

descends from the mountains towards the middle of the island : Some few are also found in the ground.

The Rubies of Ceylon are ordinarily brighter, and more beautiful than those of Pegu ; but they are rare, the king of Ceylon prohibiting his people to gather them, or traffic with them.

There are Rubies also found in Europe, particularly in Bohemia and Hungary, especially in the former, where there is a mine of flints of divers sizes, which upon breaking are sometimes found to contain Rubies, as fine and hard as any of the East.

The value of Rubies, from one carat or four grains, is reckoned in Dictionaire de Commerce as follows :

	l.	s.	d.
A Ruby of one carat is worth	1	15	0
— two carats	9	0	0
— three carats	22	10	0
— four carats	33	15	0
— five carats	45	0	0
— six carats	67	10	0
— seven carats	84	0	0
— eight carats	106	0	0
— nine carats	150	0	0
— ten carats	216	0	0

Rubies are usually distinguished into two kinds, the balasse and spinelle ; but there are some authors who distinguish them into four kinds, viz. the Ruby, rubicelle, balasse, and spinelle.

It is their different degrees of colour that make their different value and beauty.

The balasse Ruby is of a vermeil rose-colour ; the spinelle of a flame colour.

It is said that the inhabitants of Pegu have the art of heightening the redness and brilliant of Rubies, by laying them in the fire, and giving them a certain degree of heat.

The Ruby is formed in a stony substance, or marcasite of a rose-colour, called mother of Ruby ; it has not all its colour and lustre at once, but they come to it by degrees. At the first it grows whitish, and, as it approaches to maturity, becomes red. Hence it comes to pass, that we have white Rubies ; others half white, half red ; others blue and red, called sapphire Rubies.

When a Ruby exceeds twenty carats, it may be called a car-buncle.

There are several manners of counterfeiting Rubies ; and some have carried the imitation so far as to deceive the most able lapidaries.

To make oriental RUBIES. The Ruby, which is a precious stone, diaphanous and very radiant, ought to have the colour of blood