Trigonal with a distinctive columnar habit. Mohs scale 7 - 7.5
- Colour** Tourmaline shows the greatest range of colours of any gemstone and can show spectacular multicoloured bands within a crystal. Can be translucent or opaque.
- Crystals specialises in the following colours for specimens and jewellery: green, pink, watermelon (pink and green), black and particularly sought after blue.
- Sources** Crystals tourmaline comes from many countries. Presently most of our tourmaline is from Madagascar, Pakistan and Brazil (Minas Gerais).
Tourmaline was widely mined in Cornwall and can be found in many museums in our towns.
- Crystals Story** Tourmaline specimens have been collected for over 200 years and this tradition continues with our stores manager, Alex, whose specimens have recently featured in new book that we sell - THE ESSENTIAL CRYSTAL HANDBOOK by Simon and Sue Lilly. Fantastic specimens can be oggled at the Natural History Museum (London). Cut stones command a king's ransom when exhibiting flawless surfaces and perfect cutting - recently enjoyed at the Hong Kong Jewellery Show. Tourmalina is a Brazilian town with mines of ??!!! Russia also has mining settlements named after this important mineral. It is difficult to summarise our story - there are so many anecdotes. We purchase rough, especially black, specimens with amazing terminations and cut stones for setting (which are frequently sent from one country to another). Bi-coloured and watermelon are always popular but not easily found. Inclusions of black tourmaline in quartz look especially mysterious and dramatic, especially when draped upon a beautiful body.

Ros Mason July 2006

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