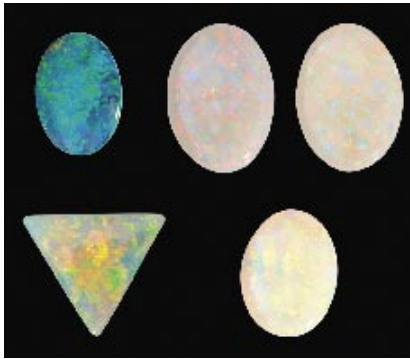


G.F.WILLIAMS Passionate about Gems

Opal, one of the classics! Its variety of rainbow colours gives it a well earned place among the top gemstones. Look for an even base material; avoid grey and sand marks visible from the top. The colour plays need to be evenly distributed and desirable red materials command a premium.



Jason Williams



On a recent visit to a Hong Kong based Chinese supplier, I was enquiring as to the difficulty in sourcing the blue/green crystal type material.

'Ahhh' he replies with a smile. *'Hard to get; now take whole piece'*. I clearly look puzzled.....

'I show, I show.'

He rummages into a large plastic bag partly filled with water and produces a selection of gently tapered tubes.

'Occapull tendills'

I am clearly showing no signs of comprehension so he repeats a little more animatedly *'occapull tendills, occapull tendills'*

He lays the tubes out in a bony line [as per the photograph] and waits for my impending enlightenment.

Eventually the penny drops, - Octopus tentacles. The lack of availability of 'blue green' is because the specimens are more valuable as intact complete specimens.

In reality this is unlikely, as the soft tissue of an octopus would be crushed by the material enclosing it. However if you look closely at the photograph below it is quite easy to make out the 2 shells and the smaller snail. This clearly showing opals organic heritage.



In the centre of the photograph is a more transparent specimen, this is a slice of 'tentacle' and shows the wonderful material within. During this 'education' I managed to secure some fine opals, including the beautiful distinctive triangle and a hard to find exquisite black. I hope this story enhances your opal 'experience' as it did ours, merry Xmas !

Jason Williams FGA DGA