



The Journal of **Gemmology**

2015 / Volume 34 / No. 5



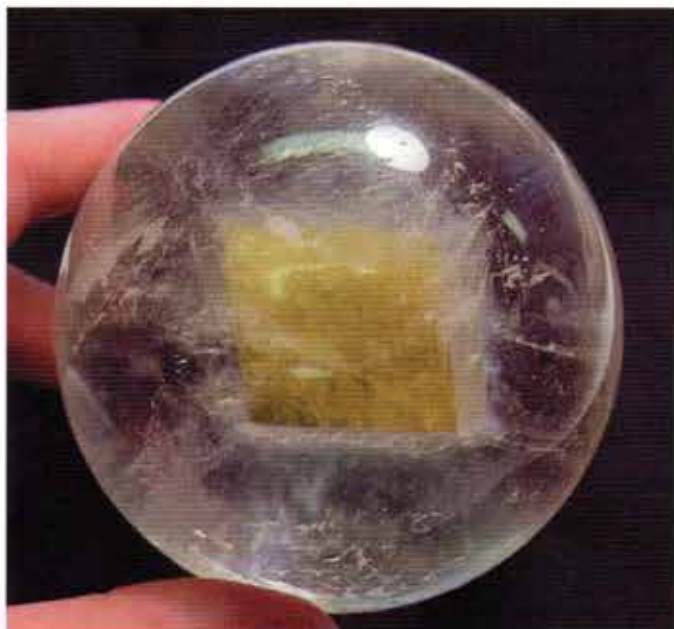


Figure 13: These two views of an 8.5-cm-diameter quartz sphere, reportedly from Brumado, Brazil, show a large well-formed inclusion that has the appearance of a carbonate mineral. Courtesy of James Zigras; photos by B. M. Laurs.

Reference

Barbosa C.P., Falster A.U., Simmons W.B., Webber K.L., Nizamoff J. and Gaines R.V., 2000. Minerals of

the Brumado magnesite deposits, Serra das Éguas, Bahia, Brazil. *Rocks & Minerals*, **75**(1), 32–39. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00357520009602572>.

'Zawadi' Sapphires

During the 2015 Tucson gem shows, Jeffery Bergman (Primagem, Bangkok, Thailand) had some attractive sapphires from a relatively new find in East Africa (most likely eastern Kenya). They were notable for their 'golden' sheen, and in some cases for their intricate network of dark linear patterns (see Figure 14 and the cover of this issue). He was selling them as 'Zawadi' sapphires (after the Swahili word meaning 'gift from the earth'). He indicated that most of the production occurred in early 2013, and his Bangkok-based supplier of the material has reportedly obtained over 20 tonnes of rough.

According to Bergman, about 20,000 carats have been cut so far. Since most of the material is opaque, the gems are typically cut with wide tables (commonly covered by checkerboard facets) and are oriented to best display the sheen. Faceted stones may weigh up to 100+ ct, although most are in the range of 0.50–10 ct with an emphasis on calibrated sizes for volume manufacturers. Numerous cabochons have also been cut in a variety of shapes. The material is reportedly not treated in any way.



Figure 14: The Zawadi sapphires shown here range from 5 to 20 ct. Most exhibit wide tables with checkerboard cuts to emphasize the 'golden' sheen. Photo by Jeffery Bergman.

The sheen displayed by Zawadi sapphire is somewhat reminiscent of black star sapphire from Thailand. However, the Zawadi material only occasionally shows asterism, and it derives its attractive appearance from the sheen combined with the dark patterns caused by fractures and polysynthetic twin planes in the corundum.

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