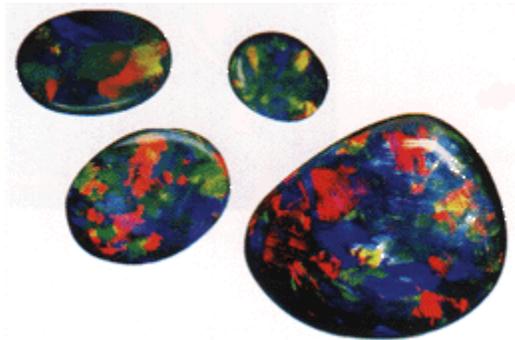


OPALS

Take a precious piece of Australia home..

Precious opal is unique; no two opals are exactly the same. The colours and patterns are always changing, making the opal a gem of infinite beauty.



Opal is defined as a hydrated form of silicon ($Si O_2, nH_2O$)

Australia produces over 90% of the world's supply of precious opal and 100% of the highest quality gems.

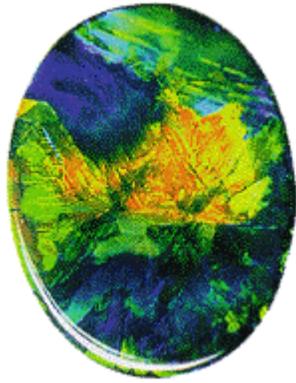
Many factors must be considered when valuing opal. Black or dark opal is in general more valuable than light opal. The intensity or brilliance of colour is of most importance. The finest of opals are maximum brightness and clarity. There should be an even play of colour all over the stone with no patches of colourless opal. For the highest value, all colours should be present, especially red which is the rarest. The stones should be free from obvious flaws on the face of the opal. Marks on the base usually have no effect on price.



Rudi Cherny & John D Altmann, partners in Altmann & Cherny Pty Ltd examining their purchase of the largest opal find made in Australia since 1946 (Photo 1956).

TYPES OF OPAL

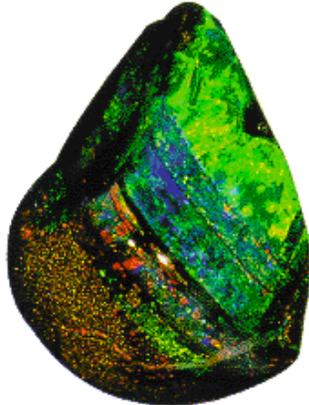
Precious opal is classified on the basis of the background colour and the type of colour pattern



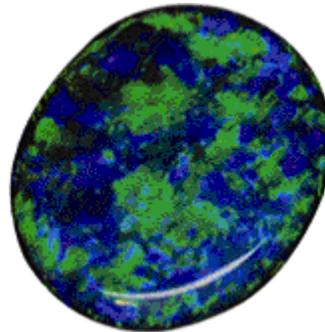
Black Opal is precious opal showing a play of spectral colours in dark body.



Light, Fire or Crystal Opal is precious opal with a body colour ranging from milky white to translucent.



Boulder Opal can be light or dark opal found in veins of ironstone.



Doublets are made by gluing slices of precious opal to a black backing. The dark backing enhances the colours of the opal. **Triplets** are made by adding a clear protective cap of quartz or crystal glass to a doublet.



THE AURORA AUSTRALIS

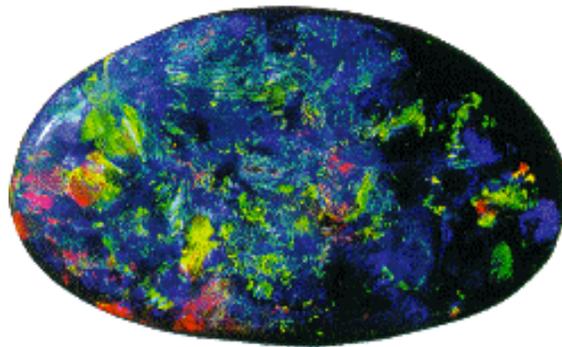
The “Aurora Australis” was found in 1938 at Lightning Ridge, New South Wales. Dug from an old sea-bed it has the distinctive impression of a star fish on its back.

Altmann & Cherny purchased the opal in a semi-rough state (a rub). They cut and polished the opal into its oval shape. Realising what a true gem they had, they named it “the Aurora Australis “ after the bright southern lights in the night sky.

The opal has a harlequin pattern with dominant, red, green and blue colours on a black background.

The rarity of the opal comes from its size and strong, vibrant colour play. It weighs 180 carats and its dimensions are 3 inches x 1.8 inches. It is valued at AUD\$1,000,000.

“The Aurora Australis” is owned by [Altmann and Cherny](#) and is on permanent display in our **Sydney showroom at 19 - 31 Pitt Street, Sydney.**



AURORA AUSTRALIS
The world's most valuable black opal
on view at our Sydney showroom

THE OLYMPIC AUSTRALIS

This unique opal was found in August 1956 at the “Eight Mile” opal field in Coober Pedy, South Australia.

A miner working his claim found the opal at a depth of 30 feet. In honour of the Olympic Games, which were being held in Melbourne at the time, he named it “Olympic Australis”.

This extraordinary opal consists of 99% gem opal with an even colour throughout the stone. The balance of 1% being the remaining soil still adhering to it. It is the largest and most valuable gem opal ever found. It weighs 17,000 carats (3450 grams) and is 11 inches long (280 mm), with a height of 4¾ inches (120 mm) and a width of 4½ inches (115 mm). It is valued at AUD\$2,500,000

Due to the purity of the opal it is anticipated that upwards of 7000 carats could be cut from the piece. However owing to it’s uniqueness, the opal will remain exactly as found.

The “Olympic Australis” has had articles published about it in many countries. It is also featured in numerous tourist publications pertaining to Australia.

This extraordinary gem opal is housed in a special security safe at [Altmann & Cherny's](#) showroom, **128 Exhibition Street, Melbourne** and may be viewed during showroom hours.



OLYMPIC AUSTRALIS

The world's largest and most valuable gem opal on view at Altmann & Cherny