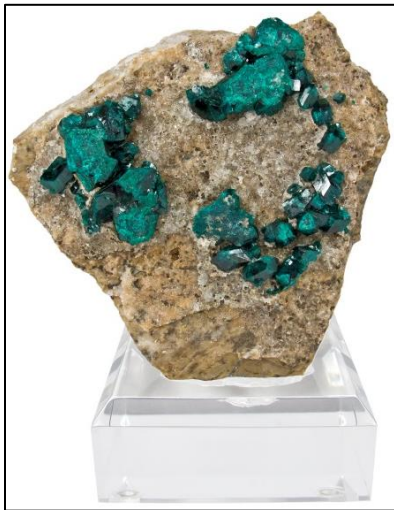


Dioptase [CuSiO₂(OH)₂]

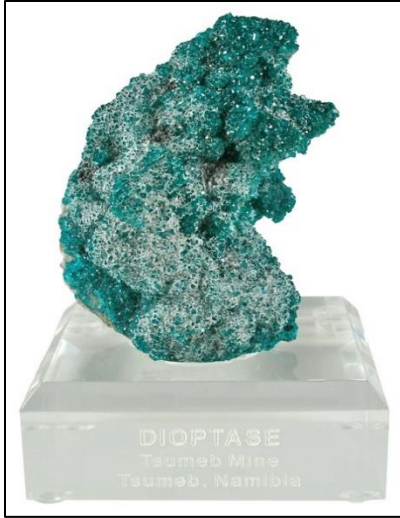
Dioptase is a rare, deep blue-green silicate. During the mid to late 18th century, many diopase specimens were commonly mistaken for emeralds, and sold as such to collectors all around the world. Superb samples have been discovered in mines in Kazakhstan, but diopase can also be found in Iran, Namibia, the Congo, Argentina and Chile. Small samples have been discovered in mines across the United States where copper veins have been altered through oxidation. If it were not for its perfect cleavage and its relatively soft nature (<5), diopase would be a perfect candidate for jewelry. In spite of this, its rarity and alluring qualities make diopase highly sought after and extremely expensive. ^{B19}



Dioptase ^{B19}



Dioptase ^{OR46}



Diopside with Calcite P11



Diopside M45