

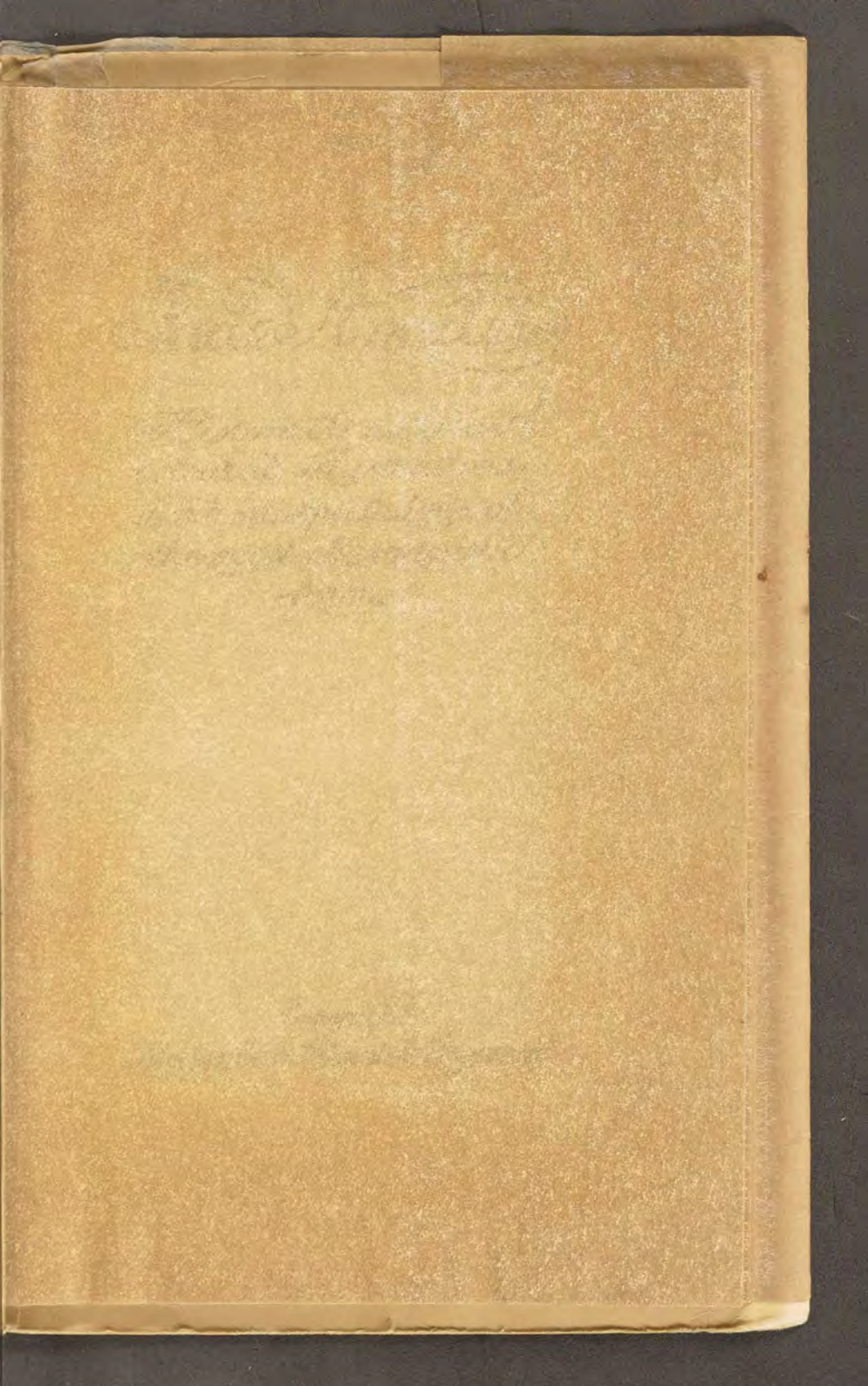


Jade Amulet

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Scarce
liberty item
ca. 1919



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Jade Amulets

*Historical notes with
coloured illustrations
and interpretations of
the most characteristic
forms.*

Copyright
Liberty & Co. Ltd Regent St. London W.1.

James Smith

My dear Mother
I received your kind
letter of the 10th and
was glad to hear
from you

Yours affectionately
James Smith



LIBERTY & CO. have on
view in their Jewelry Show-
rooms,

Tudor Building,

a unique selection of Jade Amulets
and Beads of rare colouring and
carving. . . . These examples have
been collected in remote localities of
China and include some of the finest
and most beautiful specimens seen
in the Western World

A visit is invited

... of the ...
... of the ...
... of the ...

Table of Contents

A general description of Lake ...
and ... of the ... and
... These ... have
... collected in ...
... of the ...
... specimens seen
in the ...

A ...



JADE is the ideal stone for jewelry, for, in addition to being extremely hard, its fibrous structure renders it the toughest of all the hard stones. The Chinese long ago discovered this, and have always regarded it as the most precious gift the Immortals have given to man. In Jade work, as in porcelain, to them belongs all the honour of having perfected the art in both, and for this reason we have obtained from them the following information on Jade, which we think will be useful to those who take an interest in this most fascinating of minerals.



Two-colour Jade Amulet.



Mandarin Button carved to represent a
tiger's head.
Chou Dynasty B.C. 1169-B.C. 255.



Earliest type of tomb jade found.



Carving representing the dragon's son who
resembles a tortoise and guards the tombs.
Sung Dynasty A.D. 960-A.D. 1280.

HISTORICAL. Occasionally when excavating in China, oblong pieces of Jade of dark brown colour are found. These are the oldest in existence and were probably worn as jewels, but there are no records to tell us who worked them. Chinese tradition states that when the Immortals formed the earth they rained down these pieces to give it virtue ; and as they are said to bring long life to the wearer, they are worn as amulets by elderly people.

Worked Jade is found in the old tombs of the Chou dynasty, and so is about 3,000 years old. This Jade is a russet brown, and is believed to have once been white, but has been turned to this colour partially by the decomposition of the corpse with which it was buried, and also by the ingredients of the soil.

Experiments have been made to prove this in Peking, and it was found that white Jade when buried with a dead dog was, after 10 years, slightly discoloured.

when existing in China, and is found in large pieces of jade of various colors and forms. These are the most valuable and were probably worn as ornaments, but there are no records of any who worked them. Chinese tradition states that when the immortals covered the earth they raised down these pieces to give it virtue, and as they are said to bring long life to the wearer, they are worn as amulets by Chinese people.

There is a large piece of the old tomb of the Ming dynasty, and so is about 3000 years old. This jade is a lesser brown, and is believed to have once been white, but has been turned to this colour probably by the decomposition of the surface into which it was buried, and by the ingredients of the soil.

Experiments have been made to give this in color, and it was found that white jade when buried with a dead dog was white to nearly slightly discolored.



THESE pieces of Jade were interred with the corpse in the Chou dynasty for symbolic reasons, in the same way as we place wreaths and crosses of flowers on the coffins of our dead. The mouth of the corpse was also closed with pieces of Jade, which were generally carved in the form of a Cicada.

The Chinese often refer to this Jade as "han Jade," meaning "mouth Jade." This has led to confusion, as many Europeans, with little or no knowledge of the language, have concluded that the Jade was worked in the Han dynasty. As the symbolism of the Chou Jade appeals only to the learned and is not very attractive in colour, it is worn almost entirely by the savants and the aristocracy. Good decorative pieces, such as hair ornaments and bracelets, were made in the Sung dynasty, but afterwards the work declined until the reign of the Emperor Kein-lung. As the name of the Emperor Kang-hsi is always associated with the best porcelain so Kein-lung's influence is responsible for the most beautiful work ever executed in Jade.

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at the close of the Ming dynasty.
The jade was used in the same way
as in the Chin dynasty and the same
symbolism was attached to it.



Amulet carved to represent lion, lioness and young lions. The lion or tiger denoted mandarin rank.



Amulet carved to represent bamboo meaning "ever flourish." Fungus meaning "long life" and a duck for a happy marriage.

HE Emperor himself seems to have had a preference for the pure white variety, probably because it showed off the delicate low relief carving better than the coloured Jade. Many short verses he composed were carved on small Jade tablets about one inch by two inches, and were given away by him as marks of favour. On one side the poem was carved in low relief while the reverse was carved to illustrate it. By the Emperor's example this became quite a general practice, and many of these beautiful tablets can be obtained. Any signed by Tsze-Kong, the renowned artist in Jade, are probably the Emperor's own poems, as this great craftsman was employed by him.

Decorative Jade temperance badges were also worn at this time to denote that the wearer drank no wine or ate no meat.

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Decorative jade inscriptions
badges were also worn at this time
to denote rank. The words "rank" and
"inscriptions" were also used.



COLOUR Jade is divided into two varieties, which differ slightly in their chemical composition, and are known as Jadeite (silicate of sodium and aluminium) and nephrite (silicate of calcium and magnesium). The green of nephrite is usually a grey green or celadon colour. The beautiful bright apple green as well as the lavender colour are only found in Jadeite. The clear pink stone prized next to Jade by the Chinese is sometimes known by Europeans as "pink Jade." It is not Jade, being a pink variety of tourmaline called rubellite.

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 feldspar called rosealite.





Ring.




Ring.



Three-colour bracelet.



Type of Chinese Jade rings and bracelet.

ADE is found in different tints of white, green, yellow, red, brown, grey, blue, lavender, and black. Green is the most valuable and should be clear and brilliant ; in fact, if a piece of Jade and an emerald were both cut " en cabachon " and placed side by side they should both look alike. Such Jade is extremely valuable and only found in small pieces, but the nearer it approaches to this standard the greater is its value. Black is generally regarded as a defect. Lavender is rare and prized when occurring with green and white. The Jade worked in Pekin is a bright green, with a dense white, and has little brilliancy. That worked in Canton is clearer and of a better quality. As a rule, the designs of the Pekinese craftsmen are curious and interesting, while the designs of the Cantonese are often direct transcripts from nature.

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Illustration A.

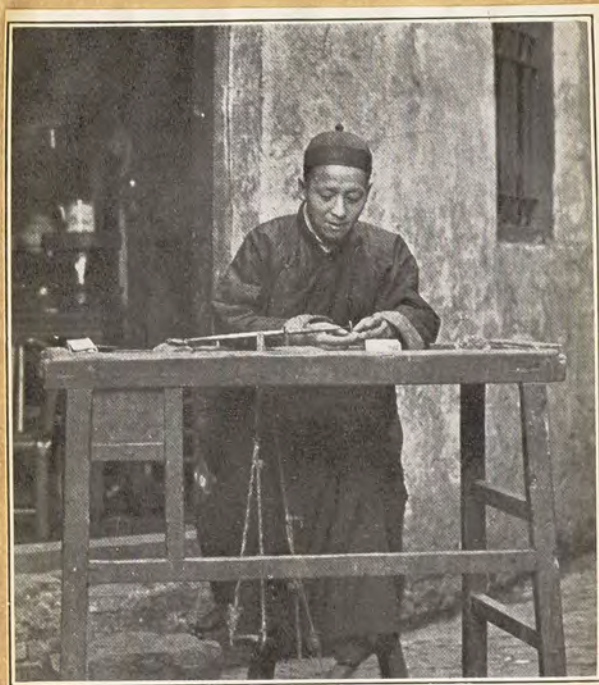


Illustration B.



CARVING. Jade comes from the quarry in large white pieces, and these have to be cut up to discover if any of them contain pieces of good colour. Owing to its extreme hardness Jade cannot be cut with steel, so the cutting has to be done with sapphires crushed up into fine powder. This powder, when wetted, is constantly applied to a large revolving wheel, which enables the Jade to be cut (illustration A). Having discovered a suitable piece, the workman cuts it down to the required size, and then with a brush sketches out the design on the stone. (Illustration B) shows the cutter proceeding with the second part of the process, which consists of working the wet powder by means of revolving small wheels and pencil-pointed tools into the Jade in order to do the intricate portions of the carving.

Should any holes required to be bored, they are done by means of a drill with a diamond or sapphire point, which is made to revolve by working a bow quickly to and fro.

The polishing is first done by means of wheels and pencil-shaped tools coated with fine powder and wax, and worked, while revolving, all over the carving. Sometimes this results in a good deal of the detail being lost, which often has to be restored after the polishing is done. The final finish is then done by working a revolving bamboo, covered with leather, all over the carving.

The carving of jade is a laborious process. It should, however, be noted that the carving of green and white jade is working which the carver does not do his best work, and as the eye colours are naturally, the work is not a very exacting one.

The working of jade into articles calls for a number of opportunities for the display of artistic craftsmanship, for the article is of considerable value if worked from a piece of jade of two or three inches long

The following is a list of the
 names of wheels and parts upon
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 wax and worked with revolving, all
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 The final finish is then done by work-
 ing a revolving barometer forward with
 a brush, all over the coating.



AMULETS. When a Jade amulet is carved in relief the amulet is a Jade cameo.

It does not matter if the Jade is all green or all white, it is still a cameo if it contains carving in relief.

Should the amulet be of two colours which have been made use of on the design the amulet is a two-colour cameo. For example—an amulet with carving in relief of green leaves with a white flower would be a two-colour cameo. Should, however, the relief carving be on a piece of green and white Jade in working which the carver has not, in his design, made use of the two colours separately, the piece is not a two-colour cameo.

The working of Jade into amulets calls forth unlimited opportunities for the display of artistic craftsmanship, for an amulet is of considerable value if worked from a piece of Jade of two or three different

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piece of Jade of two or three different



Two-colour Jade Amulet.



Two-colour Jade Amulet.

colours, which are made use of in the design ; thus an amulet may represent green lotus leaves on which sits a yellow frog, while the piece is crowned with lotus flowers of a beautiful lavender colour shading off into white. Such an amulet would be known as a "four-colour cameo."

When the design is incised carving the amulet is a Jade intaglio. This form of carving is usually met with on seals and is seldom found in Chinese amulets.

When the amulet is carved in the form of a model of the subject it can be called a sculptured amulet. These often take the form of one of the Immortals holding, for instance, a bunch of flowers and is, in fact, a miniature statue.

Some of the amulets carved in the time of the Emperor Kein-lung are fine examples of this type of work.

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Some of the amulets carved in the form of the Emperor Kwan-lung are fine examples of the type of work.

Amulets were worn until a few years ago, and were suspended with a fine silk cord, enriched with seed pearls, from a button on the shoulder. Usually they were given as presents, and with a symbol-loving people like the Chinese were, of course, used to convey pleasant wishes. The following list explains the meaning of some of the usual forms :—

BAMBOO. This being a brilliant green all the year, means continual prosperity.

BAT. By a pun on the Chinese word, fu, this may be understood to mean happiness.

BOTTLE GOURD. As the immortal Tieh - Kuai - Si keeps the elixir which cures all complaints in a bottle gourd, the gift of one expresses a wish that the receiver should be free from illness.

...
 years ago, and were scolded with
 a fine silk cord, outdied with seed
 pearls, from a button on the shoulder.
 Usually they were given as presents
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 convey pleasant wishes. The follow-
 ing list explains the meaning of
 some of the usual forms.

THE BAMBOO. This being a
 perennial green all the year,
 means continual prosperity.
THE PINE. It is one of the Chinese
 words in this case, and
 stood for good happiness.
BOTTLE GOURD. As the
 Chinese, T'ou - K'ou - Si
 keeps the rind which criss-
 crosses in a bottle gourd, the
 gift of one expresses a wish that the
 receiver should be free from illness.

CAT. An animal said to bring wealth. Two cats when placed head to tail represent the mystic symbol "Ying and Yang." If of two different colours, especially lucky, as the amulet represents the union of opposites, bringing great prosperity and good luck.

CITRON. Owing to the shape, this fruit is sometimes called "Buddha's hand." As a gift, it conveys the wish that the Immortals shall bless the receiver.

CHAN. Frog with three legs. Once a beautiful woman, so transformed for having stolen the elixir of life. The ornament is to remind women that they must be punished if they interfere in matters not belonging to them. A favourite form of toy for Chinese children.

CRANE. By a pun on the word, it may mean "long life."

AT AN IMMENSE DISTANCE
worth. I am only when
placed head to tail together



sent the mystic symbol "Yang and
Yin." It of two different colours
essentially lacks as the symbol repre-
sents the union of opposites being
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recipient will bless the receiver.

HAN. They with their legs
Once a beautiful woman
so renowned for having



stolen the cloth of the. The story
that is so much women that they
must be punished if they continue in
matters not belonging to them. A
favourite form of toy for Chinese
children.

IRANE. By a gun in the
word it may mean "long
life."



DEER. By a pun on the word, it may mean "honoured success."

DISC WITH PELLETS IN RELIEF. An amulet to keep away evil spirits. An entrance door is often covered with large headed bronze nails for this purpose.

DRAGON. Until the end of the Ming dynasty the dragon was represented somewhat like a salamander, and was the symbol of military authority. When the Manchus seized the throne the dragon, the Imperial emblem, was represented with horns and a ferocious appearance.

DUCK. Wishes for a happy marriage. Conjugal fidelity.

... by a ...
it may mean "honoured
..."



... WITH BELLETS IN
RELIEF. An ...
keep away evil spirits. An
... is often covered with
large washed brown nails for this
purpose.



... YAGON. Until the end of
the Ming dynasty the
dragon was represented
somewhat like a snake-headed
and was the symbol of military authority.
When the Manchus seized the
throne the dragon the Imperial
crown was represented with horns
and a tortoise appeared.



... Wishes for a happy
... Confucius.








Jade Amulet.




Sculptured two-colour Amulet. White boy standing on a black sea dragon.

ENG HUANG BIRD OR PHOENIX. A mythical bird somewhat like a pheasant and only seen at the birth of a distinguished person. It is the guardian of virtuous maidens. As a wedding emblem it represents the bride, and the dragon the bridegroom.

UNGUS. Emblem of long life.

REAT BEAR CONSTELLATION. As the spirit of Life is supposed to dwell in this constellation, it sometimes appears on amulets. The spirit of death dwells in the Southern Cross.

ORSE BEE AND MONKEY. By a pun on the Chinese words, it may be understood as "quickly become a Duke," thus expressing a wish that the receiver should quickly obtain the honours which he deserves.

鳳凰 鳴 鳥 或
 PHENIX A mythical bird
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 DRAGON AND PHENIX
 Emblem of long
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 LATION. As the spirit of
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 death dwells in the Southern Cross.





大 門 鎖
 GREAT DOOR KEY. A key on the
 Chinese sword may be
 understood as "open" or "close"
 "lock", thus expressing a wish that
 the wearer should thereby obtain
 the honour which he desires.




U-I. A sceptre in shape, being an elongated pentagon about 12 inches long and 3 inches wide. The symbol of civic authority.

HING. A piece of metal shaped like a carpenter's square and used as a bell in the temples. By a pun of the word, it may mean "luck."

Y-LIN. The Chinese unicorn, with a body like a water buffalo, head like a dragon and tail like a Pekinese dog. A benevolent animal, having the power to bring sons to any family who desires them.

AGPIE. In China this is called "the Bird of Joy."

ATAL ANIMALS. The Chinese do not record years in centuries but in "cycles" or periods of sixty years, which are again divided into periods of twelve years, each year being represented by an animal. In correct order these animals are as follows :

... of the ...
 ... in ...
 ... is ...
 ... The ...
 ...

... A piece of metal ...
 ... like a ...
 ... and ...
 ... the ...
 ...

... The Chinese ...
 ... with a ...
 ... has a ...
 ... and ...
 ... the ...
 ... to ...
 ...

... in ...
 ... "the ...
 ...

... THE ...
 ... in ...
 ... of ...
 ... into ...
 ... years ...
 ... in ...
 ...

NO. 1, Rat; 2, Ox; 3, Tiger;
4, Rabbit; 5, Dragon;
6, Snake; 7, Horse;
8, Sheep; 9, Monkey; 10, Fowl;
11, Dog; 12, Pig. A Chinaman born in
the sheep year will prefer that any
great events which will affect him
personally should, if possible, take
place in a sheep year. It also is an
influence in the selection of a wife,
for he would run considerable risk if
he married a lady born in the tiger
year. These animals are worn as
amulets, but they are only lucky if
worn by a person born in the year to
which they refer. The year 1919 is the
year of the sheep, and counting back-
wards from this you will be able to
discover your lucky animal. It is
interesting to know that the Chinese
is the longest unbroken chrono-
logical period on record, dating from
2637 B.C., and that the year 1919 is
the 56th year of the 76th cycle.

PARROT. An emblem of
happiness.

PEACHES. The fruit on the tree of life is a peach, which has led to it being looked upon as an emblem of longevity.

PEONY. This flower is the emblem of Fa Na Fo Tsze, and is said to bring wealth.

POMEGRANATE. This fruit contains beautiful seeds, and means "May you have many children."

PRUNUS BLOSSOM. This is the first of all flowers, and is the most welcomed, as it heralds the coming of Spring. A present for a lady.



SQUIRREL and FRUIT.

Referred to by Chinese as "the little foxes which steal the grapes," which might be taken as a quotation from the Songs of Solomon. The Songs of Solomon, however, were probably taken from the Amorites, who in turn took them from the Babylonians. This design was first introduced into China about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, when bronze mirrors were imported from Persia, which were often decorated with this design.



HUNDER CLOUD. Emblem of benevolence.



TWO FISH. Wishes for a happy marriage.

The design was first introduced
 into China about 1800 by the
 Jesuits who were missionaries
 from the Papal States. It was
 then carried to the East Indies
 by the Portuguese. The design
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BEADS. The official string of beads of a Chinese mandarin originated from the Buddhists' rosary, and for this reason it contains 108 beads, representing the 108 saints. The beads are divided by 3 large beads and attached to the string are three smaller strings each of 10 beads, and also a centre plaque and pendant. The beads are worn with the plaque and pendant hanging down the back. It was introduced into China by the Manchus. To break the string is considered the most unlucky thing that could happen to the owner. Small strings consisting of about 75 graduated beads, often converted by Europeans into necklaces, are intended by the Chinese to be used as head ornaments for women.

L. W. C. L.

The beads are made of a hard wood
 and are of various sizes. They are
 made by cutting a piece of wood
 into a long thin strip and then
 cutting it into small beads. The
 beads are then polished and
 strung on a cord. They are used
 for making necklaces and bracelets.
 The beads are also used for
 making prayer beads. The beads
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J. W. D. S.

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of thought
and

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Regent St London
and Paris

