

Peridot from Space!

Information about 4+ BILLION Year Old Meteoric Peridot

Extraterrestrial peridot is one of the extreme rarities in the world of colored gems. It is found in rare pallasite meteorites that were created at the beginning of our solar system, scientists say somewhere in outer space, around 4 1/2 BILLION years ago. Pallasites are composed of crystals of olivine (peridot) that is encased in a matrix of nickel-iron. Peridot is pronounced pair-uh-doe (not pair-uh-dot please!) It is the August birthstone.

Astrophysicists believe, that in the creation of pallasite meteorites, peridot crystals were mixed in with the molten nickel-iron when two planetoids or asteroids collided!! After that violent formation, then exploding in our atmosphere and finally impacting the earth, most crystals are so fractured they crumble to pieces if removed from the iron! That's why only a very few top quality meteoric peridot gems have ever been cut. Rick's "All Triangles" cut, shown below.

Even more rare, is extraterrestrial cat's-eye peridot. This extremely rare *chatoyant* or cat's-eye meteorite peridot was found by Rick in August 2006. An article about ET chatoyancy, showing a cat's-eye peridot, was published in the 2008 Summer issue of "Gems and Gemology" p. 177. A second recent article on lab identification of these crystals was published in the Fall issue, 2011.

After Rick's discovery and much research, Rick believes his cat's-eye peridot was the first extraterrestrial chatoyant gem to be cut. Ref "Gems and Gemology" Spring 1992. Samples were sent to astrophysical labs for research and analysis. The result is that this space peridot can now positively distinguished and identified as extraterrestrial in origin.

Stinson's ET gems are delivered with a signed and sealed Certificate of Authenticity (COA). Some larger gems have also been certified by independent gemological labs. Don't guess what is authentic! When it's time to sell, hand down or appraise, collectors, curators, jewelers and gem lovers throughout the world have depended on Stinson's assurance of authenticity, to be absolutely sure of what they are buying.



Rick and Steve with the pallasite that was just recovered



The 250 lb Pallasite Meteorite after being cleaned up



"All Triangles" Cut ET Peridot Gem

Right photo is one of the first faceted meteoric peridot gems that I cut; it weighs approx .53 carat. Left photo is Rick and Steve Arnold with a large 246 pound pallasite. Steve found it, and Rick enjoyed the once-in-a-lifetime experience of helping to dig it up. Being one of the first to see this 4+ BILLION year old treasure, that traveled our solar system before crashing into our tiny blue planet, was an indescribable feeling! A true gift from heaven. Center photo is the pallasite meteorite after being cleaned up some. The pockets of green are where some of the peridot crystals are on the surface.

Things to know about meteoric peridot faceted and cabochon gems:

Extraterrestrial peridot crystals often have an inclusion that is not found in earthly peridot. Some gems may show a chatoyancy or cat's-eye effect. That is the phenomenon that Rick found in 2006 when I cut what has become the first known cat's-eye extraterrestrial gem. It is a very humbling experience to be able to work with this incredible gem from space!

No matter whether meteoric or earthly in origin, peridot has a brittle character. It demands respect and TLC. While it is a suitable gem at 6.5 hardness and not overly heat sensitive, its brittle nature needs to be recognized and respected. Extraterrestrial peridot is so rare that it cannot easily be replaced.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Our gems are *all* delivered with Stinson's Certificate of Authenticity. Some of the larger gems have an additional independent lab report. These important documents provide verification of extraterrestrial origin and establish additional provenance of the gem.

In order to keep costs down we offer gems that are have not been sent in to a lab. That greatly reduces the price of our smaller gems.

When you buy from Stinson's, you are buying from the artist who actually recovers the crystals from the solid nickel-iron meteorite and then ALSO cuts the largest crystals into the gems we sell. No one else that we know of, controls both the recovery and the cutting and thus the quality! We strive to offer the very finest meteorite gems.

In addition to Rick's lapidary creativity, Linda carries the "Graduate Gemologist" title, which is GIA's highest educational level. Linda grades Stinson's gems with 35+ years of retail experience. The certificates we provide, are the solid foundation that establishes the important provenance, not only for the original creation of the gem, but also the concrete proof of authenticity. There is no "fine print" on our guarantee. Examine and return any gem in 7 days after receipt, for a full refund, absolutely no questions asked. Gem(s) must be returned undamaged and in the same condition as when sent.

If you have any comments or questions please email: stinsons@gemservice.com

SHIPPING

All ET peridot gems include FREE priority shipping in the USA. Overseas orders: inquire for shipping quote. Foreign customers are responsible for any customs fees, taxes, etc. We do NOT ship to SOME foreign countries, so you must inquire before paying anything! USPS Shipping Rates change often, and we do our best to charge actual shipping.

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