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Makers Mark

GALLERY

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You may have just heard of briolettes,
(faceted droplets with a tiny hole allowing them to
swing) but they have been around for centuries.

While no one is quite sure how long they have
been made, the first historical record dates from the 1600s,
when a French jeweller and traveller named Tavernier brought
some briolettes back from his travels in India.

Since then briolettes have been favoured by royalty from
Louis IV to Marie Antoinette to the royal family of England.

Like so many ancient arts, however it was pushed aside in the wake of the
Industrial Revolution, when gem cutters abandoned historic cuts in favour
of the precursors to the modern table-crown-pavilion cuts we see today.

It wasn't until the Victorian and Art Deco periods that briolettes
rose to prominence again, only to fade with the depression and post World
War 11 years of the 20th century.

Now with the arrival of the millennium and a renewed appreciation for
history, briolettes are on the rise again. Our selection (like Tavernier's)
are also from India from our friends at Universal Gems who very early
in the piece introduced us to these sparkling cuts long before
any dealers in Australia had again warmed to their presence.

*Barbara Heath
Briolettes*