

GEM & JEWELLERY *News*

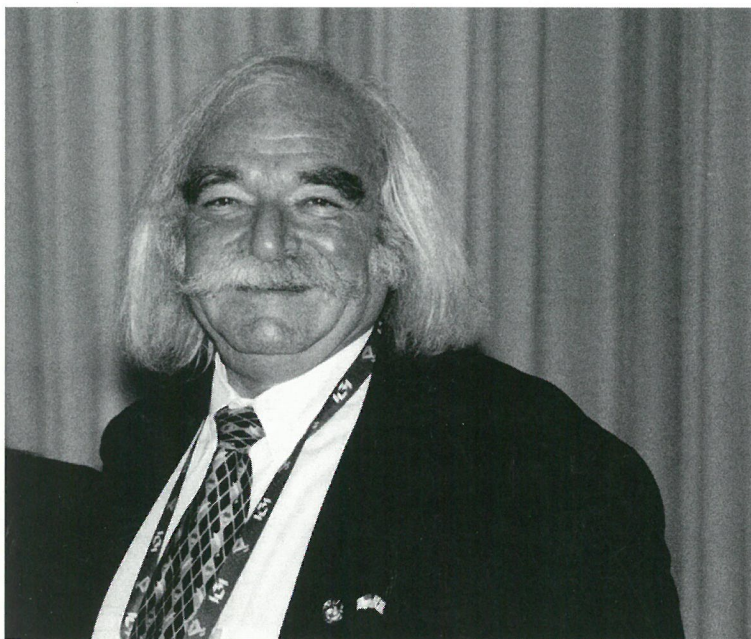
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GEM-A USA – A FIRST 'GATHERING'

It was at the Tucson Gem Fair 2002 that the idea of forming a branch of Gem-A in the USA was first mooted. Set up under the directorship of Ann Dale, Gem-A USA is now firmly established. Terry Davidson, CEO of Gem-A in London, reports on the first 'Gathering' of the Branch held in Tucson during the 2003 Gem Fair.

At the suggestion of Ann Dale, Director of Gem-A USA, a 'Gathering' of Gem-A members was arranged during the Tucson Gem Fair offering an opportunity for American members and Fellows of the Association to meet and network. A great idea – we thought we would have approximately eighty acceptances. However, like all great ideas, it took off. Instead of being an all American national event, it became an international one. We

Gabi Tolkowsky – guest speaker at the Gem-A USA Gathering.



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had FGAs, members and friends of Gem-A USA from America, China, Canada, France, Korea, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK, totalling approximately 150.

The 'Gathering' took place in the Marriot University Hotel with a champagne reception in the foyer and a buffet meal in the ballroom with subtle, live, background piano music.

Ann, in her welcoming speech, greeted everyone, introduced the advisory board, and talked of the importance of working together,

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Gem literature accessed on the web

A casual meeting with a friend last year included a visit to Amazon.com on the web. This is a very good site for any kind of book enquiry: not only can you find subjects, titles and authors but also, if you are lucky (or unlucky) the complete texts of books which can of course be downloaded. The number of hits (visits to the site) is usually visible on the screen: one book on synthetic gemstones had registered over 350,000 hits and this was some months ago.

The amount of numerical and other factual data generated by research into gem and ornamental materials is much larger than the casual reader may imagine and it is quite easy to find what you want on the net – for example you might want to see what had been written on synthetic or treated diamonds. Far more than this is available, however: if you needed to know the range of refractive indexes reported for a particular material this could be found.

A new text on gemstones* has an accompanying web site to which constant updates are already being sent and not only of stop-press type

information but details of how gem testing instruments work.

A similar treatment, text and website is planned for the new book *Gems* which is due to be published during 2004. The title suggests the five editions of Robert Webster's *Gems* first published in 1962 and ending with Webster's *Gems*, edited by Peter Read and in fact the book is planned to be the nearly-direct descendant of these popular studies.

The new book is to be an encyclopedic survey of gem materials of all types (details will be announced later) but in the information handling and access context here again is an excellent opportunity for electronic access – think about tables alone. Figures can be changed in the light of further research and new ones added.

Does this kind of development spell the end of the textbook? This does not seem to be the case at the time of writing: there is no diminution in the number of titles published annually in the UK (one of the world's most prolific publishers) and the number of new books deposited each year at Cambridge

University Library continues to increase.

Michael O'Donoghue

* Michael O'Donoghue and Louise Joyner have collaborated in a new book *The Identification of gemstones* published by Butterworth-Heinemann this year, ISBN 0 7506 5512 7, softcover, price £40.00 (available through Gem-A Instruments). Details of the web site presently from the publishers (fax 01865 314572).

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The Kimberley Process

The Kimberley Process (KP) finally became law on 1 January 2003. KP applies only to the movement of rough diamonds, so those who do not trade in rough diamonds, probably the majority of our readers, may think that it does not apply to them. **This is wrong: the effects of KP and its consequences apply to everyone who handles diamonds in any form, be they polished or set in jewellery, be they new or old. I will attempt to set out below how this will affect you and what you will have to do to comply with the Process.**

Let us look briefly at the history which led to the KP. It all started with the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) bringing to the notice of the world, via governments, the United Nations (UN) and the diamond trade, that rebels in some African countries were getting hold of diamonds, selling them and using the proceeds to buy arms and thus prolong the civil wars. These were particularly vicious civil wars in that a lot of atrocities were being directed towards the civilian population. The NGOs in the forefront in the UK are Global Witness, Action Aid and Amnesty International.

Conflict diamonds

The original reference to these stones was to call them 'Blood diamonds'. But this is a very emotive term and when the diamond trade became involved with the problem the term was modified to 'Conflict diamonds', a far more neutral term, although the former is still occasionally used by the media.

The first country in which diamonds were alleged to be associated with rebels was Angola in the mid-nineties. Flooding had enabled recovery of large quantities of alluvial diamonds and they were there for the picking. Dealers in rough diamonds rushed to Angola and this new source began to

Treated orange sapphire – latest

The Gemstone Industry and Laboratory Conference (GILC) was held on the 4 February in Tucson, Arizona, courtesy of the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA). The Laboratory Manual Harmonization Committee, consisting of laboratory personnel from the USA, Switzerland, Italy, Thailand and Japan, presented their latest proposals for the harmonization of ruby terminology.

The other main topic under discussion was the relatively new treatment being applied to corundum, which is probably best known for the orange surface coloration being added to pink stones, which approximates to the natural pink/orange colour of padparadscha sapphires. There was widespread acceptance that the treatment being applied to a variety of colours of corundum was the result of the addition of beryllium during heat treatment. The main issue addressed was to improve communication between supplier and consuming countries

in order that treatment disclosure was dealt with better in the future.

Don Kogen, who had represented the Chanthaburi Gem & Jewelry Association (CGA) at the GILC meeting, was able to return to Thailand and report to an emergency meeting of the CGA on the 19 February (according to a CGA press release). In a landmark decision, the 60 associated members present unanimously agreed that:

- chrysoberyl is being intentionally added to the crucible during the new treatment to enhance colour in corundum.
- all association members are obligated to disclose and to differentiate the new treatment when selling to customers.

Members who fail to adhere to the new disclosure system would be expelled from the CGA. All disclosure disputes will be dealt with by the CGA Disclosure Committee. The specific details of their disclosure system can be found at their website www.cga.org.th

Steve Kennedy

undermine the stability of diamond rough prices to the extent that De Beers set up its own purchasing office there and also offered to buy such stones in Antwerp. At this time these diamonds were totally legitimate and there was no association with rebels.

Soon after these events the rebels appeared to have moved in, realizing the potential revenue obtainable from such diamonds. The NGOs became very active in the UN and a resolution was passed (Number 1173) in 1998 to the effect that the purchase of diamonds originating in Angola was forbidden, unless it came from legitimate sources endorsed by the Angolan

authorities, which in practical terms meant those exported by the government itself.

The next country to become involved in this matter was Sierra Leone. Here the picture presented by the NGOs was far more graphic, showing pictures of women and children with amputated limbs, allegedly carried out by the rebels on the civilian population. It was unclear whether the purpose of such cruelty was to somehow get hold of diamonds, or whether it was to terrify and terrorize the civilian population. Whatever the reason, the cause seemed to be put on diamonds. A sustained campaign associating diamonds with

amputees had the desired effect in that the world did begin to sit up and take notice. Governments, predominantly that of the United States, felt that some sort of action ought to be taken and began a process of consultation with the jewellery trade in America.

Analogy with fur trade

The analogy was made with the fur trade, where again the NGOs were very active, in showing that furs were obtained by trapping or breeding animals which were then killed to obtain their furs. We had 'blood furs' and part of the campaign was to drench those wearing fur coats in red paint.

The diamond trade began to take notice, realizing the potential harm that could be done to the whole trade. Most of those involved in the diamond and jewellery trade were initially oblivious to association of diamonds and civil wars in Africa: the bulk of polished stones came from rough purchased by sight holders from De Beers, and they had trust in De Beers not doing anything wrong. De Beers realized the potential damage that could be done to *all* diamonds if this campaign continued from outside the trade. The pressure began to be felt by the diamond trade itself and the leadership began to take an active role.

Some travelled to Africa itself and all those who went out were horrified at what they were shown. They came back and began to look at ways of removing the stigma from the trade. It should be realized that the analogy with the fur trade is a bad one, in that every fur is a blood fur and will always be so. Only *some* of the diamonds originating from the conflict areas were blood diamonds and would cease to be so once they had resolved the conflicts. Blood furs were *endemic* to the fur trade whereas blood diamonds were an *epidemic* in the diamond trade.

The conflict areas were at this time producing a mere 4% of the total world diamond production. South Africa began to get involved with this problem early in the year

2000 and the trade used the Diamond Congress, held in the summer of that year in Antwerp, as the focal point to address the problem. The Diamond Congress, a bi-annual event held at different diamond centres, is a gathering of the Bourses who are part of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), and the cutters and manufacturers of diamonds, the International Diamond Manufacturers Associations (IDMA). The conflict diamond issue would be the main item on the agenda and representatives of interested countries, the UN and the NGOs were invited.

World Diamond Council

It was resolved to create a new body, the World Diamond Council (WDC), as a forum to try to resolve the Conflict Diamond issue. All those involved with the diamond trade were asked to be represented, such as bankers, courier companies and representatives from all the producing countries, as well as the consuming countries. It was pointed out that South Africa had already set up a forum earlier in the year and since they first met in Kimberley the new organization was given the name 'Kimberley Process'.

This became very much a governmental instrument as potentially it would be governments who would be asked to control the movement of rough diamonds. But all sections of the diamond trade, those involved with the movement of diamonds, NGOs and so on, were asked to be participants in the Process. KP then started to meet regularly in different locations with the final meetings being held in Canada and Interlaken in Switzerland in November 2002. Fifty governments unanimously adopted the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

Protection for legitimate trade

Let us understand exactly what KP was trying to achieve. It was trying to eliminate conflict diamonds from the diamond trade and, importantly, it was designed to

protect the legitimate diamond trade. This is something forgotten by those in the diamond trade who see it merely as curbs on their trade. It is there to protect the trade and that is why many countries not involved with the trade from Africa supported it and were involved with the diamond trade. Also it is important to realize that KP applies only to rough diamonds. The NGOs had demanded something more than just control of the import-export of rough diamonds as they wanted control over the whole trade including polished goods and jewellery to ensure that no conflict diamonds remained in the chain of supply even if they bypassed the KP controls. More on this aspect later.

Certification

KP was designed to control the movement of rough diamonds through a certification process. Exporters of rough diamonds would have to ensure that the stones they exported would have to be:

- presented to the appropriate diamond office, set up by their government;
- sealed in a tamper-proof box; and
- a certificate would accompany the goods to the country of destination.

The importer would have to produce the still-sealed package to his diamond office, who could clear the goods for trading.

I can only try to explain how the system will work in the UK where we initially had no special diamond controls. The UK government played a prominent and leading role in KP with representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They opened a new department called the Government Diamond Office which, with the help of HM Customs and Excise, will monitor and supervise the import and export of rough diamonds.

In order to have a starting point for future records, the Diamond Office is asking that all those who hold stocks of rough diamonds which may be traded at a later date, should

list these and let them have a copy of such stocks and where these are held at the time the listing is done. This will enable them to keep some sort of meaningful statistic so that they can verify what comes into and goes out of the country.

Fast track

The government from the beginning decided to work closely with the trade and has set up a 'fast track' to facilitate the movement of these goods. The fast track will apply to those who are members of an approved trade association, the thinking being that trade organizations have volunteered to supervise their members and use strong disciplinary measures against any member found to be contravening KPCS. So far the body that has formally applied for government accreditation is the London Diamond Bourse and Club (LDBC), although other trade organizations may follow.

The movement of rough diamonds is small, as it is with most European countries. What movement there is, is mostly for low value industrial diamonds. I say this in spite of the fact that the largest distributor of rough diamonds, both gem-quality and industrial, operates from London at the heart of its diamond industry near Hatton Garden. I refer of course to De Beers, who are now known as the Diamond Trading Company (DTC). They have never been part of the London diamond trade; their base is in London, all their goods are sorted and sold through their London office to their sight holders, but they have a 'free port' status and are separately monitored by HM Customs & Excise. The Diamond Office will continue this type of supervision and since the DTC control the rough that they mine and buy it will be one source that can ensure that it will only handle legitimate diamonds.

Diamond Office

Those outside the DTC will have to present their stones and

paperwork to the Government Diamond Office (GDO) to obtain the necessary Certificate. A charge will be made for this, although the final cost has not yet been set. They will adopt the fast track which means the exporter will be allowed to seal his goods in a tamper-proof box and only the paperwork will need to be presented to the GDO to obtain the Certificate. They will of course satisfy themselves that those who apply for their Certificates are bona-fide traders, unlikely to contravene the KPSC system. That is why they will only apply the fast track system to

those who are members of an approved trade organization. Others will find it very difficult and almost impossible to send and receive rough diamonds, as the GDO will adopt very stringent and time-consuming procedures to ensure that the goods are legitimate.

That is how KP will apply and be used in the UK. Unfortunately the reality has not been so simple. Only about 50 countries have signed up to the KP which means there are many countries who have not. Problems were created by, amongst others, Japan who claimed that KP will

ICA Congress – Jaipur, India

William Roberts, UK Ambassador for the ICA, reports on the recent Congress

One morning in January this year, I arrived in New Delhi in thick fog at 3 a.m., to travel to the International Coloured Stone Association Congress. This year it was to be held in the pink city of Jaipur. On advice from the organizers I jumped straight into a car for the six-hour drive to Jaipur (through the fog). This turned out to be a good move as the flight to Jaipur, although lasting only 20 minutes was delayed several days.

About 120 delegates from outside India had gathered in Jaipur together with at least double that number of locals. There were discussions and talks on many issues including new treatments for orange sapphires, and website design.

I arrived just in time for the trade show, which displayed the many facets of Jaipur's cutting skills. On display were beads of all descriptions: emeralds, rubies and sapphires, as well as many other stones often overlooked in the UK. Tanzanites have become a staple of the local industry and huge amounts are now cut and processed there. Most seems to end up in the United States, but we shall be bringing some to the UK soon. Some

absolutely fabulous emeralds were to be found in the form of very fine old 'beady' goods. These come from old Maharaja's beads, which are split along the drill hole and faceted, often into a pair of pear shapes. They have a superb colour, rarely seen anywhere else. The original mine location of these goods remains a mystery, as no one really knows.

In the evening there was an auction, partly to raise funds for the ICA, and partly to display some local goods. A fabulous jewel – the ICA Crown – deserves special mention; it had been created by the Gem Palace in Jaipur using traditional methods and fine coloured stones – not one diamond!

While it would have been hard for me to put into words before I attended the Congress precisely the benefits of being in the ICA, I have to say now that I can see how greater communication as well as coordinated responses to common problems have indeed helped our trade. I expect it be even more important in the future as we face the new treatments, often only discovered after several dealers' purchase treated lots in good faith. In short I feel the ICA will grow and help our trade grow.

contravene accepted World Trade Organization (WTO) practices for the free movement of goods. Rough diamonds will be barred from being imported from and exported to those countries who have not signed up to the KP. Effectively the world is now divided into two camps, those who accept KP and those who do not, and trade between these two camps would be barred.

Other political issues arose. Some countries claimed that they had no practical methods of implementing KP as they did not have the government office set up to deal with this. At present Belgium, a major diamond centre, will use its own established diamond offices to monitor the movement of rough diamonds, and smaller European countries will use Belgium or the UK Diamond Office for the clearance of goods. It should again be emphasized that at present few European countries, other than Belgium and the DTC in the UK, trade in rough diamonds.

Voluntary system in USA

For this and other reasons the KP did not start on 1 January 2003 as planned but was postponed until 1 February 2003. Even this date was not adhered to and at the time of writing my understanding is that KP was formally introduced in the UK on 13 February 2003. As a final obstacle the United States government has announced that it does not have the legislation to implement the scheme. The US was at the forefront of the countries wanting to put the KP in place and they now find that at this stage the KPCS is in fact a 'voluntary' system in the USA, un-enforceable in law. Again my understanding is that Certificates from the US will be acceptable by other KP participants, as these will be supervised by legitimate, and respected and responsible trade organizations in the US, and the State Department has said that they are committed towards stopping the conflict diamond trade and will work expeditiously with Congress to pass

legislation as soon as possible in 2003.

I stated earlier that the NGOs wanted the KP to cover all aspects of the diamond trade and saw weaknesses in the control of only the rough. They are concerned that conflict diamonds could be smuggled into the diamond cutting centres, and about the ease with which dishonest government officials could be bribed to obtain a Kimberley Certificate for conflict diamonds in the conflict areas. They are asking for control systems independent of national government and developing a system for the collection and analysis of statistics. And they want some sort of independent monitoring of polished goods and jewellery containing diamonds to ensure that they are conflict free.

The movement of polished diamonds is far greater than the movement of rough stones. Those involved with the rough diamond trade are a small fraction of the entire diamond industry. Rather than have outside bodies trying to monitor this aspect of the industry the diamond trade proposed a method of self regulation.

Self regulation

This was discussed at the last Diamond Congress which was held in London and it was decided that a system of Industry Self Regulation (ISR) would be set up. Here each buyer of diamonds should ensure that the diamonds he was buying would be warranted by his supplier to be conflict free. A declaration would be made by the seller stating:

"The diamonds herein invoiced have been purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations Resolutions. The seller hereby guarantees that these diamonds are conflict free, based on personal knowledge and/or written guarantees provided by the supplier of these diamonds."

For diamonds in stock and purchased without a guarantee prior to 1 January 2003 a similar wording can be used:

"The diamonds herein invoiced have been purchased prior to 1 January 2003 from sources believed to be reliable. The seller hereby guarantees that they have no personal knowledge or reason to believe that these diamonds are conflict diamonds that have been traded in violation of any United Nations Resolutions."

All those involved with bringing about these new regulations and methodology into the diamond trade realize that they are untested and may have to be modified or changed to make them workable.

There are those who are unhappy in giving a guarantee on something that cannot be independently verified and based on the word of a supplier who probably has similar problems in accepting the word of his own supplier. At this stage if someone higher up in the chain of supplier is proved to be dishonest it cannot impinge on the integrity of those lower down the chain of supply. The NGOs appreciate this and have written to me: "We understand that the guarantee received by manufacturers and so passed on to retailers and consumers, can only be as good as the one they receive from higher up the supply chain: any chain of warranties can only be as strong as the first link."

Those who are aware of conflict diamonds within the diamond and jewellery trade are appalled by the harm and misery conflict diamonds have caused to innocent civilians in the conflict areas of Africa. Both on moral grounds and on practical grounds for those who want to see the diamond and jewellery trade to continue and flourish it is in all our interests to ensure that the Kimberley Process works and is seen to be working.

National level

To this end the WDC and bodies such as CIBJO at the international level are determined to eradicate conflict diamonds from the industry and all will take strong measures to exclude those found to be knowingly trading in conflict diamonds. At a

national level we are working closely with the NGOs, governmental bodies and the media, to eradicate this problem and bringing pressure on the international bodies to make sure that the Process does work. The main pressure that can be applied is on the supplying countries to ensure that only conflict-free stones are exported, and on the cutters that they can only cut and polish legitimate rough. Beyond this level of the supply chain it is almost impossible to identify the origin of polished goods.

Events in this field are still evolving. Political solutions are slowly reducing the conflict areas and at the time of writing only Liberia is still considered to be a conflict area. The NGOs still insist that the lull in fighting could be temporary and rebels may still be preparing for future conflicts. So we must continue to remain vigilant. Perhaps by the time you read this other factors may have arisen, so you should keep up with more frequently produced trade journals and press. They should tell you how the process is working and if

changes are needed.

A final point: as we move away from conflict diamonds we are moving to the 'illicit diamond' issue. This is the accusation that terrorist groups are using diamonds and other gemstones to launder and move their assets round the world since governments are continuing to seize and freeze assets held in banks and similar institutions. Already the media has picked up on this issue so we really are only at the beginning of this story.

Harry Levy

Jewellery theft from exhibition in The Hague

On 5 October 2002 the Dutch educational museum 'Museon' in The Hague opened the exhibition 'Diamant, Van Ruwe Steen Tot Sieraad', which is dedicated to the many aspects of diamond; such as countries where diamonds are found, how they can be worked on for the jewellery business and in industry, and how to recognize diamond substitutes. Other aspects of the exhibition include Amsterdam as not only a historical city with many connections to the diamond trade, but also the city where diamond workers have been responsible for the first workers union.

The 'Diamant, Van Ruwe Steen Tot Sieraad' exhibition at the 'Museon' in the Hague obtained a large number of diamond-studded objects from local and foreign lenders, which were put on display in a specially created 'Treasury Room'. During the night of Sunday 1 and Monday 2 December, thieves broke into the museum and made off with a king's ransom of precious exhibits, including several pieces that had once been the Royal jewels of Portugal and are part of the collection from the Ajuda Palace in Lisbon. Other stolen objects were on loan from Paris, London and The Netherlands.

A special task force from The Hague police are trying to work out

how this priceless haul of diamonds was snatched from the exhibition, as the raiders had bypassed a complicated system of cameras and sensors. Six of the 28 cases in the treasury chamber were smashed and although several highly valued pieces were taken, the burglars also took jewellery that, if dismantled, the old fashioned rose-cut diamonds individually would not fetch much money. Of the rare and beautiful Portuguese exhibits that were stolen are two important pieces illustrated here, a diamond set cane handle and a diamond necklace. Other losses of great



Necklace set with 32 diamonds at a total weight of 150.35 ct, gold and silver mounts. The piece was most likely made by Ambrosio Gottlieb Pollet in Lisbon in 1787.



Cane handle set with a 24.32 ct diamond, made of gold and silver with 'birds' ornamentation, Paris made c.1750-70.

historical significance were turban ornaments, rings, and several tiaras.

Request for information

For anyone who might have a lead on the whereabouts of these items, please contact the Police co-ordinator, Mr H. Klijn:

Police-office, Duinstraat 23, 2584 AV The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. +31-(0)70-4243351 or 4243048.

At the museum where the exhibition is being held, please contact Mr Bert Molsbergen:

'Museon' Museum, Stadhouderslaan 41, The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. +31 (0)70-3381338.

Gem-A USA Gathering

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united in a common cause to benefit and strengthen our industry. She then spoke of Gem-A USA's future plans – working with our Director of Education, Ian Mercer, to open and establish two allied teaching centres in California, one in New York and one in Texas. She finished her speech with an appeal for everyone to help promote and be ambassadors for our Association.

Gabi Tolkowsky was the guest speaker. He is such a magnificent supporter, coming over to the USA solely to appear and support our Association – we could not ask for a better Ambassador. He gave an inspirational talk on *Art and the Artist*, relating it to the importance of knowledge and learning. Especially in our trade where nature has given us such an abundance of material to

study and to enhance. "Should not the cutter", he asked, "be recognized, as is the painter or sculptor, for he, with his knowledge and skill, also creates things of exceptional beauty."

The feedback from the Gem-A USA 'Gathering' was extremely positive and everyone looked forward to a similar event in 2004.

Gem-A USA – the Gem-A's first overseas branch

A year ago I attended the Tucson Gem Stone Fair for the first time. There, assisting the Gem-A team on our promotional stand, I met Ann Dale, a remarkable American lady. Ann is an FGA, GG and PG. She runs a successful retail business with her husband, Mike, in Louisiana. She calls her business Anne Dale Jewellers with two 'l's and herself a gemmologist with two 'm's. She is passionate about

gemmology and a great supporter of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain.

It was at Tucson in 2002 that Ann, Ian Mercer (Gem-A's Director of Education) and I decided that, in order to expand education and membership further in the USA, we needed to establish an American Branch – a momentous decision. For such a project to be successful, we would need someone of exceptional

ability, energy and devotion to our Association. In Ann we had found such a person and the proposal to set up a branch of Gem-A in America was put to and accepted by the Council of Management. Ann was appointed as Director in April 2002. The Association's first overseas branch, Gem-A USA, was officially launched at the JCK Las Vegas Show that year with Gabi Tolkowsky, the internationally renowned diamantaire as the guest speaker.

Since then Ann has travelled all over America, networked via phone and email, visited educational establishments with a view to them becoming ATCs and AGTCs, set up a promotional stand at the Atlanta trade show, attended the JA show in New York, visited England for our conference and to present her marketing and strategic plan for Gem-A USA to the Council of Management. She has also selected an advisory board of five prominent people from different sectors of the American trade to assist her. She has devoted so much time to our Association through Gem-A USA that her husband asked me if he could please have his wife back for the month of December for the Christmas trade.

Terry Davidson

The Gem-A USA Advisory Board (from left): Ken Scarratt, Peter Yantzer, Ann Dale, Teresa Shannon, Gail Levine, Harold Dupuy and Steve MacDiarmid.



Gem-A at Tucson

Although the worldwide economic situation is not good with the threat of war in the Middle East dominating the news, the Tucson Gem Show still managed to put on a glittering display of all the best gemstone material available. Buyers were there but cautious, looking for the bargains or the quality rare items.

Gem-A stand

Gem-A, the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, has been attending the Show for many years with their promotional stand. Steve Kennedy, Director of the Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain, Doug Garrod, Gem-A's senior education lecturer, Ann Dale, Director of Gem-A USA, and myself represented the Association, with part-time voluntary help from Gem-A supporter Kathryn Kinev and author Renée Newman.

The Gem-A stand was near the main entrance to the Galleria of the Tucson Convention Center, where the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) Gem Show is held every year. We had a continuous stream of visitors; some old friends who always pop by to say hello, others curious to find out more about us, and those who wanted to know more about our educational programmes. We signed up new members for the Association and had enquiries from potential students for our new Foundation Course. There was great interest in the new items from Gem-A Instruments, particularly the portable Gem Kits comprising essential testing equipment in a travel case and the Estimator Loupe. The Show was also the ideal forum to present Ann Dale as the Gem-A representative in the USA.

Seminar by Gabi Tolkowsky

The AGTA sponsored a series of seminars for the duration of their show from 5 to 10 February. Once they heard that Gabi Tolkowsky was attending to speak at the Gem-A USA 'Gathering', they invited him to take

one of the seminars. Gabi, being the gentleman he is, agreed, and gave a talk on diamond cuts. There was a packed lecture room, where the attendees were introduced to the art of the diamantaire from biblical times through to the present day. He showed examples of cuts, including the famous Centenary diamond. To add the icing to the cake, he introduced us to the music of diamonds. He had realized that if you could slow down the speed of light passing through a diamond to the speed of sound, you could generate sound waves. By taking the gem print of a diamond and changing it into sound waves, music is created. Each and every diamond has its own unique orchestration.

Pearls

Steve Kennedy, an authority on pearls, gave a well-attended lecture on the history and origin of natural pearls, and the development of Japanese, Chinese and South Sea cultured pearls. A really informative lecture which held the attendees spellbound.

Everything included

Doug Garrod gave a hands-on lecture using a video microscope (very kindly lent by our friends from

AGS), titled *Everything Included*. The attendees were fascinated as Doug took them through examples of the beautiful world of gemstone inclusions and explained what an inclusion is, what it is composed of (i.e. liquid, gas or solid) and what it can tell us about the gemstone. To see a liquid bubble within a gemstone disappear when the stone is warmed up, is a wonder to behold. Again a highly informative lecture which had the attendees asking for more.

Book signing

On the Saturday afternoon Gem-A USA hosted a 'Champagne and Chocolate' book signing event, where Richard Hughes sold signed copies of his latest book *Ruby and Sapphire*.

For Gem-A, the highlight of this year's Tucson Gem Fair was the Gem-A USA's first 'Gathering' (see Gem-A USA gathering article on page 21).

We all worked extremely hard and returned home happy with the knowledge that Gem-A, The Gemmological Association of Great Britain, and its American branch Gem-A USA, had made a great impression at this year's Tucson Gem Fair.

Terry Davidson

Rock 'n' Gem Shows

Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Road, Brighton	29/30 March
Cheltenham Racecourse, Prestbury Park, Cheltenham	12/13 April
Newark Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Notts.	17/18 May
Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx	7/8 June
Newcastle Racecourse, Tyne & Wear	14/15 June
Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx	2/3 August
Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset	30/31 August
Newton Abbot Racecourse, Newton Abbot, Devon	6/7 September
Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Road, Brighton	20/21 September
Newmarket Racecourse, Newmarket, Suffolk	27/28 September

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Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology

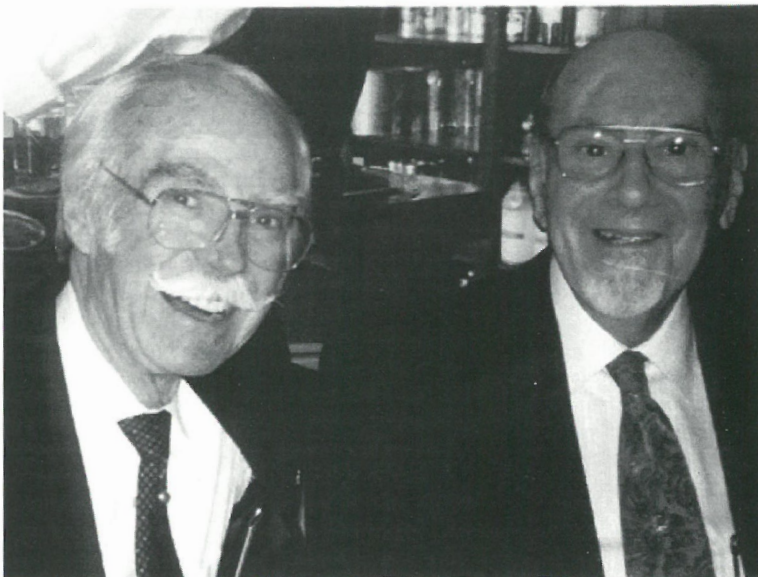
The fourth annual Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology, awarded by the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA), was presented in Tucson in February.

This year's Bonanno Award recipient, G. Robert Crowningshield, was honoured for 'a lifetime of contributions to the field of gemmology'. Unfortunately, because of ill health, Bob Crowningshield was unable to attend the ceremony, but Tom Moses of the GIA Lab in New York collected the award on his behalf.

Crowningshield qualified with Distinction in the Gemmology Diploma examination in 1948. He was recruited as an instructor for the GIA by founder Robert Shipley and in 1949 was appointed Director of GIA's new Gem Trade Laboratory in New York City which became his home for most of his illustrious career.

Medallion of Honour

Also nominated for the 2003 Bonanno Award were E. Alan Jobbins and Robert Weldon who both received a Medallion of Honour. Alan Jobbins was nominated for his



2003 Bonanno Award recipient Bob Crowningshield (left) pictured with the late Tony Bonanno. They were photographed at Bonanno's Gala retirement dinner held in Washington DC in December 1993.

extensive activity in the research arena, his global educational activities, and his work in establishing gem-testing laboratories and gemmological curricula at universities in remote lands. Robert Weldon was nominated for excellence

in gemmological journalism, and his exceptional photographic contributions to the gemmological archives in both macro- and micro-photography.

*Extracted from a report by
Antoinette Matlins*



Medallion of Honour winners Robert Weldon (left) and Alan Jobbins.

The Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology was created to honour the founder of the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA). The AGA founded by Bonanno in 1974 is today an international organization counting among his membership some of the world's leading gemmologists.

The award calls attention not only to the outstanding contributions of the recipient, but to the responsibility of the gemmological community to encourage and reward on-going research, education and dissemination of information.

The 2003 Award was presented by Antoinette Matlins, one of Bonanno's gemmologist daughters.

Belgian members' group

Visit to Thracian gold

The Gem-A members' group in Belgium visited the Europalia exhibition of gold from archaeological finds in Bulgaria. It consists of 400 exhibits lent by Bulgarian museums. These treasures of very skilled craftsmanship and great wealth of material, have been unearthed in areas of South Eastern Europe which are now Bulgaria. They are testimonies of rich civilizations developing from the Bronze Age (4th to 2nd millennium BC), until they became progressively assimilated into the Byzantine empire and medieval Bulgaria. The area is largely considered to be the cradle of modern Europe.

The wealth generated by an intense trading activity is evident in the luxurious lifestyle these objects show. All forms of adornment are displayed. A gold necklace dates back to the 5th century BC and shows the jeweller's amazing skill at techniques of filigree and granulation. Another, surprisingly modernistic, consists of biconic beads (barrel-shaped beads, each formed by two cones) of gold and silver alloys and dates back to the Bronze Age.

Tableware includes exquisitely decorated precious metals, such as an embossed gold bowl of 30 cm diameter or the extremely graceful Amazone face (legendary women warriors in the Black Sea region) on a rhyton (drinking horn) of the 3rd century BC. Divinities adorn rhytons, but are also found in large medallions (2nd century BC) and statues for domestic cult.

Acquisition of goods and power naturally lead to war, with battle scenes embossed in fine detail on drinking vessels of silver and gold as well as plaques. One such plaque

South East Branch – inaugural meeting

The inaugural meeting of the South East Branch of Gem-A was held on Sunday 8 December 2002 at Christie's South Kensington, and was extremely well attended.

Colin Winter acted as Chairman for the meeting and asked for members present to formally elect the following South East Branch Committee members before the lecture started: E.A. Jobbins, S. Everitt, L. Hudson, S. Hudson, N. Israel, D. Lancaster, B. Straub, H. Taylor, P. Vincent, P. Wates and C. Winter.

David Lancaster, a Director and Head of the Jewellery Department of Christie's South Kensington then gave an illustrated talk on 'Gemstones at Auction', an insight into the many forms of classic and modern gem-set jewellery encountered at Christie's. The wide range of gemstones and diamonds of all colours shown was greatly appreciated by the audience. Sherry and mince pies followed the talk and the members were then invited to enjoy a private view of the next Jewellery Sale.

The members were advised that the aims of the Branch were to



David Lancaster speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Branch at Christie's South Kensington.

provide 'Fun Gemmology', help members to recover lost gemmological knowledge or more recent exam candidates to advance their existing knowledge, and generally to promote friendship and a sense of Fellowship. Members were given the Branch's e-mail address – ga_seb@hotmail.com – and were encouraged to use it as an easy way to communicate their ideas, comments and suggestions to the Committee.

dates back to the 4th century BC. It portrays a horseman in chain-mail armour and his spear, while a human head flies off to a corner in a lively battle scene.

A morning in Antwerp

On 10 February the Belgian group had the rare treat of a visit to Diamsan*, Antwerp, whose computer tomography (CT)-scan application to diamond-cutting is unique in the world. Located in the heart of the Antwerp diamond district, Diamsan offers technological support to the market, thereby protecting Antwerp's leading role in the diamond market.

Diamsan is a daughter company of Diamcad who developed an important part of the technology used for the service activity. DiamScan added the unique CT-scanning optimized for diamonds.

Its objective is to optimize cutting solutions for large diamond crystals. At present Diamsan's optimization is 15 to 20% better than other approaches.

These methods of advanced technology are used only for stones of high quality and substantial size, i.e. above 5 carats, for which they are of particular importance and which justify the relatively high cost of this type of investigation. More traditional

* Diamsan, Schupstraat 17, B 2018 Antwerp

investigative techniques are also carried out where appropriate.

The research involved in optimizing the CT technique for diamond began in 1998 as an IWT (Institute for Science and Technology) project with the VisionLab research group at Antwerp University. The microCT-scan used, although similar to its medical counterpart, is one million times sharper. This very high resolution CT-scan results in a three-dimensional digital model of outlines and particular inclusions with, at present, an imaging precision between 10 and 30 microns depending on the size of the rough stone.

Diamscan's team aims at further refining the CT technique. They recently conducted experiments at the ESRF (European Synchrotron Facility) in Grenoble (France) to look for a way to detect included diamond in diamond. This kind of inclusion lacks X-ray absorption contrast and therefore is difficult to measure.

The CT-scan is at work 24 hours a day. Progressing in steps of 30 microns it will work its way through a

5 carat stone in 3 to 4 hours, though efforts are being made to reduce time spent on each sample.

The mother company of Diamscan, Diamcad, is a diamond producer. Using their own technology combined with the technology of Diamscan, they optimize the profit for the stones they buy.

The complex software, developed on-site by Diamcad's research team, includes light-path simulators to ensure the highest brilliance. It also has a continually updated record of market values for different shapes, sizes and grades, so that the calculated value of the models leads to commercially optimal solutions.

Given these finely calculated data, Diamcad's diamond experts will make the final decisions for cutting styles and shapes, and the computer will issue a precise instruction sheet to the cutters. The present error margin between the calculated data and the cut product is already of a phenomenal precision: one point only.

The largest cut stone

manufactured by Diamcad, the 'Safia', is a stunning 90.97 ct D flawless. The same rough crystal of about 200 carats yielded also five 'satellites', all important stones of different shapes and top grade.

Diamondland

Gem-A member Felice Liefstinck was then our guide to Antwerp's largest diamond showroom, Diamondland*, where she works as a goldsmith. This was a perfect sequence after Diamscan, and we received a very warm welcome.

As the different manufacturing stages were shown by craftsmen on site we could now follow not only the cutting processes, but also jewellery manufacturing and stone-setting, with, at the end of the tour, a vast collection of gold and platinum jewellery on show. Unset diamonds of many shapes and colours were also on display. We all greatly enjoyed this excellent presentation.

Brigitte Revol MacDonald

* Diamondland, Appelmannsstraat 33A, B
2018 Antwerp

EDUCATION

Recognitions

Stephen Webster's talk at the Gem-A November Conference in November 2002 set me thinking further along the lines of recognition. Recognition of value; of the attributes of gems; of the value of education in identity, treatment, synthesis and composites and of the need for disclosure; recognition of the design process; recognition of integrity within the trade as a supplier. Above all, recognition of the value of the ultimate user, the delighted wearer of a beautiful piece of jewellery, the contented owner of an ornamental treasure.

A bridge to ultimate user

Women's self-purchase of jewellery and the influences of fashion, colour, accessories, friends and perceived value were revealed in

fascinating detail during Stephen Webster's picture demonstration. This was joy to my eyes and ears. The reason for my delight is that his talk provides further substance to help build a bridge between gemmology and the ultimate use of gem materials. It involves that old trade perception and fear of 'Education of the Public'. Recognition of its need is of central importance in modern gemmology. The fear is still there. Ignorance is there in truckloads, in the trade and with the buyer. The bridge to mend this problem, both of fear and ignorance, is essential now. Why? Because buyers are starting to recognize the detailed problems of the trade. The Internet is the largest supplier of information. It is largely uncontrolled, of varied accuracy, bias and truth, and of all quantities. If a little learning is a dangerous thing, then there are more dangerous

things waiting out there for us now than ever before, whether we are valuers, buyers or sellers.

The Gem-A Precious Stones series of demonstrations at the Gilbert Collection, in London's historic setting of Somerset House, presented the fascination of gem materials to the general public, the buyer and the enthusiastic gallery viewer. Starting with two answers to one question, "What are you going to ask me about this stone?", we quickly went on to find out what a 'gem' might be, what 'value' might be, how useless the term 'semi-precious' really is, how confused we can be by the word 'real' when applied to a gem material and how wide a range of materials we would like to call a 'gem' once we have treasured it. We can give recognition to our desires. And that brings me back to Stephen Webster's work. He

creates a great variety of 'preciousness', to be sure, and value is extreme, one way or another, yet every part of his jewellery is *Precious*, every piece of non-metallic material is a *Gem*. It is all *Real*.

Disclosure

Recognition of the need for disclosure is an interesting issue for the general jewellery retailer. Heated zircon has been sold traditionally as a legitimate, non-disclosure item; synthetic amethyst is sold without disclosure generally as its low to medium grades are too inexpensive to justify routine testing; heat-treated natural blue sapphire is sold without disclosure as most blue sapphires are heat treated and thus virtually every piece of blue sapphire jewellery needs a 'blanket disclosure'. So we must ask, "What does disclosure mean to the general public?" I think we need also to ask, now that more and more people are becoming variably informed, "What will disclosure mean, quite soon, as the buyer becomes more aware?"

It surely means that the buying public is entitled to know whether certain stones really are usually treated or frequently synthesized. They should know that such activities tend to ensure a steady or sufficient supply within the trade. They can know that this, in turn, can ensure a more affordable price for an otherwise very highly-priced jewel. The recognition that natural, untreated gems are available with a particularly high price tag (and sometimes obtained with difficulty, especially if matching is involved) carries its own excitement. However, the imitation, synthetic, treated equivalent, is available in alternative and additional items of jewellery for sale in the same, or in the next, retail outlet. This is what the buyers' recognition is focusing on, increasingly.

This is why we are providing more education for the buyer. They are asking for more, without necessarily knowing exactly what they need to know. They have found out something; they want to know more. They buy jewellery, some buy a lot of



A Family Day enthusiast uses a new microscope donated to Gem-A by Proapex to view gemstones donated by Joe Tenhagen of Miami.

jewellery. Increasingly, they are questioning the 'facts' they have been given.

Demonstration

Together with our Family Days at the Gilbert Collection, our demonstration series has proved the need for an increase in this important area of education. It is being handled with great care and precision, by those in Gem-A who know about the trade, the gem materials and about jewellery value.

Is there recognition of this need throughout the trade? Sadly, no. There is a reluctance in some quarters to extend the knowledge of retail staff. For the valued customer who wants to know if they are paying the fair price for a precious item, 'Total disclosure' means general

knowledge for these customers, the general public. It can not be any other way; it is now inevitable with the use of the internet, not least by those fashion-conscious and discerning, fascinated and self-purchasing women.

I thank Stephen Webster for the stimulation to further recognitions (such as the reminder that sting-ray skin – shagreen – is a gem material); and thanks go to Rachel Warner for organising and presenting the detailed and exciting recognitions as part of the Gilbert Collection education programme in conjunction with Gem-A. Our thanks also go to Christine Woodward, Helen Dimmick, Sandra Cronan and Moya Corcoran, and to the very helpful Gilbert Collection staff, for their cooperative guidance to all of our ultimate users.

Ian Mercer

New Foundation Certificate in Gemmology

The Gem-A Education team recently announced its new Foundation Certificate in Gemmology.

The Foundation course, to be introduced worldwide later this year, is designed for those with a personal or a work-related interest in gemstones. Those who pass the Foundation examination will be awarded the Certificate.

Observational awareness

Foundation students will gain a broad range of knowledge, with the opportunity to learn about cut and rough material, and the application of gems in jewellery. The new course is designed to help increase observational and practical awareness. The Foundation course and exam will replace the current Preliminary course, and exam and the Certificate will qualify candidates who wish to go on to study the Diploma in Gemmology for a more detailed practical understanding of

gemmology. The course notes and syllabus will be similar to the current Preliminary. An enlarged and enhanced *Gem Observation Guide* will be provided with the course notes to cover the increased practical content.

Endorsement

A practical endorsement system forms part of the Foundation Certificate. This system involves tutor assessment and endorsement of defined practical actions and achievements in gem testing. The examination itself will include practical assessments, involving the use of the 10x lens and the hand-held spectroscope.

Students with the GIA GG and NAG Gemstone Diploma will be exempt from the practical endorsement. The new course notes will be available from August 2003 and the first Foundation Certificate exams will be held in January 2004.

Contact the Gem-A Education

Office on +44(0)20 7404 3334 or see our website for further details.

Ian Mercer

Glitter and Glamour: jewellery 1800 to present day

This five-day course by Christie's Education will begin with a brief examination of changing styles in jewellery from antiquity to present day.

The use and qualities of stones in jewellery, 19th century revivalist style jewellery, the distinctive jewellery of the arts and crafts and art nouveau periods, modern costume jewellery and the work of contemporary makers will be covered in the programme. The course will include visits to the British Museum and to De Beers.

For further details please call Christie's Education on +44(0)20 7747 6800.

Gem-A Short courses and Workshops – Spring 2003

Emeralds – The Inside Story

Wednesday 2 April

This course is designed to bring you up to speed through hands-on observation.

- 'Hands on' observation of rough and cut stones
- Properties of natural emerald
- Factors affecting quality
- Treatments, simulants and synthetics
- CIBJO recommendations on disclosure

Gem-A Member price £99 + VAT (£116.33)

Non-Member price £110 + VAT (£129.25)

Gemstones for Everyman

Wednesday 9 April

Whether you work in the trade, are an interested hobbyist or you simply enjoy wearing gems in jewellery, this is for you. It has been designed to enable you to see and handle a wide selection of gemstone varieties whilst learning more about them in a fun but informative environment.

Gem-A Member price £99 + VAT (£116.33)

Non-Member price £110 + VAT (£129.25)

Photographing Jewellery

Tuesday 22 July

At this workshop Bob Maurer will guide you through the basics of this specialized area of photography. What can you, the jeweller, use to maximum effect with some basic equipment and a little guidance? Space strictly limited to eight participants. Gem-A Member price £134 + VAT (£157.45)
Non-Member price £142 + VAT (£166.85)

Six-Day Diamond Practical Course

7-9 and 12-14 May (Exam 15 May)

9-11 and 14-16 July (Exam 17 July)

This intensive, six-day diamond grading course plus Certificate exam, places the greatest emphasis on the use of the 10x lens.

- Clarity grading using a 10x loupe
- Colour grading with emphasis on grading by eye
- Aspects of cut including symmetry and proportions
- Simulants and treatments
- Description of rough crystals

Price £695 (Inc. VAT)

All workshops held at the Gem Tutorial Centre, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8TN.

Session times: 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

For further information on the above and our Student Workshops contact Rachel Warner on +44(0)20 7404 3334.

Organics in Ornamentation

Presidential lecture to the SJH by Alan Jobbins

Alan Jobbins, President of the SJH, was the speaker at the Society's 2003 AGM.

His lecture, entitled *Organics in Ornamentation*, was a breathtaking *tour de force*, demonstrating his enviable depth and breadth of knowledge, and presented with his characteristic modesty and humour. While everybody in the audience could probably have listed a number of materials of animal and vegetable origin that have been used in jewellery and other decorative objects, such as pearls, shell, coral, amber, jet, horn, tortoiseshell and elephant ivory, the explanation of the complex subdivisions even of these apparently familiar substances, and the inclusion of many other, less obvious, categories, from hornbill beaks to elephant tail-hairs, left all of us very much better informed than we were at the beginning of the evening. Ivory-like materials alone revealed a bewildering range of possibilities, from elephant and walrus tusk to



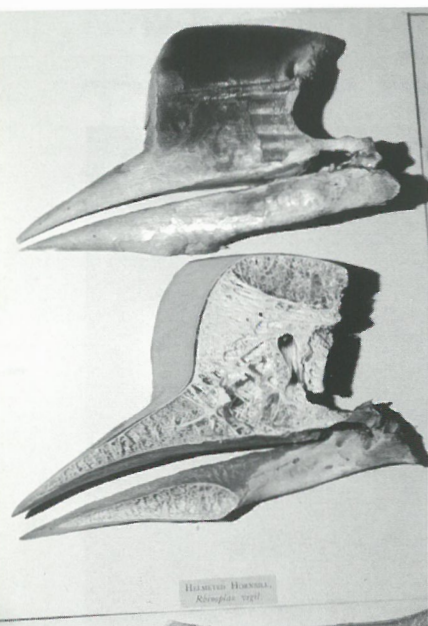
*Cameo workshop in Torre del Greco, southern Italy. The carver works for a limited time on each of several cameos in succession. This enables a more critical assessment of his progress on each one. In this photograph the shells are all from *Cassis madagascariensis*, which produces a brown background, but *C. rufa* is also used when a more reddish ground is seen. Note the simple tools which are used.*

Carved bowl or mazer (c. 30 cm diameter) fashioned from maple root. Dated to late 14th to early 15th century, the bowl is on exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



narwhal horn and hippopotamus teeth.

The slides (over 130 in all, as Alan admitted a little sheepishly after the end of his talk) were chosen with exquisite care and precision to illustrate different aspects of the many materials discussed: their appearance in nature and in a raw, unworked state, their microscopic structure, their visual effect when worked into decorative artefacts and jewels, and the ways in which they may be distinguished from copies and artificial substitutes, including the way in which some organic materials may themselves be employed as surrogates for more valuable substances such as jade. Methods of preparation and working were also touched upon in many cases. The stunning variety of visual



Vertically-sectioned bill and casque of the Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*). Note the weight-reducing structure of the interior of the lower section. Hornbill 'ivory' is obtained from the front of the casque. The bird was hunted almost to extinction for its casque but is now protected and trading is illegal. Antique examples are found occasionally. On exhibition at the Natural History Museum, London.

images took us from a rather daunting close-up of a rhinoceros's muzzle to a distressingly mosquito-like insect embedded in amber; from the cross-section of a coral to a diagram of how mantle fragments are inserted into freshwater mussels in China's cultured pearl industry; from the remote and austere symmetry of a Bronze Age jet necklace to the exuberant and brilliantly crafted flights of Baroque fantasy housed in Dresden's Green Vaults.

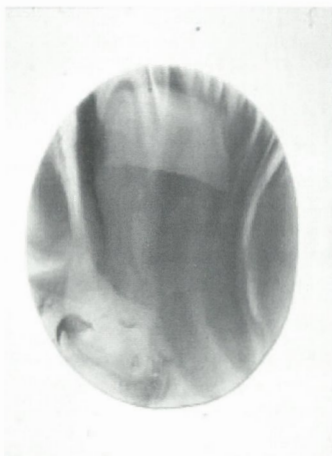
The whole was a feast both for the eyes and the intellect, an evening that will always be remembered by everyone who was present.

Catherine Johns

Burmite

Maggie Campbell Pedersen reports on burmite, the Burmese amber

Burmite was unavailable for many years due to the political situation in Myanmar (Burma) where it is found. It is now being mined again by a Canadian company – Leeward Capital Corporation – which mines it under licence. It is still extracted in the Hukawng Valley in northern Kachin State, but whereas it used to be mined by digging deep shafts in the valley floor, it is now extracted from the surrounding hills. Here only about 1¾ metres of overburden need to be removed before the amber is revealed.



A burmite cabochon 30 x 40 mm.

Once thought to be about the same age as Mexican amber, it was recently realized that burmite is much older, at somewhere between 80 and 100 million years old, which means that it is Cretaceous. Other ambers that are used for jewellery or carvings are much younger, from the Tertiary period.

Although large specimens have occasionally been found, burmite usually occurs in small pieces. Most of it varies in colour from sherry to burnt orange, but a small amount is the glorious clear cherry

red for which it is famed, and which was so popular with the Chinese for carving. Burmite is very clear, but most of the material displays swirls of colour, which, under magnification, prove to be made up of minute dots of colour. Much of the material is fractured, and some of the fractures are filled with calcite.

Colour change

Burmite is also unusual in that it can appear to change colour according to the direction of light transmitted through it. A piece containing dark and light areas may look pale from one angle, whilst if lit from another angle seems to be cherry red. This effect is probably caused by the light reflecting off the particles of colour in the darker areas. Apart from its wonderful colours, burmite has a great variety of insect inclusions.

Possibly because of its age, burmite is harder than other ambers and it takes a very high polish. I believe that it fluoresces in sunlight but, because of the present weather conditions in London, I have not been able to test this since taking delivery of a packet of the material. Polished surfaces do appear to fluoresce slightly even on rainy days. However, under a UV lamp broken or polished surfaces display a strong fluorescence in an almost mid-blue colour – much darker than, for example, Baltic amber.

Suppliers

Burmite rough can be obtained by contacting the President of Leeward Capital Corporation, James W. Davis. The company's website at www.amber-gems.com is worth a visit. Polished burmite can be obtained from David Lamb at david.lamb@ns.sympatico.ca

Ancient goldwork

Antike Goldschmuck: Altes Museum, eine Auswahl der ausgestellten Werke/ Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Gertrud Platz-Horster, Mainz-am-Rhein, von Zabern 2001, 95 pages with 65 colour and 6 black-and-white illustrations. Hardback, ISBN 3-8053-2756-0, Museum issue ISBN 3-8053-2757-9. Euro 20.35.

This slim edition is immediately outstanding for the superb quality and quantity of its illustrations. The jewellery in Berlin was previously published by Adolf Greifenhagen in his indispensable two-volume *Schmuckarbeiten in Edelmetall* (1975). The new colour photography in the Platz-Horster publication, the succinct erudite comment and updated bibliography make this both a useful supplement and an aesthetic volume in its own right. The book catalogues a breath-taking selection of exquisite gold items, some embellished with gemstones, crystal and glass, dating between the third millennium BC and the time of the Roman Empire. It incorporates two new additions to the collections, the magnificent array of gold grave goods from Taranto (no.42) and those from Haftashan, Iran (no.49), including the charming miniscule figure of a seated goddess holding a child in her arms. New research by the conservators and goldsmiths H.-U. Tietz, E. Formigli and B. Niemeyer, has led to the identification and separate display of a number of fakes and copies.

The book begins with a concise summary of the collection and its history. The holdings of the Antikensammlung span three millennia, through from the early Helladic find from Threais in the Northern Peloponnese to the Late Antique treasure from Assiut in upper Egypt.

Brief but thorough discussions of the selected objects provide much information, including technical data where it adds details of interest for

the scholar and the general reader. For example regarding granulation we learn that the beads of an Etruscan gold necklace (no.22), no more than 12mm. in diameter, are each decorated by elegant geometric shapes involving 5000 and 6000 granules! With regard to the question of identifying fakes and copies technologically, I would like to place a word of caution. This is with regard to the Acheloos head pendant in London: after microscopic examination of the pendant at the British Museum we still believe that it is ancient and not a fabrication of the Castellani workshop, being stylistically and technically very different from the Acheloos heads in Paris and Berlin, here no.19 (references cited in bibliographic note p.35 where it is condemned as being a companion product).

I would query the market at which the book is aimed: since it is selective, for the general reader a brief overview of ancient jewellery might have been helpful to set the pieces within their context. Nonetheless the book is a pleasure to own and a useful source of information for all those interested in the stylistic development, technology and beauty of ancient goldwork.

Judith Swaddling
Department of Greek and Roman
Antiquities, The British Museum

Fine metalwork in Anglo-Saxon England

The art of the Anglo-Saxon Goldsmith. Fine metalwork in Anglo-Saxon England: its practice and practioners. Elizabeth Coatsworth and Michael Pinder, 2002. Boydell press (Anglo-Saxon Studies series, vol. 2). 290 pages with 8 pages of colour, 39 black-and-white illustrations and 27 figures. Hardback, ISBN 0 85115 883 8. £60/\$110.

The stated purpose of the authors in writing this book, "is to take a fresh look at the documentary and literary sources; to combine this

with a detailed visual and technical study of the surviving jewellery, work-places and tools for evidence of manufacturing and decorative processes; and to consider how these together illuminate the place of the goldsmith or jeweller within the developing structures of Anglo-Saxon society...."

Part 1 of the book is an extremely detailed exposition of the physical evidence for Anglo-Saxon goldsmiths and their work, including tools, manufacturing and decorative techniques. It draws together the extensive published research into the jewellery itself (well referenced) and experimental observations by one of the authors (Pinder), who, as a practical craftsman, can give this book particular authority on the technical aspects of goldsmithing. This section concludes with a chapter on design and the influence of both design and materials on the construction methods seen during this period.

Part 2 is an investigation of the evidence for smiths from contemporary literary and pictorial works. Depictions of the legend of Weland and other mythical smiths in poetry and images are analysed, followed by historical evidence for real smiths from legal documents, places, names and inscriptions. The book concludes with a discussion of what can now be deduced about the place of the goldsmith in Anglo-Saxon society.

Although it draws on the finest Anglo-Saxon metalwork such as the garnet jewellery from Sutton Hoo and the 'Alfred Jewel', this is not a coffee table book. It contains a wealth of information, and although the illustrations are not extensive and the quality of reproduction of the photographs is not always of the best, the diagrammatic illustrations of techniques and the exploded diagrams of the construction of complex items of jewellery are excellent. There is an extensive bibliography, an appendix concerning

Anglo-Saxon vocabulary of metalworking and a select catalogue of ninety important items of metalwork and where they can be viewed. It should not be thought that this book is just for Anglo-Saxon specialists, as it will undoubtedly provide a valuable source for jewellers and for all those interested in the place of goldsmiths in historic societies.

Susan La Niece

Obituary

Eric Nussbaum

We announce with regret the death of Eric Nussbaum of Cartier Joaillerie SA, Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 February during a visit to Brazil.

A tribute will be published in the June issue of *GJN*.

Congratulations!

Wendy Ramshaw, CBE

In the New Year Honours Wendy Ramshaw was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire, for services to art. Wendy Ramshaw is one of the most celebrated contemporary artist jewellers; her career noted for technical expertise and the use of precision tools, notably the lathe. In 2002 she made an unusual collection of 'tiara' headpieces in stainless steel. She has been honoured with many awards, with an exhibition highlight entitled Picasso's Ladies at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1999. Her work can be found in important collections worldwide.

Jewellery Sales

Spring 2003 sale dates from the auction houses

Bonhams, London

Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH (Tel. 020 7393 3970)

Jewellery: 26 March, 16 April, 14 May, 4 June, 25 June, 16 July
101 New Bond Street, London W1S 1SR (Tel. 020 7468 8282)

Fine Jewellery 10 April, 12 June
Edinburgh (Tel. 0131 2252266) Silver and Jewellery: 27 March
Oxford (Tel. 01865 723524) Jewellery and Pens 1 April

Christie's South Kensington

Jewellery: 25 March (Rings), 29 April, 17 June (Fine Jewellery), 1 July

Antique Jewellery: 20 May

Pawnbrokers Unredeemed Pledges: 6 June

Tel. 020 7581 7611 (www.christies.com)

Dreweatt Neate, Donnington, Newbury, Berkshire

Priory Sale with Silver and Jewellery: 13 May, 15 July

Sale including Decorative Arts since 1860 25 June

Tel. 01635 553 553 (www.dreweatt-neate.co.uk)

Fellows & Sons, Birmingham

Second-hand Jewellery and Watches (by Direction of Pawnbrokers Nationwide):

10 April, 24 April, 8 May, 22 May, 5 June, 19 June, 3 July, 17 July

Antique and Modern Jewellery and Watches: 1 May, 12 June, 24 July

Tel. 0121 212 2131 (www.fellows.co.uk)

Gardiner Houlgate, The Bath Auction Rooms, Bath

Jewellery: 26 March, 9 and 25 April, 7 and 21 May,

4 and 18 June, 2, 16 and 30 July

Tel. 01225 812912 e-mail: auctions@gardiner-houlgate.co.uk

Hamptons, Godalming, Surrey

Antique and Modern Jewellery: 17 April, 17 July

Tel. 01483 423567 (www.hamptons.co.uk/fineart)

Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers, 33 Broughton Place, Edinburgh

Fine Jewellery and Silver: 22 May

Tel. 0131 557 8844 (www.lyonandturnbull.com)

Sotheby's, London

Jewellery (New Bond Street) 27 March and 17 June

Jewellery (Olympia) 19 May

Tel: 020 7293 5000 (www.sothebys.com)

Dates correct at time of going to press but may be subject to alteration.

Knighthood for Gabi Tolkowsky

Gabi Tolkowsky has been appointed Chevalier l'Ordre du Roi Leopold II. Gabi Tolkowsky is a world renowned master diamond cutter, with a great flair for bringing his diamonds to life. He has handled and shaped some of the most famous historical diamonds in existence and these include: the largest polished diamond in the world, the massive Golden Jubilee Diamond (545.67 ct) now in the Thai royal collection; and the Centenary Diamond (273.85 ct). Gabi has also been instrumental in introducing many new decorative diamond cuts onto the market.

80th Birthday

Robert Holt of Holt's of Hatton Garden celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday 19 January with a lunch at the Foreign Press Association in Carlton House Terrace. During the lunch Robert was presented with a book containing a variety of memories from a number of friends, colleagues and relatives: prominent Hatton Garden figures were among them.

This was a very happy occasion and Robert looked and almost certainly is timeless!

SPRING EVENTS

Details of times, venues and prices are given on p.40

27 May – SJH lecture

Speaking about his life and work

FRITZ MAIERHOFER

Fritz Maierhofer began his career in the city of his birth, Vienna, with the established jeweller Anton Heldwein. In 1967 he went to London to work for Andrew Grima. At that time, London became the catalyst for his work and he made a major contribution to the evolution of modern jewellery. In 1986 he was awarded a research fellowship at the Sir John Cass Faculty of Arts followed by an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Maierhofer is known for his outstanding work: the early pieces in gold and acrylic, followed by the work in tin and gold, the constructed jewellery and large sculptural work, as well as the recent computer and corian work.

24 June – SJH lecture

The Collections of the Landgraves of Hesse-Cassel and of the Dukes of Württemberg: some Renaissance and Baroque examples of the Jeweller's Art

Scottish Branch Conference

The 2003 Annual Conference of the Scottish Branch of Gem-A will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Perth, from Friday 2 May to Monday 5 May.

Programme

- 2 May DOROTHY HOGG. *From imagination to manufacture*
- 3 May PROFESSOR HENRY HÄNNI. *Treatments: the latest news*
HANCO ZWAAN. *Emeralds of Sandawana*
DR PAUL SPEAR. *The DTC Gem Defensive Programme*
DAVID CALLAGHAN. *Jewellery of the Art Nouveau period*
Ceilidh/dinner
- 4 May PROFESSOR HENRY HÄNNI. *Old and new facts about diamonds*
STEVE KENNEDY. *Notes from the Gem Laboratory*
Workshop sessions
- 5 May Field trips (weather permitting)

For further details contact Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199

e-mail scotgem@blueyonder.co.uk

DR RUDOLF-ALEXANDER SCHÜTTE

SJH members may be familiar with Dr Schütte's English publication (in the *Journal of the History of Collections*, Oxford University Press, Vol. 9, 1997) of the Duke of Brunswick's creation of a *Kunstammer* and a *Naturalienkammer* at Schloss Salzdahlum. In the same year, the Brunswick Museum produced Dr Schütte's *Catalogue* of the many surviving 'curiosities' and works of

art from that ducal *Kunstammer*. More recently, Dr Schütte, with his specialist knowledge of Renaissance goldsmiths' work, has conducted a programme of research on the incomparable silver collection in Kassel and has just completed his forthcoming *Catalogue*. In 1566 the Landgrave Wilhelm IV married Sabina von Württemberg and, appropriately, Dr Schütte will be discussing the masterpieces of the jeweller's art preserved in Kassel and Stuttgart.

COMPETITION

My trickster came into my office again last week. "Don't look so worried," he said. "I am not trying to sell you anything. I need some cheap 7 x 5 oval stones."

I brought out some garnets at 30p each and amethysts at 60p. "I'll take ten garnets and eight amethysts," he said. "Also give me three aquamarines, although they are a little more expensive, oh! and treated blue topaz are cheap so give me 10 of those – no make it 12. How much will all that come to?"

I said £35.60 excluding VAT. He immediately said, "That cannot be right; work it out again." I recalculated and of course he was right. How did he know so quickly that my total was wrong since I had not given him the prices of the aquamarines and the topaz?

Answer to the puzzle in the last issue:

We had very few correct answers to the last puzzle so it must have been somewhat perplexing for most of you! I am sure many of you did not even understand the

problem. The composer admitted that he adapted the problem from another which is easier to understand, but tried to give it a gemmological twist. The original story was about two boats that went from one side of the river to the other and then came back again. The problem was to determine when they meet on the return journey. In the light of this simplification perhaps we should give you the next few weeks to try again! It is now a simple problem in elementary applied mathematics.

Harry Levy

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

Midlands Branch

Friday meetings will be held at The Earth Sciences Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. Admission £2 for a member. For further information call 0121 445 5359. Gem Club is held from 3 to 6 p.m.

28 March. STEPHEN WHITTAKER

An auctioneer's lot is not a happy one.

25 April. Branch AGM followed by

JOHN WRIGHT

The interface of gem and jewel

18 May. Gem Club

BRIAN DUNN

Edwardian Britain: the politics, lifestyle and jewellery: a golden age

21 June. Midsummer Supper

North West Branch

Meetings will be held at Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. For further details contact Deanna Brady on 0151 648 4266.

26 March. RICHARD SLATER

Jewellery at auction

21 May. IAN MERCER

A jade tour

18 June. WENDY SIMKISS

Crystal care

Scottish Branch

For further details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199; e-mail scotgem@blueyonder.co.uk

25 March. DOUG MORGAN

Some gemmological and lapidary diversions

Scottish Branch Annual Conference

2 to 5 May

Queen's Hotel, Perth

See p. 39 for details of the programme.

18 June. VANESSA GUEST.

Amber – yellow, orange, green, blue, red: the ins and outs

South East Branch

Meeting to be held at Christie's, South Kensington. Admission £5.00. For further details of South East Branch activities contact Colin Winter on 01372 360290; e-mail ga_seb@hotmail.com

6 April. ALAN JOBBINS, PETER WATES and COLIN WINTER
Tucson 2003

South West Branch

Contact Bronwen Harman on 01225 482188.

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 open only to SJH members and their guests. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status. Further details of Spring meetings are given on p. 39

29 April. DR FRITZ FALK

The Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim, its history, development and objectives

27 May. FRITZ MAIERHOFER

Speaking about his life and work

24 June. DR R-A SCHÜTTE

The Collections of the Landgraves of Hesse-Cassel and of the Dukes of Württemberg: some Renaissance and Baroque examples of the Jeweller's Art

23 September. ANNA MARIE SENDECKI

An introduction to the Tiffany & Co. Archives and its Collections

28 October. JOHN CHERRY

The Waning of Medieval Jewellery

25 November. BEATRIZ CHADOUR

Rosaries, prayer-beads and jewels of devotion