

# Gem-A News

A round-up of the latest news from Gem-A

## THE PRESIDIUM GEM TESTER II

This updated and improved coloured gemstone tester is ideal for on-the-go gemmologists thanks to its new compact, sturdy and portable design.

Now in its second generation, the Presidium Gem Tester II offers a quick and easy way to separate diamonds/moissanites from coloured gemstones, while also identifying up to 16 coloured gems based on their thermal conductivity. The newly-redesigned device is now smaller, sturdier and more practical for the travelling gemmologist, coupled with superior in-built calibration for ease of operation both indoors and outdoors. The Presidium Gem Tester II boasts the

industry's thinnest retractable probe tip (0.6mm) for testing coloured gemstones as small as 0.02 carats, and there's a useful buzzer to ensure your gemstone is accurately in contact with the probe during testing. The device runs simply on two AA batteries, although an adaptor is also included. ■

**If you require any further information, advice or simply wish to make a purchase (Product ID DIT0018) then please email [instruments@gem-a.com](mailto:instruments@gem-a.com)**



**Retail Price £240 + VAT**  
Current Gem-A members and students receive a 10% discount on instruments



## OBITUARIES

### Christopher Sean Chalk FGA

We are sad to announce the passing of Gem-A Member Christopher Sean Chalk FGA (8 Feb 1949 - 13 July 2018). After qualifying as a gemmologist and goldsmith Christopher moved to Germany in 1971 to work at the Adam Hörner Atelier in Schwäbisch Gmünd. He returned to England to take up the post of gemmology lecturer at KIAD now UCA: University for the Creative Arts, where he taught for 22 years. Alongside this, he developed a metalwork course for Canterbury Steiner School and all his pupils gained a good depth of knowledge and skill. Some of them later became silversmiths and jewellers, and in recent years a number were accepted on goldsmith apprenticeship schemes. Chris' love of gems and the wonders of the mineral kingdom continued and he shared his knowledge with pupils, students and also the general public at Christmas bazaars and fairs. He has been described as a caring thoughtful talented and modest man who inspired, helped and supported the many people he met in his various roles.

### E. Alan Jobbins FGA (Hons)

*Rui Galopim de Carvalho FGA DGA shares his thoughts on the passing of E. Alan Jobbins (1925-2019).*  
"Alan was one of the most highly-esteemed gemmologists in the world, not only because of his long scientific career, but also because he was truly kind and generous — making a difference in the lives of many young gemmologists. That was certainly my case. He began his brilliant career as curator of minerals and gemstones at the Geological Museum in London where he served for 30 years with numerous trips to Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Brazil and East Africa, publishing related scientific articles. He also had the privilege to study the British Crown Jewels. Alan was a captivating lecturer with the capacity to make difficult science easier to understand. It was a delight to listen to him and be inspired by that passion for gems and minerals. Among many honours, he was president of the Society of Jewellery Historians and Gem-A, on the review board of *Gems & Gemology*, editor of *The Journal of Gemmology*, founding member of the International Gemmological Conference and ICA, and recipient of the Antonio C. Bonanno Award for excellence in gemmology. Alan will certainly be remembered by many as a top gemmologist and educator. I'll remember him as a friend and mentor that believed in me in my early years. Rest in peace my jolly good fellow."

