

done with a sapphire point, but in the fifth century wheel-work begins to appear. In the sixth century B. C. cylinders begin to be partially replaced by cone-shaped seals, and by the scaraboid forms introduced from Egypt. From the third century B. C. to the third century A. D. the seals become lower and flatter, and finally graduate into rings, mostly with Persian or Sassanian characters. Although in part made from the stones of the neighboring hills, yet rarer materials begin to appear—evidently obtained by trade with Egypt and other countries more or less remote.

In addition to the minerals mentioned above, the following are recognized: clear, pellucid quartz, amethyst, agates of various colors, lapis-lazuli from Bodakshan in Turkestan, amazon-stone, possibly of Egyptian origin, calcite, green and white and in the form of various marbles, aragonite, gypsum, syenite and jade.

It is hoped that further study may enable us to trace these minerals to their original localities with greater certainty.

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