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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*