

"emerald, n.". *OED Online*. D-cember 2014. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/61122?redirected-From=emerald&> (accessed Mrch 02, 2015).

emerald, *n.*

Pronunciation: /'emərəld/

Forms: ME–16 **emeraud(e, emerawd(e, emraud,** (ME **emeraund, emerad(e, emeroyde, emmorant,** ME **amaraunt, emerant,** 15**amerand, emerode, emorade, emrade, emrode,**) 16 **hemerauld, emrald, emrauld, emrold,** (17 **emerant**), 15– **emerald.**

Etymology: < Old French *emeraude, esmeraude, esmeralde* (French *émeraude*); compare Provençal *esmerauda*, Spanish *esmeralda*, Portuguese *esmeralda*, Italian *smeraldo* < Common Romanic types **smaralda*, **smaraldo*, repr. Latin *smaragdus*, < Greek *σμάραγδος*: see [SMARAGDUS n.](#) The change of *gd* into *ld* in Romanic occurs in other cases, as Italian *Baldacca* for *Bagdad*. In English the form with *ld* does not appear in our quots. before 16th cent., when it may be due to Spanish influence. ([Show Less](#))

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1. **A precious stone of bright green colour;** in mod. use exclusively applied to a variety of the Beryl species (see *BERYL n.* 2), found chiefly in S. America, Siberia, and India. [In early examples the word, like most other names of precious stones, is of vague meaning; the mediæval references to the stone are often based upon the descriptions given by classical writers of the *smaragdus*, the identity of which with the emerald is doubtful. In the King James Bible (as previously by Tyndale) *emerald* has been adopted as the rendering of Hebrew *nōphek* (LXX. *ἀνθραξ*, Vulgate *carbunculus*), a gem as to the nature of which there is no evidence.]

c1300 [K. Alis](#). 7030 Grete drakis..emeraundis in mouth bare.

c1325 in G. L. Brook [Harley Lyrics](#) (1968) 31 Ase emeraude amorewen þis may haueþ myht.

c1400 (?c1380) [Cleanness](#) l. 1470 Amaraunȝ & amaffised stones.

1481 [Myrrour of Worlde](#) (Caxton) ii. vii. 79 The Emerawde..is..playsaunt to the eye.

1526 [Bible \(Tyndale\)](#) Rev. xxi. 19 The fourth an emeralde.

1527 in J. Raine [Testamenta Eboracensia](#) (1884) V. 244 Unum annulum cum lapide vocato an emorade.

1584 J. NEWBERY *Let.* 20 Jan. in R. Hakluyt [Princ. Navigations](#) (1589) i. 211 Fiue emrauds set in golde.

1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny [Hist. World](#) II. 454 Our cups..must be set out with hemeraulds.

1609 [Bible \(Douay\)](#) I. Exod. xxviii. 19 In the first rew shal be..the emeraud.

1637 MILTON [Comus](#) 31 My..chariot..Thicke set with..Emrould greene.

1691 A. WOOD [Athenæ Oxon.](#) II. 523 A ring..having an emrold set therein between two diamonds.

1728 E. CHAMBERS [Cycl.](#) (at cited word), The Emerald is supposed..to arrive at its Greenness by slow Degrees.

1842 E. BULWER-LYTTON [Zanoni](#) 28 Valleys where the birds build their nests with emeralds to attract the moths.

1861 C. W. KING [Antique Gems](#) (1866) 29 The Bactrian and Scythian Emeralds were considered the best.

2. **Heraldry.** The name given by English heralds to the green colour (ordinarily called *vert*) when it occurs in the arms of the nobility.

1572 J. BOSSEWELL [Wks. Armorie](#) ii. f. 60^v, The fielde is of the Topaze, a Basiliske displayed, Emeraude, cristed, Saphire.

3. *transf.* as name of its colour; = *emerald-green* at [Compounds 3](#).

1712 J. BROWNE tr. P. Pomet et al. [Compl. Hist. Druggs](#) I. 107 Scales of Brass thrice calcin'd..will make a Sea-green, an Emerald..with many other colours.

4. *Printing.* The name of the size of type larger than nonpareil and smaller than minion.