

Gem & Jewellery News

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

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IMAGES OF DESTINY

Most gemmologists and jewellery historians will have a fairly clear idea about engraved gemstones. They are beautiful objects which are intended to ornament the person as well, in the case of intaglios, as being useful for sealing documents.

There is no gain-saying that fashionable ladies, who often wore a number of gold rings, would have regarded them in this light, and we know that connoisseurs valued them much as we do today, but I wonder whether this was the usual attitude of the many people who wore rings.

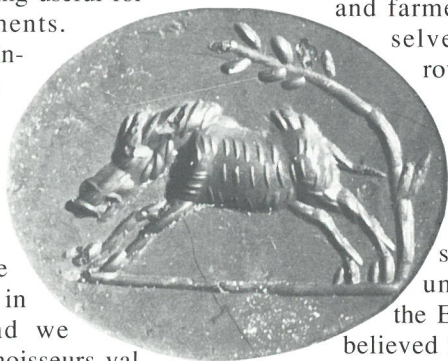
We must remember that in the Roman Period during the Republic and early Empire when engraved gem usage was universal, for the most part they were set in simple iron rings. In the circumstances of excavation and even in those of casual finding, or in old collections, these settings sometimes survive. More often they are lost, and in the case of gems found down to the nineteenth century a common expedient was to reset them either in collectors' rings or

Plate 1. A boar on red jasper. (Photo: M. Henig)

in gold rings. This has helped to foster the notion of rarified excellence, which I think is often misplaced.

The original owners of the rings, simple soldiers, merchants and farmers, felt themselves to be surrounded by powers, some beneficent (the gods) and others baleful (demons, the spirits of the unhappy dead, the Evil Eye). They believed in magic, both black and white,

and in the efficacy of curses and amulets. Events in the natural world such as the flight of birds, the behaviour of cattle, the material of minerals and, above all, the movements of the stars and planets, had an effect on the world of man. It is this which makes a site collection (such as that from the drain of the Fortress Baths at Caerleon,* where all the stones were worn and lost by Roman legionaries over a period of a hundred and fifty years) so fascinating because they speak to us of the ordinary concerns of members of *Legio II Augusta*. Equally the intaglios in the jeweller's hoard from Snettisham, Norfolk, tell us what people wanted (or perhaps needed) to buy to ensure good luck and prosperity.¹ One sometimes



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hears collectors talk about a 'good gem', in relation to the artistry of its cutting, but frankly for most people a good gem was one which not only signed their letters, but worked for the owner's good as an amulet.

There is no space here to consider more than one aspect of this and I have chosen animals. As in the Middle Ages (which in its bestiaries used, adapted and expanded lore derived from Aesop, Pliny, Aelian and others), (Cont. p. 27)

*Caerleon is approximately 15 miles north-east of Cardiff, Wales.

Gem & Jewellery News

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EDITORIAL

The first issue of *Gem & Jewellery News* has been very well received and we have printed some of the letters sent to us. It is impossible to ignore the topic on which Messrs Klein and Giles have commented and we are proud to be one of the first journals to publish some details of a most unpleasant practice which harms the jewellery and gemstone trade world-wide. We appeal to those readers who are in the trade to deal gently but firmly with travellers carrying goods of this kind and to encourage them to take the matter up as soon as possible with the appropriate authorities. A greater familiarity with fine and poor quality stones on the part of the general public would help to slow down the progress of this deceit and here the advantages of a proper gemmological education can clearly be seen.

We were sorry to hear of the end of the WJS (*Watchmaker, Jeweller and Silversmith*). This old friend had been published for 117 years (from 1875) and will now be incorporated into *British Jeweller*.

M.O'D.

THE SOCIETY OF JEWELLERY HISTORIANS

New Address

The Society of Jewellery Historians was formed in 1977 with the aim of stimulating interest in the jewellery of all ages and cultures. The annual subscription is £20.00. For a membership application and other information please write to The

Society of Jewellery Historians,
c/o Department of Prehistoric and
Romano-British Antiquities, The
British Museum, London WC1B
3DG. We regret that telephone
enquiries cannot be dealt with.
Please note this new address.

Annual General Meeting

On the 13 January 1992, The Society of Jewellery Historians held their AGM at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. This meeting saw the election of three new committee members, Lucilla Thomas Everard, Clare Phillips and Philip Sadler. Lucilla Thomas Everard, a registered jewellery valuer with a degree in the history of Art, is now the Secretary of the Society and Philip Sadler, an examiner for the Gemmological Association since 1981 and a long-standing Society member, is our

new treasurer. A vote of thanks was offered to Judy Rudoe, the outgoing secretary, for her eleven years' diligent service, and to John Smith, outgoing treasurer, for his masterly management of Society funds.

Following the AGM the packed lecture room heard a talk by Shirley Bury, a former President of the Society, on the Anglo-French connections in jewellery, based on some of the research for her recently published *Jewellery 1789 - 1910: the International Era*.

AROUND THE TRADE

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

COLOUR AND SHAPE

The wonderful world of colour in gemstones is only slowly penetrating the UK market. Traditionally the public has considered coloured stones to have consisted of rubies, sapphires and emeralds. Corundums need not necessarily be blue or red - they can be yellow, orange, green, white, purple, pink or black. There are similar ranges of colours in tourmalines and a host of hues for the garnets. But in addition to these traditional colour ranges, there are exciting new varieties. These include rubellites, rhodolites,

tanzanites and iolites. Our standard shapes of round, oval and octagon are now supplemented with hexagons, trillions, half moons, lozenges and many more which are now cut in calibrated sizes and thus usable in cast mounts.

Designers and manufacturers on the Continent, in America and now in the Far East are using such stones to produce jewellery that appeals not only to the rich and famous but to the growing mass markets.

But how often does one hear that the British public only want rubies, sapphires and emeralds? The public buy these stones because that is all they see. The

retailer tells his suppliers that these are the only stones he can sell and the manufacturer in turn tells his gemstone supplier - yes he likes the new colour but his customers do not want them. This circle can only be broken by our manufacturers and they must make a positive effort to produce ranges of jewellery using the less traditional stones and shapes and persuade the retailers to show such jewellery. And they must do this before 1993 when our European counterparts will be able to walk freely into our home markets and ask for the interesting new jewellery; how nice it would be if our retailers could say 'We already stock it'.

WHO ARE CIBJO?

The next CIBJO Congress will be held in London this April. Most of the people involved in the jewellery trade know little or nothing about this organization, yet its dictates govern their whole trade.

CIBJO (Confederation Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie, des Diamants, Perles et Pierres - International Confederation of Jewellery, Silverware, Diamonds, Pearls and Stones) was founded in 1961 from a twenties European organization called BIBOAH which represented the interests of the jewellery trade. With the advent of an integrated European Community, CIBJO became a sort of quango* to standardise nomenclature rules and application of all aspects of the jewellery trade. It has four sectors comprising manufacturing, wholesaling, gemstones and retailing.

Sector III has been divided into three Commissions devoted to Diamonds, Gemstones and Pearls, and each of them meet at the annual CIBJO Congresses. The pertinent current problems are the harmonization of the diamond grading systems, the various treatments applied to gemstones to improve their appearance, and the development of some sort of control on imitation pearls which are commonly passed off as a type of cultured pearl. In the other sectors the most important problem is that of the hallmarking system which has, to date, been an integral part of the jewellery trade in the UK but is not used in all the EEC countries. The UK delegates have always played a prominent part in CIBJO, providing many Presidents over the years.

*Quasi non-governmental organization

SYNTHETICS

New synthetic stones continue to appear on the market and are becoming more and more difficult to distinguish from their natural counterparts. GAGTL workshops are becoming an essential requisite for anyone handling stones of any type encountered in the jewellery trade.

VAT

The VAT front is quiet at present, although the authorities are looking more closely at returns coming from abroad. The ruling at present is that such returns are exempt from VAT only if the goods are the property of the importer. If you have exported an item which you have taken on approbation, then VAT becomes payable on this if it is re-imported.

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DISCOVERY CENTRE

A 'time capsule' of the Birmingham jewellery trade has come back to life as the city's newest visitor attraction.

The Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre, in the heart of Birmingham's world-famous Jewellery Quarter, is based on the old Smith & Pepper works at 77-78 Vyse Street. Smith & Pepper started making gold jewellery in 1899 and the present factory was built in 1913/14 when the industry was at its zenith.

When the company closed down in 1981, workshops and offices lay untouched, tools and papers strewn on benches where they had been put down when the last craftsman packed up and went home. When work began to turn it

into the Discovery Centre, some 70,000 items had to be photographed, catalogued and removed before building work could start. Now Smith & Pepper is complete again and everything is back in its place. Demonstrators are now able to show visitors aspects of jewellery making and the centre tells the story of the Jewellery Quarter.

The Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre is open from Monday to Saturday, 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Admission prices are £2.00 for adults, £1.25 for children and senior citizens. For more information contact Hamish Wood or Shena Mason at the Heritage Development Office, Museum of Science & Industry, telephone 021 235 1677.

GEMSTONE SCAMS

More evidence is emerging of the misleading promotion of diamonds and coloured stones scam originating from The Netherlands, Belgium and other world centres. Potential clients are targeted and presented with impressive literature followed by hard-sell techniques to invest money in gemstones which are 'guaranteed' to rise considerably in price. As the selling prices are often at least ten times the value which can be obtained for such stones from legitimate traders, it will be many years before world inflation could make them resaleable.

Many UK residents have been caught out in such scams and the GAGTL is building up a dossier on the topic. If you know of definite cases please let us know - we are trying to get one of the TV programmes to expose this practice.

GEMS

Montana sapphires

A video shown at the GAGTL Conference held in London in November 1991 featured a selection of gemstones from North America. Among the species were sapphires from bars in the Missouri River in the state of Montana. These raised gravels are producing small but fine coloured sapphires from at least three locations, Eldorado Bar, Dry Cottonwood and the Gem Mountain mine. As is common with Montana sapphires, the crystals are roughly rounded and occur in a variety of colours; I have seen blue, yellow, pink and green specimens and also cut

stones whose colour has been enhanced or altered by heating. Not for the first time attempts are being made to introduce them to the London market and I hope to be able to say more on this later. Readers can find some good pictures of the sapphires in the October 1991 issue of the *National Geographic*. In the text accompanying the pictures it is suggested that the temperature used to heat the stones is approximately 2000°C. Up to 10,000ct per day is said to be recovered from the Eldorado Bar deposit.

Sellaite

For the dedicated collector the magnesium fluoride, sellaite, has recently been cut. The stones, from Brazil, are colourless and transparent with a hardness of 5 and specific gravity of 3.15. The very low refractive index is 1.378 for the ordinary ray and 1.390 for the extraordinary ray. Sellaite belongs to the tetragonal system and has structural similarities to rutile. The occurrence producing facetable material is reported to be the Brumado mine in Bahia state, Brazil.

Serandite

Last time I spoke about a mineral from Mont St Hilaire, Quebec, Canada. This was the blue carletonite which is very rarely found in faceted form. Another spectacular mineral from this area is the orange-pink serandite which is a sodium manganese calcium silicate with hydroxyl, crystallizing in

the triclinic system. It has a hardness of 5-5.5, SG 3.34 and RI 1.667, 1.671 and 1.703 for the alpha, beta and gamma rays respectively. It is a mineral of pegmatites and makes a superb gemstone, though fairly soft and with a perfect cleavage.

'Strahlers'

In the Stop Press last time we asked what 'Strahlers' were. The name is used colloquially in Switzerland for crystal collectors

who climb to recover fine crystals, mostly of rock crystal but sometimes of rose quartz, sphene or fluorite.

Zektzerite

As we are dealing with facetable curiosities, here is one whose name defies most people - zektzerite. This is found as colourless to pale pink crystals in Okanogan County, Washington, USA. The mineral is orthorhombic with a hardness of 6 and an SG of 2.79. The RI is 1.582-1.584 with a very low birefringence of 0.002. Some specimens show a light yellow in short-wave ultraviolet radiations but are inert in long-wave.

Where does the name come from? From Mr Jack Zektzer of Seattle who began investigation into the mineral. M.O'D.

EDUCATION NEWS

Following the success of our one-day 'Gem Update' tutorial last October, the first of the early 1992 Workshop sequence took place in mid January. The brand new Preliminary workshop made a flying start to the year with bookings overflowing to a fourth day. The subsequent Trade Workshop was also booked to capacity with a waiting list which is still building up for a re-run later in the year. Let us know quickly if you need details.

The one-day Preliminary session is designed primarily to provide basic information for Preliminary gemmology correspondence course students and for anyone else who would like a 'start-up' tutorial covering crystals and light, followed by the principles, construction and uses of the major gem testing instruments. The Workshop allows people to view their own testing results

under close guidance, using the instruments available in the gemmology examinations. The surprise and fascination of some of these first 'gem encounters' is always intriguing to tutors and participants

New Workshops Under Way

alike. This tutorial was the first GAGTL Education Department course of its kind and, like the Gem Update, was produced with an essential input from staff of the Gem Testing Laboratory. The Preliminary and Trade Workshops were planned by Colette Bensimon, who also prepared a sequence of questionnaires for prior and subsequent research on requirements.

The Trade Workshop, in late

February, was planned around the results of questionnaires returned by a gratifyingly large number of people in various parts of the gem and jewellery trade. We are extremely pleased to announce that a range of new instruments, including two microscopes and two further types of refractometer, was provided for use in these Workshops by the Distributive Industries Training Trust. We hope that the Workshops can be extended around Great Britain over the coming years.

The intensively practical one-day Trade sessions provided guidance into the selection of appropriate testing techniques for rough, cut, unset and set stones in the working environment. That environment may be anything from the jungle or the mine or wholesale office to the sale room or the retail countertop. During the Workshop,

possibilities and limits of what may be achieved under such varied conditions were considered and simulated. A large range of materials and difficulties was discussed, with many examples on view including lasered diamonds, diffusion-treated sapphires, synthetic resin treated emeralds, subtle doublets, a range of recent synthetic stones as well as the more traditional materials and treatments which are still there in the trade amid all the latest newcomers. An important aim for the Workshop was to help the students to establish when they could be reasonably certain of an identification or when they needed help from a laboratory or other reliable second opinion.

Increasing public awareness of precious stones, and closer European links are likely to lead in the future to a more widespread recognition of the importance of gem testing techniques. The GAGTL Trade Workshop Certificate of Attendance is a sig-

nificant step along this road.

Through April our two-day Gemmology Diploma Workshops will build on our experience of the last twelve years in providing intensive practical tuition for Diploma students nearing their practical examination. These Workshops are also open to those interested in extending and practising their gem testing technique, whether or not they are studying for examinations. Successful gem testing depends greatly upon the ability to decide quickly upon the most appropriate methods for positive identification, to adjust conditions during testing in order to obtain a result, and to recognise subtle variations in the features of stones. Meanwhile, one also has to judge limits to likely success with a particular technique and a particular stone. This is not advanced gemmology, it is what is required for any successful practical gemmologist. And it may help you to achieve that FGA after your name.

GEM DIAMOND TUTORIALS—MAY 1992

Three-day Gem Diamond Tutorials have been arranged for May, and are designed primarily as practical grading sessions for Correspondence Course students, but are also open to anyone else who requires practice in distinguishing diamond simulants and treated stones. Tuition is by diamond grading staff of the Gem

Testing Laboratory and the dates are May 12th-14th; 19th-21st; 26th-28th.

The price of each three-day tutorial is £300 plus VAT. Venue near Hatton Garden. Details are available from the GAGTL Education Office on 071-404 3334.

GAGTL Examinations 1992

Entry Forms for all examinations have been sent out. If any candidate has not received their Entry Form, please contact the Education Office urgently. Full details of fees, dates and times are on the form.

Registration Forms are being

posted to candidates who have sent their Entry Forms. If candidates have not received their Registration Form by the end of May (Gem Diamond Correspondence Course candidates by 24th April) please contact the Education Office urgently.

Understanding Jewellery

8 June to 3 July 1992. A one month specialist study to be held in London. The course will trace the development of Western jewellery from antiquity to the present day. The aim of the course is to enable participants to develop the skills required to date jewellery stylistically, to discern quality, and to introduce them to the principles of gemmology and goldsmithing techniques. The course includes lectures by specialists, visits to museums and galleries, the opportunity to handle and examine pieces, and practical demonstrations. A visit to the world famous Cartier workshop is included in the programme. For a brochure and details please contact Sotheby's Educational Studies, Box 101, 30 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RE, tel 071 323 5775, fax 071 580 8160.

Ancient Goldwork

20 to 24 July 1992. A one week's intensive course on the materials, techniques and stylistic development of ancient Old World jewellery. To be held at the Conservation Centre, The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, 14 East 78th Street, New York, NY 10021. Tel. (212) 772 5849 Fax (212) 772 5807.

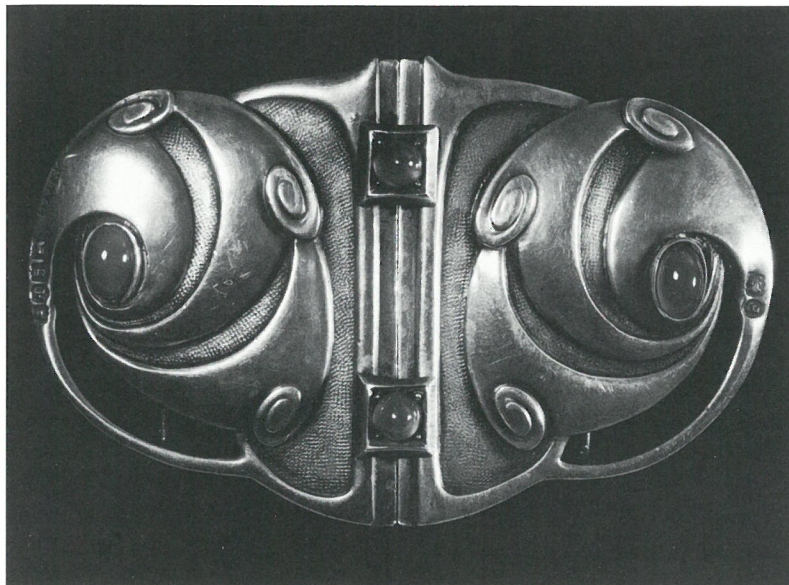
Gemmology Diploma Workshop -1992

Ring the GAGTL Education Office on 071-404 3334 to check if any places are available. The Workshop dates are April 1st and 2nd; 7th and 8th; 11th and 12th; 25th and 26th. This Workshop is open to all who require concentrated practical tuition. The cost for the two days is £120 plus VAT, with a reduction for correspondence Course students. Venue near Hatton Garden.

MUSEUM NEWS – RECENT ACQUISITIONS

British Museum

A silver buckle designed by Patriz Huber and made by the firm of Theodor Fahrner



When Patriz Huber committed suicide in September 1902 at the age of 24 following an unhappy love affair, Germany lost one of its most promising young designers. Shortly before his death, he set up his own atelier in Berlin, founded a retail outlet together with Henry van de Velde and exhibited alongside Peter Behrens at the Warenhaus Wertheim, one of the grand department stores in Berlin.

Huber designed the silver buckle shown in the photograph in about 1901, when he was a member of the artists' colony established by Grand Duke Ernst Ludwig of Hesse in Darmstadt in 1898. The artists designed their own houses with furniture and fittings to match. Huber also created a range of small-scale metalwork and jewellery, most of

which was made by the Pforzheim firm of Theodor Fahrner. Much of Fahrner's silver jewellery at this time was lightly oxidised and this buckle retains its original oxidised surface.

Both designer's and manufacturer's monograms are stamped on the reverse, together with that of the importers, Murrel Bennett & Company, an Anglo-German concern operating in Pforzheim and London. Most of their goods were sold through Liberty's. Stamped on the front of the buckle are the London hallmarks for 1902. The buckle was acquired in 1991 and has recently been on show in the British Museum's special exhibition 'Collecting the 20th Century'.

Judy Rudoe

The National Museums of Scotland

At Sotheby's London sale on 18 December 1991 the National Museums of Scotland purchased two pieces of insignia of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Scotland's premier Order of Chivalry. One is a gold and enamel Collar of the Order consisting of 34 links, comprising 17 thistle and 17 rue, which are fixed together by small gold rings. Each link is partially enamelled on the reverse. The Collar is one of 10 made by the Scottish goldsmith, John Campbell of Lundie between November 1707 and March 1708. Campbell was the founder of the banking firm Coutts & Co. The Collar carries no hallmarks but has been identified by Campbell's method of rendering the links of rue.

Associated with the Collar is a pendant gold and enamel Badge in the form of St Andrew with his Cross, surrounded by a glory. This is hallmarked on the suspension ring fixing with a sun-in-splendour goldmark, the date letter 'k', 1825-26, and the maker's mark JJE for John James Edington. This London-based goldsmith made several pieces of Order of the Thistle insignia, including 9 Collars between 1820 and 1830.

The quality of each piece is particularly good and the combination provides examples of work by the earliest known Scottish maker of Thistle Collars and the finest English maker of Thistle insignia.

Patent Place

The Patent Place column in the last issue of the *News* included two mid-nineteenth century patents concerning the testing of gold. The ready identification of precious metals was obviously important to jewellers but, in the days when the coinage of the realm was of gold or silver, there was a wider need for testing methods. It is hardly surprising then that many nineteenth century patent applications concerned ways to test precious metal coins.

Since the time that Archimedes employed specific gravity to determine the gold content of a crown, nearly every possible physical property of the metal has been used as the basis for testing. In 1859 one patent described the use of a sheet of vulcanised rubber or similar substance stretched over a wooden frame and fitted with a central copper plate (Patent 2008, 1859). The coin was struck against this plate and the sound or 'ring' produced allowed one to ascertain the nature of the metal. This 'ringing' of coins, normally by just tapping them with metal, was a common method of testing.

A more elaborate way to test silver coinage was patented in 1875 (no. 1399). The suspect coin was placed on a piece of absorbent fabric stretched over a recessed silver plate. The recess was filled with a solution of ordinary salt. The silver plate and the coin were linked to an electric circuit. If the coin was not silver, a small current would be generated that would be detectable with a galvanometer.

After this complex mechanism it is a relief to reach a starkly simple patent of 1885 which described a pair of pliers to test the coin (no. 6582). The coin was gripped in the pliers: 'when pressure is applied a crackling sound is heard if the coin be bad.' In 1899 a patent describing a mechanism to detect underweight or bad

'when pressure is applied a crackling sound is heard if the coin be bad.'

coins included a magnet to detect iron counterfeits of silver coins (no. 10803). The use of iron to fake silver coins might seem far fetched, but the Fourth Annual Report of the Royal Mint (for the year 1870) noted that silver counterfeit coins were easier to make than those of gold and they 'are usually produced from an easily fusible alloy, of which lead is the principal constituent, but, in order to ensure the "ring" of the counterfeits, it has been the practice to make them also of iron.'

A patent of 1901 relied on the specific gravity of the coin in a novel way. The mechanism consisted of a chute, the coins were rolled down this and their nature determined by their trajectory when they sped off the end (no. 14179, 1901).

The above patents reveal ways in which shopkeepers, bankers and others could keep a check on the precious metal in circulation. Even more involved techniques were experimented with by the Royal Mint who had the ultimate responsibility for the composition of the

coins of the realm. During the course of the nineteenth century some of the methods that we take for granted today were coming into use - such as the spectroscope - but the rapid discoveries of science suggested many other methods. In 1879 Professor Hughes suggested that the Royal Mint could test gold coins by means of equipment called an 'Induction Balance'. This compared the electrical inductions induced by the suspect, and standard coins when placed inside an electric coil.

Twenty years later, the Royal Mint reported experiments to test the purity of gold by means of measuring its electrical resistance at extremely low temperatures (30th Annual Report of the Royal Mint, 1899, p. 73).

Finally, we can note an insight into relative values: the Fourth Annual Report of the Royal Mint for 1870 noted that: 'the only successful imitations of gold coins appear to be composed of platinum covered with an electrodeposited film of gold'. A small amount of copper was sometimes alloyed with the platinum and these coins apparently had a good 'ring'.

I apologise if the above has more a numismatic than jewellery flavour, but much of the history of precious metal refining, circulation and composition is best gained from numismatic sources. We must not forget that until recently coins provided the main source of raw materials for jewellers and silversmiths. Anyhow, for the next issue I will redress the balance and look at some old patents for imitation gemstones. J.M.O.

Grave concerns

The robbing of graves in the search for gold and other treasures has a long history. Actual trial records of tomb robbers have survived from ancient Egypt and in one case earlier this century Egyptologists actually found a dead ancient grave robber in a tomb - trapped by the collapse of the ceiling during his nefarious work. We might see this as punishment to suit the crime, but a more amusing end to tomb robbers' deeds are cited in an old book called *The Victory of Patience*.

After an admittedly superficial search I have been unable to find the volume itself and what follows is a later 18th century quotation from it. 'A gentlewoman, having lain in a trance for some three days, was at length buried for dead, with a gold-ring on her finger; the sexton knowing thereof, he and his wife, with a lanthorn and candle, went privately the next night, and digged up the coffin, opened it, untied the winding sheet, and was going to take off

the ring; when suddenly the buried lady raised herself up, (being just then supposed miraculously to come out of her trance) the sexton and his wife ran away in a horrible fright, leaving their lanthorn behind them.' The woman, so we are told, recovered completely and went on to have three children. Of the sexton and his wife we hear nothing more. J.M.O.

An early record of a Goldsmith's pay

The dry climate of Egypt has allowed the preservation of many thousands of ancient documents written on papyrus. Examples range from magnificent early Egyptian 'Books of the Dead' (a sort of hitch-hikers guide to the afterlife) to scraps of more mundane documents written in Greek. These Greek documents can provide an unrivalled glimpse into almost every aspect of daily life in Roman and Byzantine period Egypt. A surprisingly large number of these documents can be of interest to jewellery historians since they can range from lists of

jewellery in reports of robberies, to details of the day to day trade of the goldsmiths. A recently published example reveals a goldsmith's rate of pay. This papyrus document, from the site of ancient Oxyrhynchus (published as Oxyrhynchus Papyrus no. 3933 - which gives some idea of the numbers that have survived) can be dated, with a precision rarely accorded to other categories of ancient object, to 13th April AD 588. It is a contract in which Aurelius Serenus, described as a 'workman of the goldsmiths', agrees to work under the master goldsmith Theodorus in the city of Oxyrhynchus for a period of one year for a total wage of 3 gold solidi. The solidus was a gold coin weighing just over 4 grams. In the surviving contract Serenus agrees to work 'without blame or hesitation or condemnation' but he did not sign the contract - he is described as illiterate. J.M.O.

(A full discussion of these jewellery-related documents will be included in my *Gold Jewellery in Ptolemaic, Roman and Byzantine Egypt*, in press (to be published by Peeters, Louvain).

BAHRAIN - THE PEARL OF THE GULF

The above title is used on a tourist poster promoting Bahrain. The poster depicts a large number of loose pearls, an oyster shell, and a couple of pearl necklaces. Is the title merely a play on words or can Bahrain make a claim to be a centre for pearls?

Bahrain is the largest island (578 sq.km) of an archipelago of 33 islands that make up the State. It is situated halfway down the Arabian Gulf of the Saudi Arabia and Qatar coasts.

The first reference to Bahraini

pearls is believed to be an Assyrian inscription from 2000 BC, which describes 'a parcel of fisheyes from Dilmun' (pearls were thought to be fish-eyes at that time). Bahrain is now widely accepted as the site of the Dilmun civilisation mentioned by the Bronze Age empires of Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley. Most of the 170,000 burial mounds that are found all over the island have been dated to this period'. The association of pearls with the people of that time seems to have been confirmed by a recent

archeological find. In 1989 a team of Bahraini and English archaeologists unearthed a 4mm rounded pearl at a dig of a Dilmun settlement. The director of the project, Dr Robert Killick, said that it might be Bahrain's oldest pearl dating back to the early Dilmun period, making it about 4,000 years old². The association of pearls with Bahrain is corroborated by Pliny, who wrote that Tylos (the classical name for Bahrain) was famous for its vast numbers of pearls.

It was in fact pearls that drew

the present ruling family to Bahrain. The Al-Khalifas, who had settled in Kuwait, developed a special interest in the pearl trade. This led some of the family to the west coast of Qatar to be nearer the centre of the trade in Bahrain. By 1782 they had become rulers of the islands. The British supremacy in the Arabian Gulf during the 19th century directly aided the pearl industry by helping to enforce the rule that only countries bordering on the Gulf should be entitled to fish the oyster banks.

The importance of pearls to the local economies at the beginning of this century are well known as are the reasons for the decline of the pearl trade by the 1930's. However, the stocks of natural pearls that existed in the Gulf, Bombay, London and Paris have been enough to sustain the demand of the specialist market.

In an attempt to protect Bahrain's reputation as a centre for natural pearls an Emiri decree was issued in the 1950's forbidding the entry of cultured pearls into the country. Any imported pearls, which by law had to be undrilled, were considered by a committee of experienced pearl merchants, who pronounced upon the origin of the pearls. However, many pearl dealers were seeking more scientific assessments from laboratories in Europe. This state of affairs led to several prominent jewellers requesting that a laboratory be set up by the government.

Naturally they were interested in having a gemstone testing facility available but for most of them the testing of pearls was the major reason for their request. At the suggestion of some of the jewellers the Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain was approached in the early 1980's. By March 1987 the London Laboratory had

entered into a contract with the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture to set up the Gem and Pearl Testing Laboratory of Bahrain. The initial groundwork was carried out by Ken Scarratt. This involved advising on the design of the premises, purchasing equipment, and assisting in the appointment of the first two Bahraini staff.



Shaikh Rashed Al-Khalifa standing next to the X-ray unit, designed and assembled by GAGTL for testing pearls.

By the summer of 1988 the X-ray machine and other gemmological equipment had been delivered to Bahrain. It was at this stage that I went to Bahrain on secondment from the London Laboratory to help in the running of the new Laboratory. The Laboratory premises were finished by January 1989 and a further year was needed for a variety of administrative procedures to be processed by various government departments. Not least of these was the updating of an Emiri decree relating to pearls. The central premise of the original law has been retained in the new gem and pearl law, which is that one is forbidden to import cultured pearls into Bahrain. This means that all pearls imported for trading purposes are tested at the Laboratory as part of Customs procedures. The new Emiri decree

was passed in June 1990 although the Laboratory had already opened on a trial basis in the previous February.

Members of the public as well as traders are permitted to use the services of the Laboratory. Since opening, our main business has been in pearl identifications. The general lack of interest in gemstones can be seen in visiting the suq or market place in the centre of Manama. The jewellers here specialise in selling locally made gold jewellery. The setting of stones in the large flamboyant necklaces is of secondary importance to the gold content so the stones, if there are any, tend to be paste or coloured synthetic cubic zirconia. Gem set jewellery is mainly found at the jewellers in a shopping complex attached to the Sheraton Hotel, where the jewellery is imported from Europe or made to western designs. There are only two shops in Bahrain that concentrate on selling loose natural gemstones and their customers tend to be mainly expatriates.

The general public here understand the difference between natural and cultured pearls a lot better than their counterparts in England, which is not surprising considering their heritage. Hopefully in addition to its main tasks the Laboratory will be able to engender a wider interest in gemstones. There is no doubt, however, that it will be the natural pearl that will always be held in high esteem in the Gulf area and in Bahrain in particular, where every effort is being made to sustain its international standing as a centre for natural pearls.

Stephen J. Kennedy

References

1. History of Bahrain. *Bahrain Business Directory*, 10th edition, 1990.
2. *Gulf Daily News*, 6 March 1990.

continued from front page

animals could be symbolic of human qualities and behaviour or attributes of the divine. Amongst the earliest gems from Caerleon five dated c. AD 75-85 introduce



Plate 2. The herdsman, the goat and the tree of life on olive-green jasper. (Photo: Robert Wilkins, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)

creatures as symbols together with inanimate objects, cornucopias and wine-vessels. A raven is portrayed upon one and possibly on another. This bird was alleged to have prophetic powers and was a familiar of Apollo. The parrots on three gems certainly allude to Bacchus whose bird it was, and thus to the feast and to prosperity in general. In a slightly later context, c. AD 85-100, we find a panther on a glass gem coloured blue in imitation of amethyst, the most appropriate stone for the wine-god. A pack-mule on one of the Caerleon gems must have been a familiar sight to the Roman soldier, but it is probably to be interpreted as bringing good things to its owner. A goat is a common enough emblem of rural

prosperity; the goat browsing on a tree on a gem from a second-century layer in the Caerleon drain epitomises for us the deforestation of the Mediterranean, but in antiquity the theme represented the inexhaustible life of the countryside, and the tree is, of course, the tree of life. Hunting, as represented on Caerleon gems by a hound coursing a hare and by Diana Venatrix with her hound also implies success, and not only in the hunting field. Because it regurgitates its food for its young, the stork on another gem symbolises *Pietas*; like cockerels it was also portrayed as a destroyer of vermin. A cockerel on one gem seems to be portrayed confronting a snake, but as the bird here has the head of a baboon, the stone must belong to that class of grotesque combinations of animal and human form especially effective against the Evil Eye. A composite of two masks and an eagle's head also belongs to this group. It is not surprising to find a number of gems showing eagles in a legionary fortress which could be regarded as under the special protection to Jupiter's own bird.

The Snettisham hoard which includes over 20 representations of Bonus Eventus, 20 of Ceres and 14 of Fortuna, out of 115 gems certainly gives a good indication of what the agricultural population of East Anglia wished to buy in the mid-second century AD. There are

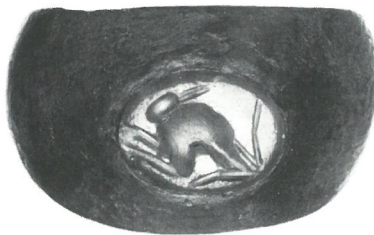


Plate 3. The hare on a cornelian. (Photo: Robert Wilkins, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)



Plate 4. An eagle killing a serpent on nicolo. (Photo: Robert Wilkins, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)

13 birds shown with grapes in their beaks alluding to the prosperity associated with Bacchus. There are three cockerels, two of which are shown with corn-ears, and three storks. These are clearly prosperity emblems. Two hounds and a running boar represent the hunt. Dolphins are lucky creatures and friendly to man (which is why one appears on a Caerleon symbol gem together with a capricorn and a parrot and the legend 'χαρά' meaning 'Joy'!). Four Snettisham gems show them. They additionally represent the voyage of the soul over Ocean to the Blessed Isles and so they can have a chthonic meaning. This need not surprise us because the Romans were, to modern eyes, rather morbid.²

This note is illustrated with a few photographs chosen from amongst the animal images on gems from Roman Britain. The boar (Plate 1) on a red jasper gem from London is shown breaking from a covert. The stone is the colour of blood and thus of life. The wearer of the gem may not have been a huntsman and is, indeed, rather more likely to have been a businessman, but he certainly wanted a fair-sized bag in terms of prosperity. It is doubtful whether the Roman soldier at Strageath in Scotland kept goats, but the herdsman, the goat and the tree of life

(Plate 2) bring to mind the old idyll of rustic plenty; it is cut on an olive-green jasper which seems appropriate to the theme of burgeoning life. The hare on a cornelian set in a silver ring from Alcester (Plate 3) would have been hunted, but hares are very fertile creatures and the device suggests a desire for increase, perhaps literally for children or perhaps in terms of

money. An eagle killing a serpent on a fine nicolo from Wickwar (Plate 4) originally set in a silver ring with a gold collet (now, alas, broken) exhibits the destruction of evil forces by the most beneficent of birds, the eagle.

Notes

1. Zienkiewicz, J.D., *The Legionary Fortress at Caerleon, II, The Finds*, Cardiff 1986, pp. 117-41; Potter T., 'A Roman jeweller's hoard from

Snettisham, Norfolk', *Antiquity*, 60 (1986), 137-9, provides an interim statement. A full report by Catherine Johns, Marianne Maaskant-Kleibrink, Tim Potter and others is in preparation.

2. Henig, M., 'Death and the Maiden; Funerary Symbolism in Daily Life', in: Munby, J., and Henig, M., *Roman Life and Art in Britain*, BAR Brit. ser. 41, Oxford 1977, pp. 347-66.

Martin Henig

BOOKS

Streeter Catalogue A good facsimile of this leading Victorian jeweller's 60th catalogue (*circa* 1885), 7³/₄ x 5 inches, hard cover with gilt decorative front board, has just been published. It contains 124 pages, including 81 pages of black-and-white plates of jewellery, watches and silver. The text pages contain much useful technical and historical information, some of which is difficult to find elsewhere. All items are priced, giving a fascinating glimpse of the trade more than 100 years ago.

The book is available from the GAGTL.

The Belle Epoque of French Jewellery 1850-1910, 1991. Art Books International Ltd., London.

Painstaking research under the direction of Duke Alexander Herzog von Wurttemberg at the famous Bayerisches National museum, uncovered and assembled a wealth of beautiful jewels and objet d'art from private collections throughout Europe that have never previously been exhibited, illustrated, or published since their original ownership. Most notable are the Diamants de la Couronne, the French crown jewels, whose origins as a national collection started in 1530. They were worn by Josephine, the wife of Napoleon I, and subsequently reworked many times for the royal family. Finally exhibited by Napoleon III in 1884, they were dispersed forever by sale at auction in 1887.

This key reference work is compiled by a team of experts from across Europe containing two notable British jewellery historians, Judy Rudoe, curator of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum and Geoffrey Munn, managing director, Wartski, London.

Jade, with Roger Keverne as consultant editor, is published by Anness Publishing of London at £60. This is a multi-author work with good text and fine colour pictures. There is a jade bibliography by John Sinkankas and many of the chapters will be of interest and importance to gemmologists.

M.O'D.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For GAGTL and SJH meetings see 'What's on' on page 32

Jewels of Fantasy; Costume Jewellery of the twentieth century

18 March-5 July 1992

Twentieth Century Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

This exhibition, the world's first comprehensive travelling exhibition of 20th century European and American costume jewellery, will feature around

350 pieces of jewellery by such names as Chanel, Schiaparelli, Dior, Trifari, Eisenberg, Kenneth Jay Lane and Robert Lee Morris, and trace the impact of social, economic and cultural influences on costume jewellery design. Following its London showing, the exhibition will travel to the Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Cologne (9 October 1992-7 February 1993) and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York (21 September 1993-

23 January 1994). Other venues in Prague, Hong Kong, Berlin and Tokyo are being planned.

Symposium National de Gemmologie

24 March 1992

Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Galerie de Mineralogie, 36 rue Geoffrey Saint-Hilaire, 75005 Paris. Details from: Association Française de Gemmologie, 14 rue Cadet, 75009 Paris. Telephone (1) 47 70 18 48. Fax (1) 42 46 50 16.

Rediscovering Pompeii

1 April-21 June 1992

Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7.

This fine exhibition, sponsored by IBM UK Ltd., and previously seen in New York, Boston and Malmö, includes a wide variety of the finds from the ruins of Pompeii destroyed in the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 69. In addition to an amazing interactive computer system providing an electronic 'tour' of Pompeii, the 200 objects on display will include gold jewellery - among which are some of the recent finds from Oplontis. The exhibition will be open daily 10.00 am - 6.00 pm (Wednesdays until 8.00 pm) and the admission charge is £5.00.

Gem and Mineral Fairs 1992

11 and 12 April 1992 - Holiday Inn, Swiss Cottage, London

16 and 17 May 1992 - Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester

Details from: John F. Turner, Glenjoy, 19/21 Sun Lane, Wakefield, W. Yorkshire. Telephone 0924 373786.

Ten years of discoveries at Burghley

17 April to 4 October 1992

Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs.

Includes a selection of 16th and 17th century jewels, ornamental stone vessels and gem-studded artefacts which were found under sawdust in bakers' trays.

Open 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. seven days a week. Telephone 0780 52451 for details.

11th Internazionale Dell'Antiquariato

30 April to 10 May 1992

Fiera Milano, Via Spinola, Milan, Italy

Details from: Monica Amari, EXPO CTS, Via Serbelloni 2, 20122 Milan.

Telephone 02 77181. Fax 02 781828. Or, in England, Sue Bond on 071 381 1324, fax 071 610 1890.

British Goldsmiths of Today

27 May to 26 June 1992 Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2V 8BN

An impressive exhibition of contemporary gold and silver work, open from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., admission free. Details from: Alison Hatfield or Sarah Callaghan at Goldsmiths' Hall on 071 606 7010, fax 071 606 1511.

The Annual Federal Conference of the Gemmological Association of Australia

6 June 1992

Park Hotel, 65 Chatham Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

The theme of the Conference (which has been arranged to coincide with the 5th World Gems & Jewellery Fair being held in Hong Kong) will be 'Bringing Australian gemstones to South-East Asia'. Details from: Henry Cheng, 11 Chung King Arcade, G/F, 36-44 Nathan Road Kowloon, Hong Kong, or Mrs Hylda Bracewell, PO Box 381, Everton Park, Q4053, Australia.

Seals of the World

29 June to 2 July 1992

The British Museum, London.

A four-day seminar aimed at specialists in all aspects of seals and sealing practices of all periods worldwide. The registration fee is £25.00. Space is limited and an early application is advised. Details from: Dr Dominique Collon, Dept. Western Asiatic Antiquities, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

The 7th Biennial Jewellers and Metalsmiths Group of Australia

Conference 15 to 16 August 1992

Perth, Western Australia.

This conference will include exhibitions and also coincide with workshops and a variety of other events. Details from: Byron Cornish, 3 Hornsey Road, Floreat Park, Western Australia 6014. Telephone 09 387 3165.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Gem & Jewellery News, Vol. 1, No. 1, has just arrived. Congratulations! And I am excited with Harry Levy's article regarding HM Customs, etc., p.3. As far as I am aware, this is the first occasion of a gemmological authority making reference to the greatest 'rort' of the gemstone industry, known to me. Nobody wants to know about it. Officers of the Australian Customs Services are deeply concerned that they are unable to assist. The comment of the Senior Officer of the Federal Police is that it is a political affair.

During the past 21 years I have been a consultant for Customs Services at the International Airport and the International Postal Control, Sydney, Australia. Let me draw your attention to information I have gleaned during my involvement in 1991:

(a) Young backpackers who contact the Postal Control, Clyde, are informed that they can elect to have their sapphires valued by the Precious Gems Laboratory Pty Ltd, or pay the 30% Sales Tax on the price paid in Thailand, or abandon the parcel. During 1991 somewhere between 150 and 200 persons called at the Postal Control Office; 25 elected to have their sapphires certified with a valuation. Careful estimation plus the known sums paid to Bangkok jewellers for the 25 people amount to around A\$45,660.00.

(b) We can note the following for backpackers trying to sell their sapphires who came into the store:

Statutory Declaration forms were completed with details of the happenings in Bangkok. The known amount paid was more than

A\$69,444.00. Just five Statutory Declarations from Swedish nationals alone totalled an astonishing A\$25,498.00. All received assessments in the 'unsaleable' or 'Gem Trade rejects' categories. Records on hand include the names of nationals from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland and Sweden. Two persons from the Ukraine accused me of being a part of an international swindle 'because the sapphires were originally from Australia' (they had paid US\$2,200.00 for these stones).

In the writings and verbal comments of the backpackers, there is sufficient evidence to support the suggestion that 'bottles of Coke', offered to them before they are shown stones for sale, have an added stimulant. *Caveat emptor* does not apply. So far all victims appear to have been coerced or tricked to buy, and there are many millions of dollars associated with this brilliant rip-off.

Yours etc.,

Roy Giles, Graduate Gemmologist

Precious Gems Laboratory Pty Ltd
Sydney, NSW, Australia.

[Roy Giles has sent us some further documentation giving examples of the methods used by some unscrupulous firms in Bangkok. Ed.]

Dear Sir

It was very thoughtful of you to have *Gems and Jewellery News* sent to me. It contained quite a wide collection of news articles on what has been happening in gem

treatment, doublets and synthetic manufacture, and color techniques.

It would be interesting if an organization could assemble a collection in a museum together with providing educational lectures. An educational tour to bring gemmologists up-to-date could be very enticing if scheduled about the time of your Presentation of Awards or some other event.

Best wishes to you for a season full of new ideas.

Yours etc.,

Eunice Miles, Hon. FGA

Mahopac, NY 10541, USA

Dear Sir

Having read Harry Levy's report in your first issue, I can confirm his comments about tourists being conned into buying precious stones at highly inflated prices in Asia.

Over the past few years not a week passes without some unfortunate youngster knocking at our door asking to see Mr Freeman. This immediately puts us on our guard because the Mr Freeman who originally founded our company has been dead for 45 years. When we question the caller through the intercom they say that they have been sent by a shop in a bazaar in Agra, India, and that they have been assured that A. Freeman (Precious Stones) Ltd of Hatton Garden are very good clients who will pay high prices for any goods taken to them from that store. The name of the dealer varies but the location is always the Agra Bazaar where there is obviously a well thumbed copy of the London Yellow Pages telephone directory

in circulation. When we examine the goods they are invariably low grade rejects of noncommercial quality. It is not easy to explain to these naive young travellers that they have been duped and whilst one can deride the 'fast buck' attitude it certainly does the image of our trade no good.

We have repeatedly approached the Indian authorities in London but there is nothing that they can do - after all the stones are usually sapphires or rubies as described - it is only the quality which is questionable.

Would it be a good idea for a body such as GAGTL to bring this problem to the notice of the national press so that warnings could be issued through the columns of the travel sections and at the same time offer courses at

one of the Gem Workshops run by the GAGTL for aspiring stone dealers.

Yours etc.,

Adrian Klein, FGA

A. Freeman (Precious Stones)
Ltd London EC1N 8BR

Dear Sir

Just a quick note to send my congratulations to you on producing such an excellent newsletter. A lot of thought has been put into it to enable you to glean so much interesting information. Well done'

Yours etc.,

James K. Cairncross, FGA

Perth, PH2 7HZ.

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED

Applications are invited from FGAs for the post of Education Administrator. The successful candidate will administer correspondence courses, teaching centres and examinations in gemmology in the UK and overseas, deal with education enquiries, and organise the annual Presentation of Awards.

Competence in one or two foreign languages would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable, c. £1200
Please apply in writing enclosing CV and the names of two referees to:

Miss L. Shreeves

GAGTL

27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU

COMPETITION

Staff Problems

A couple walk into a jeweller's shop to buy gold chains for their three children. They choose three chains at £100 each and give the salesperson £300 in cash. The salesperson takes the money to the till only to be reminded by the manager that gold chains are on special offer and that the customers could have the three for £250. The salesperson is about to return £50 in cash to the customers but has a wicked thought - they know nothing of the special offer and would be happy to get anything back. So the salesperson pockets £20 and returns just £30 to the delighted customers.

The manager has noticed something and asks the customers what they paid for the chains, they say, correctly, £90 each. The manager,

again sadly not a good person, waits until they have left and then confronts the salesperson and demands half share of the £30. 'Why £30?' protests the salesperson, 'I only took £20'. 'Because the customers paid £90 for each of three chains,' replies the manager, 'this makes a total of £270. They originally gave you £300 in cash, so the difference of £30 must be in your pocket' 'The salesperson and manager argued for the rest of the week - how would you have explained the truth to them? J.M.O.

Suggested answers to STAFF PROBLEMS should be sent to the Gemmological Association, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU (fax 071 404 8843 with the envelope or fax clearly marked NEWS PUZZLE. The best brief explanation will be published in the next News.

Answers to Quiz in Vol. 1, No. 1

- 1 Carlo Giuliano worked for Alessandro Castellani and became Manager of his London shop.
- 2 Bonamite is the name given to a green variety of smithsonite, which can be used to imitate jade.
- 3 Louis Comfort.
- 4 Spessartine.
- 5 A technique of using a transparent enamel in cloisonne work without a metal backplate so that light can pass right through to produce an effect not unlike a stained glass window.
- 6 Cartier.
- 7 Sri Lanka (the stone is low zircon).
- 8 Art Nouveau, circa 1900, is characterised by sinuous lines and particularly those to be found in the natural world. Art Deco, circa 1925, is distinctive for its geometric contours and primary colours.
- 9 Hiddenite (variety of spodumene).
- 10 Jon Gibbon, London 1704-05 (from Jackson's *English Goldsmiths and Their Marks*, a useful tool).

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London

Gemstone deposits and the trade associated with them

Wednesday 13 May 1992	Australia
Tuesday 9 June 1992	South East Asia
Tuesday 24 November 1992	Africa

The venue for the meetings will be the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN. Admission by ticket only, at a cost per lecture of £5.00 for GAGTL members, £10.00 a member and a guest, and £8.00 for non-members. For further details and tickets contact the GAGTL.

Presentation of Awards

Monday 26 October 1992	Goldsmiths' Hall, London
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Midlands Branch

20 March 1992	David Callaghan (subject to be announced)
10 April 1992	Annual General Meeting followed by lecture

Meetings to be held at Dr Johnson's House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Further details from David Larcher on 021-554 3871.

North West Branch

18 March 1992	Dr Jeff Harris. 'An aspect on diamonds'
20 May 1992	Nigel Israel. 'Historical aspects and valuations'
17 June 1992	'Exchange and Mart.' Buying and selling of books, crystals and instruments, plus social evening
16 September 1992	Adrian Klein. 'Emerald'
21 October 1992	Dr Jamie Nelson. 'Optical attributes of a diamond'
18 November 1992	Annual General Meeting

Meetings to be held at Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. Full details from William Franks on 061-928 1520.

Society of Jewellery Historians

4 April 1992

Visit – A special study day at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford with a chance to examine and handle a wide variety of jewellery and other precious objects. Limited numbers, by ticket only. Sold out.

6 April 1992

John Cherry, FSA, of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum will speak on 'The Middleham Jewel' which has recently been saved for the nation and is now housed in the Yorkshire Museum.

11 May 1992

Nuno Vassallo E. Silva will give a lecture entitled 'The Portuguese gem trade in the sixteenth century'.

15 June 1992 (Please note - the date given in the last issue was a misprint)

Rudiger Joppien, Keeper of the Twentieth Century Department of the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, will give a lecture on 'Elizabeth Trescow; Master of Granulation'. Dr Joppien has recently organised an exhibition devoted to Trescow's work shown in Cologne and Hanau during 1990.

28 September 1992.

Charlotte Gere will give a lecture entitled 'Looking at Jewellery', in connection with the cataloguing of the Hull Grundy Gift to the British Museum and the *Treasures and Trinkets* exhibition held at the Museum of London.

Attendance at the above lectures is limited to members of the Society of Jewellery Historians and their guests. These lectures are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. They begin at 6.00 pm and are followed by an informal reception and wine.