



*Welcome to Month #1 of
"Diamonds & Drama Queens"*

Incredible beauty is often accompanied by incredible stories.

Welcome to our first month of *Diamonds & Drama Queens* Block of the Month! MJ has discovered a fabulous gem to share with us, and it has an equally impressive history. The Drama Queens and Drama Kings associated with this lovely jewel, the **Maximilian Emerald**, are numerous, their stories spanning both centuries and continents.

Our August Drama Queen



Intro image: Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, Emperor of Mexico (circa 1864); Marjorie Merriweather Post (circa 1927)

Above: The 21-carat Maximilian Emerald

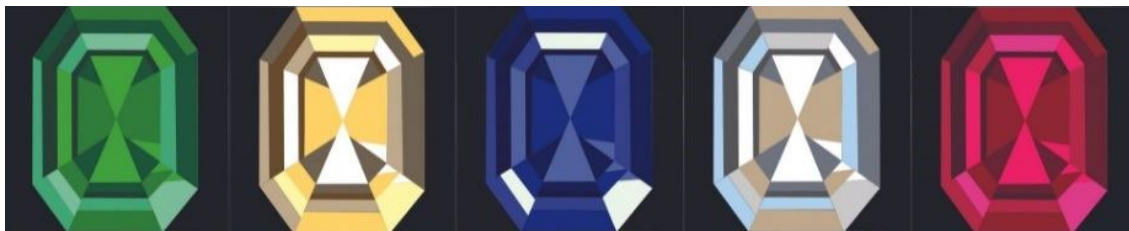
Our *Diamonds & Drama Queens* pattern for August is inspired by the **Maximilian Emerald**, a 21.04-carat Columbian emerald. It was allegedly owned by Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, archduke of Austria.

Maximilian was persuaded by Napoleon III to depose the existing emperor of Mexico, Benito Juarez, and take his place. Maximilian and his wife Carlotta were crowned Emperor and Empress of Mexico in 1864. He was executed by troops loyal to Juarez just three years later when Juarez retook Mexico City after Napoleon withdrew his support and French troops abandoned Mexico.

After Carlotta's death in 1929, the gem was later acquired by the Cartier brothers who sold it to General Foods heiress, Marjorie Merriweather Post. Ms. Post's life was one of service and philanthropy.

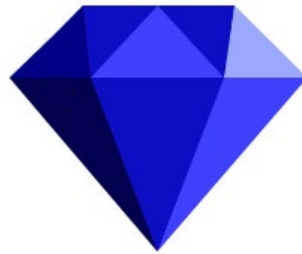
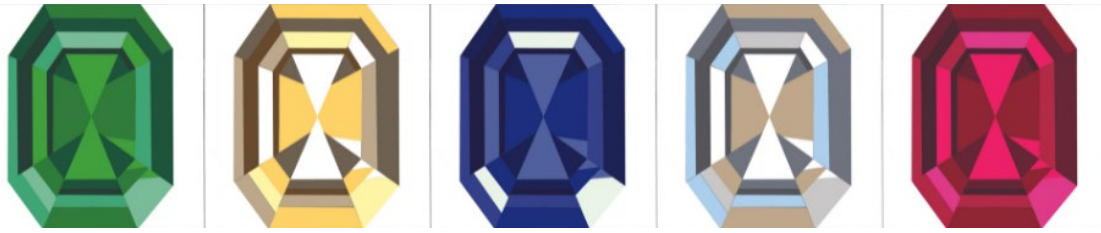


Above: Marjorie Merriweather Post



The Pattern: "Maximilian's Folly"

The pattern showcases the gorgeous straight edges of a classic Columbian emerald. Enjoy making the "Maximilian's Folly" pattern and learning about all the Drama Queens and Kings who orbited its brilliance!



DIAMONDS

& Drama Queens

Block of the Month for Quilt Shops