

Gems & Jewellery

Jan/Feb 2015 / Volume 24 / No. 1

All about trigons

Journey to Mogok

Right to reply: interview
with Menahem Sevdermish FGA



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Jan/Feb 2015

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Hands-on Diamonds: trigons

First in a series on diamonds by Grenville Millington, featuring photographs taken over the last 35 years of his career



Cover Picture

Trigons across table facet in diamond, by Grenville Millington FGA. The diamond is approximately 2 mm across. A joint 1st prize winner in the 2014 Gem-A Photo Competition. See Grenville's article on trigons on page 20.

Published by

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Registered charity no. 1109555

Copyright 2015 ISSN 1746-8043

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Any opinions expressed in *Gems&Jewellery* are understood to be the views of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the publishers.

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Network and learn from independent jewellers like you

"The retail jewellery industry is changing so quickly, it's vital to get a wider perspective through the CMJ".

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Call Lucy, our membership services manager, on **01788 540250** to find out how we can help you.

It's not all the life of Riley...

Well, how was it for you? The dependency on that one day of the year with all the retail baggage that surrounds it never ceases to amaze me. Interestingly though, the (seemingly) increased commerciality of Christmas and increasingly higher spend by the populous does not seem to be having the same effect in the jewellery sector. Yes it's the most important time of the year, but over the last few years I have seen the trend of a longer run-up to Christmas and less of a 'big bang' in December.

The jewellery sector is being left behind by other luxury markets. Fifteen years ago De Beers told us this and no one took any notice. It also told us that part of the reason was that, as an industry, we spend a pitiful amount of our turnover on advertising what we do. The figure at the time was 2–3%, compared with other luxury industries at 10%. Soon after, De Beers stopped its advertising budget, leaving a gaping hole in industry advertising, which has not been filled. Since 2008 we can blame the global recession on low advertising spend — it's something that gets cut first, along with training. Prior to that the industry has only itself to blame. If you look at the jewellery success stories over the last few years, one of the common denominators has been advertising, regardless of what or how good the product is.

The latest issue we now all face is consumer confidence. As an industry we lag way behind on compliance, ethics and CSR, and it is likely to bite us. It's a lot of hard work to get our house in order, and believe me, those who claim to have done so have plenty of skeletons left in their cupboards. We are an industry which has been built on trust and much of our business is still based on that. That will not be good enough in the years to come. Gem-A is working hard to create frameworks which you can use to assist in moving forward — this is one of the reasons why Fairtrade jewellery activist Greg Valerio joins us this month.

Diamonds are still traded on one's word and woe betide you if you break it. However, at the heart of our trade is a cancer, long present, but which has been growing at an increasing rate and is believed by many to be a ticking time bomb; I am of course talking about laboratory reports or 'certificates'. There has been a recent spate of new 'labs', both in the UK and around the world, using the same nomenclature but applying very different standards. We saw this coming many years ago and it is one of the principle reasons why we do not operate our laboratory commercially, even though (along with one in Paris) it is the oldest in the world and highly respected. See our interview with Menahem Sevdemish FGA on page 14 for his take on the EGL controversy.

The trade does not value respect and integrity; it's all about price and speed of service. You get what you pay for and, while industry groups are calling for standards and a level playing field, it's pie in the sky. The industry must vote with its feet by boycotting substandard labs and being honest with its customers. National associations do not have the knowledge, expertise or influence to effect change. Change must come from within, particularly from the diamond industry, the bourses, the WDC and through CIBJO.

Grading is subjective and while there are many labs who claim ISO standards, it is largely irrelevant as there are no ISO standards for making a judgement call on colour, clarity or fluorescence, which is usually done by eye and inevitably has the element of human error. Laboratory reports will always have a pecking order but until the trade is willing to be honest about this and educate the consumer we will get nowhere. A good start of course would be for the industry to educate itself, but then I would say that wouldn't I...?!

In other news we hope you enjoy your new-look *Gems&Jewellery*. Over the next several issues we will be introducing some new sections and features. As always, please send your thoughts and comments about the magazine to editor@gem-a.com — I'd love to hear from you.

Happy New Year to you all.

James Riley
Chief Executive Officer




James Riley

Chief Executive Officer

A good start of course would be for the industry to educate itself, but then I would say that wouldn't I...

Gem News

The latest stories
from around the trade

CAMPBELL BRIDGES' MURDERERS SENTENCED

Five and a half years after the murder of renowned gemstone miner Campbell Bridges, four of the seven people involved in his murder have each been sentenced to 40 years in prison. The long battle for justice had been hampered by the same politicians that the Bridges family accuses of involvement in Campbell's murder on 11 August 2009.

In his statement on behalf of the family, Campbell's son Bruce, who was injured in the attack as he tried to protect his father, said: "Of course we would have wished for all seven to have been convicted, but in Africa I think this is the best we could get. At least one of the ringleaders was among the four convicted and such a harsh sentence has sent waves throughout the community that lawlessness will not be tolerated."

Speaking to Gem-A he added: "At least this stage is now behind us and we got several important convictions. We appeal to the government of Kenya with a degree of urgency, that the remaining perpetrators will be sought out and brought to justice."



The family say the gang was put up to the attack by local politicians keen to muscle in on Campbell's lucrative mining operations First Green Garnet Mining Company and Bridges Exploration Limited. These figures resented the success of a 'muzungu', or white man, even though he was known for treating his workers well. In the lead-up to the attack jealous 'claim-jumpers' had been digging illegal trenches on Campbell's land, looking to mine the gems for themselves.

The attack happened when Campbell and Bruce Bridges were travelling in a pick-up truck along with four guards when they were ambushed by the heavily-armed posse in the grounds of Campbell's 600-acre ranch. Campbell, 71, was killed by a stab wound to the chest.

Campbell was born in London to a Scottish mother and an English father who was chief geologist for the Central Mining and Investment Corporation in South Africa. Campbell continued the family connection with Africa when he went to work in Tanganyika's gemstone mines. In 1969 he discovered tsavorite on the Kenyan border with Tanzania and was also responsible for introducing tanzanite to Tiffany & Co, becoming the house's consultant on the stone.

DIAMOND-FILLED ROCK Baffles SCIENTISTS

The Alrosa diamond mine at Udachnaya, Russia, has donated a 30 mm rock containing 30,000 diamonds to the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), as the diamonds are so small that they cannot be used as gems. The scientists who scanned the strange red and green stone, which was unearthed last month, found that the diamonds inside measure 1 mm and are octahedral in shape. The stone's colouring is due to larger crystals of garnet, olivine and pyroxene.

The findings were presented at the American Geophysical Union's annual meeting by Larry Taylor, a geologist at the University of Tennessee, who works with researchers at the RAS to study Udachnaya diamonds. They hope that the discovery of the rock will shed further light on how diamonds are made. "The [chemical] reactions in which diamonds occur still remain an enigma," Taylor said in a statement to Live Science which first reported the discovery.





ROUGH RUBY STARS IN GEMFIELDS SALE

Revenues of US\$43.3m were achieved in the second-ever Gemfields ruby auction, the sale of higher quality rough ruby extracted by Montepuez Ruby Mining Limitada (in which Gemfields has a 75% interest). The sale, which was held in Singapore from 3 to 8 December last year, realized an average price of US\$689 per carat, the highest ever achieved at any Gemfields auction. A total of 50 companies were bidding, with the UK and USA represented.

Included in the sale was an exceptional 40.23 ct rough ruby (dubbed the 'Rhino Ruby'), which successfully sold for an undisclosed sum given the principles on which Gemfields' auctions are conducted. In recognition of this sale Gemfields has committed to support the anti-rhino-poaching aircraft operated by Game Reserves United, contributing to flying costs for the 2015 calendar.

While expressing his delight at the record-breaking auction results, CEO Ian Harebottle stated: "The three auctions we have hosted so far this financial year, two of emeralds and one of rubies, have yielded aggregate revenues of US\$94 million, a superb performance for Gemfields of which every member of our devoted and disciplined team should be deservedly proud.

"Our gratitude goes again to Mwiriti, our 25% partners in the Montepuez deposit, to our hard-working team right across the Gemfields group, and to the Mozambican government with whom we continue to work to address the illegal ingress across Mozambique's borders of foreign citizens seeking to profit from the Montepuez deposit, an increasingly pressing issue."

EASIER ACCESS TO WDC'S SYSTEM OF WARRANTIES

The World Diamond Council (WDC) has updated its website to provide easier access to the System of Warranties (SoW) guidelines. The SoW is a voluntary route for industry self-regulation, created to support and strengthen the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. "Providing easier access to the SoW is the first step in a



series of improvements to our communication with the industry," said Edward Asscher, president of the WDC.

The SoW requires buyers and sellers of rough and polished diamonds, and jewellery containing diamonds to include specific wording on every invoice. The actual wording and additional information about the SoW can be found on: www.worlddiamondcouncil.org

NEW DEPOSIT OF BLACK OPAL FOUND

Last month the first significant discovery of black opal in Ethiopia was reported, a find that is expected to further affect the opal market by competing with the Australian black opal. Ethiopia has been yielding quantities of white and crystal opal for around 20 years and significantly more since a major discovery made in the Welo province in 2009.

Samples of the black opal (reminiscent of dyed or smoke-treated opal) were submitted to the Gübelin gem laboratory in Switzerland for analysis and were then invited to investigate the new material in the field and were able to collect fresh samples directly from the rock face in the development tunnels of the new mine. This allowed gemmologists to confirm the opals' natural colour as authentically as possible.

NEW STAFF JOIN GEM-A

Gem-A welcomed two new members of staff in January; Kulshoma Ali ^{ACCA} BSC joined the Finance team as Accounts Assistant and Claire Downes ^{BA} joined the Education team as Education and Examinations Administrator. We also welcomed Greg Valerio as Ethics Advisor, who will be working closely with us on making in-roads into the ethical debate. Author of *Making Trouble: Fighting for Fairtrade Jewellery*, Greg is a fair trade jeweller with a background in human rights and environmental advocacy. He has been a pioneer and foundational to the international development and realization of fair trade jewellery and traceable supply chains from mine to retail. Kulshoma, Claire and Greg look forward to meeting you at events over the coming year. ■

Gem-A events

TUCSON 2015

43rd ACE© IT Annual Winter Education Conference (National Association of Jewellery Appraisers (NAJA) Conference)

31 January–2 February

Tucson Convention Center

We will be exhibiting our courses, instruments, membership services and publications throughout the weekend, as well as sponsoring Sunday lunch on the second day of the conference.

AGTA GemFair Tucson

3–8 February

Booth 29, Galleria, Tucson Convention Center

Gem-A will be returning to the AGTA GemFair Tucson, to take part in one of the largest and most famous international gem shows across the globe. Gem-A will be joining the show for another year to exhibit its range of educational and training courses, instruments, membership services and publications.

Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) Conference

4 February

Marriott University Park Hotel Conference Center, Tucson

We are proud to be Platinum Sponsors for the AGA's annual international conference and Gala Banquet. The conference hosts a number of exciting speakers from around the globe, touching on topics of interests to both budding gemmologists and working professionals.

Stimulating Simulants (Gem-A Seminar with Gem-A tutors

Andrew Fellows FGA DGA and Lizzie Gleave FGA DGA)

5 February, 9:00–10:00

Graham Room, Tucson Convention Center

In this hands-on workshop Andrew and Lizzie will focus on the range of synthetic and simulant materials that are available on the market. You will have the opportunity to learn more about current simulants.

Spectacular Spectrums (Gem-A Seminar with Gem-A tutors

Andrew Fellows FGA DGA and Lizzie Gleave FGA DGA)

5 February, 13:00–14:00

Graham Room, Tucson Convention Center

Our popular Spectacular Spectrums workshop fills up quickly, so arrive early for a seat in this hands-on workshop where you'll learn information useful for your gemmological and appraisal purposes.

Gem-A's Big Gem Bash

5 February, 18:00–20:30

Scottish Rite Cathedral

We invite members, students and friends to join us at the Scottish Rite Cathedral for our Big Gem Bash! There will be live music, drinks and catering. Tickets are free, contact events@gem-a.com.

Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS)

12–15 February

Booth 1928–1929, Tucson Convention Center

Gem-A will be extending its stay in Tucson this year to attend the TGMS. Following on from AGTA GemFair Tucson, TGMS is the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society's yearly show, inviting both gemmologists and mineralogists to come together for a number of exhibitions, workshops and events.

OTHER SHOWS

BaselWorld 2015

19–26 March

Stand A35, MCH Swiss Exhibition (Basel), Switzerland

One of the largest watch and jewellery shows, BaselWorld is the focal point of the industry, where all players showcase their creations and innovations. The show attracts everyone from designers and purchasers, to the global press and consumers.

The Diamond Show

19–23 March

Markthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Gem-A will be joining the world's only exhibition dedicated to diamonds and diamond jewellery. As Official Sponsors of the event, Gem-A will exhibit in a special area reserved for Diamond Show sponsors alongside some of the world's most well-known businesses dealing in all things diamonds.

OTHER EVENTS

Company of Master Jewellers (CMJ) Spring Trade Event

15–16 February

Hilton Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, UK

CMJ invites its retail members to this exclusive show, where suppliers will take the opportunity to launch products for the coming spring/summer season. To attend contact the CMJ events team on 01788 540250.

Mallorca GemQuest

18–20 April

El Cid Hotel, Can Pastilla, Playa de Palma, Mallorca

GemQuest is an annual gemmological conference held on the beautiful island of Mallorca, aimed at promoting the science of gemmology. Co-sponsored by *The Handbook of Gemmology* and Gem-A, GemQuest is your opportunity to listen to world class speakers and meet and network with fellow gem enthusiasts and professionals. Gem-A CEO James Riley FGA DGA will be delivering two presentations at GemQuest on Burma and the History of Gemmology. For more information or to book visit: www.mallorcagemquest.com/home.html.

American Gem Society (AGS) Conclave 2015*22-25 April**New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA*

Gem-A will be joining members of the AGS for their annual conference, AGS Conclave. Over the course of three days Gem-A will take part in this celebration of all things gemmological, and will be on-hand to discuss education, membership, publications and Gem-A Instruments. To book visit www.americangemsociety.org/conclave-2015-registration.

Scottish Gemmological Association (SGA) Conference*1-4 May**Hydro Hotel, Innerleithen Road, Peebles, Scotland*

The renowned SGA Conference is back for another year, with speakers including: Dr Keith Barron, president and CEO of Aurania Resources; Clare Blatherwick FGA DGA, head of Silver and Jewellery department at Bonhams, Edinburgh; Dominic Mok FGA DGA FGAA, Asian Gemmological Institute and Laboratory; Stuart Robertson GG, research director, Gemworld International; Richard Welander, head of collections, Historic Scotland; Prof. Emmanuel Fritsch FGA, Nantes

University, France; Alan Hodgkinson FGA, president of the Scottish Gemmological Association; Dr Cigdem Lule GG FGA, special projects manager, Gemworld International, as well as Gem-A's very own Claire Mitchell FGA DGA, and honorary vice-president of Gem-A, David Callaghan FGA. See page 25 for more info. To book visit www.scotgem.co.uk/SGAConference2015/Registration_early.htm.

Gem-A Idar-Oberstein Field Trip 2015*13-20 June**Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

Following the outstanding success of the visit to Idar-Oberstein in June 2014, Gem-A, in collaboration with Deborah Mazza FGA, has organized another fantastic trip to the centre of the lapidary world. Gem-A will take you 'closer to the source', allowing a unique opportunity to visit the Edelsteinminen Steinkaulenberg, Kupferbergwerk in Fischbach, DGemG, Schneider gem tools, Deutsches Mineralienmuseum and Historische Weihereschleife, whilst also getting the chance to sample the very best of German small-town culture, and an opportunity to visit various lapidaries and gem workshops. To book contact events@gem-a.com.

GEM-A WORKSHOPS

Workshops are UK-based and cost £120 for Members and £150 for Non-Members. To book please contact events@gem-a.com

Understanding gemstones*Friday 20 February**Gem-A Headquarters, London*

This one-day workshop will provide you with the perfect introduction to the fascinating world of gemstones. Covering all aspects of the most popular gems (ruby, sapphire, emerald and others), you will learn about origin and lore, as well as the more practical aspects of their physical properties, including care and caution advice. With no previous gemmological knowledge necessary, and all equipment provided, this workshop is suitable for all, from novice upwards.

Understanding practical gemmology*Monday 16 February: Birmingham City University, Birmingham**Friday 13 March: Gem-A Headquarters, London*

This one-day workshop focuses heavily on the practical aspects of gemmology, and covers the effective use of all the readily available instruments and testers that you are ever likely to need. The 10× lens, polariscope, spectroscope and refractometer are all covered in detail. This is an ideal 'taster' class for those considering going on to study our full Gemmology Foundation or Gemmology Diploma courses, but it is also equally suited to those embarking on gem-testing in a retail/valuation environment, or those simply in need of a refresher.

Understanding diamond grading*Monday 23 February: Birmingham City University, Birmingham**Friday 24 April: Gem-A Headquarters, London*

This specialist workshop focuses in on the key aspects of diamond grading, giving a unique insight into the 4Cs and their impact on value. Participants will be guided through the underlying theory before seeing the practical side of cut, colour, clarity, and carat weight on both loose and mounted diamonds. This course provides the perfect foundations for those wanting to either go forward to study the full Diamond Diploma course, or to embark upon a career in the retail diamond market. No prior diamond knowledge is required, and all equipment and examples will be supplied.

Understanding diamond simulants*Friday 20 March, Gem-A Headquarters, London*

An important practical workshop for those working or considering working in the diamond market, you will learn the key differences between diamond and its simulants, and how to recognise them both as loose stones, and in set or mounted jewellery.

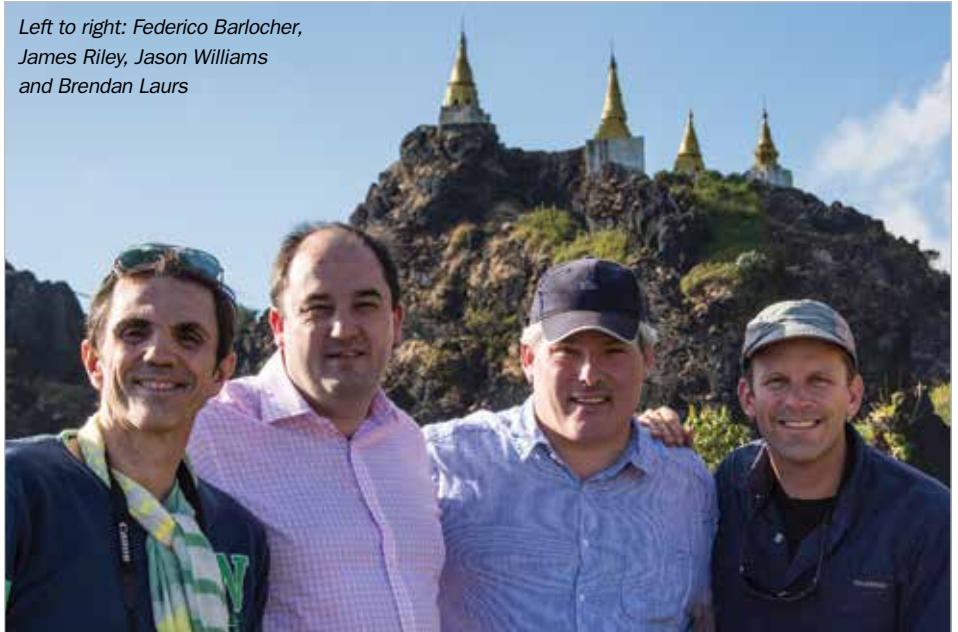
Investigating gemstone treatments*Friday 27 February, Gem-A Headquarters, London*

This one-day specialist workshop focuses on the common treatments currently experienced within the gemstone industry and their detection, using readily available instruments and techniques. Treatments covered will include glass-filling and heat treatment of corundum (ruby and sapphire), laser drilling and/or fracture filling of diamonds and diffusion treatments, amongst others.

Journey to Mogok, Myanmar

Brendan Laurs FGA, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Gemmology*, reports on his recent trip to Mogok, Myanmar, accompanied by James Riley FGA DGA and Jason Williams FGA DGA.

Left to right: Federico Barlocher, James Riley, Jason Williams and Brendan Laurs



On 3-5 December 2014, a team from Gem-A visited the legendary gem mining area of Mogok in central Myanmar. Guided by Federico Barlocher, a gem dealer and collector from Switzerland, the group consisted of CEO James Riley, chairman of the Board of Trustees Jason Williams, and this author. Barlocher is an expert in Mogok's gems and has visited the area for many years in search of high-quality gems and minerals.

Mogok was reopened to foreigners in 2012 after being closed for decades. It still remains a restricted area, and a special permit is needed to go there. We had only three full days to witness some of the area's mine sites and processing facilities, as well as to obtain a variety of educational samples for Gem-A's collection.

From Mandalay we drove on a relatively new road for about five hours to reach Mogok, passing rice fields and dense jungle that cloaked the hills of the Shan Highland. The town of Mogok revolves entirely around gem mining, and according to Barlocher there are about half a million people directly affected by the area's 1,200 mines, which are situated in an area measuring 900 square miles (nearly 2,500 square kilometres).

Mogok's main gem market is a good place to learn about the availability and pricing of gems recently produced from the area, and we navigated a huge line-up of

motorbikes parked outside to reach the central umbrella-shaded trading zone. We were soon engulfed by local traders who offered rough and cut stones along with a pronouncement of their identity. Many times a 'ruby' turned out to be a spinel, and we soon found out that prices in Mogok may be higher than elsewhere in the world market — even after extensive bargaining. We saw an impressive diversity of stones from this area, including ruby, sapphire, spinel (in many colours), peridot, spessartine, tourmaline, topaz, smoky quartz, zircon and some samples that we couldn't identify. Several rough pieces were obtained for Gem-A's reference and teaching collections.

Through Barlocher's connections, we also visited the private homes and showrooms

Hand-picking gems from the jig at secondary mine near Bernardmyo



Star ruby (7 ct), seen at a local dealer's house



of some of Mogok's most successful miners and gem dealers. These were the only venues where we saw high-quality stones in Mogok. Some of the highlights included a 7 ct star ruby (pictured), a 10 ct bright red spinel, a 167 ct peridot, and a 32 ct blue sapphire that was offered for US\$2 million. These stones were probably all produced within the past few years.

The town of Mogok is surrounded, and even undercut in places, by present and former secondary gem mines. These deposits consist of soil — weathered from the surrounding hills — that locally contains gem-bearing gravel. A large pit at one of these mines had intersected the town's golf course, requiring some of the greens to be temporarily relocated until mining is completed. The property will eventually be reclaimed and the golf course reconstructed on top of the old mining area. We visited a secondary mine north of Mogok near Bernardmyo village, where water cannons are used to create a muddy slurry that is pumped from the pit into a washing plant. A jig is used to collect the heavier stones (including gems), and at the end of each day the miners remove the stones by hand.



Many times a 'ruby' turned out to be a spinel, and we soon found out that prices in Mogok may be higher than elsewhere in the world market — even after extensive bargaining.



Overview of the town of Mogok



Secondary mine near Bernardmyo

A visit from a local monk was thought to bring good luck, but on this particular day the production contained only one good-quality red spinel with the remainder of the material consisting of low-quality corundum and spinel with some small pieces of topaz, smoky quartz and black tourmaline.

Many hard-rock (primary) mines are found in the mountainous terrain surrounding Mogok, and they are sources of mainly ruby, sapphire, spinel, peridot and pegmatite gems. We visited a ruby mine in the Bapawdan area called Mogok Pride, where we were the first foreigners to see deeper than the main haulage tunnel. The tunnels follow a natural cave system that formed along the ruby-bearing horizon of the marble. The miners exploit two types of ruby deposits: they use explosives to break up the host rock and look for rubies *in situ*, and they wash gravels collected from the floor of the cave system to find rubies that have naturally weathered from the marble.

During our visit to the processing plant only two stones were recovered — a tiny ruby and an equally small red-orange spinel — and both were found in gravel that was brought up from the cave floor. Both stones were obtained for Gem-A's collection, along with a suite of marble samples showing various textures (but unfortunately no rubies).



Spinel from Bernardmyo mine

From left to right

Local shop owner, Pein Pyit

Some of the day's production from Bernardmyo mine

James Riley in the Mogok Pride mine

Spinel crystals from Pein Pyit area

All photos by Brendan Laurs.





Peridot rough and cut; the network of fractures in the rough limits the depth of peridot gems

The caves dip steeply through the mountain, and a complex network of ladders and platforms are used to access the workings. Ruby is encountered only occasionally, and it is very rare to see it in the rock exposures. The marble pieces that are broken up by dynamite are immediately placed into heavy duty bags and secured with a theft-proof tie until they reach the surface and are processed for any possible rubies. During our visit to the processing plant only two stones were recovered — a tiny ruby and an equally small red-orange spinel — and both were found in gravel that was brought up from the cave floor. Both stones were obtained for Gem-A's collection, along with a suite of marble samples showing various textures (but unfortunately no rubies).

We found the people of Mogok to be friendly and accommodating, and felt so

fortunate to have seen some beautiful gems and witnessed private mining operations that we were only allowed to visit through Barlocher's long-standing personal connections. We came away from our trip with a much deeper appreciation for the extreme rarity of good-quality gems, even from an area

that is famous for producing world-class stones. Gem mining is an expensive and risky gamble, and Mogok's more easily exploited deposits were exhausted long ago. Today's miners need all the luck they can get, and hopefully there will be enough monks to go around! ■



Jason and James examining stones in the gem market



One laboratory's right to reply

In the first of a regular series of interviews with key industry figures, we speak to Menahem Sevdermish FGA about his new role as EGL's global manager for the network and the current certificate controversy.



Please explain the background to the current issues surrounding diamond certificates.

The twentieth century saw great changes in the make-up of the diamond trade. From a world which was practically dominated and controlled by one major supplier who had a well-defined 'pipeline' from the mine to the lapidary, to the dealer, jeweller and consumer... and who decided who will get what and for how much. This clear-cut structure is no longer supposed to exist — no more sole control supply and pricing.

Traditional cutting centres have shifted from the West to the East, creating dramatic changes in the diamond world. Do we still want to have a world which is dominated by one lab, one pricelist and, for all practical purposes, one person to judge what is right and what is wrong for all of us?

Early in the twentieth century, even up until the late 1960s, rather crude 'systems' existed to describe the colour and clarity of diamonds incorporating verbal descriptions which hinted at certain colour origin. One has only to Google 'diamond colour grading systems' to meet the old 1,2,3 system of the AGS, the Scandinavian system, the old European system... to name just a few. Other systems like A, B, C, or 0,1,2,3 were quite common, but there was no common language, and in fact few could make a comparison between them. EGL's founder Guy Margel used as a set of master of diamonds a 0,1,2 system over 40 years ago, which covered roughly up to

the M colour of today's GIA Master. Margel changed the 0,1,2 etc representing his grading to D to M. It did not precisely point to the same colours as the GIA. One may argue that a system using the same D to Z of the GIA must have precisely the same grades. Margel bundled GIA colour zones N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,XYZ under the broad terms 'very light' and 'light'.

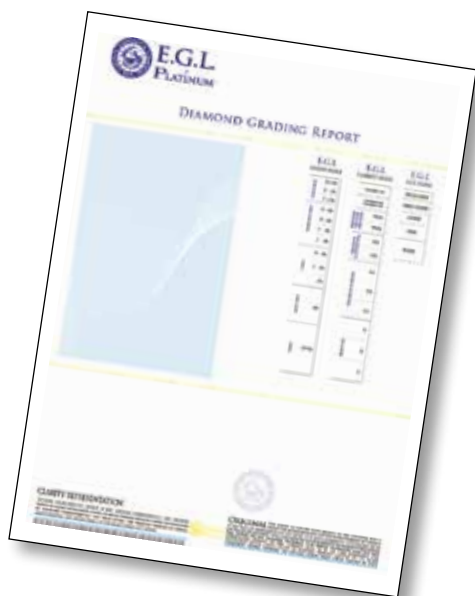
Then the GIA came up with its great D to Z system over half a century ago. One must realize that the gaps between each of the GIA colour grades are not equal (what is equal in colour space?), and in fact all that this fantastic tool does is to sort the colour, using sample diamonds, between colourless and a hint of yellow. No electronic tools were used at that time to measure the precise location in the space of colour of each and every colour of the original 'master' — and no electronic device exists today to precisely determine the colour of these masters, otherwise who would need labs? Determining the colour of a diamond, although supposed to be easy, is in fact very complex, and needs highly skilled human judgement.

Many, many masters were built on the basis of this original master and its offspring. However, even if you and I have all the diamonds in the world in our possession we shall not be able to create two identical masters! No two diamonds the world over have precisely the same colour.

As far as I know there is no patent on the D to Z system relating it to a certain colour. As long as one clearly states that this is an EGL 'F' on an EGL Grading Report using EGL standards, and not pretend to be someone else, then it is acceptable. I am not ashamed of the EGL system, I am very proud of it.

Yes, when we compare a diamond graded by us to the same diamond graded by the GIA, we are not as strict as the GIA. Looking around I see other labs using D,E,F, etc, on their certs and they are also not as strict. Is the more strict system better? I will let others decide, I just believe that there is a need for other systems.

Nobody has ever managed to get the trade to agree on the precise standards of grading. When the trade imposes a scientifically sound and precisely measured world system we shall gladly obey. However, in order to prevent any misunderstanding, we shall change the way we describe the colour grade and include the original number signs



used by Margel, for example: D (O+). This will be present in our new EGL Platinum Diamond Grading Report, assuring that people know it is an EGL D.

But this is not the problem! The problem is when a system, no matter by which lab, is abused.

Do you think that RapNet was in any way justified in its accusations of 'over-grading' by EGL (and others) or was it wholly unjustified?

I fully understand Martin Rapaport bringing to light his findings of over-graded diamonds, by EGL or others. This is an important service to the trade, however, I do not support the crusade against all the labs that he has carried on since. Rapaport has a very important position in the trade, a position that also carries responsibility: not to harm the innocent and not to throw the baby out with the bath water... He can point out problems, ask to verify the precise cause and demand corrections etc, but to make himself the law, the judge and the executioner sounds a little like over doing it. However, I do not accept being grouped and blamed for something I have no part in.

We have kept the same standards for almost four decades in many thousands of EGL certs. We have taught over 4000 students gemmology, some of them prominent leaders of the industry. We have faithfully served the industry. What if Rapaport decides tomorrow that there are crooks in Belgium or anywhere else, and then decides "no more gems from Belgium on the Rapnet website..." Is it legal? I don't know.

Regardless of the justification, or lack of it, damage has inevitably been done to EGL's reputation. How will you restore faith in EGL? How soon can you get the ball rolling in this direction?

We are well aware of recent related issues in the press, including, in our opinion, an unjustified crusade headed by Rapaport against our company. We have several laboratories around the world. We have been working hard over the past 18 months to reorganize the EGL network and centralize control of all EGL laboratories under one umbrella, to ensure homogenized and strictly controlled grading standards and procedures. All laboratories are obliged to comply with EGL grading standards established by Margel over 40 years ago.

A couple of months ago I was appointed as global manager of EGL. I will do my utmost to strengthen the EGL network globally, and make sure the company remains a major, and professional, service to the trade and to the consumers.

Is 'over-grading' a real issue, or is it simply that such diamonds are not graded to the same standards as those graded by the GIA? Who is at fault? How do you rectify the claims, complexity and confusion? Are the traders at fault for making money out of misleading documents?

One must not confuse between a legitimate lab report, which may differ from the GIA grade, but comply with the standard of the lab it represents. If one finds a report, which has some six grades difference than the GIA, then this report is not valid — no matter which lab issued it.

No two labs are alike, even within the same chain. Humans grade gems and they differ. If today we sent 100 diamonds to the best lab in the world and the same 100 diamonds six months from now, some will be graded differently.



I am honoured that all EGL labs elected me as their leader and I am overwhelmed by the support I am receiving from directors of other non-EGL labs and industry leaders who believe in me.

But we are not talking about that, we are trying to locate who, if anyone, is abusing the system.

Are there plans for an EGL diamond trading platform for Europe and the rest of the world, similar to the one that EGL USA has in the pipeline?

No. At the moment we are not planning such activities but, once we feel we are up to it, we certainly shall try to convince Rapaport to re-list us.

Was it a difficult decision to take on this new challenge at EGL? Did EGL make the initial move or did you approach them because you know that you could help? What particular experiences and attributes do you have that you can apply to the situation?

After Guy Margel died, I was approached by the owners of the brand to take control of all gemmological aspects of the EGL laboratories. I was hesitant to accept but we started acting towards that goal. However, due to recent events, I was approached again and accepted the position.

I knew it would be a tremendous task; one which will require from me a commitment of time and my expertise. But I knew that I must do it, and I know that I have the right super team to help me achieve that. I am a veteran gemmologist, representing the country in gemmological events, with over four decades of experience in building a lab from scratch. In 1975 it was the first lab in the country, and I turned it into a vibrant centre of gemmology. I know all aspects of the lab and as I have said, I have a great team to make it come true.

I am also honoured that all EGL labs elected me as their leader and I am overwhelmed by the support I am receiving from directors of other non-EGL labs and industry leaders, who believe in me.

So you see, I must and will do it, and make sure that this EGL chain of labs will continue to faithfully serve the trade and make us all proud to be part of it.

Is this new role likely to occupy all your time? Will you still be involved with GemeWizard and the EGC?

I will, of course, continue my other activities, but obviously my time schedule will be affected by the new workload. Luckily, in all my activities I have the back-up of very good and professional work team. ■

(From left to right) Raymond C. Yazzie, Mary Marie Yazzie and Lee A. Yazzie in front of their grandparents 'hogan', originally built in the 1890s, near Gallup, New Mexico. Photography by Kiyoshi Togashi, 2008.



'Glittering World: Navajo Jewelry of the Yazzie Family' exhibition tour

Olga Gonzalez FGA reviews the stunning Navajo jewellery exhibition, currently being held at National Museum of the American Indian, New York, USA.

Over thirty Gem-A members and friends from the trade gathered on 11 December 2014 to attend a private curator-led tour of the stunning exhibition 'Glittering World: Navajo Jewelry of the Yazzie Family', held in the museum's George Gustav Heye Center, which coincides with the museum's twentieth

anniversary celebrations. Located in the historic Alexander Hamilton US Customs House, the gallery is inherently impressive, amongst beautiful architecture and other art and objects celebrating natives from the Americas.

The exhibition features over 300 pieces of jewellery made by members of the Yazzie



Fossilized Lone Mountain turquoise, lapis lazuli, coral, sugilite, opal and 14 ct gold necklace by Raymond C. Yazzie. Collection of Susan Heyneman. Photo © Phil Bell.



Lapis lazuli and 18 ct gold bracelet by Lee A. Yazzie, from the National Museum of the American Indian. Photo © Ernest Amoroso.

family in Gallup, New Mexico, and beautifully tells the story of the Navajo relationship between their faith, the land, sacred gemstones and the significance of their work as jewellery craftsmen and women. Lois Sherr Dubin, who guest curated the exhibition, gave members an overview of Navajo beliefs, aesthetic symbolism in their jewellery, a review of gemstones used and anecdotes of the various family members. From the first slide, gasps were heard across the room and everyone was eager to see the magnificent pieces in person. Lee and Raymond Yazzie (pictured), the most famous jewellers in the family, have won many awards for artisanship, starting from their teenage years.

Lois explained the concept of the four sacred mountains, that the traditional boundaries of the Navajo nation are marked by Blanca Peak to the east, Mount Taylor to the south, the San Francisco Peaks to the west, and Mount Hesperus to the north. Each mountain is associated with a sacred

gemstone: Blanca Peak (Tsisnaasjini — Dawn or White Shell Mountain) is associated with white shell, Mount Taylor (Tsoodzil — Blue Bead or Turquoise Mountain) is associated with turquoise, the San Francisco Peaks (Doko'ooliid — Abalone Shell Mountain) are associated with abalone, and Hesperus Mountain (Dibé Nitsaa — Big Mountain Sheep or Obsidian Mountain) is associated with jet. These gems are used throughout Navajo jewellery, in conjunction with coral, which symbolizes the feminine. It is also important to note that the number four is a holy number and is repeated throughout Navajo jewellery, with many pieces being divided into four quadrants. The rays of the sun are often shown in silverwork, while multi-stone inlays are signatures of their work, often showing the abstract forms of Navajo culture and landscape.

Delighted by the tour, members walked through the gallery with Lois, asking a variety of questions, and also sat down to watch a short film highlighting the work of the Yazzie family artists, complete with video interviews.

The exhibition closes on 10 January 2016. The National Museum of the American Indian is free and open from 10:00–17:00 daily. For more information visit the museum's website at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. ■

For more information on Gem-A Events in the USA email eric@gem-a.com, or visit the Gem-A website.

Images courtesy of the National Museum of the American Indian.



Silver bracelet inlaid with coral, turquoise, lapis lazuli and 14 ct gold accents by Raymond C. Yazzie. Collection of Mark and Martha Alexander. Photo © Michael S. Waddell.



From top to bottom:

Coral, Lone Mountain and Orvil Jack turquoise, opal, sugilite and 14 ct gold ring by Raymond C. Yazzie. Collection of Janice Moody. Photo © Michael S. Waddell.

Lander Blue turquoise and silver ring by Lee A. Yazzie. Collection of Gene and Ann Waddell. Photo © Kiyoshi Togashi

Blue Corn bracelet featuring Bisbee and Royal Web turquoise, lapis lazuli, coral and opal by Lee A. Yazzie. Collection of Joe and Cindy Tanner. Photo © Kiyoshi Togashi.



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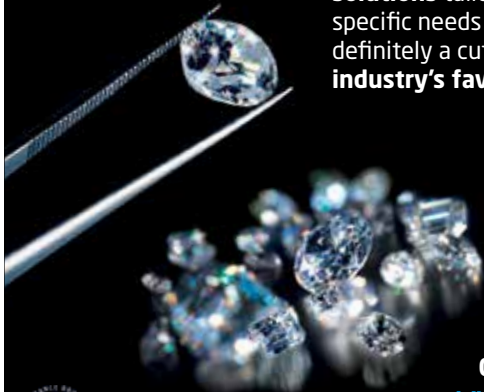
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The ins and outs of polished diamonds: trigons

Over the coming year Grenville Millington FGA will share with you a photographic series on diamonds, featuring photos taken over the last 35 years of his career. This month he kicks off with a note on trigons and a particularly interesting diamond...



2: Diamond octahedron crystal with trigons

The cover photo this month is my winning entry for the 2014 Gem-A Photo Competition. It seems to have caused quite a stir at the Gem-A offices as they hadn't seen anything like it before — so much so that I had to take the actual stone down to London for them to view! Several people asked how on earth I had got hold of such a stone. The answer is simple: I looked at a lot of diamonds! It's probably like buying a lottery ticket — you might hit the jackpot with your first ticket or buy very many over several years and win virtually nothing.

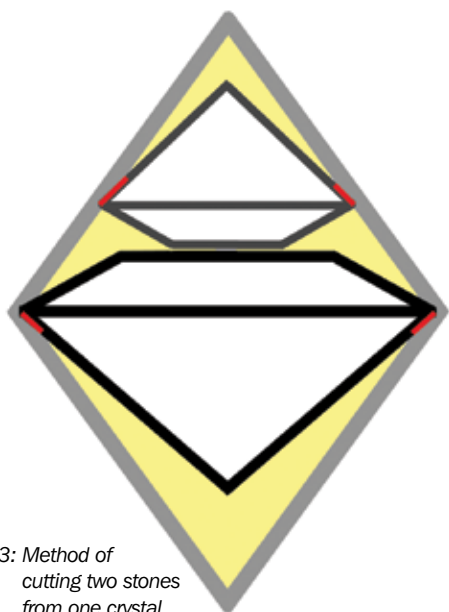
Throughout the 1970s I worked for two diamond ring manufacturers in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter, looking after the

loose gems. When I first started (having obtained my Gemmology Diploma before joining the trade) I would spend my lunchtimes looking through the loose stone parcels of diamonds, but also rubies, sapphires, emeralds and all the other standard gems. In other words, I became very adept at using the 10× lens!

Shown in **1** is my diamond sorting pad, taken around 1977. The pad shows a single consignment of round brilliant-cut diamonds, direct from the Antwerp cutters, which would arrive on my desk every six weeks. I recall one parcel, similar to the centre parcel in the photo, from which I counted out a few hundred stones. I weighed them,



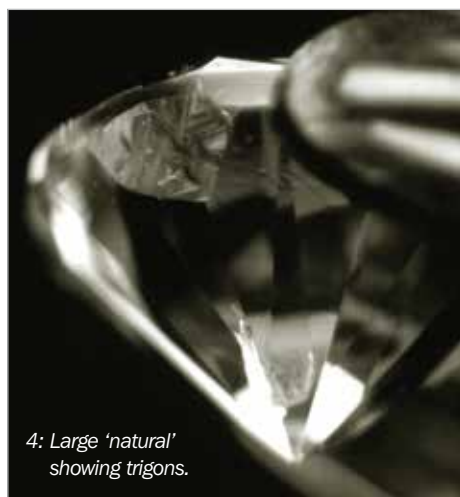
1: Sorting pad with loose diamonds (the box contains Master Stones), circa 1977.



3: Method of cutting two stones from one crystal.

worked out the average weight per stone and divided this figure into the original weight of the parcel. This gave me a good approximation of the total number of diamonds in that single parcel: roughly 20,000.

It was my job to then pick up every stone with stone tongs, examine it with a 10× lens, grade it for general colour and purity and drop it into one of about 16 categories. I would then allocate a price per carat to each category (grade) which would be weighed and a total value for the whole parcel ascertained. This would be compared to the actual price paid and the category prices adjusted accordingly. As you can see from the photo, when that job was complete there were other piles to start on, and then after six weeks off we would receive another lot. The stone in the cover photo came from one of these parcels, but I have to admit I haven't found a second one quite like it since. So, my advice to you if you want to find one is start looking



4: Large 'natural' showing trigons.

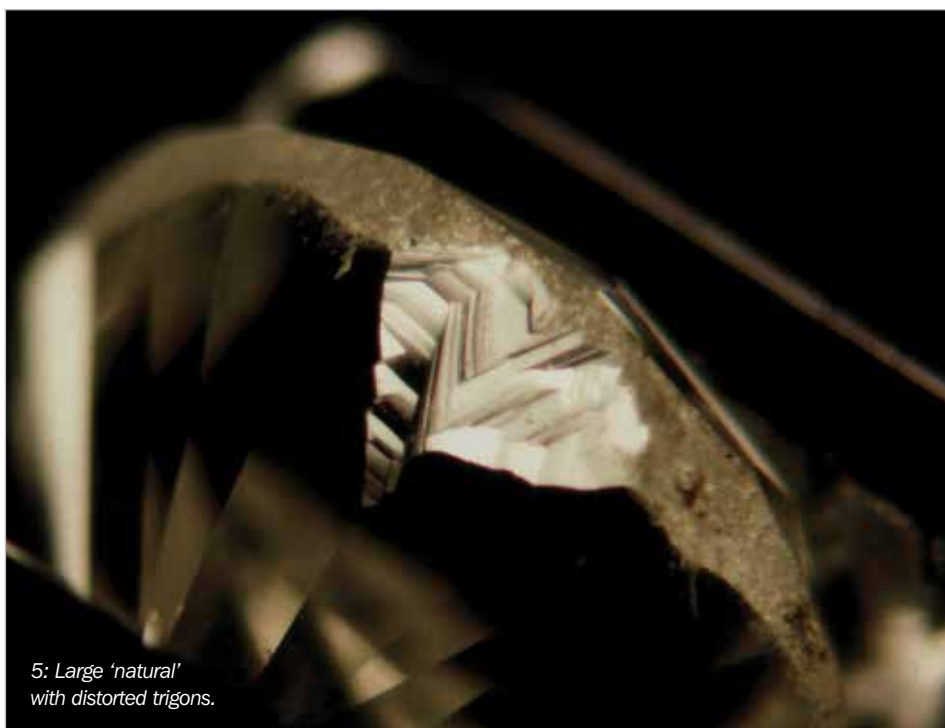
now, because a lifetime may not be enough! Alternatively, you could enrol on one of the Gem-A courses and ask very nicely if it would be possible to see the stone, as it has been donated to Gem-A. But be warned, the stone is very small — approximately 2 mm in diameter — which would make the table facet around 1.25 mm.

Thus, you can see that I've looked at a lot of diamonds, so if I've troubled to take a photo of something then it must have caught my attention. That is what this series of articles is about: they do not pretend to be definitive, but they give you an idea of what can be seen in polished diamonds for those interested to look and examine.

TRIGONS

We shall start with the outside of the diamond. Many people in the trade are familiar with the most common diamond crystal shape: the octahedron (the profile of which is the Diamond symbol used on playing cards). I would think a lot of gemmologists share my fascination with the fact that each face of an octahedron diamond crystal is an equilateral triangle and that quite often this face will have equilateral triangular depressions in it, but in the reverse orientation (2).

The standard method of cutting such a crystal into two brilliants is shown in 3. Nowadays the crystal is often sawn exactly in half so that the resulting polished stones



5: Large 'natural' with distorted trigons.

It's probably like buying a lottery ticket — you might hit the jackpot with your first ticket or buy very many over several years and win virtually nothing.

are more or less equal in size (this is especially true for Princess cuts). The areas shown in red in 3 indicate where on the polished stone any trigons present on the surface of the original crystal may lie. If you are lucky you may spot one on or just below the girdle. If you are luckier still you may spot a second area on the diametrically opposed part of the girdle. The jackpot here, of course, is finding a stone that presents four such 'naturals', as these original areas are termed. If such a 'natural' is very small (i.e. confined within the girdle width) then it is not regarded as a fault; however, larger ones would be graded as a fault (4 and 5).



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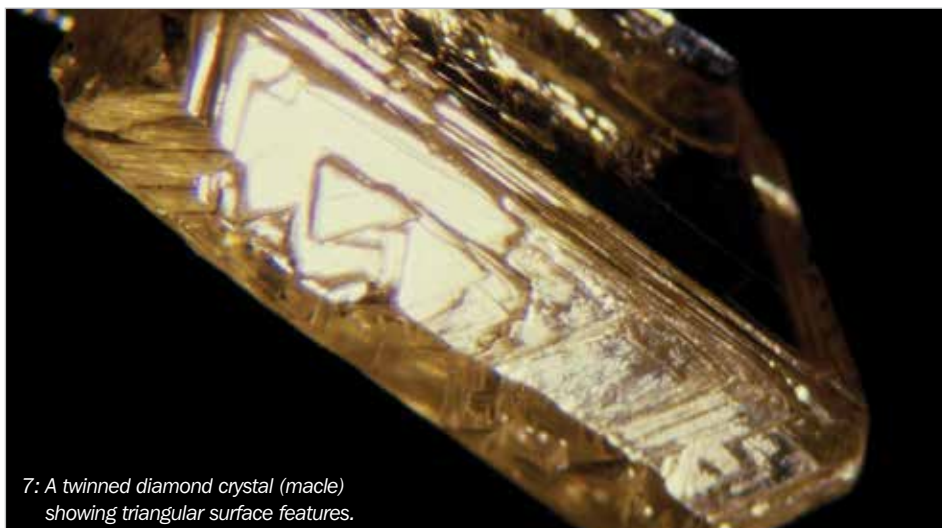
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6: Trigon with prismatic sides.



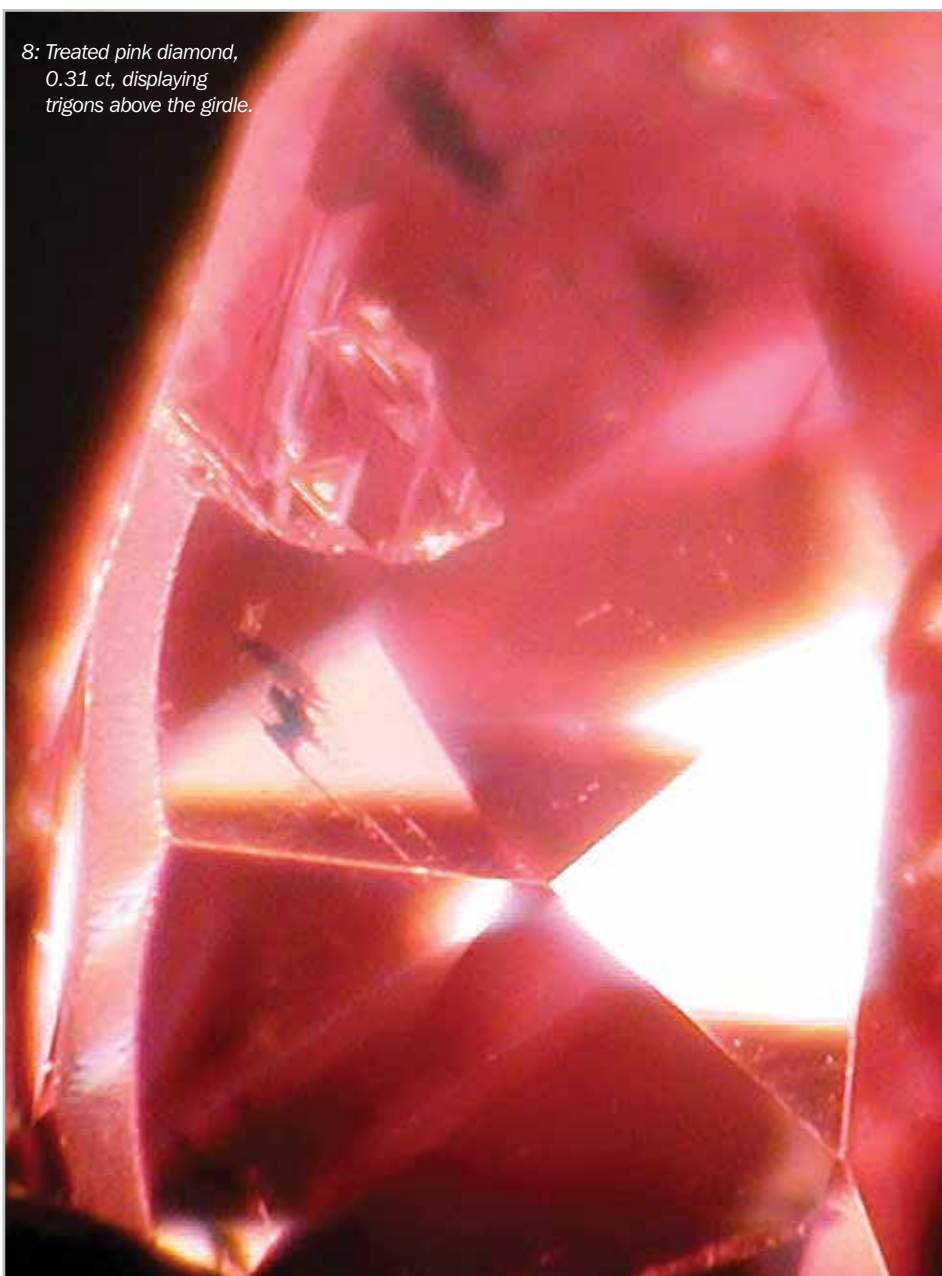
7: A twinned diamond crystal (macle) showing triangular surface features.

Shown in **6** is a multi-trigon that was in complete isolation on the pavilion of a polished diamond, under the girdle, with a highly lustrous surface that showed spectral colours due to refraction through its prismatic sides.

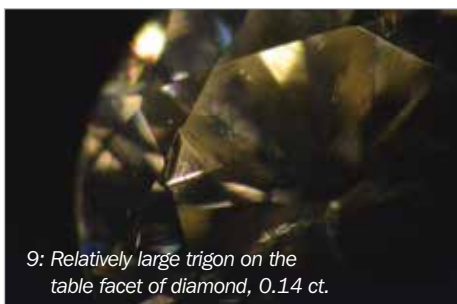
Trigons are depressions in the surface of diamond, generally thought to be etched, as is the case with rectangular pits seen on some beryl crystals. They may be due to irregular growth around a defect whilst the surrounding areas grow at a faster pace. The similar-looking triangular shapes seen in **7** are in relief and seem to be the result of irregular growth whilst the triangular areas have faster growth. This is a whole study in itself, which we rely on others to carry out.

The presence of trigons enables us to identify the stone as diamond, which is useful when modern imitations (CZ and synthetic moissanite) look so good. For example, the bright pink stone featured in **8** might be misidentified as CZ, but the presence of a 'natural' featuring trigons identifies it as diamond (the example though is a treated pink diamond). This stone is also unusual in that the trigons appear above the girdle rather than on it or below it.

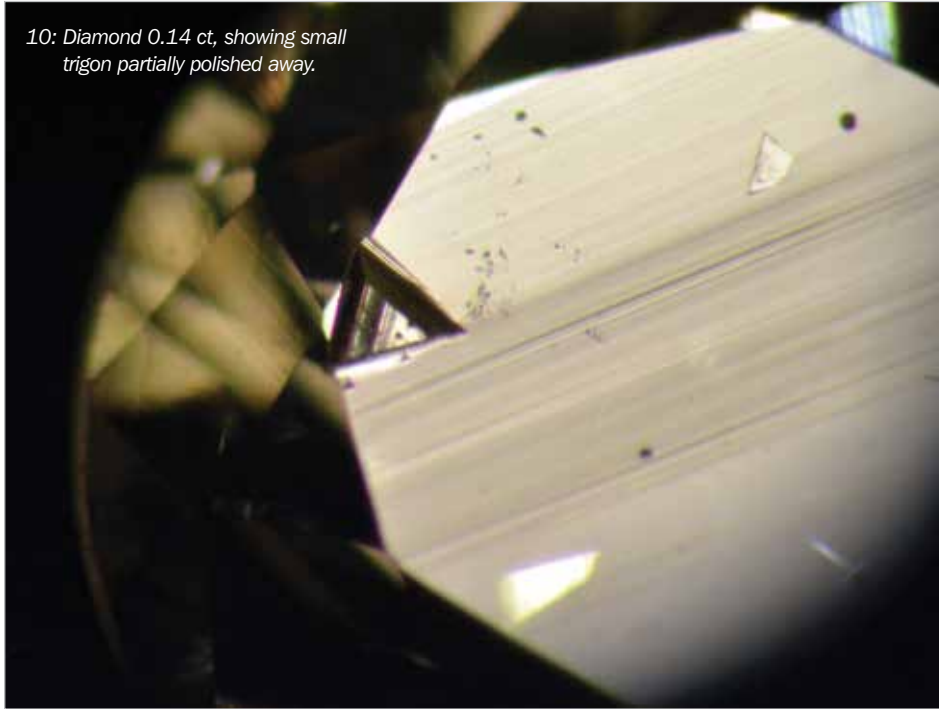
If trigons above the girdle are quite unusual, imagine (bearing **3** in mind) how rare it is



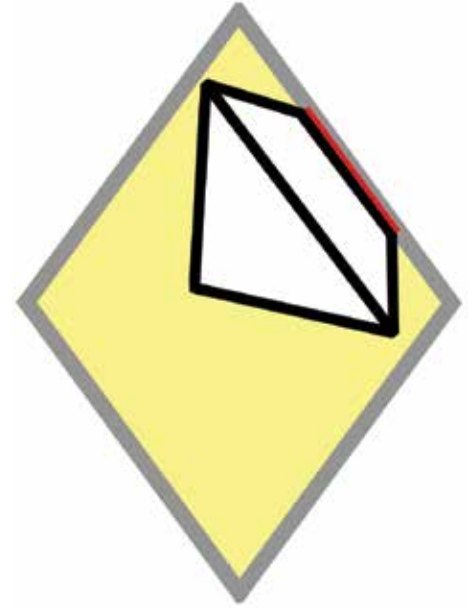
8: Treated pink diamond, 0.31 ct, displaying trigons above the girdle.



9: Relatively large trigon on the table facet of diamond, 0.14 ct.



10: Diamond 0.14 ct, showing small trigon partially polished away.



11: Orientation of cut stone to crystal for images 9,10,11 and 12.

to find a trigon on the table facet of a diamond — you need to look at a great number before finding one. An example is shown in (9).

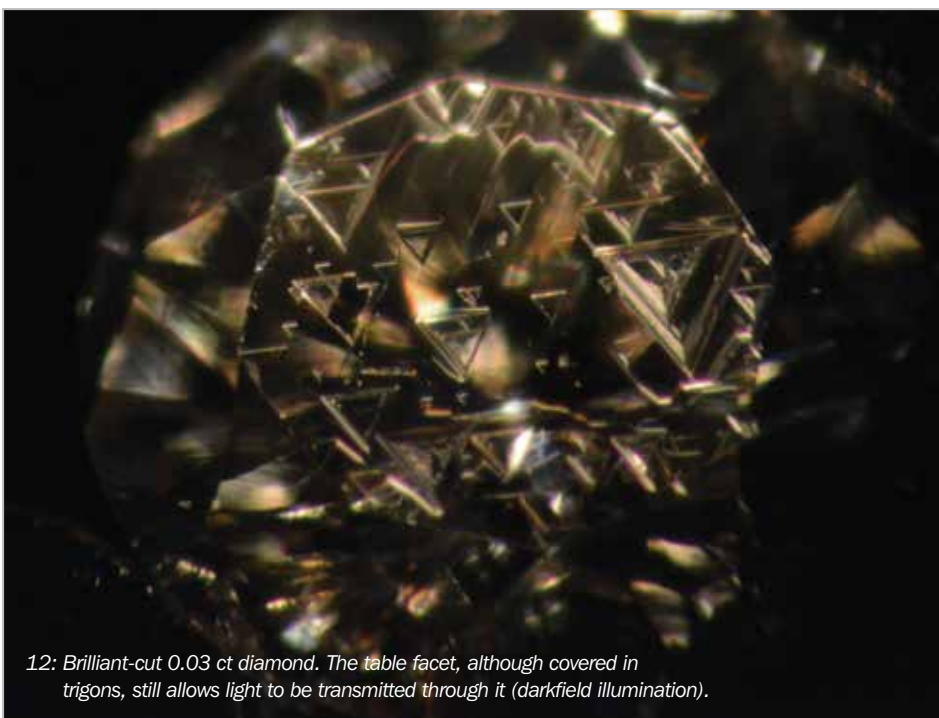
As some of you may know, it is not possible to polish a diamond crystal face without the facet being at least at a slight angle to it. If we change the viewpoint slightly on 9 we can see light reflected from the table in (10). Polishing lines are quite obvious but we can also notice a second, smaller trigon

that has been almost polished away. It displays two of its three points and indicates the slight difference in angle of the table facet from the original crystal face.

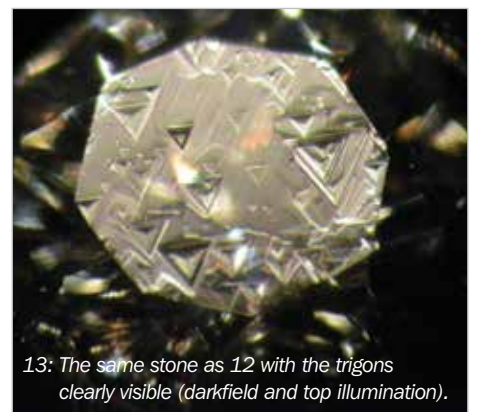
This brings us back to the photo mentioned at the beginning. It features multiple trigons across the whole of the table facet which is clearly unpolished and represents the plane of the original octahedral face. In order for this to have occurred the polished stone must have

been orientated completely differently from the standard faceted diamond, (11), but we must assume there was a reason for this, such as a damaged or distorted crystal. The diamond featured on the cover is only small and could easily be overlooked as being unusual even if it was set into a piece of jewellery. The table (and thus the crystal surface) is remarkably transparent and light travels through it quite freely, allowing the back facets to do their job and reflect light back through the crown facets (12). By changing the viewing angle carefully, it is possible to receive the reflected light that just grazes the surface, thus revealing not only the trigon pits but the very shallow terracing of the in-between areas (13).

Remember, you need to look at lots of diamonds to see the features highlighted here, but the keyword is 'look' — a skill that all gemmologists are familiar with. ■



12: Brilliant-cut 0.03 ct diamond. The table facet, although covered in trigons, still allows light to be transmitted through it (darkfield illumination).



13: The same stone as 12 with the trigons clearly visible (darkfield and top illumination).



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CSR for the Jewellery Professional

Gem-A and Branded Trust launched their new 'CSR for the Jewellery Professional' course in November 2014, to coincide with the final seminar of the Gem-A Conference led by industry experts Vivien Johnston, Greg Valerio and Dana Schorr.

WHY CSR?

The origins of the course are founded in a CIBJO-led initiative to develop a global standard Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) accreditation for jewellery industry professionals — part of a broader UN-affiliated initiative. Thinking and behaving in a socially responsible way is now key to maintaining a successful jewellery industry in today's world. The jewellery industry faces many social responsibility challenges across its supply chains, including human rights abuses, health and safety issues and environmental problems — issues which directly affect the supply and production of raw materials and finished products. Those in the industry are also directly liable for maintaining consumer confidence through honesty and integrity, an issue which affects laboratories, appraisers, gemmologists and retail sectors. Questions surrounding any one of these issues can influence consumer purchasing decisions — most fundamentally whether they want to buy jewellery at all. In a world where jewellery purchases now compete with many other luxury items, and where the product is often sold as a sentimental or emotional purchase, it's particularly important to ensure that the consumer feels confident about the choices they make.

ABOUT THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JEWELLERY PROFESSIONAL COURSE

The course consists of six video lectures led by a selection of world-class industry experts, academics and practitioners. The lectures will be supplemented with comprehensive texts from the reading list. The main issues covered are:

- ethical
- fairness
- sustainability
- environmental or green

Each lecture will be complemented by a short online test. Once all lectures have been completed the student will be required to write a 3,000-word essay, contributing to 40% of the final mark. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental principles of CSR and how these are applied in the context of jewellery and the jewellery industry. At just **£595**, you can start to change the world, one great business decision at a time.

To sign up or for more information please contact:
education@gem-a.com

WHY NOW?

The growing demand for a socially responsible jewellery sector is market-driven, so it's important to be prepared to engage with this emergent client base. Learning about and understanding CSR also makes it easier for businesses to integrate 'best practice' within their structure; CSR can provide a strategic framework around which informed and well-considered decisions can be formulated.

The aim of the new course is to ensure that jewellery professionals understand the issues concerning the industry and how they might affect their business. It's important to be accurate and truthful in claims which are made around products, and this extends to areas such as supply chains and 'green' or 'fair' claims. Understanding the issues means that customer enquiries can be confidently and expertly dealt with so that businesses and customers can maintain the mutual understanding of trust and integrity.

It is also becoming necessary to bring CSR to your business in order to maintain B2B relations; businesses that supply goods or services to other businesses may be asked to prove that they apply CSR principles, or they may be asked to satisfy the purchasers' 'sourcing criteria', which may include questions about CSR.

ABOUT THE COURSE

In this new course from Gem-A, professionals will learn to identify CSR issues relating to the jewellery industry and to confidently discuss and communicate these issues. Professionals will be able to evaluate and analyze the differing international CSR rules and information that they come across and to make informed decisions about how these can best be applied to their businesses, in order to enable and strengthen commercial relationships.

Vivien Johnston, Gem-A Ethics manager, commented: "The jewellery industry has waited a long time for a comprehensive CSR system which is based around education. I'm very pleased to see the launch of this course as a first step to jewellery professionals having access to a structured learning process to understand CSR and ethical issues which are relevant to our industry today. Knowledge is a key step in building a relationship of trust with jewellery consumers. For me, the importance of understanding and being able to analyze CSR issues is a critical step to taking businesses into a new phase of heightened awareness so that they can take control of the risks and opportunities within their business. In turn, that raises the standards for everyone in the supply chain, from the mine producers right through to the consumers. We're an industry which is built on trust. Having the ability to engage with customers in a knowledgeable and informed way enhances that trust and makes for stronger relationships with both customers and suppliers." ■

Great British Gemstone Collections - Whitby Jet

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Fine Jewellery

Presents

W. HAMOND

The Original Whitby Jet Manufacturers
Est 1860

Whitby Jet

Unbeknown to many, it's not always the far flung corners of the world where you'll find stunning gemstones. Here in Britain, there's a beautiful, intense gem that's been a head turner for centuries, known as Whitby Jet.

Whitby Jet is an ancient, organic gemstone, formed over millions of years from the compressed wood of the Araucaria (pre-historic Monkey Puzzle tree). In its natural state it is sometimes found embedded with fossils of long extinct animals. Although found in many countries, the majestic shores of Whitby - Yorkshire's archetypal fishing town - provides the finest jet for jewellery design and manufacture. It is also where W Hamond - The Original Whitby Jet Shop has been transforming it into desirable jewellery for over 150 years.

Following the death of her beloved husband - Prince Albert - in 1861 Queen Victoria wore Whitby Jet as mourning jewellery and continued to do so for the rest of her life. It quickly became fashionable throughout the country and these days, its association with mourning long since past, Whitby Jet is worn as stylish, everyday jewellery by men and women alike.

Once cut, shaped and polished Whitby Jet is transformed into the most beautiful, deep black and mysterious of stones, which is only further enhanced by our many unique settings. In addition to W Hamond's award winning designs, we are also home to one of the UK's largest collections of Antique Whitby Jet.

For further information on our Whitby Jet designs, or additional British Gemstone Collections, including Derbyshire Blue John and Preseli Bluestone - the local material with which Stonehenge was formed - please contact our sales team.

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Great British Gemstone Collections - Derbyshire Blue John

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Derbyshire Blue John

Found only in the caverns deep below the Derbyshire Peak District village of Castleton, the Derbyshire Blue John gemstone is one of the world's rarest minerals, whilst also being instantly recognizable by the eye-catching blue, purple, yellow and white fluorspar bands which run through it.

Steeped in rich history, it was first displayed throughout stately homes of the UK and made world famous by the craftsmanship of Matthew Boulton in the late 19th century. There are fourteen known varieties of this beautiful gemstone and for over three decades C W Sellors has maintained a heritage and unrivalled knowledge in the design and manufacture of finely crafted jewellery collections.

At the heart of our jewellery collections, is a team of talented in-house designers and craftsmen who share a wide understanding and passion for lapidary, gold and silversmithing. With having an exclusive choice of this prized, Derbyshire gemstone that is produced from the Castleton mine they can create the most beautiful and award-winning handcrafted British gemstone jewellery, which can be seen throughout all our collections.

C W Sellors has been creating beautifully handcrafted gemstone jewellery since 1979, when the company was established in the stunning Derbyshire Peak District - where it still remains today. Our award winning collections combine platinum, gold and silver with the World's most exquisite precious and semi precious gemstones, resulting in effortlessly sophisticated British-made pieces with universal appeal.

For further information on our Derbyshire Blue John designs, or additional British Gemstone Collections, including Whitby Jet and Preseli Bluestone - the local material with which Stonehenge was formed - please contact our sales team.

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Pictured (From top: Blue John & Diamonds Pendant & Ring, Handcrafting our Blue John jewellery, Blue John Gold Pendant & Winnats Pass - close to the home of Derbyshire John



Coloured Stones Grading Course

Gem-A is pleased to announce the launch of its new Coloured Stones Grading Course, in association with GemeWizard — the leader in gem digital colour communication.

This revolutionary new course — the first online coloured stones grading course — is ideal for anyone pursuing a career in buying, selling, auctioning or valuing gems or jewellery. It will introduce students to the world of colour grading for a range of gemstones, covering both common and less common stones, including ruby, sapphire, spinel, chrysoberyl and iolite. Students will also look at the latest online/digital grading tools, allowing them to compare results with physical stones from the internet for real-time indicative pricing. They will be able to practice sorting and pricing based on up-to-date information, at a level that would usually take them years to achieve. The course defines grading rules, such as colour, transparency and cut and teaches the evaluation of these techniques and the methodology behind them. The pricing system then allows students to see the potential effect of each feature on the gem's

auctioneers and traders. This new course is designed with gemmology graduates in mind, and will significantly shorten the period of time it takes to obtain the practical colour grading experience that is required to be a player in the real gem business world.

Speaking about the course, Menahem Sevdermish FGA, CEO and president of GemeWizard and creator of the course, said: "This venture offers years of experience packed into one amazing course like no other; it's a colourful ride, helping students close the gap between the academic world of gemmology and the real world of modern digital grading and trading of gems and jewellery. Knowing gemmology is great, but the real world out there requires more experience, which is very difficult to achieve. At GemeWizard we are FGAs with decades of combined experience in the trade and so we know what is required to face the world. There is no way a student can meet such a vast



associated GemePrice system is a one-of-a-kind piece of software that has an important role to play as one of the ways the gem community grades and prices gemstones. To keep up with the industry and the way it's moving, we at Gem-A think it's important to create new educational content that ensures those looking to join the trade are kept up-to-date with all the latest developments in techniques and technology."

At the low introductory price of just £795, this is an essential course for every gemmologist involved in buying, selling, auctioning or valuing gems and jewellery. The course fees provide access to the online course materials, over 100 online exercises of quality-sorting and price calculations and a year's subscription to all GemeWizard products, including GemePrice — an online pricing system and price list for diamonds and gemstones.

The course comes as part of Gem-A's plans to expand its range of courses, from its world-renowned Gemmology Diploma to its new CSR for the Jewellery Professional course, and to offer the courses necessary to the continued professional development of its students, members and the rest of the trade.

GemeWizard, the brainchild of Menahem Sevdermish, provides the industry with professional tools to serve the modern online and offline world, and is an internationally-recognized authority on gem commercialization and gemstone processing. Menahem began researching the development of a software-based solution for colour communication and gem grading over 10 years ago, and the resulting database contains more than 100,000 well-sorted colour/shape combinations of digitally created gem images.

For more information or to sign up please visit www.gem-a.com or email education@gem-a.com. ■

To keep up with the industry and the way it's moving, we at Gem-A think it's important to create new educational content that ensures those looking to join the trade are kept up-to-date with all the latest developments in techniques and technology.

world market price — giving details on the gem definitions, commercial names and misnomers, including different names and definitions used in international markets. A useful stepping stone to a career in the gem and jewellery world, the knowledge provided within the course will leave students with the skills they need to judge a gem's quality and price the stone accordingly — leaving graduates with abilities that will assist them in positions as gem and jewellery valuers,

scale of knowledge unless he spends years in the trade. Out of our combined experience and our desire to bridge this gap the Coloured Stones Grading Course was born."

Gem-A CEO James Riley FGA DGA, discusses how the decision to teach a course based on GemeWizard was a logical move: "As with all our latest developments, Gem-A is looking toward the new types of technologies that will shape our industry in the years ahead. GemeWizard's colour grading system with its

Gem-A heads stateside

In the first instalment of a regular feature from North America, Eric Fritz FGA discusses Gem-A's plans for expansion in North America, introduces the North American team and gives a lowdown of Gem-A's presence at this year's Tucson events.

EDUCATION

For those of you who might not know me, my name is Eric Fritz, Gem-A's North American manager. Gem-A has made a commitment to bring all we offer in terms of education, membership and instruments to the North American market. Currently we have an Accredited Teaching Centre (ATC) in Montreal, Canada, as well as our Online Distance Learning (ODL) platform available everywhere in the world. We offer lab classes to our ODL students in Knoxville, Las Vegas and New York, and in the future hope to be in a position to offer our lab classes in several additional locations, convenient to students wherever they are.

Workshops offering hands-on experience play an important role in Gem-A's commitment to our mission of advancing your understanding of gemstones. With this in mind we hope to offer seminars and workshops throughout North America — we have several scheduled during the year and look forward to seeing many of you there. If you would like to have a workshop in your area, please contact me for further details. We are constantly expanding what we offer based on the rapid changes within our industry so that we can keep our students abreast of new treatments, materials and synthetics.



Eric Fritz, Gem-A's North American manager

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is another area to be strengthened in expanding our market here. We have made incredible strides in the dissemination of knowledge through our printed publications; *Gems&Jewellery* continues to bring reports on trips, shows, events, practical gemmology and exciting materials currently on the market, whilst *The Journal of Gemmology* contains the cutting edge technical information necessary to stay up to date with the technical aspects of an ever-changing market, material determination, mining activity and research. Whilst publications are only a small part of what membership of Gem-A offers, they are still integral to those wanting to distinguish themselves in the field of gemmology.

EVENTS

Gem-A already has several events in the pipeline for 2015. In addition to our activities in Tucson, we will be hosting two workshops at the American Gem Society (AGS) Conclave in New Orleans in April. We also have partnerships with Jewelry Television, the world's largest retailer of gemstones, and are able to utilize its state of the art teaching facility in Knoxville, Tennessee. I am working with other institutions and will report in the next issue on exciting new possibilities of benefit to all of us — watch this space. One of my goals for 2015 is to bridge the gap between mineralogists, mineral collectors and gemmology. If it were not for minerals... well, you know the story.

THE TEAM

We have a great team on the ground in North America, and in the coming months you will be hearing from many of them in this column. Our Gem-A ambassador Olga Gonzalez FGA DGA has been coordinating events in the New York area. We have several tutors that keep our online students knowledgeable and happy: Starla Turner FGA is based in the San Francisco area, Cara Williams FGA is based in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Chandra Horn FGA DGA is based in Montreal, Canada. Gary Roskin FGA runs Gem-A lab classes at Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York, and also reviews our courses to make sure our information is accurate and timely. Brendan Laurs FGA is editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Gemmology* and is based in San Diego, California. His contribution to *The Journal* has been phenomenal, and its status as one of the leading gemmological journals goes without saying. As for me, I am based in sunny Tucson, Arizona, and look forward to meeting some of you at the AGTA GemFair Tucson.

AGTA TUCSON GEMFAIR

Speaking of Tucson, Gem-A will have 14 team members in Tucson this February at the largest gem and mineral show in the world. As usual, we will be located in the Galleria in the Tucson Convention Center at the AGTA GemFair, booth 29. Andrew Fellows FGA DGA and Lizzie Gleave FGA DGA will be running two of our popular workshops on Thursday 5 February; Spectacular Spectrums and Stimulating Simulants. Check our Events section (page 8) for more information. Just prior to AGTA, we are participating at the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers (NAJA) Conference, also at the Tucson Convention Center, on 1–2 February. We are sponsoring Sunday Lunch and will have a booth



selling Gem-A Instruments and providing course information. Gem-A is also the platinum sponsor at the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) Conference and Gala on 4 February. All of these events have a fantastic array of world-renowned expert speakers, along with hands-on workshops. See their respective websites and make plans to attend.

GEM-A'S BIG GEM BASH

Now on to the big event... Gem-A will host a Big Gem Bash on Thursday 5 February from 18:00–20:30, just after the gem show's close. It is being held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, just a short walk from the AGTA show, with food, drinks and live music provided. Get your tickets from a member of the team in Tucson or in advance by contacting me at +1 520 539 8032 or events@gem-a.com. This inaugural event is designed as a meet and greet for all gemmologists — come and say hello to the team and chat with us about how we can all work together to make Gem-A and your business the best it can be. Our commitment to North America is real and we want all of you to experience this with us.

TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW (TGMS)

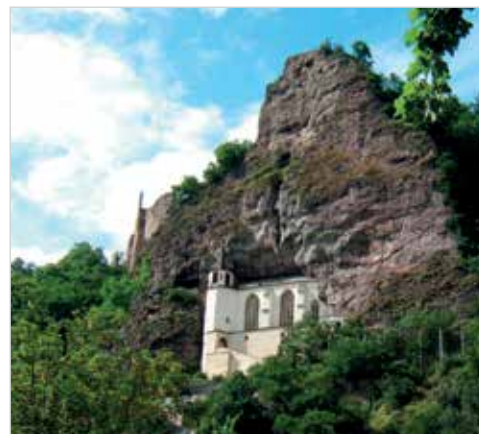
The final news is that after many years absence, Gem-A will be at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show at the Tucson Convention Center from 12–15 February. 20,000 people visit — the culmination of the show to beat all shows. Join Gary Roskin FGA, Davina Dryland FGA, Claire Mitchell FGA DGA and myself in the arena booths 1928–1929 and see the wide array of equipment and course offerings. We might even have a few surprises set up for your viewing pleasure. It is well worth staying in town for a few extra days to see the exhibits at the TGMS show. I have chosen to make Tucson my home, and hope to be settled here for a good many years.

So come and join me and the team for a few days this coming February — I promise to show you a good time at the 'Big Gem Bash', provide information on classes and maybe sell you a thing or two. At the very least, I look forward to seeing you all and working with you over the coming years. All the best for now, Eric. ■



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Gem-A

THE GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Gem-A's Big Gem Bash

You are invited to join the Gem-A team on **5 February 2015** at

**SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL,
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AZ 85701, UNITED STATES**

18:00 – 20.30

For food, drinks, live music and a good ol' knees up!
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To book your place, contact events@gem-a.com

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Diamonds

A former UN Security Council investigator, and currently chairman of the Diamond Development Initiative, Ian Smillie offers a greater depth and genuineness of insight into this subject than the reviewer has seen from other authors.

Diamonds gives analysis of the diamond trade and certain areas of its regulation, also encompassing geological and historical aspects of this most auspicious of gems, which are provided in Chapter One. Ian follows this with a chapter on supply and demand, as well as a chapter on the history of conflict diamonds, discussing the countries associated with this issue. He then discusses activism and the intervention of various NGOs in power and politics, concluding by discussing developments in these matters. He also highlights the fact that the industry is now looking at those atrocities that lie beyond wars and terrorism, beginning with basic human rights abuses.

Each chapter is well constructed, providing historical backgrounds, trials, tribulations and the successes and failures of such. At the front of the book is a useful list of acronyms — with which the diamond industry and its related organizations seem to have in abundance. Full reference is given to research resources, as well as a general index. A further reading list is also provided.

Whilst there are many books available on the contentious subject of 'blood' diamonds, none discuss the issue in such a logical and clear manner, providing historical background which greatly helps those readers who are not familiar with the subject and industry. The book is not a light read, but certainly makes for very interesting and thought-provoking reading. A 'must' if you work with diamonds.

Claire Mitchell FGA DGA



Diamonds

By Ian Smillie
Polity Press (28 Feb 2014), 204 pages
ISBN-13: 978-0745672311
RRP: £12.99

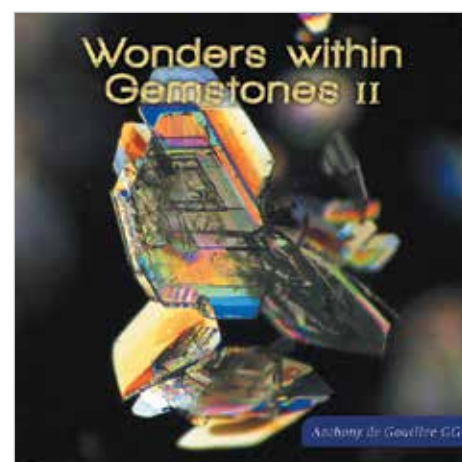
Wonders Within Gemstones II

In the second edition of *Wonders Within Gemstones*, Anthony de Goutière continues his investigation of the fascinating world of the internal features that can be found within the vast range of stones that are commercially available. Working with only a 35 mm camera and trinocular microscope, Anthony shows what can be achieved with patience and observation. Through stones such as topaz, spodumene, aquamarine, diamond and a range of quartz materials, an array of interesting and often unexpected features are revealed. Several different lighting techniques are employed to show the features from various angles and polarised positions, and these are noted in the footnotes that accompany each image.

As an inclusion book, this is a useful and interesting volume that would appeal to any gemmology student — while it is not of the scale of the famous *Photoatlas of Inclusions* books (which initially inspired this work), it provides a very good insight into the fascinating world of inclusions. The only downside is the lack of origin and absence of levels of magnification on some of the stones, but Anthony's wonderful images more than make up for this.

A fantastic and interesting book that provides a useful starting point for those interested in inclusions. To purchase visit: www.friesenpress.com.

Andrew Fellows FGA DGA CDG



Wonders Within Gemstones II

By Anthony de Goutière GG
FriesenPress, 72 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1-4602-3277-4
RRP: CAN\$18.99

A glimpse of yesteryear

We were very excited to receive this photograph from Barrie Dobson, taken in July 1981 and printed in *Retail Jeweller*, which marked the occasion of him collecting his diamond certificate at Sir John Cass College. Naturally Barrie got 100% — as those of you who know Barrie would only expect! For those of you who are currently undertaking one of the diamond courses, it shows what is possible. In fact, until he went on the course, Barrie had never handled diamonds before. This was at the beginning of a career which has seen him become a familiar and well respected personality, both in the UK and overseas. He has been chairman of the BJA and a Guardian of the Sheffield Assay Office, and is a participant in the BJA mentoring system.

And what of the others in the picture? This is an illustrious group of lecturers headed by Eric Bruton FGA, then-editor of *Retail Jeweller*, and a key individual in the development of diamond education and the Gem-A courses. The diamond classroom in Ely Place is named in his honour and we are fortunate to have his stone and book collection onsite. We also award the Bruton Medal every year to the best candidate in the Diamond Diploma. His book *Diamonds* is still the most readable and one of the best texts around on the subject. It is the benchmark by which all others are judged.

Alan Hodgkinson FGA is today legendary in the world of gemmology. President of the Scottish Gemmological Association, he is a mine of information — if you have not heard

him give a presentation then you should try hard to see one. We are looking forward to his long-awaited book. Robin Hewson FGA DGA worked for James Walker Goldsmith and Silversmith (now part of Goldsmiths). Peter Dwyer Hickey FGA DGA worked for Tidy & Blanchard and was for many years a tutor for Gem-A until 2013 when he became an examiner. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Alexander Pickett worked for Star Diamonds.

All of the lecturers gave up their time free of charge to teach — how times have changed — and this photo represents a snapshot of that group of people who gave up their time to teach others their love and knowledge of gemmology. Long may it continue... ■

From left to right: Alan Hodgkinson FGA, Robin Hewson FGA DGA, Barrie Dobson, Eric Bruton, Peter Dwyer-Hickey FGA DGA and Alexander Pickett.
Photo © Retail Jeweller





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