



**Rose Gold, White Gold  
and Silver Mokume  
Gane with Sapphire  
\$2050**

## Blue Sapphire

### Still driving people crazy after all these years

Blue sapphire is consistently our top-selling colored gem. It's beauty, durability and value combine to make it an excellent choice for all types of jewelry and its variety of sources have helped to maintain a consistent supply.

In the last ten years, the largest producer of fine sapphire has been Madagascar. Although government controls are in place now and being enforced, the initial discovery of sapphire produced a gold-rush mentality where thousands of people converged on the mining areas with nothing but a dream. As with any gold rush, some struck it rich while others were left destitute.

When journalist Djordje Grujic visited Madagascar in 2005 he described how locals extracted sapphires from the surrounding bedrock. Each evening, they would throw branches and tree trunks into the pit and burn them to crack the limestone. The next morning they would go in and break apart the cracked rock with shovels and crowbars hoping to uncover sapphires. The debris would then be hauled by bucket to the surface and the process repeated. It took his guide and another miner one month to dig a hole 13 feet deep .

There are enough success stories to fuel the dream and keep people coming. Grujic tells of one young man who sold sapphires for \$3900, bought 32 zebus (ox-like animals) and returned to his village a rich man. Another story tells of three women who sold sapphire worth \$7800. By contrast, the average monthly salary in Madagascar is about \$26. Locals say mining is three to five times more profitable than farming.

In contrast to Madagascar, the island of Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, has been producing fine quality sapphire since ancient times. In 1939, gem trader Louis Kornitzer

described an encounter with local traders when the tour boat they were on stopped in port. As always, a group of prospective sellers immediately surrounded them as they disembarked showing parcel papers of cheap sapphires. Louis had planned a little practical joke ahead of time with a fellow passenger. He brought out a fine sapphire of his own that he had been saving and showed it to the boys as an example of what he was looking for, then offered it for sale to his fellow passengers. His cohort immediately made an offer on the stone and paid 200 pounds cash for it. I'll let Louis tell the rest of the story.

*I soon found, however, that good jokes must be paid for. Having seen me become rich at a stroke before their very eyes, the boys set up a great clamour. They had "assisted" at the sale and they wanted their squeeze. If it had not been for them, they said, I would not have sold the stone. Furthermore, as a stranger, I had poached upon their selling territory and owed them compensation. Bare they might be from the waist up, but they knew all the answers, and I now found myself confronted by a host of partners who must be paid out.*

*This was not quite so funny. But I managed in the end to retire with professional honour unstained, but minus all my loose silver. When I rejoined my confederate, he insisted, being an opportunist, that the drinks were on me!*



**Sapphire in Platinum and  
18KT Gold \$3725**



**Sapphire and Diamond in  
Palladium \$6460**



**Biggs Jasper and Sapphire  
in Yellow Gold \$800**

# FALL CLASS PROMO

CLASSES ARE ALWAYS MORE FUN WITH A FRIEND! NOW THROUGH DECEMBER, SIGN UP WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER TAKEN CLASSES FROM US AND THEY GET THEIR CLASS FREE!



## NEW BEADS

AQUA TERRA JASPER

BLUE OPAL

RUBY ZOISITE

LAPIS LAZULI

PERIDOT

Maple Grove  
**FoodPacking**  
Sunday/August 30/2009



Looking for a way to make a difference?

Come to the Maple Grove Community Center Sunday August 30 for a two hour shift packing meals to be shipped to the Methare Valley Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. Two churches are sponsoring the event. The plan is to raise 1000 volunteers and \$50,000 resulting in 285,000 meals delivered to the slum. For a video and more info, visit the website below or contact Brad Anderson at Veberod

[www.mgfoodpacking.com](http://www.mgfoodpacking.com)