

The lore about turquoise

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June 1, 2009 - [PRLog](#) -- Turquoise jewelry has been unearthed in ancient Egyptian tombs. From the second ruler of Egypt's First Dynasty, approximately 5500 B.C., the four turquoise bracelets of Queen Zar were found on her mummified arm.

Aristotle and Pliny both refer to turquoise. Marco Polo even wrote about it. It has always been considered a stone of life.

Native Americans also have a long-standing history with turquoise. For over a thousand years they have used it extensively for protection and healing. This stone has also been a valuable part of Native American religion, art, trade, treaty negotiations - and their famed turquoise jewelry.

Turquoise's use as a healing stone reaches far. Headaches, eye problems, fever, and insect bites are just a few of the ailments for which it has been used. It has been ground to a powder to make an elixir for stomach trouble.

Turquoise is considered to possess significant metaphysical properties. It is a harmonizing stone that is said to alleviate nervousness, help with problem solving, relieve stress from a hectic life, and promote friendship. It is also well known for its protective qualities and members of many cultures carry a turquoise amulet or stone with them at all times.

Turquoise beads, and carved animal fetishes are frequently used in jewelry. It is beautiful combined with other stones such as onyx, amethyst, or coral. Its color ranges from brilliant sky blue to green or yellow, and it usually has black or brown veins running through it.

Turquoise jewelry is very popular set in sterling silver, because it enhances the stone's natural blues.

This gorgeous stone is found in many places around the world. In North America it occurs in the dry areas of Arizona and New Mexico. In the East it occurs in China, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Persia.

Because turquoise can be rather porous and chalky, it is often not useable for jewelry until it is treated.

There are various processes that are used on it.

Wax treatment is very common in Chinese turquoise. Paraffin wax is impregnated into the stone to deepen and stabilize the color, but it only affects the surface.

Stabilization is a treatment which uses a resinous substance in a process of pressure and heat that fills in the microscopic gaps in the stone with plastic resin. When cured, the product is a treated stone hard enough to cut and polish. Stabilization allows genuine but lower grade stones to be used in jewelry. It helps to keep the stone from chipping and prevents changes in color caused by contact with skin oils.

Reconstituted turquoise is made with ground turquoise from inferior stones that is molded together with epoxy resin, dyed and pressed into stone-like forms. They look good and are useable for jewelry, but lack the value of genuine stones.

Another process referred to as "block" is used to create loaf-sized blocks from a mixture of plastic resin and dyes. There is no actual turquoise in this mix; it is entirely manmade and should be labeled "simulated". It is made in many colors, and it is used extensively for inlay jewelry work.

So when in the market for turquoise jewelry, beads, or stones - be aware of what you are purchasing.

Simulated and natural stones can both be terrific, depending on your needs. Just be certain the product you purchase is priced according to its composition.

And enjoy participating in the multi-millennium fashion of turquoise jewelry!

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