

Gemstones Known To Have Been Used In The Medieval Period.

Agate

 Paternosters

Amber

 Paternosters

 Uses: Apples, Musk balls, buttons.

Amethyst

 Talisman/amulet

Aquamarine

Balas Ruby (see Ruby)

Bezoar Stone

 Talisman/amulet:

 These were widely believed to be an antidote for poison. Marechal Boucicault gave Jean, Duc de Berry in 1404 "a bezoar stone, valued as a counter-poison, which was mounted in gold and hung from three small gold chains." (Lightbown p.98)

Bone

 Paternosters

Cameos

 Talisman/amulet

Carnelian (Cornelian)

Chalcedony

 Talisman/amulet

 Paternosters

Chrysolite

Chrysophase

Citrine Sapphire

Coral

 Paternosters

Crystal

 Paternosters

Diamond

 Talisman/amulet:

 Marbodus, Bishop of Rheims tells us in his late 11th century work, *Liber Lapidum*, that the diamond is invaluable to enchanter; those who carry it about with them acquire strength and power and are preserved from nightmares, shosts and poisons, from quarrels and from their enemies and cured of insanity. It should be set in gold and silver and worn on the left arm." (Lightbown p.97) Albert Magnus tells us in the circa 1260 *Book of Minerals* "the diamond's power is increased if it is mounted in gold or silver and steel, and magicians say that if bound on the left arm it is good against enemies, insanity, wild beasts, savage men, disputes, quarrels, poisons, and the assaults of ghosts and nightmares." (Lightbown p.97)

Emerald

Talisman/amulet:

Marbodus, Bishop of Rheims tells us in his late 11th century work, *Liber Lapidum*, that the emerald is good for those who wish to use it to scry into the future; to those who wear it reverently it gives wealth, and persuasive words in the case of lawsuits, as if it contained in itself some occult power of eloquence. Hung round the neck it cures the tertian fever called *emitreus*, and also the falling sickness. It soothes weary eyes by its green softness, and has the power to turn aside tempests, and to restrain the impulses of lust." (Lightbown p.97) Albert Magnus relates the identical qualities for this gemstone.

False Stones

Glass

Paste

Garnets

Glass

Marbodus, Bishop of Rheims warns the reader of his late 11th century work, *Liber Lapidum*, against the gems which "cunning fraud has learned to feign with treacherous glass." (Lightbown p. 17)

Horn

Intaglios

Jacinth

Jasper

Talisman/amulet

Maria of Hungary, the wife of Charles II of Naples left in her will of 1323 a record of a "stone of jasper mounted in gold which is good for clotting blood." (Lightbown p.98)

Paternosters

Jet

Paternosters

Lapis Lazuli

Mother of Pearl

Paternosters

Onyx

Paste

Pearls

Talisman/amulet

Rock Crystal (see Crystal)

Ruby

Sources: Egypt, Afganistan, Burma, India, Ceylon,

Talisman/amulet

Balas Ruby

Talisman/amulet

Spinel

Sapphire

Talisman/amulet:

Marbodus, Bishop of Rheims tells us in his 11th century work, *Liber Lapidum*, that is the best stone for kings to wear on their fingers. "It protects the body and keeps its members whole and unbroken; whoever wears it cannot be cheated, or overcome by envy or disturbed by fear. It can release captives from prison, and inclines god to hear favorably the prayers of the wearer. It promotes peace and reconciliation, is the best stone for divination by hydromancy. it arrests internal heat and excessive sweating and is good for ulcers, the eyes and headaches because of its cooling powers, and also cures the stammer. Finally whoever wears it will be entirely chaste." (Lightbown p.97) Albert Magnus tells us in the circa 1260 *Book of Minerals* "that it makes a man chaste, cools heat checks sweating, cures headache and pain, invigorates the body, promotes peace; it also makes men pious and devoted to God and confirms the mind in goodness." (Lightbown p.97) For these reasons it was the most popular stone for pendants and for use in ecclesiastical jewelry.

In 1398 Philipp of Burgundy purchased "a sky-blue sapphire which preserved from fire." (Lightbown p.98)

Topaz

Talisman/amulet:

The Tuscan poet Francesco da Barberino wrote in 1318-20 "that maidens should wear a topaz before marriage to help them preserve their chastity, for it checks the forces of their carnal desires." (Lightbown p.98)

Turquoise

It is found commonly in early medieval jewelry, less commonly in later.

Wood

Paternosters