

Souvenir

Turquoise Room . . . Super Chief

THE

Turquoise

ROOM

This elegantly appointed room symbolizes the colorful Indian country of the Southwest, where turquoise is both a sacred talisman and a symbol of wealth and authority.

The Turquoise Room is located in the Pleasure Dome Lounge Car of the Super Chief.

Here travelers can lounge and enjoy cocktails. As a distinctive service the Turquoise Room is available to passengers for private dinners—for as many as ten persons, or for private cocktail parties.



the legend of turquoise ...and you

In the Turquoise Room aboard the Super Chief, you, the traveler, have found a talisman.

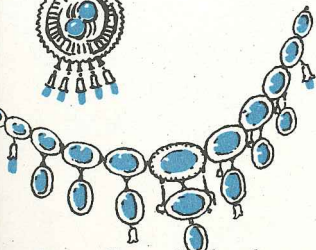
In all countries, through all ages, turquoise has been known as the "traveler's stone." All peoples have esteemed it as a lucky stone, with magical powers to help the traveler escape evil and attain good fortune.

May your turquoise charm guard you on your travels. And may it remind you ever of the colorful, romantic Indian country along the Santa Fe trail, where turquoise has been a sacred gem since long before the coming of the white man.



Indian sign for "traveler"

Turquoise in the Old World



Turquoise has been used in the Orient since prehistoric times. The earliest record of its use as a talisman was found in a tomb in Egypt dating back to 3500 B.C.

Turquoise is the national stone of Persia, where people still consider it a magic gem. It was from the ancient mines of Persia that traders brought turquoise to Europe in the 17th Century.

Since the stone was then believed to come from Turkey, the English called it "Turkish". *Turquoise* is the French word for "Turkish."

Persian jewelry, 15th Century



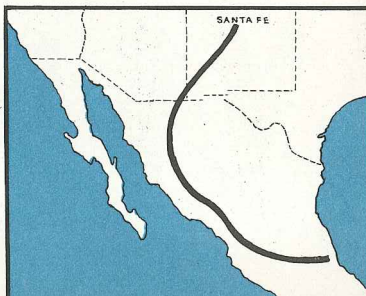
Turquoise in *the New World*

Turquoise probably has been mined in the Santa Fe country as long as it has been in Persia. Los Cerrillos mines near Santa Fe, New Mexico, are at least nine centuries old.

Gems from these mines were carried or traded in ancient days as far south as Mexico, as far west as Arizona.

The "Turquoise Trail," which led from Mexico to New Mexico, was a well-worn trade route used by the Indians in Mexico who came north to barter their bright-colored macaw feathers for the blue and green stones of the Pueblo Indians.

*The Turquoise
Trail*



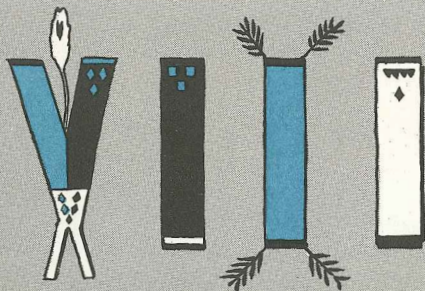
The Sacred Stone

Down through the ages, turquoise has had sacred significance for the Indians who owned it. The Aztecs of Mexico called turquoise the "gem of the gods."

When the Spanish monk Fray Marcos De Niza walked through New Mexico in 1539, he found the houses, gates, doors and pillars of the pueblos studded with the sacred stone.

Even today, small groups of Indians have been observed at several of the old mines in ceremonials that always end by planting prayer sticks in the earth.

Prayer Sticks



Legends of the *Turquoise Woman*



With both the Navajos and the Pueblos, turquoise symbolizes all the unexplainable things in the world — the magic of the blue sky, the sun, healing, good weather, wealth, beauty, youth, rain, light.

The Navajos called their goddess mother the "Turquoise Woman." The goddess never grows old because each time she feels herself aging, she goes away into the Beyond, finds magic turquoise, and grows young again.

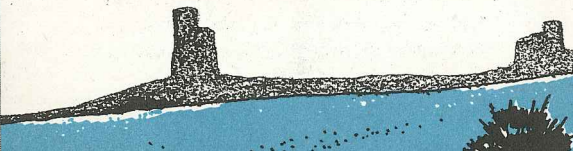
"She-Who-Changeth" is married to the Sun, and lives in a palace of turquoise that floats in the sky. This, according to the legend, is what makes the sky blue.

The Turquoise Shrine

Somewhere in Neetsin Canyon, near Inscription House ruins in northeastern Arizona, stands The Turquoise Shrine, a 125-foot tower of rock known to the Navajos as "The Shrine of the Old Ones." Legend has it that within its hollow walls there lies a fabulous treasure of turquoise and turquoise jewelry, deposited centuries ago by the ancient cliff dwellers as offerings to their gods.

The treasure of The Turquoise Shrine has been guarded well by the surging waters of a subterranean geyser, which periodically boils up inside the shrine to within inches of the yawning hole at the top. Only one man has ever descended into the shrine and come out alive — so narrowly escaping the angry torrent that he was forced to leave the treasure behind.

Some day, perhaps, some one will solve the secret of "The Shrine of the



Old Ones." Until that day, many white men — and Navajos, too, — will pass within feet of the great column of rock, not knowing that within its depths, jealously guarded by the ever-vigilant waters of a mysterious geyser, lies the fabled treasure of The Turquoise Shrine.

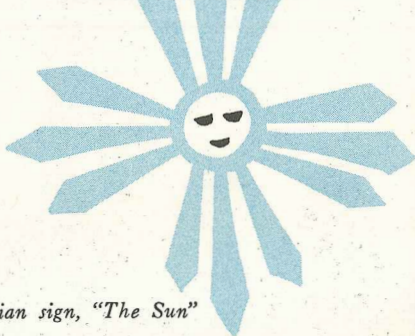


Johano-ai, the Sun-Bearer

The Navajos have another story about how the sky gets its color.

Johano-ai, the Sun-Bearer, has five horses on which he can carry the golden disk of the sun from east to west. One of the horses is turquoise, one white, one shell, one pearl, one red and one black.

The Navajos say: "When the skies are blue and weather is fair, Johano-ai is riding his turquoise horse or his horse of white, shell or pearl. When the sky is dark with storm, Johano-ai is riding his red or his coal-black horse."



Indian sign, "The Sun"

Indian sign, "Abundance"



The Divine Gambler



The Pueblo Indian tell a fascinating story about the Divine Gambler, a gambling god with a huge turquoise talisman that brought him unlimited good luck.

Periodically, the Divine Gambler would visit the earth and gamble with the Pueblo Indians. With the aid of his talisman, he would win all their turquoise treasures and shells.

Finally the Pueblos appealed to the other gods, and from them got a bigger, more potent turquoise talisman that enabled them to win back the gambling god's spoils.

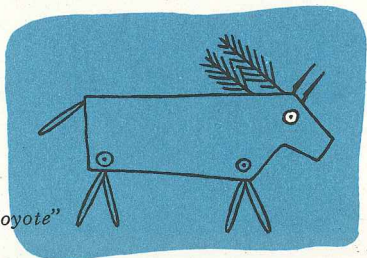
Zuni

Turquoise Legends

To the Zuni Indians, the upper world is symbolized by the Sun, the Eagle, and the Turquoise. The Zunis call the west "turquoise," or the "blue world,"—not only because the blue twilight comes out of the west, but because westward lies the blue Pacific.

The Blue Coyote is a favorite Zuni fetish, and most of their sacred symbolic animals are decorated with turquoise.

According to the Zunis, the Eagle once carried a beautiful, Divine Youth upward into the Sky World. It finally alighted on the summit of a high mountain of rare blue turquoise. It is the divine light of the Youth, reflected from the Turquoise Mountain, that paints the whole sky blue.



Indian sign, "Coyote"

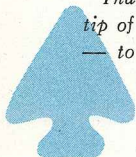
The Navajos tell their turquoise legends only in the wintertime, and will tell no turquoise stories in the summer.



Many Indian tribes believe that if a man will go to the end of the rainbow after a storm and search in the damp earth, he will find a turquoise.



Indians often fit turquoise near the tip of an arrow — or on the bow or gun — to bring good luck in hunting.



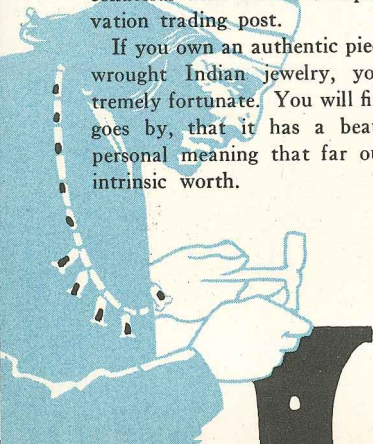
The medicine men of the Navajos have a delicate ceremony for healing certain ills. They balance chips of turquoise on the petals of a freshly bloomed flower, and make prayers to the gods.

Your Turquoise Jewelry

The first Navajo to set turquoise in silver was Atsidi Chon, in 1878. Before that, it was drilled for necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and the charms that the Navajos wear in their hair to ward off evil.

Today, silver and turquoise jewelry indicates wealth and social standing among the Indians. A Navajo man often wears his entire fortune, and uses it to buy food and clothing by placing it as collateral with the storekeeper or reservation trading post.

If you own an authentic piece of hand-wrought Indian jewelry, you are extremely fortunate. You will find, as time goes by, that it has a beauty and a personal meaning that far outweigh its intrinsic worth.



Almost as symbolic of the Southwest as turquoise is the Santa Fe trade-mark of a cross within a circle.

To the Indians of the Southwest, the cross symbolizes the four directions of the compass, and the crossing of roads. The circle indicates the whole world.

To the Christian Indians, of course, the cross has religious significance, and the circle symbolizes the wheel. In Spanish, "Santa Fe" means "Holy Faith."



