

Gem & Jewellery News

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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE DIAMOND

The largest polished diamond in the world

In 1986 a remarkable diamond weighing 755.50 ct was discovered in the Premier mine in Transvaal, South Africa. Measuring 55.65 mm in width, 49.20 mm in length, and 34.25 mm in depth, the diamond was a beautiful golden yellow with a bright reddish hue at its centre.

Recognizing the importance of this stone, De Beers commissioned master diamond cutter and long-time consultant Gabi Tolkowsky to assemble a skilled team, starting with master cutter Dawie du Plessis.

In an underground location near Johannesburg, a bunker was built to ensure a vibration-free environment. No consideration was too small to make sure the cutters remained calm. Even the walls were painted a faint green to keep the eyes relaxed. The tools were selected so they wouldn't shine and distract the cutter, but were strong enough to do the job.

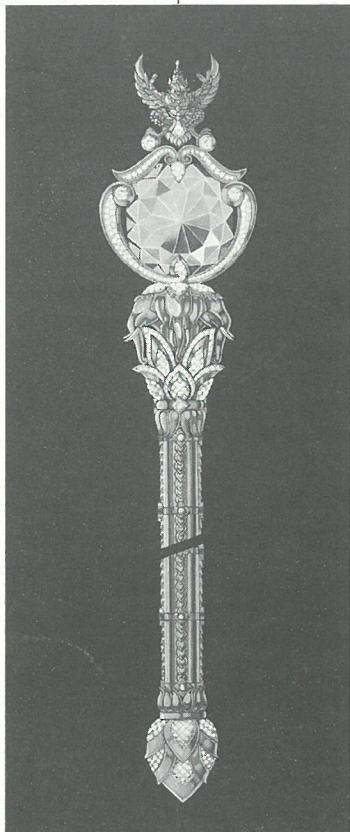
Before the cutting process began, the team made many drawings and worked with a number of models before each stage of the cutting process. The care and thought that went into the process was based on the master cutter's intentions of maintaining the size of the diamond.

Taking three years to complete, the finished 'Golden Jubilee' diamond is 545.67 ct and has 55 perfectly symmetrical facets on the top, 69 below and 14 on the girdle in a style called the fire rose cushion.

The Golden Jubilee therefore bears the distinction of being the largest polished diamond in the world.

In February 1995 the diamond made its first public appearance at an exhibition organized by Thailand's

Board of Investment (BOI). The BOI Fair was held in the seaport town of Laem Chabang where the people of Thailand became the first



The design for the sceptre to hold the Golden Jubilee diamond

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to see the stone on public display.

His Majesty King Bhumibol and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit visited the Fair and took great interest in the stone, and when His Majesty held the special diamond it was realized that the acquisition of the stone would be a most appropriate way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ascent to the throne.

So a group of Thai businessmen arranged for the then unnamed stone to be given to His Majesty as a gift from the people of Thailand.

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Gem & Jewellery News

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EDITORIAL

Why don't we go to a show? In London there's always a choice, musicals, serious drama, sheer unadulterated fun: what could be nicer? I very rarely wish to be entertained, dislike facile music and being preached at: most jokes are signalled so far in advance that I am ready for them. So that disposes of stage shows.

But there are other shows, not always or even frequently in London, but certainly in the areas round about: other good ones take place in the Midlands, the North of England and in Scotland. No music, no 'message' and not even a kilt in sight.

These are the gem and mineral shows which all GJN readers should sample (I know many do). 'Gem and mineral' means just that: while there are some faceted gemstones on sale (show=sale) most of the exhibits (=goods) are crystals, crystal groups, books and journals, cutting and conservation equipment. You can see a very wide range of mineral specimens (yes, some are eccentrically labelled but this adds to the enjoyment) and discuss with the seller just why their prices don't accord with your estimate. This is all good clean fun.

I have sold gemstones myself and even had tables at shows. This is really hard work and can be dispiriting to the point that a single sale is more than welcome: just think of the packing and laying-out that has to be done, the setting-up of the lighting and the payment for the site. Then there is travelling to the venue and back—all for a few sales, sometimes. But the buzz of a show is stimulating and you might even recognize a gem missed by everyone else!

Find out where there is a show near you and support it.

M.O'D.

HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

At the Presentation of Awards held at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, on 11 November 1996, an Honorary Fellowship was awarded to the GAGTL President, Professor R. A. Howie, in recognition of his work in the field of gemmology. A full report of the Presentation and the address by David Callaghan will be published in the January 1997 issue of the *Journal of Gemmology*.

Members of the GAGTL wishing to raise issues concerning GAGTL activities are reminded that they may contact the Chairman of the Members' Council, Mr Colin Winter, c/o the GAGTL, 27 Greville Street, London, EC1N 8SU.

AROUND THE TRADE

In this column we endeavour to keep you informed of business matters affecting dealers from a trading perspective. We welcome views and questions from all readers handling gemstones and jewellery on a commercial basis.

Diamond news

All seems quiet on the diamond front (but this might be deceptive!). Dealers returning from the cutting centres report shortage of goods, rising prices and difficulties in replacing their stocks. Those who have been following the Rhodes series on BBC television must wonder if this situation is due to a genuine shortage of rough stones or a shortage in the distribution chain.

We have not yet seen all the consequences of Argyle leaving the CSO fold, although meanwhile there still seems to be plentiful supplies of the cheaper, smaller goods coming from India. One hears rumours of impending disasters and bankruptcies, including possible closures of some cutting factories. But since there is a relatively small market in the UK the effects of these events are generally minimal here.

Promotions

I have often wondered how promotions in the jewellery trade would work on a relatively small budget. The two main promoters are the CSO and the Gold Council who spend many millions of pounds advertising diamonds and precious metals. Recently the International Coloured Stone Association (ICA) attempted such a campaign for rubies.

The ICA is an association of cutters and gemstone dealers who felt that no international body fully represented them. Diamond dealers had the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the diamond cutters had the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA), so for coloured stones the ICA came into being a few years ago.

It has tried to complement CIBJO with its laws of disclosure for gemstone treatments, setting standards of dealing for its members and promoting coloured stones whenever and wherever it could, albeit on a relatively small scale.

This year it attempted to be more effective in its promotions and after much discussion it decided to promote ruby. The main promotion was aimed at the US market with shows at the main trade fairs, and articles in trade journals which it was hoped would lead to a pickup by the national media. The effects of all this activity should penetrate our shores through articles in some of the better fashion magazines and our own trade journals.

It is hard to determine the effects of these efforts at this early stage. Of course the Thai members of the ICA were very keen on this promotion and they and the US members were the ones who paid the highest levies to support it. First indications are that in some trade journals the Thai dealers claim that their sales of ruby have increased by large percentages in the past few months.

I said earlier I am never sure how effective such limited promotions can be. I remember in the early days of Ratner's penetration of the retail jewellery market in the UK, when they had upward of a thousand outlets for their group, a manufacturer told me that a ring design he had submitted was such a resounding success that he had received an order to supply two thousand. He was so excited that he wanted me to order another five thousand stones for follow-ups to this initial order. My own analysis was that the initial order was to put two of these rings in each of the shops, and at the time not a single ring had yet been sold to the end user. I cannot remember

exactly how the ring fared, but I know I did not order the five thousand stones – perhaps some other dealer did – but as far as I was concerned there was a re-order for five hundred pieces, a few for a few more hundreds and then a few tens and the orders then petered out completely.

I am not decrying these initial claims for success, but I am saying that there is an initial buffer between the trade and the public which absorbs a large quantity of goods to stock up the wholesalers and the retailers before the article is sold to the public.

The most effective promotion can be done by the trade itself by presenting attractive articles of good value to the public in the outlets themselves. The trade is currently not sufficiently organized to advertise to bring people into jewellery shops, but once they are in, it should present them with more substantial articles.

In looking into an average jewellery outlet on the high street or at a trade show, I mostly see rings with small centres surrounded by minuscule stones. I am told this is what the public wants and this is what the public is buying. But my contention is that the public buys these because that is all it sees. If one looks at articles produced on the continent and in the Far East, one sees a much wider range of what can be called jewellery with combinations of colours and shapes. There are other stones besides rubies, sapphires and emeralds, and other shapes besides ovals and rounds. We need co-operation between the manufacturers and retailers to bring such jewellery to the notice of the public, and I am sure that, as in other countries, they will buy.

Stones in demand today

Pink diamonds seem to be currently very fashionable and there are continued demands for these stones from the smaller outlets. Small pale pink stones can cost several thousands of pounds per carat, and larger stones may run into extremely high figures.

Another rare gem variety, alexandrite, is also much in demand. Nearly all the large stones on the market which customers bring in believing they are alexandrite are the colour-change synthetic corundums. But now there is also a synthetic alexandrite and, being a true

synthetic, has all the physical characteristics of the natural stone; and since the real stones fetch many thousands of pounds per carat, one should definitely be sure of what one is buying. Perhaps our gemmologists can give us a simple test to recognize these rogues? Currently identification is possible but in clean stones, detection of the tell-tale inclusions may be difficult and infrared spectra may be necessary.

Many countries, especially in Africa and now China, are the source of new discoveries of gemstones. As there is no central selling organization to monitor and guide

these new outputs onto the markets, prices in certain types of stones can fluctuate enormously. Such an effect has been seen in the prices of tanzanites. One miner with a lucky strike can affect the whole market by oversupplying and reducing the prices, and when the source runs out, the market is reluctant to re-adjust to a higher price. As a consequence, sales of the stone almost grind to a halt. Is this really a benefit to the trade?

Christmas is upon us, I hope all our traders have had a good year and we all look forward to what 1997 has in store for us.

H.L.

MUSEUM NEWS

Museum Acquisition

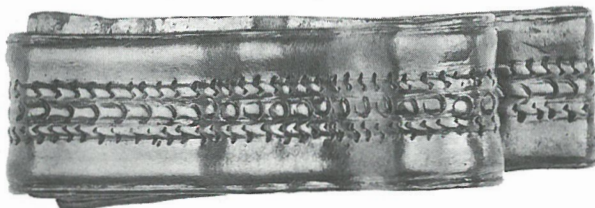
The British Museum has recently acquired an important Iron Age treasure, with financial assistance from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and the British Museum Society. The hoard is from Alton, Hampshire, and consists principally of coins – in all, 256 gold coins of the British Iron Age. They were buried early in the 1st century AD, well before the Roman conquest of Britain under the Emperor Claudius in AD 43. The coins themselves are of great numismatic and historical interest, and associated with them were two pieces of jewellery which are also of archaeological significance. They are not native Celtic goldwork of the period, as might be expected, but imported Roman items.

One is a very simple gold bracelet with punched decoration, which has



The Alton finger-ring. © British Museum.

been folded and compressed before burial and was therefore treated simply as bullion and not intended for wear. The other is a gold ring of a common late Hellenistic type, set with a banded brown and white agate intaglio depicting a Maenad (a female follower of the god Bacchus). This association of native coinage with imported jewellery adds to the evidence for frequent contact between Iron Age Britain and the Roman world before Britain became part of the Roman Empire. C.J.



The Alton bracelet. © British Museum.

The Wiveliscombe Cameo

Readers may remember a note in the June issue of *GJN* describing a fine 2nd–3rd century Roman agate cameo from Wiveliscombe, Somerset (p. 46), which was in Christies' sale of 3 July. In that note, I lamented the fact that the very high estimate, well above any recorded price for a comparable gem, which the auction-house had placed on the item, made it impossible for a public collection even to contemplate bidding for it.

In the event the estimate was far exceeded. The gem sold for an astonishing £36,700 to a private collector in France. The former owner of the object has been kind enough to donate a very good replica of the cameo to the British Museum, but naturally we regret the loss of such an important and attractive Roman antiquity from Britain. C.J.

Derek J. Content Inc.

Derek Content's E-mail address has now changed from that given in his advertisement in *Jewellery Studies*, 1996, Vol. 7, p. 90. His new E-mail address is:

E-mail: Derek_Content@msn.com

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION

A general introduction to a subject which does not seek to be an in-depth analysis, but rather an opening for further reading.

Homage to the peacock

The peacock, the most alluring of creatures, features strongly throughout history as a symbol of beauty imbued with special powers. It is the Indian or Blue Peafowl which has become universally known, though its natural habitat is in the forests of the Himalayas, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. In these regions and neighbouring countries, it became an integral part of local cultures, associated with Hindu and Buddhist religions. This decorative bird capable of attacking snakes, has since adapted to and adorned parklands worldwide.

Perhaps the most fascinating chronicle about this subject comes from the Indian subcontinent, the much written one describing the legendary Peacock Throne within the Red Fort at Delhi, which was made for Shah Jahan (1628–58), creator of the Taj Mahal mausoleum at Agra. In the 17th century during the height of Mughal splendour, manuscript illuminations show two peacocks with tails fanned above a magnificent throne, immortalized as symbols of majesty. Embellished with hundreds of prized jewels (emeralds, rubies, sapphires, dia-

On the gemmological front 'peacock ore', otherwise known as bornite, a copper and iron sulphide, tarnishes on exposure to the atmosphere and becomes iridescent. Being of hardness 3 on Mohs' scale it is of decorative use only. Malachite, famed for its concentric patterns and vivid green colour, has been called 'peacock stone'.



Peacock feather brooch (c. 1880) set sapphire and diamonds. Courtesy of Sotheby's.

monds, 'balas rubies', pearls), the throne was thought to have been also set with the Timur Ruby (red spinel); along with the great Koh-i-Noor, Akbar Shah, Jahangir and Shah diamonds. Following the defeat of the then Mughal ruler Muhammad Shah, and the sacking of Delhi in 1739 by the Persians under Nadir Shah, the throne was plundered and no longer exists other than in legend. It is well worth reading further the scholarly accounts of the period, which cannot be done justice here.

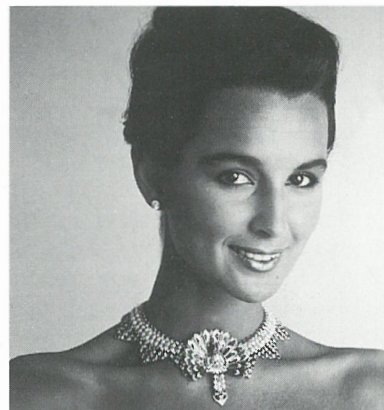
In mythology the peacock is associated with the Greek goddess Hera, who set in its tail feathers the hundred eyes of the slain giant Argus. It is also an attribute to Pride from the Seven Deadly Sins. The peacock, whose flesh was thought to be incorruptible, may also appear in early Christian art symbolic of immortality and of the Resurrection, as seen in Byzantine filigree (opus interrasile) jewellery of the 6th to 7th centuries AD). A mid-9th century

mitre-shaped gold and niello ring (British Museum, London), inscribed with King Æthelwulf's name, shows two facing peacocks on either side of the Tree of Life. This ring is understood to have been a gift to reward loyal service, rather than one actually worn by the King of Wessex.

In *Mediaeval European jewellery*, Lightbown refers to peacock feathers as 'still the favourite headgear of St Louis in the mid-thirteenth century', and they were also being used to decorate headbands called 'chaplets', worn by both men and women in the 12th to 14th centuries, some examples decorated with pearls and gemstones.

During the 17th and 18th centuries European merchants brought back from the orient exotic bird species, introducing them as curiosities for the rich to enjoy. The genre of bird painting, together with allegorical undertones, was exemplified by the Dutch and Flemish artists who depicted the peacock and its glorious plumage with great dexterity.

In the Hermitage Museum there is a fine example of a near life size 'peacock', an 18th century automa-



Peacock necklace by Edward Evans (1985) set sapphires, emeralds, diamonds, cultured pearls and enamel.

ton attributed to the English clock-maker James Cox. It was once owned by Prince Potemkin, a favourite of Catherine the Great of Russia.

In the second half of the 19th century, contrasting with the moralizing creed of the Arts and Crafts Movement, the Aesthetic Movement endorsed the peacock feather, together with the lily, the sunflower and Japoniserie motifs as the symbols of beauty and good taste. The artist James Whistler in 1876 created the Peacock Room for Frederick Leyland in London, as the ultimate homage (now in the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.). Rising pre-occupation with the doctrine 'art for art's sake' during the 1880s saw the peacock feather depicted as a form of corporate identity, a precursor to its use during the Art Nouveau period at the turn of the century. Whilst the simplicity of strings of beads were favoured by serious Aesthetes, naturalistic peacock feather brooches were made at this time, set with diamonds and a variety of coloured stones for the 'eye'. Depictions of the bird can also be found in: lustreware ceramics by William de Morgan; in glass by Tiffany & Co., New York; and in the famous 'peacock feather' fabric design of 1887, by Arthur Silver for the London store Liberty & Co. Frederick, Lord Leighton (1830–96) the artist who painted the peacock in all its glory also had one stuffed standing guard in the entrance hall of his home in London.

At the '*fin-de-siècle*' the peacock became the embodiment of mystery and beauty. Jewellers came to the fore, and none more so than Lalique with his famous peacock corsage ornament of c. 1898 (Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon). Goldsmiths seeking a varied palette to interpret the virtuosity of their designs, employed enamelwork with a colourful range of precious and semi-precious gemstones, opals being particularly favoured. Jewellery was theatrical, a combination of exoticism and fantasy. The

most notable jewel houses working with peacock or feather motifs in the Nouveau style were: the Tiffany Studios in New York, C.R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft based in the East End of London then in 1902 at Chipping Campden; and the French designers Louis Aucoc, René Foy, Lucien Gautrait, Mellerio and Henri Vever. The Parisian jeweller Georges Fouquet featured the majestic bird near full size, in the interior decor of his new showroom in the Rue Royale, designed by the artist Alphonse Mucha. As this lordly bird flies its nest we are left with the most evocative example by

Piel Frères, an enamelled bronze feather buckle of 1900, set with a paste 'eye'.

Jewellery of the twentieth century has seen the use of a host of other birds strutting their stuff – cockerel, pheasant, flying duck, bird of paradise, flamingo (the Duchess of Windsor's famous example by Jeanne Toussaint for Cartier in 1940). A final modern abstract example is a stunning peacock feather brooch designed by A. Shinde (*Gems & Gemology*, Winter 1993), which is a glittering array of coloured diamonds and other gems.

C.P.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

One hundred tiaras – an evolution of style 1800–1990

In March 1997 Wartski will hold a dazzling exhibition on behalf of charity which will be called 'One hundred tiaras – an evolution of style 1800–1990'. The project was inspired by a similar exhibition which took place at Cartier in 1911 where 14 tiaras were shown.

The owners of 100 tiaras have kindly agreed to lend items for the event and they are all as scintillating as the jewellery. They include almost every member of the Royal Family including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who is represented by a rose diamond circlet given to her by her father, the Earl of Strathmore. The Spencer tiara worn by the Princess of Wales at her wedding will be exhibited, as well as items from Elton John and Joanna Lumley. Be sure to see the sapphire and diamond tiara worn by Queen Victoria in the Winterhalter portrait.

The exhibition will include tiaras made by Cartier, Castellani, Fabergé, Giuliano, Lalique, Partridge and Wilson.

The exhibition will be held at

Wartski, 14 Grafton Street, London W1, from 5 to 19 March inclusive (including Sundays), from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance by catalogue £5, concessions £3 – absolutely all funds to go to The Samaritans.

Goldsmiths' Craft Council Awards Exhibition

4–7 March 1997

Opening Hours 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Free admission

Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London, EC2

These annual awards are open to anyone in the United Kingdom involved in the fields of silversmithing and jewellery. Founded in 1908 the Craft Council aims to maintain and improve standards by creating and stimulating a desire for excellence of design and craftsmanship. The exhibition features the award winners and embraces aspects of silversmithing, jewellery and the specialist allied crafts. Its special interest lies in the unique mixture of exhibits not only from top class professional artist craftsmen, but also apprentices and college students – many of whom will be the famous names of tomorrow.

GEMS

A **pink fluorite** has been reported from Pakistan, adding yet one more species to the recent discoveries of fine quality peridot, elbaite and clinzoisite already described in *GJN*. A report from the New Jersey Earth Science Show located a pink fluorite deposit at a site on the Gilgit-Skardu Road: spessartine has already been reported from this area and I have seen several magnificent well-formed crystals in the past.

Only a few days ago (October 1996) I was shown a reddish-orange **garnet**, perhaps a spessartine or almandine, said to be from 'Kashmir, Pakistan'. Citing such a locality could be politically unfortunate: on a map accompanying the brochure which came with the specimens (crystal and small faceted triangular stone) I was able to trace the approximate location – south east of Gilgit and towards Dasu (spellings of this place vary quite a lot) so if you are ever in the Northern Areas of Pakistan you have a start! You could also look for chrome diopside and for reddish-brown zircon, both recently reported and candidates, with the species mentioned already, for a second edition of Kazmi and O'Donoghue, *Gemstones of Pakistan* [first edition available from GAGTL].

For the collector of the unusual, synthetic **phenakite** provides a worthwhile quarry. Years ago at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey I was given a fine slender blue crystal of vanadium-doped phenakite with smaller crystal growing from one of the prism faces. This exceptional specimen may now be echoed by flux-grown phenakite – this could easily be doped. Flux inclusions betray the stone's origin.

Alexandrite purporting to be from a Brazilian deposit (remember the superb colour-change of the Hematita stones?) seen at a show

turned out to be flux-grown stones: pulled alexandrites have also turned up as naturals. In these, heat-induced cracks resemble feathers and of course are intended to deceive.

Fine crystals of **danburite** with a 'maple-syrup brown' also featured at the New Jersey Earth Science show. I have seen one or two cut stones of this colour and no doubt

have mentioned them in earlier issues but crystals (from Dal'negorsk, Russia) I have not encountered so far. Still in New Jersey, someone showed a 3 cm **hiddenite** on matrix – from the classic location in Alexander County, North Carolina. I have been after a true hiddenite for years!

M.O'D.

The Kauri Pine is alive and well

Copal, and its older relative amber, are the solidified resins of various trees, most of which grew millions of years ago and are now extinct.

Kauri gum, the most famous of all copals, is produced by the kauri pine, *Agathus australis*, in New Zealand. They are magnificent trees comparable to the American Sequoias in size and age. Where once they grew in forests covering the entire northern part of North Island, they can now be seen in just a few, small areas.

Kauri pines grow straight and tall, and in the nineteenth century were much sought after for ship and house building, whilst the resin produced by the trees, once used fresh by the Maori as chewing gum, became valued as a varnish and in the manufacture of linoleum, paints, lacquers and glues. A huge and lucrative export trade was built up, and to meet the demand the gum was not only tapped from living trees but also dug in vast quantities. A gum digging industry developed, and in spite of the hardship that had to be endured it attracted people from as far afield as Dalmatia.



Gum diggers sorting lumps of Kauri gum. Photo by kind permission of the Matakoho Kauri Museum.

During a period of 150 years the kauri forests were decimated and, as the trees take around 300 years to mature the outlook was bleak.

Today the trees are protected, and the use of timber from old trees which may have been buried for as long as 45,000 years, and of the kauri gum, both fresh and the semi-fossilized copal, is strictly controlled.

At Matakoho, north of Auckland, amid rolling pastures with lots of sheep is the Kauri Museum, housing excellent and comprehensive displays of everything connected to the kauri's history: the equipment used in the timber and gum industries, examples of pioneers' homes and lifestyles, old photographs, furniture made from kauri wood, and a breathtaking and unique exhibition of copal comprising three large and some smaller collections that have been donated to the museum. Occupying a whole room, the display shows examples of new and old carvings, rough and polished pieces, some with natural insect inclusions and some with fakes, in all the resin's various colours, quality grades and ages, some of which are clearly beyond the copal stage and nearing that of amber. The people at the museum are immensely helpful and enthusiastic and willing to try to answer even the most obscure questions.

Some miles from Matakoho are the forest sanctuaries where it is possible to walk along prepared paths – laid to protect the delicate root system of the kauris, not the tourists – and view the unspoilt rainforest and thousands of kauri pines, young and old, some with gum oozing at the base.

The oldest living kauri, thought to be around 2000 years old and with a girth of over 16 metres, known as 'Te Mahuta Ngahere' or 'Father of the Forest', is to be found in Waipoua Forest, but Trounson Kauri Park is less visited and affords a more tranquil impression of the rain forests as they must have been several thousand years ago.

The kauris are being nurtured and are again thriving, but it will be some hundred years before any more timber can be felled, and probably 30,000 years or so before there will again be plenty of copal for collection.

Maggie Campbell Pedersen

Red Beryl

It has been reported recently that RTZ's Kennecott subsidiary has bought an option (which expires next June) on the Delta mine in Utah, USA, to extract the rare red variety of beryl. Red beryl crystals from this locality are commonly beautifully hexagonal and prime examples of the hexagonal crystal system to which beryl belongs.

Beryl is a beryllium aluminium silicate and the most famous gem varieties are emerald (green) and aquamarine (blue); however, other naturally occurring varieties include pink (morganite), yellow (heliodor), colourless (goshenite), dark brown, and red, the colour of the latter being due to trace contents of manganese. Although red beryl has previously been known by the name 'bixbite', this is too easily confused with the name of another mineral called bixbyite and its use is discouraged. All beryl has a hardness on Mohs' scale of approximately 7.5, and is eminently suitable for use in jewellery.

Until now extraction of red beryl has been on a fairly minor scale, yielding small often badly included crystals, and gem quality stones have been rather rare. It appears in the report that Kennecott Minerals intend to step up output from approximately 2000 carats a year to a staggering annual yield of 100,000 carats. Already bulk mining is producing stones of two carats. Red beryl has in the past been a target for collectors and doubtless fine quality stones will still be eagerly sought, but henceforth, if predictions are right, we could see this gemstone becoming a more regular feature in jewellery. It will be interesting to follow these new developments.

Some notes on the variety of inclusions in red beryl were published in the October '95 issue of the *Journal of Gemmology*. C.P.

Bromoform sinks into the past

The use of bromoform in gem testing is strongly discouraged.

Bromoform has long been used in the process of determining the specific gravity of gemstones. The most obvious problem with bromoform, darkening when exposed to light, is irksome rather than hazardous but there are more serious drawbacks to its use.

Bromoform is known to be toxic by inhalation and ingestion, causing tremors, breathing difficulties and loss of consciousness. If that isn't bad enough it is known to cause cancer in laboratory animals and is highly irritating to the eyes and skin. More spectacularly it reacts explosively with acetone in the presence of bases (for example sodium hydroxide) and with lithium or potassium metal, although the latter two are extremely unlikely to be found in general premises. The Care of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations stress that substances such as bromoform should only be used, taking the correct protective measures, where no suitable alternative is available. In this case there is a suitable alternative – sodium polytungstate. Sodium polytungstate is non-toxic and can be prepared as aqueous solutions with varying densities up to 3.1g/cm³; (bromoform 2.9g/cm³). The Gemmological Association therefore recommends that the use of bromoform is discontinued in favour of the non-toxic alternative sodium polytungstate.

Brian Jackson

RECENT EVENTS

GAGTL Annual Conference

Exceptional Gems

The 1996 Conference held in London at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre on Sunday 13 October, attracted an international audience of 150 members and guests. The President, Professor R.A. Howie, opened the Conference and welcomed those present. The theme of the conference was 'Exceptional gems' and Professor Howie gave a lively account of stones he had seen on three occasions which he considered truly 'exceptional'.

The President introduced the keynote speaker, Professor Dr Hermann Bank from Idar-Oberstein, who gave the opening lecture on the subject 'Rare gems'. Professor Bank treated delegates to a range of spectacular slides illustrating gems exceptional in some way—those that were particularly rare, of an extraordinarily large size for their species, gems displaying remarkable visual effects and those that were distinguished by unusual forms of cutting or engraving. Among the stones illustrated and



Howard Vaughan speaking on diamonds.



An opportunity to renew friendships and view the displays and demonstrations during the afternoon break.

vividly described were examples of the rare painite and taaffeite, and an alexandrite cat's-eye weighing 55 ct.

Howard Vaughan gave a highly enjoyable anecdotal talk on exceptional diamonds he had handled during his years with De Beers. Many diamonds were illustrated which were either gemmologically or historically interesting, and Howard gave fascinating accounts of the cutting of the stones and described the craftsmanship and dedication of the people involved. He concluded with a video presentation of the cutting of the Premier Rose and the Centenary Diamond, followed by a news clip of the King of Thailand viewing the Unnamed Brown.

Brian Jackson, Curator of Minerals and Gems at the National Museum of Scotland, then gave the final lecture of the morning session on the sapphires of Scotland. Brian gave an in-depth description of the geology of the areas in Scotland where sapphire had been found, and expressed the opinion that it was likely that there were more dykes containing sapphires as yet undiscovered. He went on to describe the properties of the sapphires which showed particularly strong colour zoning and listed typical inclusions.



Keynote speaker Professor Dr Hermann Bank.

In most stones, the colour is not too good and heat treatment only results in making the stones greener, but the concluding slides demonstrated the spectacular colour and quality of the 9.6 ct sapphire that had attracted national publicity in 1995.

During the lunch break the members and guests renewed friendships, were able to follow up matters of interest with the speakers, and could discuss the diamond grading presentation with laboratory staff. In a new demonstration this year, Doug Garrod and Lorne Stather of

the Education Department displayed video techniques currently used in GAGTL workshops and travelling tutorials which allowed stones under the microscope to be displayed on the screen. Gems illustrated included a sapphire with a disappearing bubble, quartz with a moving bubble, inclusions in quartz of goethite and tourmaline, and distinguishing features in synthetic and simulated gemstones.

Vivian Watson opened the afternoon session by introducing Peter Zaltsman who gave a video presentation on the art of cutting shell cameos which demonstrated how a simple seashell could be transformed into a work of art. The video was followed by a lively and informative question and answer session.

Jonathan Condrup of Sotheby's followed with a lecture entitled 'Important gems at auction'. Jonathan illustrated a wide range of items displaying exceptional gemstones that had been catalogued for sale at Sotheby's over the past twenty years, emphasizing the importance of the major auction houses in the current jewellery scene.

Ben Gaskell provided a splendid finale with a presentation on rock crystal spheres. Ben had first become interested in crystal whilst exploring caves in Madagascar as an amateur naturalist interested in bats. He gave a fascinating account of the rather haphazard quartz trade in Madagascar and methods used to



Peter Zaltsman during his lively question and answer session.

get the large specimens to market. The cutting and polishing of the quartz spheres was illustrated from early methods to those used today, and ways of assessing the quality of the rough before buying were discussed. Identification of the spheres was described including information that should be contained on an appraisal report.

Once again the Conference proved to be both informative and enjoyable, and delegates had the opportunity to share their interest in gemmology with other members and guests from 14 different countries.

Mary Burland

A video recording of the Conference lasting 4½ hours on two tapes is available from the GAGTL. Contact Mary Burland on 0171 404 3334 for details.

Cameos and antique jewellery

On 16 October Mr Richard Digby gave an illustrated talk to a particularly well-attended meeting of the GAGTL North West Branch on cameos, second-hand and antique jewellery. A wealth of useful information was given, including a method of detecting damage that may be hidden or disguised, the way to test a gold setting without risking damage to it, and the importance of preserving the patina that could be destroyed through negligence during a cleaning or repair process. Mr Digby also discussed the renovation of antique jewellery and the necessity for a skilled goldsmith to carry out such alterations or delicate repairs. The importance of careful attention to detail was stressed and the benefits of recognizing signed pieces of jewellery, particularly cameos and intaglios, were outlined.

A number of items of jewellery were available for inspection, some provided by Mr Digby and others brought along by members. Joe Azzopardi

NEW PURSUITS

Court connections

The aim of the Society for Court Studies is to facilitate and co-ordinate the study of the courts of Europe from 1400 to the present. The Society was founded in London, but membership is open to interested scholars and students from any country or discipline. Members receive the Society's thrice-yearly newsletter, with articles and information about the latest work in court history and have access to the Society's programme of seminars, conferences and publications. Seminars are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1, three times a term.

The cost of membership is: Ordinary Member (UK) £15.00; Ordinary Member (Overseas) £20.00; Student/Under 25 £7.50. Cheques should be made payable to the Society for Court Studies and sent to Kay Ford, Apartment 25, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU. Tel: 0181 781 9781. Fax: 0181 781 9782. Alternatively, payment can be made by bank draft/money order to The Society for Court Studies, Royal Bank of Scotland, 21 Thames Street, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1QE, Sort Code 16-22-24, Account No. 10011983. Information about the Society and its programmes can be found on the Internet at: <http://ourworld.compu-serve.com/homepages/nahasf/courts.htm>

Bead culture

The Bead Study Trust, a registered charity, was founded in 1980 to promote research into beads worldwide, thus continuing the work of Horace Beck, 'the bead man', on whose collection it is based. The Trust is purely academic in outlook and interested in the study of beads

from the archaeological, anthropological, ethnographic and scientific points of view: it takes no part in the modern craft or commercial aspects of beads except where they impinge on the fields of interest mentioned above.

As a result of the recent generous bequest by Peggy Guido, the Trust has established the Guido Awards, founded for 'suitable (bead related) research abroad'. In addition, the Trust is publishing catalogues of the

Beck Collection, the first of which, dealing with the European beads and written by Julian Henderson, will appear very soon. It will be officially launched at a seminar in honour of Horace Beck to be held on Saturday 26 April 1997.

The Trust also publishes a Newsletter twice a year to exchange information and news about beads of all periods from all over the world. In addition to news, reviews and short articles, each newsletter

has an extensive international bibliography of recent publications on beads. Subscribers to the Newsletter come from all parts of the Old and New World, ranging from large American bead societies to individual subscribers in the Far East.

Enquiries about the work of the Bead Study Trust (enclosing a SAE if possible) should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs M.E. Hutchinson, 29 Elliscombe Road, London, SE7 7PF.

GEMSTONES - FACT AND MYTHOLOGY

Peridot

Peridot is an attractive light yellowish-green, resembling pistachios, a lively lime or a darker shade of green resembling olives. The colour is caused by a small amount of iron in a structure essentially of magnesium silicate; some stones with more iron than usual can be brown. It is the precious variety of a widespread mineral group called olivine which is most commonly found in basalts.

Early Egyptian accounts

The stone was known to the ancient Egyptians and, according to Agatharcides, was found on the Serpent Isle in the Red Sea. Here, by mandate of the Egyptian kings, the inhabitants collected specimens of this stone and delivered them to the gem-cutters for polishing.

Peridots were favoured by pirates, considered powerful amulets against all evil and, when set in gold, would protect the wearer from the terrors of the night. Peridot is supposed to strengthen the sight, heart and respiratory tract, it acts against depressions and some claim even against loss of hair. If fashioned into a chalice from which medicines were drunk, it intensified the effects of the drug.



Postage stamp depicting olivine crystals and a cut stone

According to legend the island was guarded by jealous watchers who put to death any unauthorized persons who took the stones. Some said that the watchers were in the form of serpents, a possible source for the name of the island. Further, it was rumoured that the stones were invisible in daylight and they could only be seen at nightfall by their radiance; thus their presence was marked at night so that they could be found on the following day.

Chrysolite was one of the stones used in the breastplate of the Mosaic High Priest, when the Israelites were wandering in the Sinai desert, so it seems possible that they were familiar with the stone in Egypt. There is considerable confusion resulting from uncertainties in translation of old texts concerning a yellowish stone which the ancient writers called 'topazius', but which seems to have been chrysolite or peridot, not our topaz. Pliny and his successors describe the topazius as a stone of greenish hue and a legend related by Pliny gives the place of origin as an

The name 'peridot' may be derived from the Greek 'peridona', meaning 'to provide plentifully', and was used by French jewellers (originally as peridot) only for the olivines of gem quality. In other countries it was called 'chrysolite' also derived from Greek meaning 'golden stone'. But in the course of the last century chrysoberyl, a yellowish-green beryl from Brazil, demantoid, vesuvianite, topaz, corundum and tourmaline appeared on the markets in similar colours and this led to the establishment of the name 'peridot' for precious olivine worldwide.

island in the Red Sea called Topazos, from 'topazein' meaning to 'conjecture', because it was difficult to see and to find. This all seems to identify the island of Topazos with the Serpent Isle. (Perhaps our historians can clarify this point.)

From these Egyptian sources came the finest specimens and these found their way to the treasures of Europe, possible through trade or looting at the time of the Crusades. Some of the most notable are to be found in the Treasury of the Three Magi, embedded in the shrine, in the great Cathedral of Cologne. Some of these gems are nearly two inches long, weighing 200 to 300 carats each, but are not, as was supposed for a long time, emeralds.

Origins

Olivine is abundant in volcanic rocks and sands derived from these. Some eruptive volcanoes are surrounded by volcanic dust, which in some cases is pure olivine dust. However the grains are far too small to cut as gems. For example, much Norwegian olivine is used both as foundry sand and as a flux for making steel. Some larger crystals are found in volcanic rocks and these are suitable for cutting into gemstones.

Sources

As a stone for use in jewellery, peridot became popular in the last century. The legendary Egyptian deposits were rediscovered in about 1900 in a tiny island in the Red Sea, about 70 kilometres off the Egyptian coast near Aswan. Today the island is known as St. John, but it has also been known as Seberget or Zebirget. Large deposits of peridot are found in the San Carlos area of Arizona in the United States, and although an abundant source for small and medium bright looking gems, it rarely produces large stones. Myanmar (Burma) has produced large stones of an excellent colour and purity; curiously, they appear periodically on the market in some numbers for a time and then the source seems to dry up.

In more recent times deposits have been found on the Indian sub-continent, especially in Pakistan. The colours range from a lime green to almost brown; large stones of tens of carats are available, but many have inclusions and cracks. It is rumoured that in some of these stones the cracks are being filled with resins. Other recent sources are Tanzania, China and Vietnam.

Birthstone

Peridot is a popular stone with jewellers and is an accepted birthstone for August. Its green colour was associated with the summer month of August and the yellowish colour

with the rays of the sun. It is also the accepted anniversary stone for the sixteenth year of marriage. Some larger stones have had a vulture carved on them and this is connected with beliefs that the stone would then constrain demons and the winds.

Properties

Since most of the stones used in jewellery manufacture are relatively small, its hardness of 6½ on the Mohs' scale, below the 7 of quartz, is not a serious disadvantage but as a centre stone in a ring, if set too high it can wear and scratch easily. It has a high sensitivity to acids and can discolour in prolonged exposure to sunlight. The material polishes well, but the facet edges can tarnish

in time. It is found in antique jewellery, where a pale variety was commonly used on a silver or gold foil background. The stone is relatively easy to identify, although glass fakes are rather convincing, but again it is easy to distinguish from this imitation by its significant double refraction.

Crystals of peridot embedded in meteorites have recently been found in gem qualities and this has led some to call it a heavenly stone.

After much searching I found one stamp depicting peridot, a recent issue from the French Antarctic Territories.

I would like to acknowledge use of material from articles from the ICA Gem Bureau.

H.L.

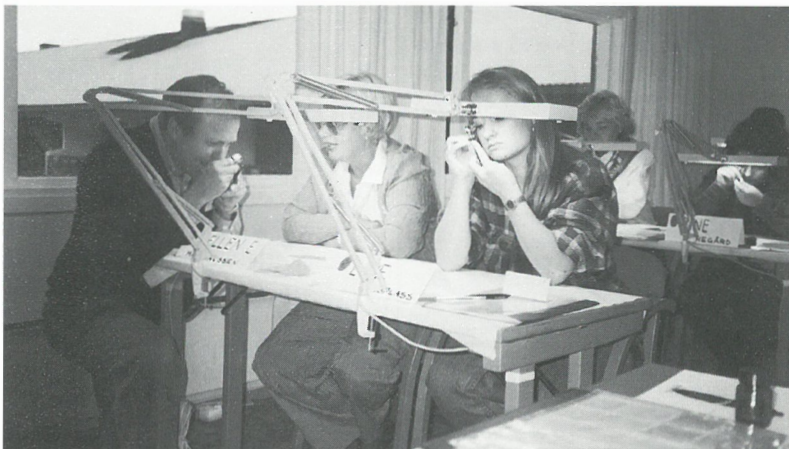
EDUCATION

Workshops

News about the activities concerning the short courses run by the education office has been conspicuous by its absence in *GJN* this year and so, with the year drawing to an end, here are some highlights of the year so far.

During 1996 there has been a significant increase in the number of

cities where jewellers have invited us to present travelling tutorials; these include Edinburgh, Sunderland, Belfast and, in association with the Craft Council of Ireland, Kilkenny. In addition courses have been custom made for staff training sessions for the Goldsmiths Group, Baker Brothers, Argos, G.A. Manufacturing and F.J. Malcolm, and again these have been presented at major centres. In London there have been the usual one- and two-



Students of Norges Gullsmedforbund at the Geilo workshop with instructor Lars Harsheim (far left).

day workshops, including a number of courses run for various clubs in the area.

In April Ian Mercer and Doug Garrod attended the American Gem Society Conclave in Washington DC and ran a series of workshops based on the use of hand-held gem testing instruments. Then in October Doug assisted the Norges Gullmedforbund at their Diamond

and Gemstone weekend in Geilo, north of Oslo in the Norwegian mountains, where he presented a varied programme including the detection of treated diamonds.

In September Lorne Stather joined the education team working with Doug to develop the short courses programme. Lorne has recently moved from Hong Kong and brings expertise from her work

with a company specializing in natural fancy-coloured diamonds.

With more staff now dedicated to developing short courses in 1997, the list of topics will cover a much wider range. Details of all London courses are published regularly in *GJN*—so ensure that you do not miss a subject that is of particular interest to you or a member of your staff and *watch this space!*

GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre

4–5 January 1997 Two-Day Diploma Practical Workshop

The long-established intensive practical course to help students prepare for the Diploma practical examination; also highly effective for those in the trade and elsewhere to brush up on technique. This is the course to help you practise the methods required to coax the best results from gem instruments. The course includes a half-length mock exam for you to mark yourself.

Price £160.39 (£111.04 for GAGTL registered students) – includes sandwich lunches

5 February Emeralds today

A valuable and concentrated look at all aspects of emerald: natural, rough and cut stones, treated, synthetic and imitation stones.

Price £123.00 (including sandwich lunch)

11–12 February Synthetics and Enhancements Today

Are you aware of the various treated and synthetic materials that are likely to be masquerading amongst the stones you are buying and selling? Whether you are valuing, repairing or dealing, these two days of insights, tips and practical investigation will increase your knowledge of current gems on the market.

Price £245.00 (including sandwich lunches)

19 February Diamonds Today

A valuable and concentrated look at all aspects of diamonds: rough and cut stones, treated, synthetic and imitation materials.

Price £123.00 (including sandwich lunch)

5 March Ruby and Sapphire – The Inside Story

A day looking at all aspects of these gems – natural, treated, synthetic and imitation.

Price £123.00 (including sandwich lunch)

19 March Preliminary Workshop

A day of practical tuition for Preliminary students and those who need an introduction to instruments, stones and crystals. You can learn to use the 10x lens at maximum efficiency, to observe the effects and results from the main gem testing instruments and to understand important aspects of crystals in gemmology.

Price £51.70 GAGTL students £37.00 (including sandwich lunch)

NOTE: All prices include VAT at 17.5%

Please ring the Education Office (0171 404 3334) for further information

New Federation in Europe

On 29 August 1996 a new organization for gemmological education in Europe was legally registered in The Netherlands. It is called the Federation for European Education in Gemmology (FEEG) and its main purposes are to facilitate and encourage the mutual exchange of information and technical assistance, to organize examinations leading to a common European qualification in gemmology (European Gemmologist) and to promote partnerships and economic, social and cultural exchanges between the respective members.

The origins of this initiative date back to September 1990 when a conference was held in Paris to consider the future of gemmological education in the countries of the European Community (now Union). It was inspired by the Erasmus programme to encourage mutual recognition of diplomas comparable to the situation already existing at University level, and was the first in a series of meetings that involved major gemmological organizations in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The provisional executive committee of the Federation consists of Professor Dr H. Bank (Chairman), Dr J. M^aNogués i Carulla (Vice Chairman), Dr R.R. Harding (Secretary) and Drs G.J. Hamel (Treasurer). The Vice Chairman takes the chair at the examination committee meetings, and the other members of the examination committee are J.-P. Poirot, L. Sarmiento Carpintero and Dr F. Sosso. The headquarters of FEEG are registered at Zadkine College, Mr Kesperstraat 10, 2871 GS Schoonhoven, the Netherlands, and the secretariat is currently at GAGTL, 27 Greville Street, London, EC1N 8SU, UK.

Contact Numbers

Belgium:	M. Van Bockstael	+32 3222 0511 +32 3222 0724 (Fax)
France:	Mme N. Cavanozian P. Maitrallet	+33 1424 67800 +33 1424 67849 (Fax) +33 1402 62545 +33 1402 60675 (Fax)
Germany:	Professor Dr H. Bank	+49 6781 43011 +49 6781 41616 (Fax)
Italy:	Dr F. Sosso	+39 2240 9354 +39 2240 6257 (Fax)
Netherlands:	Drs G.J.W. Hamel Mr J.C. Zwaan	+31 1823 83944 +31 1823 83047 (Fax) +31 71512 5337 (also Fax)
Spain:	Dr J. M ^a Nogués i Carulla Mr L. Sarmiento	+34 3402 1425 +34 3402 1426 (Fax) +34 1532 6267 +34 1531 6503 (Fax)
U.K.	Dr R.R. Harding	+44 171 404 3334 +44 171 404 8843 (Fax)

The gem industry in Europe should benefit from this co-operation between the major gem education centres by the establishment of a qualification recognized throughout the Union. The qualification is based on a syllabus relevant to today's gem and jewellery market concerns and the standard will be closely monitored to remain consistent from year to year.

The examination consists of theory and practical sections. Each candidate will be asked to identify a total of 12 stones in the practical and in the theory examination to answer 100 multiple choice questions; the pass mark is 75 per cent in each section and a candidate must pass each section to qualify for the diploma.

To be eligible to enter for the FEEG examination a candidate must already have the diploma of a FEEG member organization. Provided consistent standards are established in the years to come, it will be beneficial for gemmologists working in Europe, if not internationally, to have a qualification standard throughout Europe.

The first examinations were held in October but it is intended to hold them annually at the beginning of July. Details of syllabus, fees and dates for the next examinations and

of other aspects of FEEG are available from the representatives in each country and contact numbers are given above.

Fellows of the Gemmological Association who obtained their diplomas some years ago might like to consider sitting for the European diploma. It is an appropriate opportunity to refresh the parts (of gemmology) perhaps not reached too often in current activities, and preparatory sessions for the examination will be conducted by Doug Garrod or Lorne Stather; details are available on 0171 404 3334.

Golden Jubilee (cont. from page 1)

The stone itself is thought to symbolize the virtues of unity, freedom, justice and durability that are embodied in the person of the Monarch.

Once the arrangements were made and with the consent of His Majesty, it was then sought to have the stone named as the Golden Jubilee in honour of the 50th anniversary of his coronation.

For the people of Thailand there is gratification in knowing the Golden Jubilee has found a home in Thailand, as it will mark an important event in the history of Eastern culture. Many legends written by

western authors surround stones that have made their way from East to West. The Golden Jubilee marks the first time a major diamond has begun its life in the West and made its way to the East.

The Golden Jubilee is currently on display at the Jewelry Trade Centre in Bangkok, and will also be displayed in the provinces of Thailand. The Golden Jubilee will be placed in a specially designed sceptre and presented to the King as a constant reminder of the high regard the people of Thailand have for their Monarch and the Royal Family.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Aquamarines of Brazil

Sirs

I would like to congratulate Harry Levy on his excellent article on aquamarine (*Gem & Jewellery News*, March 1996, pp 28–29) and to clarify one or two points arising.

First Espirito Santo is not a mine, but in the state of Espirito Santo the most famous source of aquamarine was the old Itaguassí mine, closed a long time ago. Secondly, Martha Rocha is the name of an alluvial aquamarine found in 1954 near the city of Teófilo Otoni, Minas Gerais. The name Martha Rocha was given to the stone after a young woman who took second place in the international beauty contest of that year. The stone weighed 74.8 pounds, 65 per cent of which was cuttable into the finest blue colour.

Yours etc.

Francisco Müller Bastos, FGA, GG
Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais,
Brazil

27 August 1996

I was delighted to read Francisco Müller's comments on my article on aquamarine. Our knowledge of gemstones and gemmology can only be improved if there is the feedback from those close to the sources. H.L.

COMPETITION

An old miner has been excavating a mine for many years and he finds that it can take him the whole day to reach the bottom of the mine.

In very cold or very hot weather he spends a day working his way down the mine, sleeps there during the night, and returns up during the next day. He has a watch of course.

He keeps discovering new veins both on his way down and on his way up, and he never times his rates of descent and ascent.

Another miner, who knows of his habits tells him that on all such trips he always reaches one point at exactly the same time of the day on his way down and on his way up. Is this true?

The usual for the correct answer and the simplest explanation. H.L.

Answer to puzzle in the September 1996 issue

Those of you who can remember your school days when we still had weights and beam balances will recall that the weights were set out using the following sequence: 1, 2, 2 and 5.

With this combination, any weight between 1 and 10 can be obtained by putting weights on *only* one pan. Thus $8 = 5 + 2 + 1$ and so on. One would have this combination for the units, tens, hundreds or fractions.

A different combination was used in the East, including China, which was 1, 3, 9 and 27. With these four weights one could get any whole number between 1 and 40, but here with so few weights they would have to be put on *both* pans to get any weight. I remember the unit used was the Tola. For example $8 = 9 - 1$ and $13 = 9 + 3 + 1$.

For the puzzle I extended this series as I thought 4 weights would be too simple.

Those with a knowledge of some Theory of Numbers or with an esoteric mind, may realize the numbers 1, 3, 9 and 27 are simply the first four powers of the number 3, namely $3^0, 3^1, 3^2, 3^3$. I find it is these sorts of discoveries that add another dimension and beauty to our knowledge.

Hence the two next numbers in this series are $3^4 = 81$ and $3^5 = 243$. Another mathematical way of seeing this is that each weight is a combination of all the previous weights + 1.

The response to this puzzle was minimal, so I hope readers will get on better with this issue's puzzle, which requires not mathematics, but rather a bit of lateral thinking. H.L.

Errata

In the September 1996 issue of *GJN*, p. 54, third column, the second paragraph should commence as follows:

Colour is also an essential element of design. When I began making jewellery, enamelling was a definite goal: but I came to dislike the way in which it can only be applied in segments on complex curves. Thus stone became more attractive to me; I perceive stone as a block of wonderful colour . . .

The Editors apologize for the misprint.

WHAT'S ON

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London Branch

Meetings will be held at the GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre, 2nd floor, 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8SU. Entry will be by ticket only at £3.50 for a member (£5.00 for a non-member) available from the GAGTL.

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|-------------|--|
| 15 January | Growth and identification of synthetic diamonds Christopher M. Welbourn |
| 12 February | Sleepers - rediscovery and reattribution in the antique jewellery trade
Geoffrey C. Munn |
| 12 March | How will our Garden grow?
Adrian Klein |
| 16 April | Make paste! Imitating precious and semi-precious stones over 5000 years
Ian Freestone |

Midlands Branch

Monthly meetings will be held at the Discovery Centre, 77 Vyse Street, Birmingham 18. Further details from Gwyn Green on 0121 445 5359.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 31 January | Bring and Buy, Quiz |
| 23 February | Gem Club - Treated stones
Eric Emms |
| 28 February | A gemmological journey from the Alps to Vesuvius E. Alan Jobbins |
| 21 March | A talk on pearls |
| 23 March | Gem Club - Synthetic gemstones and their identification Alan Hodgkinson |
| 20 April | Gem Club - Demonstration of diamond cutting techniques David Proudlove |
| 25 April | AGM followed by Gems from the Law
John Bugg |

North West Branch

For details of meetings to be held in 1997 contact Joe Azzopardi on 01270 628251.

Scottish Branch

For details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Joanna Thomson on 01721 722936.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12 February | Lab Night Barmulloch College, Barmulloch Road, Glasgow |
| 14 March | Valuations Euan Taylor |
| 18-20 April | AGM. Weekend Tutorial in Peebles with Alan Hodgkinson and Field Trip |

Society of Jewellery Historians

Unless otherwise stated, all Society of Jewellery Historians' lectures are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1 and start at 6.00 p.m. sharp. Lectures are followed by an informal reception with wine. Meetings are only open to SJH members and their guests. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status.

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|------------------------|---|
| Monday
20 January | Professor Marcia Pointon: <i>Testifying jewels, some women of substance and their bequests in 18th century England.</i> The Society's AGM preceding the lecture will be open to members only. Guests, upon application and as space permits, to be invited into the lecture. |
| Monday
10 March | Dr Robert Leake: <i>Sources of gold in the British Isles from pre-history to the 19th century.</i> |
| Monday
21 April | Ann Marie Shillito: <i>Contemporary jewellery in refractory metals - inspiration for the designs and the technical aspects of making.</i> |
| Monday
19 May | Niamh Whitfield: <i>The 'Tara Brooch'. A masterpiece of early medieval Celtic metalwork.</i> |
| Monday
23 June | Dr Robert Liu, co-editor of <i>Ornament</i> , the art of personal adornment magazine, will speak about <i>Oriental ancient beads.</i> |
| Monday
22 September | Charles Burnett, the Ross Herald of Arms: <i>The Honours of Scotland.</i> |
| Monday
3 November | Fred Rich: <i>Enamelling techniques and his own work examined.</i> |
| November | Proposed one-day Symposium at the British Museum to tie in with the exhibition Cartier 1900-1939 (1 October 1997 to 1 February 1998) |

The copy date for contributions for the March issue of *Gem and Jewellery News* is 24 January 1997