

# The Most Beautiful Shade of Blue

By Dawn Hamman



Commemorative, 1953, photogravure.

A recent article in the New York Times reported that all over the world blue is the most favored color. When I received a beautiful sapphire ring, it led me on a quest to find out more about the gemstone that is the gorgeous shade of blue we often call cornflower.

Sapphire is a precious gemstone...



2020

...a variety of the mineral corundum.



2012

It is remarkably hard, third after diamonds and moissanite, a gemstone that resembles diamonds.



German Federal Republic, 2012, semi-postal, lithography.

Souvenir sheet, lithography.



There are two gem varieties of corundum, sapphires and rubies.



The best quality ones come from Kashmir, Burma, Sri Lanka and Madagascar. They are made into precious jewelry.



2015 lithography



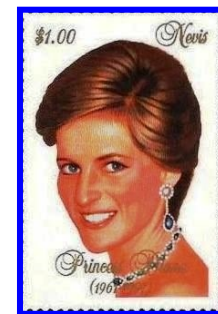
USSR, 1971 lithography

Sapphire is often associated with royalty, as many members of European royalty wear it often...



2006, 80th birthday, lithography

...which is why it is called, "Royal Blue."



1997, year of her death, lithography.

If you look around, you may find this beautiful shade of blue in other places...



1972, lithography



2007, lithography