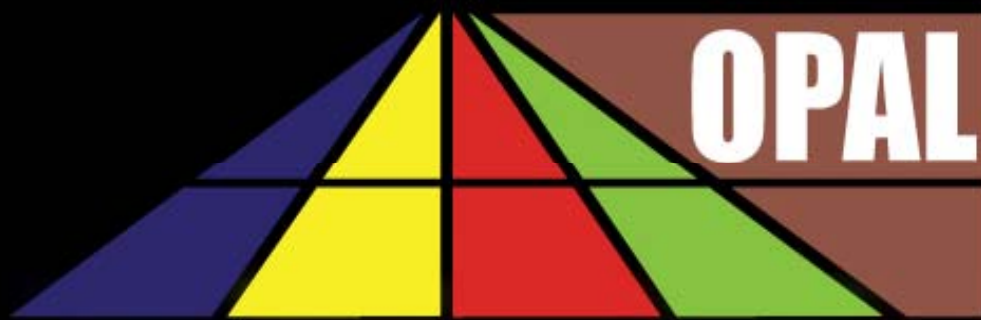




An Opal Grading System

The Foundation of a New Direction





OPAL

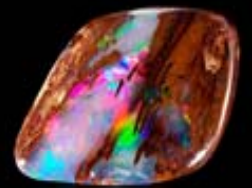
HORIZON

LIMITED

1991-1992
1993-1994
1995-1996

The Authors

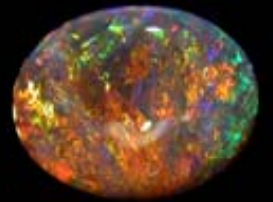
- **Roy Beattie** QDA(hons), FGAA, Dip DT, registered valuer Q133
- **Kevin Blackman**, BA, FGAA,
- **Helen Levonis**, BA, FGAA, Dip Dt, registered valuer Q110



Why A Grading System?

“Indeed the great attraction of precious opal is its variability; the great distraction of precious opal is its variability.”

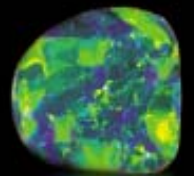
--Roy Beattie



The Challenge

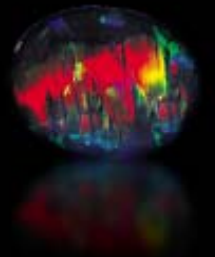
The grading process must be:

1. Comprehensive
2. Quantifiable results
3. Consistent, re-creatable
4. Simple to use
5. Easy to understand & intuitive



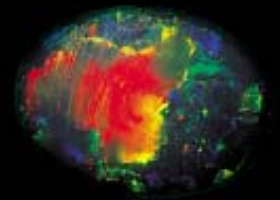
An Overview

- Applies only to natural precious opal
- Three evaluative criteria
- Each graded on a 100 point scale
- Five quality grades
- Uses established nomenclature



The 3 C's

- **Category**
 - Type of natural precious opal
- **Color**
 - Range of Color features
- **Cut**
 - Type and quality of cut

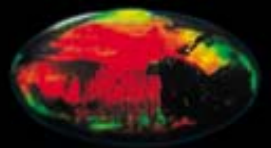


Category

Category

Maximum Points For Each

- Type 1
 - Solid opal—all opal (Black) 100 points
 - Solid opal—all opal (Light) 90 points
- Type 2
 - boulder opal—opal on host rock 95 points
- Type 3
 - matrix opal—opal in host rock 75 points
 - Pipe opal— sub category

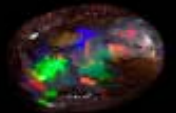


Color

Color Attributes

Maximum Points for Each

- Opal Face 10 points
- Body tone— back ground Color 10 points
- Play of Color— spectral Colors 20 points
- Brightness— intensity of play of Color 20 points
- Pattern— description, size of Color patches 20 points
- Directionality— viewing direction of Color 15 points
- Special attributes— rare patterns or body Color 5 points



Cut

Attributes

- Style
- Dimensions
- Weight (carats)

Maximum Points For Each

Fixed

Fixed

Fixed

Quality of Cut

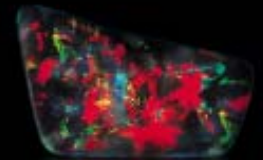
- Finish & Polish
- Ease of setting
- Symmetry/Balance
- Free from defects

30 points

30 points

20 points

20 points



Five Quality Grades

3C Grade

285-300

240-284

180-239

90-179

<90

Quality Grade

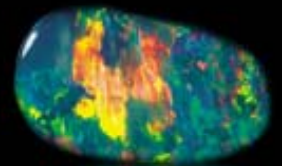
Exceptional Gem Opal

Fine Gem Opal

Gem Opal

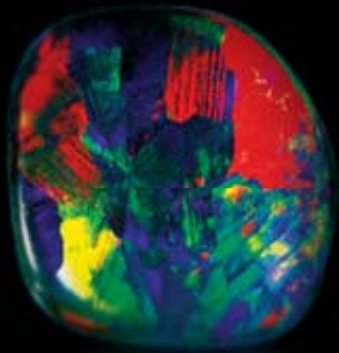
Commercial Opal

Promotional Opal



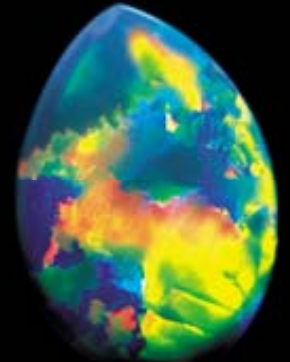
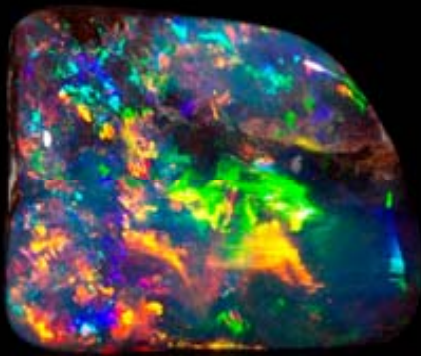
Exceptional Gem Opal

- **Exceptional Gem Opal**
 - Very bright, full spectral play of Color
 - Gemstone of exceptional quality and very high visual impact



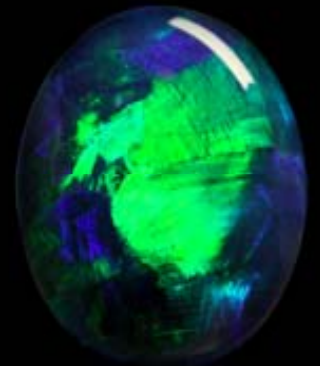
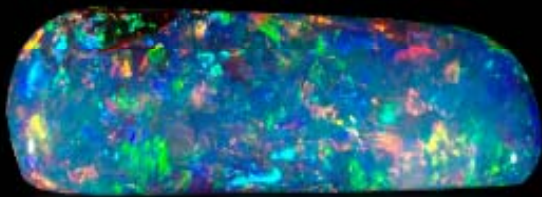
Fine Gem Opal

- **Fine Gem Opal**
 - Bright to very bright, full spectral play of Color
 - Gemstone of high quality and high visual appeal



Gem Opal

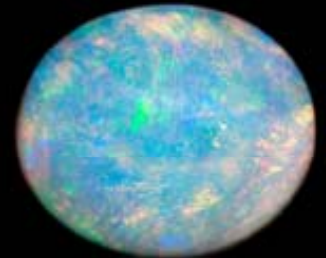
- **Gem Opal**
 - Bright, variable Color range
 - Gemstone of very good quality and good visual appeal



Commercial & Promotional Opal

- **Commercial Opal**
 - Subdued to bright, variable Color range
 - Gemstone of moderate quality and appeal

- **Promotional**
 - Subdued, variable Color range and distribution
 - Low quality and impact



Summary

- Evolution of other evaluative programs
- Provides comparative frame of reference
- Easily understood classifications & grades
- A comprehensive and universal system
- Promote confidence & transparency



Questions and Answers

- We are encouraging your input to meet these aims
- Questions Please!

