

GEM & JEWELLERY *News*

Volume 12 Number 4
September 2003

MAJOR HAUL OF SCOTTISH GOLD

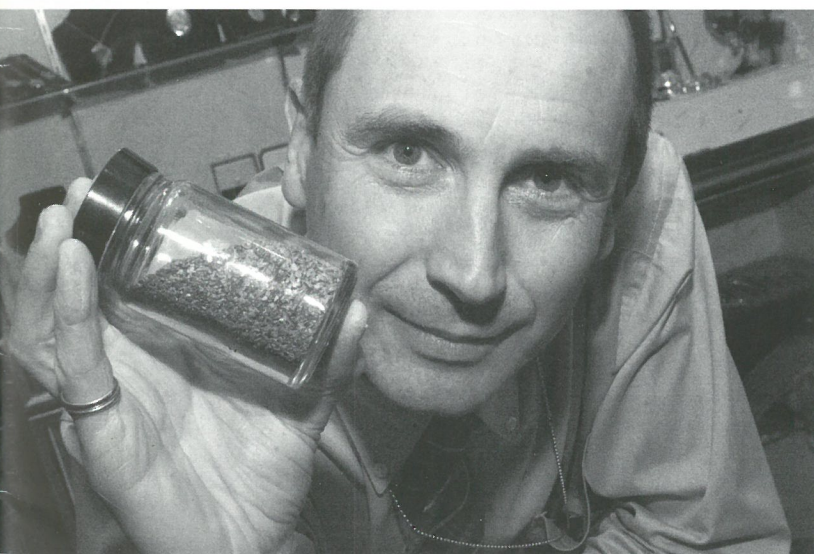
Edinburgh jeweller Alistir Tait has secured what is believed to be one of biggest single consignments ever seen of Scottish gold.

Alistir paid an undisclosed sum for the glass jar of nuggets weighing around 400 grams – ranging in size from a flake of dust to pea-sized chunks – after a prospector, who had collected the cache by panning every gold-producing river in the country, approached him.

Alistir said: "The story behind the gold is as remarkable as the quantity involved. The man came into my shop out of the blue and pulled the container out of his pocket and asked if I would be interested. We got chatting and he told me that he had panned every viable river and stream in Scotland over a number of years and had collected every nugget he found.

"He said that he had achieved what he wanted and had no real

Alistir Tait holds up the jar of Scottish gold. (Picture: Danny Lawson/Holyrood Partnership)



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attachment to the gold itself. He was almost like a Munro-bagger in that the challenge for him was to work the entire set of rivers. Once he achieved that he was quite happy and decided to move on to something else.

"I have done some panning myself and I know the considerable work you have to do to find even just the smallest flake of gold, so I can only imagine the effort that must have gone in to acquire this collection. Most panners just keep what they find or pass pieces on to friends or family, that's why to come across this major haul is virtually unprecedented."

Continued on p.70

Treatment of corundum

Just over twelve months ago at a lecture in London, Dick Hughes outlined the latest developments in stone treatments to affect the world of sapphires. Specifically this concerned the enhancement of pale pink or pale orange sapphires to stones of stronger colour and more vibrant attraction. In some stones, the pink/orange colour appeared quite strong and evenly developed throughout, whereas in others, only the margins were coloured. It was these coloured rims that first alerted gemmologists to the possibility that something new was upon us. In addition, the recent increase on the market of sapphires with hitherto rare colours had already proved intriguing – where had they come from, or were they the result of heat treatment, maybe using a new recipe?

Controversy arose because the gem merchants said that the sapphires had been heat-treated using a process that had been accepted in the trade for many years, while staff in some gem laboratories thought that the colour features – and particularly the concentration in the rims of some stones – indicated that simple heating was not the whole story.

The problem also had a financial dimension because many of these new pink/orange sapphires had been sold at prices approaching those achieved by natural untreated stones. Historically, the natural pink/ orange sapphire, variety padparadscha, has been among the rarest of colours, and there is still a hunger in the market to possess such a stone, thereby maintaining a very real and tangible link with the beauty of nature. At the higher end of the market, cutting and polishing is the only processing of a stone that is acceptable to maintain this link as credible, but there is constant pressure from a market growing in knowledge and wishing to possess such rare stones.

Inevitably, given the scarcity of natural padparadschas, attempts were made to meet the market demand by focusing on acceptable treatments. One of the main centres for heat treatment of gems in the past thirty years has been Thailand, and on p.73 there is an account of the gem resources and jewellery industry in that country given in a presentation in May in London by Professor Thanasuthipitak (Chiang Mai University) and his two colleagues from Chanthaburi, Anuphap Chinudompong and Prajak Angkahiran. The jewellery industry is

a significant component of the Thai economy and its importance has been recognized through a deliberate government policy, both in its own departments and in the universities, of creating an infrastructure to support gem research.

One fruit of such foresight has been the capability to investigate and throw some light on the problems raised by the pink/ orange sapphires. Prof. Thanasuthipitak outlined how the resources of the trade had been combined with the analytical equipment and expertise of the universities, to find out why one recipe may produce an even-coloured stone while another may give one with a coloured rim.

To collaborate with the trade, to experiment with a range of stones in a range of ovens with a variety of recipes, and to be able to verify and check results is a fundamentally sound procedure to obtain reliable conclusions. There is still some way to go to clarify the causes of colour in sapphire – see the excellent current review in the summer issue of *Gems & Gemology* – but without such knowledge, consistency in stone description and labelling will be a far-off dream – to the detriment of the trade and the public.

Roger Harding

Published by

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DTC shakes the trade with its supplier of choice names – earthquake or a tremor?

A few weeks ago the Diamond Trading Company (DTC), in its new Supplier of Choice (SOC) policy, announced the list of sight holders for 2004.

What shook the trade was not the names of the sight holders in this list, but the omissions. Although for many months the DTC had been saying that there would be new criteria for choosing sight holders, the new list still caused surprise.

For the past few years De Beers has been redefining itself. This process started when its shareholders demanded greater liquidity and better dividends on its shares. In some quarters De Beers had been known as the company that dug diamonds from one hole in the ground only to bury them in another! Historically De Beers was a product of the Consolidated Diamond Company which had gone about buying diamond mining companies in the belief that by owning most of the production of rough diamonds it could control the prices for these stones.

Distribution of rough diamonds

The company developed a method of distribution whereby those who wished to purchase rough stones for cutting and polishing would find De Beers the main supplier of such stones. Using a system of syndicate brokers, companies would go through these brokers to purchase the stones they needed. Over the years the system became better defined and was restricted to just a few selected companies who could buy rough diamonds from De Beers. It conducted this business through its selling arm the Central Selling Organisation (CSO). These companies became known as 'sight holders'. Sightings are held every five weeks, that is ten times a year,

usually at the De Beers premises in Charterhouse Street in London. The sight holders would come to London for these sight weeks, and the myth came about that they would be given a sealed box, and given a Hobson's Choice as to whether to accept the box or not, and if they did not then they would no longer remain as a sight holder. In reality the system was more complex.

Boxes suited to sight holders

Due to different labour conditions different areas needed different types of rough for cutting and polishing. Thus New York wanted to produce larger, better quality stones, whereas India, where labour charges were cheap, needed smaller cheaper goods. This is where the syndicate brokers, of whom there are about half a dozen, played their part by influencing De Beers to ensure that the contents of the boxes suited individual companies. When these companies came to London they were shown the contents of the boxes, that is given a 'sight' of the stones offered to them. Since there were a limited number of sight holders, and many more companies who cut and polished diamonds, the sight holders formed individual cartels with their own selected partners, and also sold parts of their sight as rough stones. This became necessary as De Beers demanded payment at the point of sale and sight holders had a mere five weeks in which to dispose of their 'sight', get paid and be ready for the next sight. Part of the syndicate brokers' brief became arranging credit facilities for their clients. Another of their functions was to find suitable companies who might make suitable sight holders. When such a company was eventually found it may be 'invited' by De Beers to become a sight holder. The system obviously

worked as the sight holders became some of the richest and most powerful companies within the industry.

Eventually there were over 150 sight holders coming from almost all those countries who had a polishing industry. The main ones were Belgium, Israel, South Africa, India and America, with more recent arrivals such as Thailand, China and Sri Lanka. As part of its restructuring De Beers reduced the number of sight holders to around 120 about three years ago. At that time it warned the trade that these numbers could be further reduced.

Monopoly

Historically, De Beers at one stage controlled over 90% of the rough diamond trade and this caused the American government to regard it as a monopolistic company thus contravening its anti-trust regulations. This made De Beers persona non grata in the United States with its directors unable to travel there under the threat of arrest and imprisonment, a situation that exists to this day. With such control they were able to maintain the price of rough diamonds with periodic increments and avoid an over-supply of stones onto the market. Diamond miners, be they individuals or governments, found this system gave stability to the market and were assured of a fair price for their rough. This strategy also prevented them from marketing their own stones. To ensure that there was never an excess of supply over demand, De Beers simply 'buried' any excess diamonds for future use.

The stockpile increases

As more and more mines were opened and worked, especially in Russia and Australia, the supply ►

◀ of rough diamonds began to become a serious problem as De Beers' stockpile increased. There came a point when it was no longer economic to buy the bulk of rough produced and their share of the market began to drop. Companies such as Argyle of Australia, who were producing many low value stones, were forced to break away from De Beers and market their own rough. This caused a slump in prices for smaller lower grade polished stones in countries such as India.

Eventually De Beers brought in consultants to advise them of the direction in which they should go. One of the things they were told was that the greatest profit in the sale of diamonds came in the last step of the supply chain, that retailers made the largest mark ups, and they should try to get into this part of the market. This was a total reversal of the De Beers tradition as they were involved in only the first step of the production chain. Between them and the retailer were cutters, dealers, designers, manufacturers and wholesalers of jewellery.

Branding

The magic word for profitability today is 'branding'. The word branding has two separate meanings. In one sense it means putting a mark on something to identify it – such as a hallmark – but in its modern marketing sense it is picking out a selection of products and selling them under their producer's name rather than as a generic type. This is a subtle distinction, as De Beers initially wanted to brand their stones to distinguish them from synthetic diamonds, and were told by their consultants that they already had a name that was well known and they should sell their diamonds under this brand name, the way most luxury products were marketed. They also discovered that the jewellery trade spent very little on advertising as compared to other luxury items, and most of the advertising done was by De Beers themselves. They wanted their sight

holders to spend more on advertising diamonds.

Part of the problem was that the diamond trade was being outperformed by its competitors in the luxury goods sector. This showed that diamonds were less desirable than other luxury goods such as watches, expensive cars, fashion and exclusive holidays. There was growth in all these sectors but the diamond trade was lagging behind. Something had to be done to rectify this situation.

De Beers joins with LVMH

One of the most prestigious and successful groups selling luxury items is Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH). As this group was marketing items containing polished diamonds it made sense for De Beers to try to join them. But this caused a problem; not with the government of the United States, but with the authorities of the European Union, the EU. They began to look at this merger to see if it created a monopoly. De Beers decided to create a new company to trade under the name 'De Beers', with rough diamonds continuing to be traded through the DTC. De Beers would not be part of the DTC, but rather a customer which could use other suppliers. The EU then began to look at the method of selling rough diamonds.

Here, the EU claimed, was a monopolistic situation, as the DTC had an exclusive limited number of clients, and anyone outside this 'club' could not purchase rough diamonds from them. They had to come out with new criteria as to who could be a sight holder. Cleverly they worked this out with EU officials. One of the results was that sight holders would not be there for life but would have contracts for periods of two years only. Existing sight holders could re-apply at the expiration of each two year contract.

Reduced margins

In recent years established sight holders had complained that their profitability margins had been

reduced. Due to better sorting of the rough and more or less known stable figures in the polished market (due to such price lists as Rapaport), the sight holders claimed that the yield from the rough was known and the DTC was pricing its rough to leave a limited margin after polishing. Some of the prominent sight holders even managed a meeting with the DTC to discuss such issues. After the announcement of the new list of sight holders many claimed that these 'trouble makers' had been dropped. The DTC denies this and says that if anyone looks at the list of new criteria they will see how they arrived at the new listing, and that sight holders who have been dropped can re-apply in two years.

Another claim being made by the DTC was that it did not have enough better quality rough to satisfy the needs of all its sight holders, and this is why the number of clients from India had increased, because they have sufficient rough in the lower and smaller grades. An interesting statistic is that the number of small polished stones produced accounts for over 95% of the total number of stones made, both by number and in weight.

Opposition to SOC

It was with this background that the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA) recently held their two yearly Presidents' Congress in South Africa this year. Many of the IDMA members who are sight holders because they are cutters, and others belonging to the WFDB saw themselves suddenly being deprived of their main source, and in many cases their only source, of rough diamonds. They could not continue to trade without access to their raw commodity. Most of the sight holders who had been dropped came from the three major markets Belgium, Israel and the United States. The Belgians seemed the most agonized, and want to pursue a course through the EU to oppose the Supplier of Choice (SOC)

programme. It will cause loss of jobs in these areas, but will be a difficult case to present to the EU as the EU has already agreed to the DTC's changes. The DTC has agreed to increase its sales of rough diamonds through Diamdel rough dealership to non-sight holders to \$500 million per annum.

Another approach is to try to prevent a new contract being negotiated between the DTC and the Russians whereby the DTC will buy a significant proportion of Russian production. This too is being negotiated through the EU, so again it seems difficult to see how it can be stopped at this late stage.

Many dealers feel that the much more direct influence from the DTC on its sight holders and an emphasis on adding value on the product, may encourage sight holders to deal directly with manufacturers of jewellery. The DTC say this is not their intention. The diamond industry is unique in its distribution chain and

has traditionally relied on a large number of small units to distribute its products. Whether we do end up with a situation like those in the watch and car industries, where one can only buy from approved agents, has yet to be seen for the diamond trade.

De Beers, the brand name

The De Beers name is now being used exclusively to sell jewellery. It is being marketed as a brand name, although the diamonds in this jewellery will not be individually branded (although this may be done with the larger and more significant stones). De Beers now have a shop in London selling their own exclusive jewellery, and others are being opened soon in other parts of the world. No doubt they will sell such jewellery through other prestigious established outlets, and probably one would need to be appointed as an agent to sell these products. De Beers will no doubt insist on a

traceable chain of production, to ensure that its products are fine and conflict-free.

How much of the future production of polished goods will now go through this more exclusive chain has yet to be seen.

In answer to my question in the headline, we are at this stage experiencing tremors. The trade will find other sources of supply and already there is talk of other syndicates being established to buy large quantities of rough which will compete with the DTC. They do admit that they now control less than 55% of the rough produced and sold. No doubt some traders will fall, especially with the added downturn in the world economies.

Let us hope the earthquake does not come, for that would bring down the many edifices we know and it could be sometime before a new world order in the diamond industry were created.

Harry Levy

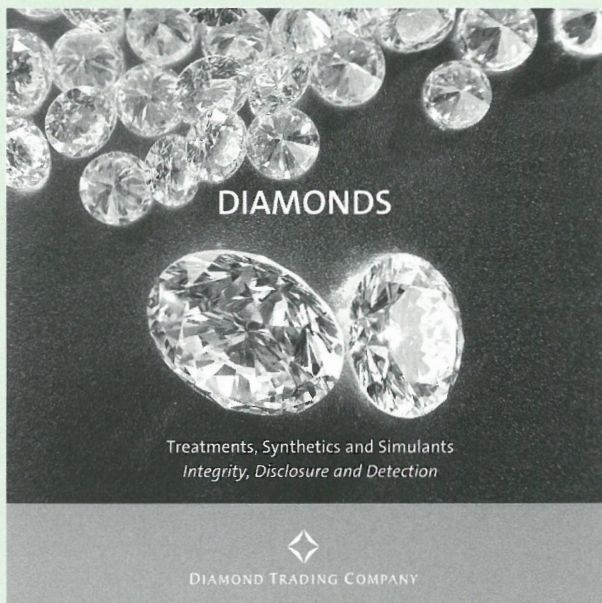
Diamonds: Treatments, Synthetics and Simulants *Integrity, Disclosure and Detection*

Gem-A has a new CD-ROM for sale, produced by the Diamond Trading Company.

All gemmologists can now get visual experience of the latest treatments, synthetics and simulants of diamond, and their detection methods.

Incorporating graphics, commentary and ground-breaking high-magnification video of stones, this CD-ROM is required viewing for gemmologists wanting to update their skills.

The CD-ROM can be ordered from Gem-A at £23.50 (inc. VAT) on tel +44 (0)20 7404 3334 fax +44(0)20 7404 8843 email gagtl@btinternet.com



'Gems' on the web

thought readers may be interested in information about two purveyors of 'gemstones'.

The first occurred when we were asked to set three diamonds that had been bought by bidding on the ebay website. Our customers paid £150 for three stones which were described as:

"Beautifully cut and proportioned 'marquise cut' loose diamonds at a very low, almost giveaway price. They weigh on average 0.343 ct each."

The quality is described as "Colour G/H - Purity I 2-3."

These stones are far from being gem quality, but the main problem is that if they were set in the normal way for setting diamonds, they would

most probably shatter. They contain so many cleavage cracks, chips, holes and inclusions that the application of any heat, pressure or cleaning in an ultrasonic cleaner would probably destroy them. They flash different colours when turned, indicating some sort of filling material, perhaps borax.

Obviously the price paid indicates that they are not of the normal quality sold by the average jeweller, but our client, an ordinary member of the public, thought that he was getting a genuine bargain, because of the reputation of the internet company. When questioned by our client by e-mail, the seller did not deny that the stones were borax treated, but insisted that the stones

were 'wonderful' and that he bought them from a 'top dealer in Antwerp established for more than 50 years'. Established in what, I wonder.

I recently received a phone call from someone wanting to have a 'mystic rose topaz' set into a ring. On questioning, I found that the stone, bought on the internet, was not pink, but 'multi-coloured'. I asked whether it was striped or spotted and the answer was 'flecks'. I have not found out what it was because they never rang back! Presumably many new and interesting varieties of gemstone are being sold on the internet.

*Pauline Gregory FGA
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GEM DISCOVERY CLUB

Michael O'Donoghue reports on some of the fascinating stones he has examined with Club members

As I write on 5 August, the Club is about to hold its first Tuesday evening meeting, as we have moved from Wednesdays by popular demand. For your interest this will be session 435 (we began on 9 March 1994) and numbers have been consistent over the years. Except when examinations take over the room we run weekly right through the year and the pattern of each evening remains the same. Over the years members have increasingly brought their own specimens and it is quite usual for members to split into conversational groups whose composition varies through the session. There are no cliques but plenty of interesting stones.

Recently we have looked at some 5000-year-old beads of varying composition (one a blue-fluorescing fluorite), a fine dark red spinel crystal from Tanzania and some pink to orange spinels, perhaps also from the same location but known to be East African, a very fine set of emerald crystals on

matrix from Colombia (crystals of this quality are very rarely seen on the market and prospective buyers need to be sure that they have not been glued on to the rock - these were not).

East Africa also produced a translucent dark green crystal of vesuvianite (idocrase) and some colour-change garnet crystals. A very bright green faceted 'Paraiba' tourmaline caught the eye (whether heated or not we did not know - some tourmalines of this type have recently been reported from Nigeria).

Our first sight of a bastnäsite crystal came on 4 June: there are three distinct bastnäsites, one containing lanthanum, one yttrium and the other cerium, so that the composition is La, Y or Ce(CO₃)F - a fluo-carbonate. The crystal (exact composition unknown) was reported to have come from a tribally-administered area of northern Pakistan.

Other rarities included peridot from Myanmar (usually very hard to

obtain) and examples of the Usambara effect in tourmaline crystals from East Africa. This effect can be seen when white light is passed along the long axis of a dark green tourmaline crystal to give a red flash at the end of the crystal. The effect has been reported in *The Journal of Gemmology* and the exact cause (there may be more than one) is still under discussion. We are grateful to Michael Hing, a Club member, and to Asbjorn Halvorsen who was one of the first to report the effect.

Among the stones brought in by members was a fine-coloured ruby with inclusions suggesting Thailand as the origin. It appeared by the end of the evening that it had probably been heated to improve the colour but this sort of thing needs loads of experience to spot. The Club welcomes such specimens - we cannot see enough.

As always, the more significant recent literature is shown when examples come to hand.

Michael O'Donoghue

The Schmuckmuseum, Pforzheim

A lecture by Dr Fritz Falk to the Society of Jewellery Historians on 29 April 2003.

Dr Fritz Falk, Director of the Schmuckmuseum in Pforzheim, provided the members of the SJH with a rare treat: an insight into the challenges of assembling a museum collection.

Since becoming the Director of the museum in 1971 (he joined part-time in 1965), Dr Falk has been solely responsible for the acquisitions of the only museum in the world entirely devoted to jewellery. Numbering some 6500 pieces, the collection spans the archaeological to the contemporary, displayed in a building designed by the renowned architect Manfred Lehmbrock which was opened in 1961. No windows allowed natural light to interfere with the carefully focused spotlights in the showcases, a pioneering concept at the time, and much imitated since.

Pforzheim's connection with jewellery and goldsmith's work dates back to 1767 when Margrave Karl Friedrich established a watch-making workshop there. By the nineteenth century the town's reputation as a manufacturing centre had grown considerably, and the demand for revivalist jewellery in the 1870's resulted in the acquisition of some antique examples to act as prototypes for the workshops.

The first jewel by René Lalique to form part of the Museum collection had indeed originally been bought in 1901 by the Kunstgewerbeschule (School for Arts and Crafts) to inspire contemporary German jewellers to create their own Art Nouveau pieces. Twelve additional examples of Lalique's work have joined it since, all acquired under Dr Falk's directorship.

The many obstacles encountered in the pursuit of such purchases were entertainingly recalled by Dr Falk, who consistently overcame budget constraints by persuading, for instance, the Ministry of Culture in Stuttgart to finance the acquisition of



Dr Fritz Falk with Dr Beatriz Chadour-Sampson.

exceptional pieces. These included a Mediaeval Burgundian pendant in the form of a triptych. Dr Falk even convinced the local bank to acquire one of his very favourite works of art – a sumptuous corsage ornament by Georges Fouquet in the form of a fish composed of mother of pearl, which is exhibited at the Museum as a permanent loan.

None can be impervious to Dr Falk's enthusiasm and charm; another signature piece, the marvellously sculptural silver and enamelled Froment-Meurice/ Wiëse bracelet, was offered to him in 1976 for the derisory sum of 5000 Deutschmarks. The owners had inherited it on condition that it should be sold; they were so captivated by the Schmuckmuseum and Dr Falk's dedication that they would have much preferred to donate it, but given the restrictions of the will, requested the smallest possible sum for it.

Contemporary jewellery is very well represented and counts some 850 pieces from as far afield as New Zealand, Japan and the United States. Indeed Dr Falk's indefatigable interest in modern craftsmen and his support of their work has prompted him to organize international

competitions involving contemporary jewellers the world over. Exhibitions have also been an important feature of Dr Falk's directorship and the programme has been extensive, recently elaborating on the subjects of 'Idol und Ideal' and 'Schmuck-Kunst im Jugendstil', each accompanied by lavishly illustrated catalogues.

The most astonishing fact about Fritz's period of tenure is that for 28 years, he ran the museum, acquired additional pieces, curated exhibitions and organized competitions only with the assistance of one secretary. This is largely why the name of the Schmuckmuseum is almost synonymous with Fritz's own, and why the two will always remain inextricably linked. When Fritz retires in early 2004, he will be missed by so many colleagues around the world for his endless energy, flair and charm.

Fritz Falk is proud to quote Graham Hughes who upon first seeing the Museum collection in the early 1960s, deemed it 'rather nice'. Some 30 years later, he pronounced it 'rather fine'. As far as Fritz is concerned, this modest assessment constitutes the finest tribute imaginable to his achievements.

Katherine Purcell

SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS

Goldsmiths' Fair

Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2V 6BN, from 29 September to 5 October 2003.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Goldsmiths' Fair, the annual selling exhibition of contemporary jewellery and silverware. The Goldsmiths' Fair offers the public an unrivalled opportunity to talk to the designers and purchase exciting, original jewels and silverware, much of which is not available through the normal retail channels.

For further information call the Goldsmiths' Company on 020 7606 7010 or visit their website at www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk

A new setting – modern designer jewellery 1960–2000

Fairfax House, Castlegate, York from 10 September 2003 to 6 January 2004.

Fairfax House is to be the setting for a spectacular collection of modern jewellery from the Goldsmiths' Company – its first UK showing outside London. Seventy-five designers working in Britain during the last 40 years of the 20th century are represented in this collection, considered one of the premier collections of modern designer jewellery in Britain today.

For more details visit www.fairfaxhouse.co.uk

Beadwork and Bead Fair 2003

Sunday 5 October Harrow Leisure Centre, NW London

The annual fair of the Bead Society of Great Britain. There will be stalls selling beads, books, looms, findings, and beaded and bead-woven jewellery, as well as demonstrations and displays.

For further information visit the Society's website at www.beadsociety.freemove.co.uk

Rock 'n' Gem Shows



The Kempton Park Rock 'n' Gem Show

Rock 'n' Gem Shows have now become a regular feature at racecourses and showgrounds throughout England. The brainchild of Tony Rance, the first show was held in 1994 at the Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex. There were 28 exhibitors and 900 visitors. Now, nine years on, the shows are held at eight venues, the biggest of which attracts up to 120 exhibitors and 3000 plus visitors.

"The racecourses are ideal for the type of shows we run," said Tony Rance. "As well as having large showrooms with good catering facilities, they are easily accessible by road and offer ample free car parking for both exhibitors and visitors."

In recent years dealers from overseas have shown a keen interest in exhibiting at the shows. Gem and mineral suppliers from France, Germany and Holland are regular attenders, and there are even exhibitors from as far as Canada and South Africa.

Anyone with an interest in gems, minerals, rocks or fossils, will enjoy a day of utter indulgence at one of the Rock 'n' Gem Shows.

If rock and gem collecting is your hobby, there is bound to be something at one of the stalls that you will want to add to your collection, from reasonably-priced student specimens showing typical inclusions or crystal faces, to the rare and

Rock 'n' Gem Shows 2003

<i>Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Road, Brighton</i>	20/21 September
<i>Newmarket Racecourse, Newmarket, Suffolk</i>	27/28 September
<i>Cheltenham Racecourse, Prestbury Park, Cheltenham</i>	18/19 October
<i>Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts</i>	25/26 October
<i>Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx</i>	1/2 November
<i>Uttoxeter Racecourse, Uttoxeter, Staffs</i>	22/23 November

All shows open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enquiries to HD Fairs Ltd
Tel: 01628 621697 (e-mail: Rockngems@aol.com)

exotic gems sought by specialist collectors. Amateur lapidaries and jewellery makers visit the show not only to stock up with gems, beads and crystals, but also to purchase equipment.

If you are in the gem or jewellery trade, whether a designer/manufacturer, a retailer or simply looking for jobbing stones, make a point of visiting the many suppliers of jewellery, cut stones and carved minerals that regularly exhibit at the shows.

A regular exhibitor at Kempton Park is gem dealer Marcus McCallum. "We exhibit primarily to meet new trade customers," said Marcus. "But we also get a lot of interest from members of the public wanting something a bit different for their jewellery."

As the majority of exhibitors are collectors themselves, they are more than happy to talk about their speciality, and are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their subject. Many of the shows also include displays and demonstrations by local lapidary, geological or mineral clubs.

Gem-A has provided displays at the Kempton Park show for many years. A video microscope linked to a monitor is used to show the fascinating internal features of gemstones that can aid identification.

It was because of the affinity between the Gem-A and the Rock 'n' Gem Shows that Gem-A decided in 2002 to hold its Annual Conference at Kempton Park at the time of the late autumn show. Now gem enthusiasts can revel in a full day of gemmology, attending presentations by world-class lecturers as well as spending an extended lunchtime break browsing (and buying!) at the show. Alternatively, some Conference delegates prefer to spend the whole of the weekend in the Kempton Park vicinity, allowing a whole day on the Saturday to visit the show.

Exhibitors and visitors alike find the shows both friendly and interesting, the exchange of information benefiting all.

Mary Burland

Gem-A Midlands Branch at Cheltenham Rock 'n' Gem Show



Midlands Branch Chairman Gwyn Green examining a diamond ring with Doug Morgan looking on.

For many years the Gem-A Midlands Branch has been participating in the Rock 'n' Gem Show held at the Cheltenham Racecourse. Initially the Branch provided demonstrations and displays, but in recent years they have also been running a gem testing station. Stall holders and the public alike have made good use of the service, and branch members are kept fully occupied for the two days duration of the shows. Many stones are presented for identification and requests are often made to check for treatments or the provenance of gems.

At a Cheltenham Show held earlier in the year, among other items branch members tested a 1930s dress clip set with superb blue, cloudy, Kashmir sapphires and supporting white sapphires. They were party to a discovery of the apocryphal kind when they were shown a heavy, well-worn gypsy style silver ring with a single, brilliant-cut stone of 9.5 mm diameter which had been purchased from a charity shop for £5. Observation and tests revealed it to be a diamond. The new owner had been looking for a cheap but sizeable stone for his new hobby of jewellery making. The stone had a high clarity, as far as could be determined, with a colour L. It is a pity that the item had not been checked so that the charity could

have received a realistic sum at auction.

Occasionally unusual gems are brought to the stand, and this year lucky branch members have had the opportunity to identify several fascinating items:

- a large pale green amblygonite/montebrazite with double refraction evident and RI values 1.613, 1.634, DR 0.021
- a dark red triphylite which showed significantly different spectra in its pleochroic directions and RI extremes of 1.684 and 1.689
- a golden to orange/yellow remondite from Mt St Hilaire in Canada with a most remarkable caesium spectrum
- a dark petrel blue spinel which showed reddish-brown through the Chelsea colour filter with an RI of 1.729 and spectrum clearly showing Fe and Co content
- a parti-coloured green and yellow sapphire with strong iron spectrum and RI values of 1.772, 1.762, DR 0.010
- a cobalt diffused topaz with only a vague shadow edge visible about 1.613, a rich sea blue/green, brilliant red through the Chelsea colour filter and a strong cobalt spectrum.

Gwyn Green

Scottish gold

Continued from p. 61

Alistir, who runs Alistir Wood Tait in Edinburgh's Rose Street, is now planning to carry out a test smelt to assess the temperament of the precious metal and its workability. If, as expected, it proves suitable, he plans to take orders for one-off pieces of jewellery, like wedding rings or pendants which will carry the unique Scottish gold hallmark.

"There is considerable interest in truly Scottish jewellery and such pieces are extremely collectable, especially among expatriate Scots and those of Scots descent across the world."

Alistir expects to make 250 items from the collection if it can be smelted. It also has a much richer yellow colour than commercially marketed gold.

A keen gemmologist, Alistir plans to team the gold with gemstones from Scotland to produce truly Scottish jewellery. The collection will include Cairngorm (a variety of crystalline quartz found in the Cairngorm mountains), Scottish river

pearls, 'Elie rubies' (pyrope garnet found on the beach at Elie Bay, Fife), and Scottish sapphires.

Small amounts of gold have been found in Scotland for centuries, particularly in the Lowther Hills around Leadhills and Wanlockhead in Lanarkshire, which has even hosted the World Gold Panning championships.

Historically Scottish gold was used to make coins during the reigns of King James V and Mary Queen of Scots, while in 1999 the current Queen presented the new Scottish Parliament with a silver mace, adorned with a ring of gold, made from metal panned at Wanlockhead.

Gold Panning Expedition

Members of the Gem-A Scottish Branch tried their hand at gold panning at Tyndrum, central Scotland, on Sunday 24 August. Gold panning expert Bob Sutherland demonstrated panning techniques, and all present were delighted with the glittering flecks of gold they collected during the day.

Jewellery Jamboree

Geoffrey Munn, of TV's Antiques Roadshow and London jeweller Wartski, will lead a Joyce Collins Memorial Day for jewellery study in the private apartments of Burghley House, Stamford, on Monday 10 November by kind permission of Mr Simon and Lady Victoria Leatham. An illustrated talk on tiaras, in the wake of the blockbuster exhibition curated by Geoffrey Munn at the Victoria and Albert Museum, will be followed by a rare private view of fabulous Renaissance Jewels at Burghley House originally from Chatsworth.

The fee of £75 includes coffee on arrival at 10.30 a.m. and a champagne buffet lunch. All receipts – including further donations for jewellery valuations by Geoffrey Munn – will aid the Burghley Park and Peterborough Ladies for Cancer Research UK of which Joyce Collins (1930-2002) was a stalwart member.

Numbers strictly limited – please book tickets from Mrs S. Beeton, 80 Linkside, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8PA (tel: 01733 266430).

MUSEUM NEWS

Saved!

The Hayward Gallery, London, from 23 October 2003 to 18 January 2004.

Saved! celebrates the centenary of the Art Fund (NACF), which has been assisting museums in the acquisition of important objects since 1903. It will include major loans from many museums and other collections. For more details, visit the Art Fund's website at <http://www.artfund100.org/>

Saving Art for the Nation

11 to 13 November, London

The Art Fund (better known to most of us as the National Art Collections Fund), in association with the *Art Newspaper*, is holding a major conference in London in November. An international array of speakers

and panellists will address the thorny issues of museum collecting and funding, and of the safeguarding of national heritage. The conference programme will include a visit to the exhibition *Saved!* at the Hayward Gallery. The conference fee is £300 and full details may be obtained from Hugo Tagholm, at htagholm@brunswickgroup.com or 44 (0)20 7936 1294

Treasure: finding our past

The British Museum, 21 November 2003 to 14 March 2004.

The exhibition will feature many very famous finds, from the Mildenhall treasure to the Lewis Chessmen – the term 'treasure' is not being confined solely to objects of precious metal. It will feature the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme,

the contribution made to archaeology by metal-detecting, and will go well beyond the initial impact of beautiful and valuable ancient objects to draw the visitor into the process of study that leads to advances in our understanding of the past.

This exhibition will be shown outside London, in the regions; after it closes in London, it will go on to Cardiff, Manchester, Newcastle and Norwich, finally closing in November 2005. More details are available on the British Museum website: <http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/newsroom/current2003/treasure.html>

The accompanying book of the same title by Richard Hobbs is scheduled for publication on 15 September and will be available from British Museum Press at £9.99.

Keeping an Eye – Observation

With or without the help of a thesaurus or dictionary, this word may lead you to think in terms of watching, perceiving, noticing or seeing; paying attention; keeping an eye on things; making a comment or remark; examining something in detail prior to analysis or interpretation; the facts learnt from observing.

Observation and gemmology go hand-in-hand. However, the two become unhitched at times. This divergence is a pretty fundamental problem and I observe that it is becoming more common as a barrier to useful gemmology and to the protection of customers and of trade integrity. There are remedies.

Observation also has a great bearing upon the organisation and care of gemmology education. Paying attention, keeping an eye on things. It's all part of the job, of course, making and using observations worldwide to help keep education running smoothly. Through thirty-five years of observing the Earth, its users and its gem materials, I have tried to help satisfy the many different enquiries of various Earthlings dwelling (mostly) on its surface. They want to know or need to know what is going on. What went on. Occasionally, what might eventually go on. In and on the Earth. And elsewhere.

Star dust

Long ago I realized that gems and people were from the same mud, the same molten rock, the same star-dust. Keeping all that in mind, my job is to observe and to help others observe. Gemmology connects with so much around us. We are lucky; when I observe Gem-A students and members meeting together I see how they discover in each other a wealth of different approaches to life and work, all connected through gems. There are designers and creators of jewels and gems, and the importers and business facilitators, the

handlers and sellers, materials technologists and Earth scientists, enablers and interpreters and teachers. The receptive minds.

Observation

To be receptive it is usually necessary to observe. Did your schooling enable you to observe? Have you ever thought about that? What's more, did you learn to observe and to report your observation? Have you developed these since schooldays? They do not always come naturally. Observation is like exercise. You can go through life without noticing much. In order to learn or to teach, to organize or to enable, you need first to notice things. You may need to learn to see or to reappraise your ability to see, and to report what you see. Why report? Increasingly, I find that gemmology training requires additional exercise in the twin processes of observation and reporting. Reporting is communication. Observations enable progress if they are communicated. They can bring enjoyment. They can make a sale. They can make all the difference in the world. So they are firmly part of the Gem-A gem and diamond mainstream training and tutorials, part of the real practical approach of our modern gemmology education.

Real life

Gem-A education development over the past few years has increasingly focused on practical observation, report-style communication and the realistic choice of tests. Real-life commerce and enjoyment for enthusiasts, jewellers and gem traders is enabled or enhanced by a realistic education starting with a realization of observation. What do you really do, when you consider a piece of gem-set jewellery or a gem material? You look, but how far do you really see? What do you need to do? What can you do, realistically, with the means at hand? What do you have in your pocket, purse, handbag or briefcase, to help you? Usually, not a microscope, a power supply, a library or a refractometer. Usually, you have very little time to come to a conclusion or decision. Often, a relatively large amount of money is at stake. You observe; you may report just to yourself. Have you time to do anything else before coming to a decision? Then you advise, or you buy. Or you don't. Are you really confident about your next gem? All of the Gem-A departments are here to enable and help you in the process of gem observation and communication. Realistically.

Ian Mercer

Getting started

Goldsmiths' Hall, London. Monday 19 to Friday 23 January 2004.

The Goldsmiths' Company's introduction to business for jewellers and silversmiths is now in its 17th year. Free to delegates, it is designed to offer recent graduates of jewellery, silversmithing and allied trades an introduction to the industry and the career opportunities on offer. Whether the individuals are planning

to work for a company or hope to establish themselves as a self-employed maker/designer, the course is equally relevant.

Anyone interested in applying for the course should contact Heather Ferguson at Goldsmiths' Hall as soon as possible on 020 7606 7010 or by email heather.ferguson@thegoldsmiths.co.uk as places are limited.

Short Courses and Workshops – Autumn 2003

Gemstones for Everyone

Tuesday 30 September

This workshop is for anyone and everyone interested in gemstones. Whether you work in the trade, are an interested hobbyist or you simply enjoy wearing gems in jewellery, this day 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 and informative environment.

Gem-A Members £116.33 (non-members £129.25)

All About Pearl

Friday 10 October

A chance to indulge your love of pearls! From the origins of natural and cultured pearls, marine and freshwater, to the treatments and simulants in the trade today, this workshop brings you up to speed through hands-on observation with guidance from our tutors. Guest lecturer Ann Margolis examines factors affecting quality and the commercial aspects of the industry, and Stephen Kennedy discusses laboratory testing of pearls.

Gem-A Members £126.90 (non-members £138.65)

Coloured Stone Special

Tuesday 21 October

Looking for a chance to increase and update your knowledge of rubies, sapphires and emeralds? This workshop is designed to bring you up to speed through hands-on observation of a large range of cut and rough material. Areas we will be concentrating on during the day will include properties of natural stones and a treatment and synthetics update.

Gem-A Members £116.33 (non-members £129.25)

Sketching for Sales II

Wednesday 22 October

This one-day workshop aims to build on the basic groundwork of perspective, shading and use of colour so that participants can apply these skills to their own design ideas. Areas covered will include effective use of colour, presentation drawings and troubleshooting on a one-to-one basis. You can hone your drawing skills as we work through a range of fine jewellery with varying degrees of difficulty for drawing.

Gem-A Members £126.90 (non-members £138.65)

One-Day Foundation Workshop

Tuesday 28 October and Tuesday 2 December

This workshop forms the practical requirement of the Foundation Certificate in Gemmology and is strictly reserved for students studying on this course. It will cover practical use of the refractometer, hand-held spectroscope, polariscope, dichroscope, Chelsea colour filter, UV fluorescence and specific gravity.

Gem-A Students £58.75

Conflict Diamond Seminar 'The Kimberley Process'

Thursday 30 October

This seminar is aimed at those handling polished diamonds, wholesale, retail and jewellery, where there is a growing demand for up-to-date knowledge about the latest developments within the industry, specifically the issues surrounding conflict diamonds and The Kimberley Process. How do these developments affect you? Guest lecturers Dennis Terry and Stephen Fields of Dianet Ltd. bring an extensive wealth of experience and knowledge to this increasingly important subject.

Gem-A Members £49.35 (non-members £54.99)

Includes buffet lunch

Rough Diamond Course

Tuesday 4 November

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of rough diamonds and the diamond pipeline as well as a practical grounding in the handling and recognition of the various diamond qualities, shapes and colours. Guest lecturers Dennis Terry and Stephen Fields of Dianet Ltd. have extensive backgrounds in the handling, sorting and valuing of rough diamonds making this an ideal course for anybody with an interest in rough diamonds.

For more information please see the workshop leaflet or speak to the education department.

Gem-A Members £146.88 (non-members £161.56)

Includes buffet lunch

Six-Day Diamond Practical Course

5-12 November (weekdays only); exam 13 November

This intensive diamond grading course plus Certificate exam places the greatest emphasis on the use of the 10x lens. The course covers:

- 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 £750

Welcome to Gemmology

Tuesday 11 November

Whether you are beginning a course of study in gemmology or simply want a taster, this workshop is ideal. A day of practical hands-on observation, the course will introduce you to many varieties of cut stones and crystals. The session also introduces the main gem-testing instruments so that you can see the results for yourself, first hand.

Gem-A Members £99.88 (non-members £112.80)

**For further information on short courses and workshops or to make a booking, contact
Gem-A Education on +44 (0)20 7404 3334 or email gagtl@btinternet.com**

Heat treatment of corundum in Thailand

The story of the gem industry in Chantaburi from 1889 to the present day

An audience of more than 70 members and friends gathered at the Gem-A headquarters on 15 May to hear a talk entitled 'Heat treatment of corundum in Thailand' delivered by Professor Theerapongs Thanasuthipitak of Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand.

Professor Thanasuthipitak was accompanied by his two colleagues, Anuphap Chinudompong and Prajak Angkahiran, and they presented the latest results and thinking concerning the new treatments of ruby and sapphire at Chanthaburi, one of the main gem centres in Thailand.

Professor Thanasuthipitak was introduced by Dr Bill Gaskarth of Birmingham University and commenced by outlining the structure of the gem and jewellery industry in Thailand. This has grown from commercial insignificance in the 1970s to an industry turning over 80 000 million baht (about £1 billion) today, employing up to 1.3 million people, of whom 7000 are diamond cutters. Thailand used to produce its own rubies and sapphires, but now over 95% are imported from Madagascar, Myanmar, Australia, Sri Lanka and Laos.

Mining

The history of ruby and sapphire mining in Thailand started in 1889 when an Anglo-Italian company recovered sapphires from Khao Phloi Waen (which means 'hill

of gems'). In 1890, an English company took over and shipped 30 000 ct to London. At the peak of mining activity there were up to 480 000 miners in the Chanthaburi-Trat area close to the Cambodian border, but now only a few small mines still operate.

Selection of rough

The speaker then outlined the procedure for dealing with ruby and sapphire rough, starting with cleaning and selecting the larger stones for special cutting, and then moving on to the role of heat treatment. Professor Thanasuthipitak compared heating with other methods of enhancing the appearance of stones and pointed out that not every stone could be improved. This degree of uncertainty had led to the extensive studies (at the university) to establish what factors controlled the behaviour of colour on heating and the various influences of Cr, Fe, Ni, Mg, Ti and V were discussed.

Correct 'recipe'

The furnaces in Chanthaburi may be fired by coal (charcoal), oil (diesel), gas (liquid petroleum gas) or heated by electricity, and of these, the last is considered most effective. Treating a stone, or a parcel of stones, is like following a kitchen recipe and one has to choose the correct temperature, atmosphere conditions, 'soaking' time and cooling rate to achieve the desired result. In addition to colour enhancement, the correct heating procedures can also improve clarity. Professor Thanasuthipitak discussed a wide range of different combinations which had been found to be best for ruby, blue sapphire and yellow sapphire respectively, and stressed that all these 'recipes' produced stones with stable colour and which were coherent and unlikely to crack – indeed, the heat

Midlands Branch talk

Professor Thanasuthipitak and his colleagues gave a similar talk to Gem-A Midlands Branch members at their Conference held on 18 May, a brief report of which was published in the June 2003 issue of *Gem & Jewellery News*.

treatment itself causes any fractures to expand in stones and enable their removal.

Orange sapphires

In answer to a question from the audience, Professor Thanasuthipitak explained the background to the recent influx of orange sapphires, and how this colouring effect had been accidentally discovered after some chrysoberyl was mixed with the sapphire rough. Some of the first sapphires to come on the market after this treatment had orange rims around a pale yellow core and this feature was attributed to some kind of diffusion process. The view of Professor Thanasuthipitak and his two colleagues (who themselves routinely treat sapphires in Chanthaburi) is that these colour-rimmed stones are the result of incomplete heat treatment: properly done, the treatment should produce stones with colour all the way through.

Further discussion on nomenclature ensued and it was emphasized that full disclosure should always be made about any treatment to a stone.

Roger Harding

Just seen ...

... on a certificate issued by a Bangkok laboratory for an important orange/red corundum:

"The coloration of corundums often results from a sophisticated heating process."

Anything to avoid mentioning beryllium!

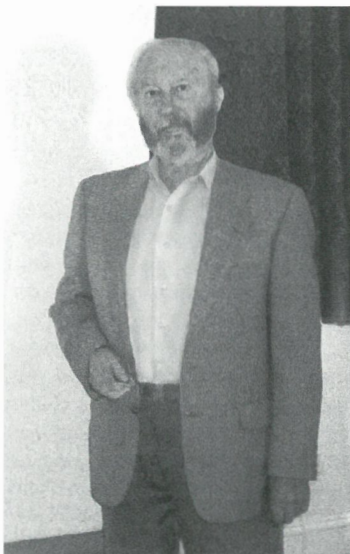
Harry Levy

Comment on the treatment of corundum is given by Roger Harding in his Editorial on p.62

South East Branch

50 Years of Gemmology

Alan Jobbins gave an enthralling talk entitled '50 years of gemmology' to the South East Branch at the County Club, Guildford on Sunday 7 July. Accompanied by 80 slides, Alan gave the very well attended lecture an insight into his career, almost from the time he became a geologist. The Geological Survey and Museum, South Kensington, gave him his first opportunity to reveal his organizational skills by producing a



Alan Jobbins addressing South East Branch members.

new arrangement for the mineral collection based on crystal chemistry.

Alan recounted how, as a UNESCO geologist, he met the challenges of setting up the laboratory and gemmology school in Burma, overcoming them to produce a world class facility with many of his students becoming internationally recognized gemmologists. We then moved to Sri Lanka, where we saw artisans working tortoiseshell using traditional techniques and methods. Brazil followed, with a visit to Piauí Province and the alluvial diamond mines, with pictures of the tunnel system used to reach the diamond-bearing gravels. At Boi Morto we saw opal occurring in

situ at the junction of a dolomite sill overlain by sandstones; resembling Andamooka material this opal has been passed off as such.

Pailin, Cambodia, was next on the world tour, with a visit to the ruby and sapphire mines, and an ingenious sieving machine operated by young female gem sorters squatting in full sunlight, overseen by men with black umbrellas who were in turn also being overseen by others; such was the need for security. This image was subsequently seen in *Time Life* magazine.

Back to Burma and the Yadanakadekada mines in the Mogoke district, where fine rubies, sapphires and other gemstones were being produced. Whilst in Burma we saw images of the Jade emporium in Mogoke with its vast range of jade boulders awaiting the speculator at auction.

North West Branch

A Jade Tour

On 21 May Ian Mercer gave a very interesting talk to North West Branch members entitled 'A jade tour'. Ian explained and displayed many varieties of natural and simulated specimens that he had personally obtained from different sources throughout the world from China to Idar Oberstein. North West Branch patron, John Pike, kindly brought along his superb collection of jade for us to admire, especially a cabochon cut stone of top quality imperial jade which he had obtained in Burma.

North East Branch

We are pleased to announce that a branch of Gem-A is to be launched in the North East in the autumn.

The inaugural meeting is to be held on in Leeds on Friday 10 October when John Benjamin of Antiques Roadshow fame will give a presentation entitled 'Jewellery from

Now in his 80th year, the travelling has not stopped; Alan ended his talk with several slides from his trip in May this year to St. Petersburg, which is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city. Included in these slides was a fascinating glimpse of the newly re-opened Amber Room and two enormous vases, apparently cut from solid pieces of lapis lazuli and malachite respectively, all on view at the fabulous Catherine Palace.

Guildford had been chosen because we had promised to take the meetings to various localities within the south east area and, judging from the number of new faces, this was a success. We will be looking for other venues in the south east for future talks. You can contact us at info@gaseb.org

Colin Winter

Crystal care

Wendy Simkiss, Assistant Curator of the Liverpool Museum, gave a talk on 21 June entitled 'Crystal Care' which attracted interest from Victoria and Albert museum staff in London.

Conservation problems were discussed, particularly when minerals are subjected to light, temperature and humidity fluctuations, physical force and pollution. Mineral collectors were given exclusive tips on how to display and store specimens correctly. A highly informative evening.

Ray Rimmer

Elizabeth I to Elizabeth Taylor'. The event has been generously sponsored by Tracy Jukes of e-jewel Ltd.

Branch founder, Neil Rose, said: "Although the first event is to be in Leeds, we are hoping to hold future meetings at various locations to cater for all members in the area."

Information about forthcoming Gem-A Branch meetings and events is given on p.80, with contact details.

Igo Whetston

The Society of Jewellery Historians gratefully acknowledges a generous donation from Christopher Cavey in memory of Igo Whetston, who died aged 99 after falling over whilst dancing.

Igo came to this country in the 1930s to escape Nazi persecution. He came from a family of jewellers in Krakow, Poland, who also had connections in Vienna, and was brought up in the gem and jewellery trade. He arrived in London with some diamonds, and with contacts in the Jewish community he set up business dealing in diamonds, other gems, making jewellery and trading in fine objects. He was a founder member of the London Diamond Club in Hatton Garden and a leading member of the trade there, even after his 90th birthday. He was fluent in six languages, and was an interviewer and translator during the war under cover of the Army Catering Corps. Igo was a truly remarkable man with an amazingly optimistic spirit who would always help those entering the trade, and indeed any colleagues in difficulties. SJH is particularly grateful to him for having a daughter, Anne, who has for many years been the Society's extremely efficient Membership Secretary.

Name that tune

Note to those who would rather not encounter equations in their Journal.

Sir Peter Medawar, the Nobel prize-winner who worked on transplants apparently did not like equations. His response when he did come across one?

"I hum it!"

Roger Harding

Jewellery Sales

Autumn 2003 sale dates from the auction houses

Bonhams, London

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

Jewellery: 24 September, 15 October, 5 November,
26 November, 17 December

101 New Bond Street, London W1S 1SR (Tel. 020 7468 8282)

Fine Jewellery 2 October, 4 December

Christie's

South Kensington (Tel. 020 7581 7611)

Jewellery: 14 October, 11 November (antique jewellery),
25 November, 9 December (fine jewellery)
Pawnbrokers Unredeemed Pledges: 26 September, 12 December

King Street (Tel: 0207 389 2381)

Arts of India sale 24 September
Important jewellery 26 November

(www.christies.com)

Dreweatt Neate, Donnington, Newbury, Berkshire

Priory Sale with Decorative Arts since 1860 22 September

Priory Sale with Silver and Jewellery: 1 December

Sale including Silver, Jewellery and Watches 15 October

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

Fellows & Sons, Birmingham

Second-hand Jewellery and Watches

(by Direction of Pawnbrokers Nationwide): 25 September,
9 and 23 October, 6 and 20 November, 4 December

Antique and Modern Jewellery and Watches: 16 October, 27 November

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

Gardiner Houlgate, The Bath Auction Rooms, Bath

Jewellery: 24 September, 8 and 22 October,
5 and 19 November, 3 and 17 December

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

Hamptons, Godalming, Surrey

Silver and Jewellery: 6 November

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

Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers, 33 Broughton Place, Edinburgh

Silver and Jewellery 16 October, 10 December

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

Sotheby's, London

Jewellery (Olympia) 21 October

Passion for Fashion (Olympia) 27 November

Fine Jewellery (New Bond Street) 16 December

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

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

Idar-Oberstein, Germany

Evelyne Stern recounts the history of this fascinating town, renowned for the cutting and polishing of gems and minerals since the 16th century

The town of Idar-Oberstein has a long history. Originally there were two settlements, Idar on the Idar river and Oberstein where the Idar flows into the Nahe. The Nahe then flows eastwards towards the Rhine at Bingen. From Kreuznach onwards (about an hour from Idar) is wine-growing country, but Idar itself has too harsh a climate to grow grapes.

Oberstein was first documented in 1075. The castrum Altes Schloss (the Old Castle) was not mentioned before 1197, and the Neues Schloss (the New Castle) was built in 1330 but burned down in 1855. When it was built, the castle and surrounding countryside was owned by the family Daun-Oberstein. The Felsenkirche which overlooks the Market Place in Oberstein, was built between 1482 and 1484 as a penance for fratricide: according to the legend the murder of Emich by his brother Wirich was the result of a quarrel caused by the younger brother putting a cat into the boot of the older brother. Another story says that the murder is the result of jealousy which seems more likely.

Reformation came early to Oberstein. Wirich V (1517-1546) who was a grandson of the builder of the Felsenkirche stayed a Catholic, but allowed the preaching of Protestantism. However, his son converted to Lutheranism in 1548. The cutting and polishing of agate was first documented in 1530 on the left bank of the Idar, very near to the agate and jasper mines. From 1609 under Graf Phillip Franz von Daun-Oberstein a larger cutting centre evolved. In 1774 when the Italian writer Cosmo Collini (1727-1806) undertook a mineralogical field trip, he found 26 cutting mills near the Idar. Towards the end of the 17th century, various goldsmiths came to live in the district and worked together with the growing agate industry. During the 19th century the improvement of agate colours became more common. The old Roman method of saturating grey agate with honey, burning it and then treating it with sulphuric acid, was revived. It is documented that in 1813 yellow-brown agates were heated to produce a red colour.

By the 19th century, the local occurrences could not yield sufficient rough material to satisfy demand and in 1834 the first Brazilian stones were imported. The story is that local unemployed musicians emigrated to Brazil and there found agates that were remarkably similar to the Idar stones, so they sent them home. The Idar/Brazil connection grew and is still strong today (or at least was strong up to 10 or 20 years ago, when the Brazilians decided that they could cut their own stones). Usually there was one brother in Brazil and the others stayed at home, worked the stones and sold the finished product. The Brazilian stones were larger than the local variety, easier to dye and more varied in pattern.

By the end of the 19th century, there were 56 agate mills along the Idar, but no new water-powered mill was erected after 1884. The only one left standing is the 'Weiherschleife' which is kept going for tourists. You can still see demonstrations of how the stones were cut. The cutter was positioned on his tummy and held the stone against a grinding wheel, which



Cutting agate by the traditional method at the one remaining water-powered cutting mill in Idar.

was turned by water power. The products were mainly ashtrays, small pieces of jewellery, handles for cutlery, etc.

The second half of the 19th century saw the development of the art of engraving, especially of cameos, intaglios and other *objets d'art*. The latter was hit hard in 1918 by the disappearance of Fabergé as a buyer. But the most beautiful objects, such as bowls and animal carvings, were and are still made.

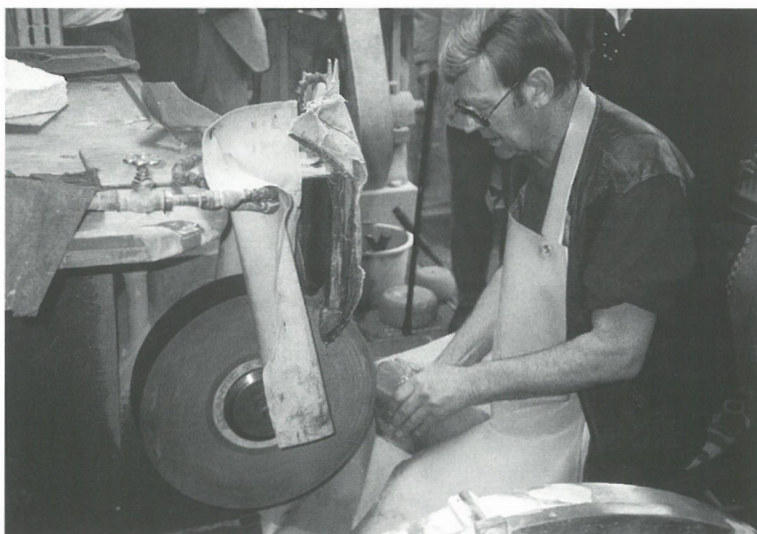
There was a lively trade overseas; for instance, New Zealand 'tikis' were cut in Idar from New Zealand stone and then exported back to be sold to the tourist trade.



An example of the fine mineral carvings produced in Idar.

Perhaps I should also mention that technical stones, such as bearings for balances, were also produced. There was and is an industrial diamond factory in Idar, producing very fine precision instruments, such as diamond surgical knives and, at one time, diamond styli for record players.

The first diamond manufacturing plant for cutting and polishing natural stones was opened in 1886 by the Brothers Hahn, a firm which is still very much in existence under the name Ph. Hahn Sohne. After the second World War there were hundreds of diamond cutting



Helmut Wolf working on one of his exquisite bowls.

workshops in Idar. The extreme poverty in Germany after their defeat and then the phenomenal rise of Antwerp as the international diamond centre, brought about the smuggling of vast quantities of small rough diamonds into Idar where they were worked and then smuggled back into Belgium as polished. The Belgian diamond industry brought pressure to bear on De Beers not to admit any German buyers as sight holders. It was only in the mid-fifties, after some fraught negotiations, that the Deutsche Bank was approached for a loan by De Beers (if I remember rightly it was because De Beers could not take money out of South Africa). As a condition of this loan, the

Deutsche Bank insisted that the embargo was lifted and German manufacturers could apply to become sight holders. At the time five firms qualified, three of them in Idar. In the early seventies another firm in Idar became a sight holder, although by that time one had fallen by the wayside. At the time of writing there are no sight holders in Idar. After the economic recovery wages rose very quickly in Germany, and the Idar manufacturers, although producing very fine goods, became uncompetitive in the world market. There is still a handful of diamond manufacturers in Idar, all producing very well-made goods.

Evelyne Stern

The 10th Anniversary of the Gem-A Idar-Oberstein Experience

Sunday 14 to Saturday 20 March

Visit Idar-Oberstein in Spring 2004 with Gem-A. Major highlights of the tour include the Steinkaulenberg mine (the traditional source of local agate and amethyst), the historic and modern gem cutting workshops, gem carving and cameo cutting demonstrations, the mineral and gem museums, as well as showroom visits.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary visit, a special wine tasting evening has been organized by Gethmann's Hotel.

The cost of the tour is £645. For further details and a booking form contact Doug Garrod on 020 7404 3334 or email gagtl@btinternet.com

Following the success of the 2002 Conference, this year's event is again to be held at **Kempton Park Racecourse during the late autumn Rock 'n' Gem Show, with ample time during the lunch break for delegates to visit the Show.**

The Conference is the ideal forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences between members. This will be a day of indulgence for anyone with an interest in gemstones and jewellery.

The international panel of speakers will be presenting lectures on current research in gem labs, the Kimberley Process for rough diamonds, jewellery design and the identification of fake antique items.

The Conference will open at 10:15 a.m. for coffee and registration and close at 5:00 p.m. There will be a break of nearly two hours at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and to allow delegates to browse (and buy!) at the Show.

The Conference has been divided into morning and afternoon sessions, and you have the option of booking for just one session if you wish.

The fee for the full Conference is £45.00 for Gem-A members (£55.00 for non-members) or for one session only (morning or afternoon) the fee is £27.50 for Gem-A members (£32.50 for non-members). The fees include attendance at lectures, entry to the Rock 'n' Gem Show, tea and coffee, and VAT.

There will be an optional finger buffet lunch at £17.50 giving the opportunity for delegates to meet the speakers and also have time to visit the Rock 'n' Gem Show.

PROGRAMME:

Morning Session

10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SSEF Lab news patchwork PROFESSOR HENRY A. HÄNNI

Interesting cases of identification work done at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute during the last 12 months. From Be-diffusion to caesium beryl identification, with assorted testing at the front desk of the Institute.

And now let's look at the mount ... DR JACK OGDEN

In his talk Dr Jack Ogden will explain some of the laboratory methods that can be used to help identify fakes of antique jewellery.

Afternoon Session

2:25 to 5:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE LECTURE An update on research activities at GIA

WILLIAM E. BOYAJIAN President of the GIA

General analysis of research projects at GIA, their importance, overall objectives and findings.

The Kimberley Process: a rough deal?

CLIVE WRIGHT

The role industry can play in making the Kimberley Process for the control of the import and export of rough diamonds work to the advantage of industry. The relationship between industry, government and NGOs in making a success of the Kimberley Process.

Gemmology as a design tool PAULA CREVOSHAY

An introduction to Crevoshay designs, what is special about Crevoshay and gemmology as a design tool.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

Private viewing of the CROWN JEWELS

with guided tour by the Crown Jeweller, David Thomas
FULLY BOOKED

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Monday 3 November

The ceremony will be held at the prestigious Goldsmiths' Hall.

The guest speaker will be **ANTHONY HIRSH** who will also present the awards.

Tickets £10.00.

Visit to the

DIAMOND TRADING COMPANY

Monday 3 November

The visit will include a talk on the Diamond Trading Company (DTC) and the diamond industry today, and viewing of the displays in the Diamond Information Office. The DTC has kindly agreed that the fees charged be donated to the Gem-A development fund.

Tickets for the visit are £8.00.

Restricted to those attending the Conference.

Private viewing and guided tour of

THE WERNHER COLLECTION

at Ranger's House, Greenwich

Tuesday 4 November

Arguably one of the finest and most unusual 19th century mixed art collections in the world, including a large collection of Renaissance jewellery.

Gem-A members £8.00 (£9.00 non-members)

ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS:

Conflict Diamond Seminar 'The Kimberley Process'

Thursday 30 October

Rough diamond course

Tuesday 4 November

Further details of workshops are given on p.72

25 November

Rosaries, Prayer-Beads and Jewels of Devotion in the Dreyfus-Best Collection

DR BEATRIZ CHADOUR-SAMPSON

Beatriz Chadour-Sampson works as a freelance jewellery historian with commissions from private collectors, museums and artist jewellers. She is also the curator of the vast collection of religious objects and jewels in the Dreyfus-Best Collection. Among her numerous and wide-ranging publications is the jewellery catalogue of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Cologne, the Alice and Louis Koch Collection of Finger Rings.

Coronations

Saturday 4 October
Beveridge Hall, Senate House,
University of London, Malet
Street, Bloomsbury

The Society for Court Studies is holding an international conference on the subject of royal coronations. It will examine comparatively the ideologies and symbolism of royal coronation ceremonies in Europe and beyond. Papers will be given on a range of subjects from the crowning of Charlemagne to Stuart coronation ritual, Ottoman coronations and the televised coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Speakers include Professor Janet Nelson of King's College, University of London and Sir Roy Strong.

Further information and tickets at £55 may be obtained from: Celia Moxom, Society for Court Studies, PO Box 14057, London N5 1WF
 Tel: 020 7503 990
 Fax: 020 7503 9876
 Email: admin@courtstudies.com or celiamoxompa@hotmail.com

COMPETITION

Weigh out

I was at home and wanted to weigh a fine crystal I had just bought. But my electronic balance had died – OK, I shouldn't have used it to weigh the guinea pig.

Then I remembered that I had an old balance under the stairs – you know, two arms, two pans and a box of little weights. I dug it out only to find that my teenage son had been at it. All the bits were there, but the arm was much longer on one side than the other. So I weighed the crystal with the crystal in the left hand pan, the weights in the right, and the result was 12 grams. I then reversed things – crystal in right, weights on the left – and the result was 27 grams.

I gave up, but confronted my teenage son later. He is brilliant at maths and stuff, but monosyllabic at best.

"Can I work out the real weight from those two results?" I asked.

"Yes." He replied.

"So I just take the average?"

"No."

"Well if it's not the average, what is it? You messed up the balance. So no more time on the computer until you've told me the answer."

"Mean."

I wonder if I've over-estimated my son's ability. *Jack Ogden*

Answer to the last puzzle

Briefly, I buy a ring for £10 cash from Fred and then sell it to a customer for £15. She gives me a £50 note and, as I haven't change,

Fred (still in my shop) swaps it for ten £5 notes so I can give her the change. After she's left, Fred notices the £50 is a fake and so I get £50 from the bank to repay him. Bad day? How much did I lose?

I paid Fred £10 from my till and then £50 from my bank. So £60 of my money went out. What did I get in? Well the woman gave me a dud £50 so that doesn't count. But when Fred gave me the £50 in change I gave the woman her £35 and kept the £15. So I paid out £60 and got in £15 giving me a net loss of £45.

The woman got the ring and £35 cash. Fred gained whatever profit he made selling me the ring. What, you don't think Fred and the woman were in cahoots? *Jack Ogden*

NB: In posing the puzzle, Jack said that VAT was not taken into consideration. No VAT would have been applicable if the seller was not registered for VAT.

If he was registered, he would have had two options. One was to pay the full VAT included in his selling price, in this case £2.23. The other was to sell it under the second-hand margin scheme. In this instance the VAT amount would be 74p, being the VAT included in the profit only, that is on £5.00.

The interesting thing is that this would have been regarded eventually as a 'bad debt', and the VAT would have been claimed back at a later date. So there would appear to be an 'apparent profit' at the end of the day, since by the time the VAT is claimed back he would have forgotten he had paid it in the first place! *Harry Levy*

Gem-A East Africa Gem Safari 2004

Saturday 7 to Sunday 22 August 2004

The tour includes visits to gem mines in Kenya and Tanzania, the Olduvai Gorge archeological site, a Masai village and the shifting sands, as well as a wildlife safari and gem shopping.

£4800 per person

including flights from UK, transport in Africa and accommodation

Further details from Doug Garrod on 020 7404 3334 or visit our website at www.gem-a.info

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

Gem-A Conference 2003

Sunday 2 November
Kempton Park Racecourse,
Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex

Speakers:
William E Boyajian Paula Crevosshay
Professor Henry Hänni Dr Jack Ogden
Clive Wright

Further details given on p.78

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.

26 September. PC TERRY LEWIS
Crime Prevention in the Jewellery Industry

31 October. BRIAN DUNN
The Naughty Nineties (1890s)

28 November. BRIAN JACKSON
British gemstones with a Scottish flavour

6 December. 51st Anniversary Dinner

North East Branch

Meeting to be held at Gem-Ro Associates, Millshaw, Leeds, at 6:30 p.m. Admission £5.00 Gem-A members (£7.50 non-members). For further information call 0113 2070702.

10 October. JOHN BENJAMIN
Jewellery from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth Taylor

North West Branch

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

15 October. STEPHEN KENNEDY
Notes from the laboratory – detection, disclosure and false description

19 November. AGM and social evening

Scottish Branch

Meetings to be held at the British Geological Survey, Murchison House, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9. For further details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199; e-mail scotgem@blueyonder.co.uk

15 October. JAMES GOSLING.
The Cheapside Hoard

17 November. TRACY JUKES
Tales of a gemstone dealer: thoughts from a broad

South East Branch

Admission £5.00 unless otherwise stated. For further details contact Colin Winter on 01372 360290; e-mail info@ga-seb.org or visit the branch website at www.ga-seb.org

19 October. SEMTA. 'Jem Jumble' bring-and-buy

7 December. TERRY DAVIDSON
Cartier: the 20th century

South West Branch

Contact Richard Slater on 01635 553572.

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 forthcoming meetings are given on p. 79.

23 September. ANNAMARIE SANDECKI
An introduction to the Tiffany & Co. Archives and its Collections

28 October. JOHN CHERRY
The Waning of Medieval Jewellery

25 November. DR BEATRIZ CHADOUR-SAMPSON
Rosaries, Prayer-beads and Jewels of Devotion in the Dreyfus-Best Collection