

Ask the
GEMOLOGIST[®]

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THE BURNING-SUNSET GEMSTONE

A few decades ago, East African miners in search of the purplish-pink garnet known as rhodolite instead happened upon a strange reddish-orange garnet that was mixed in with pink garnet. Seeing as there was no immediate market for the gemstone, the miners dismissed it and nicknamed it "Malaya," which means "outcast." In time, however, this beautiful gemstone could not help but be noticed by German and American buyers. After that, "Malaya garnet" developed a passionate following, and prices began to soar. Gemologists recognized it as a new breed of garnet: part grossular, pyrope, almandine, and spessartite, which led some to label it pyralspite. Whatever name

it goes by, there is no doubting the burning red-orange intensity of this remarkable find.

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