

The name *Asteria* applied by me to a certain variety of Quartz, will require some explanation, as individual opinions are somewhat diversified on this point. I will endeavour to give my reasons for adhering to this name. I have been informed by one scientist that I could call these gems *Asteriated Quartz*, but not *Quartz Asteria*, which certainly seems to me a distinction without a difference.

Pliny described the Star Sapphire under the name "*Asteria*." This latter name is still retained to designate varieties of *Asteriated Corundum*, such as the *Sapphire Asteria*, *Ruby Asteria*, *Topaz Asteria*, etc. I think we may safely infer that the word *Asteria* was used to particularize a variety depending on physical properties, which were then known to occur only in the corundum mineral, and as *Cats-eyes* are described under Quartz by many authors, when the real stone is *Chrysoberyl*, *Asteria* applied to Quartz would be no more misleading. Emmanuel says the Quartz *Cats-eyes* are frequently confounded by jewellers with the true or *Chrysoberyl Cats-eye*, which they persist in calling the *Chrysolite Cats-eye*. The *Corundum Asterias* or star stones are peculiar to Ceylon. By skilful cutting the natives produce a star of six rays, which by sunlight or artificial light is vividly shown. A top light is best to judge them by. Fine stones command a high price.

Dr. Feuchtwanger says that certain translucent varieties of Sapphire, when cut convex, and when the principal axis of the crystal stands perpendicular to the base of the convex cut stone a white light running in six rays, resembling three white planes or stripes crossing one another at one point is seen.

We feel assured as the properties of the Canadian *Asteria* become better known to jewellers and others, and the prejudice against its being Canadian is overlooked we shall have more admirers of this handsome gem. It compares in some way with the Ceylonese Moonstone, but is much harder and will retain its polish much longer, and on the other hand the Moonstone does not come within the category of true gems.

Probably if these stones had been introduced by some organized ring as new Ceylonese gems and high prices asked for them, they would have been held in higher estimation by some persons. Take for instance the Moonstone, above referred to, which material is far more plentiful, and more easily cut and polished and cheap enough in its