

# Gem & Jewellery News

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DECEMBER 1992

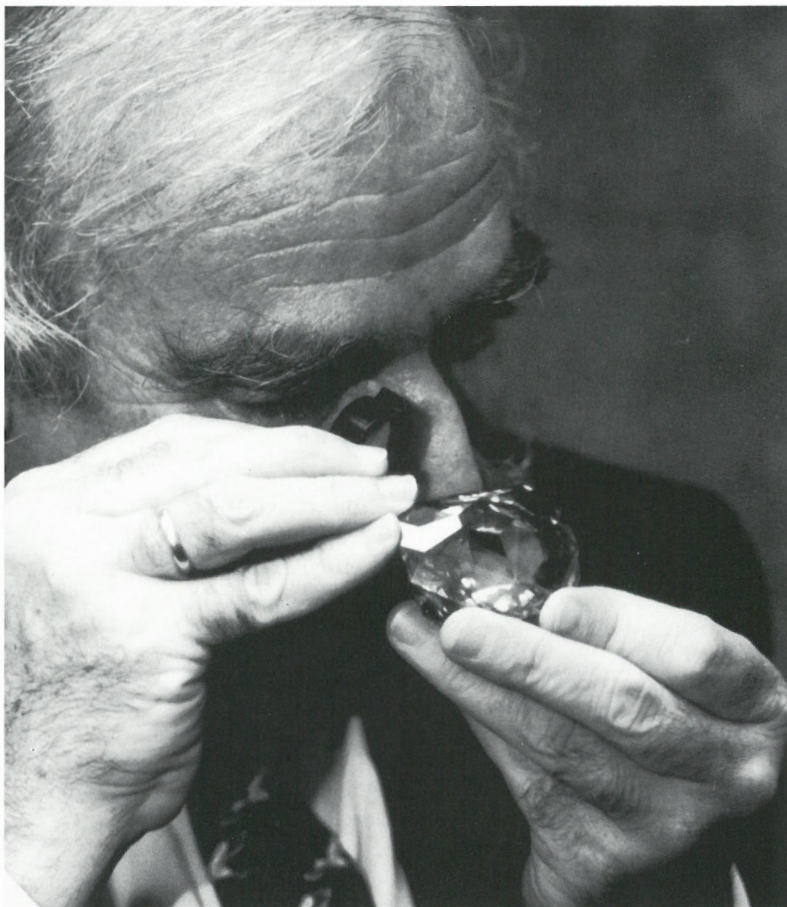
## THE LARGEST CUT DIAMOND IN THE WORLD

### 'Unnamed Brown'

The 'Great Star of Africa' (Cullinan I) has recently been displaced as the world's largest polished diamond by a newcomer.

More than 15 carats heavier, the 'Unnamed Brown' weighs 545.67

carats and is golden brown in colour; it acted as the fore-runner to the 273.85 carat 'Centenary' diamond. Much of the advanced technology later employed on the 'Centenary', the world's largest top colour, flawless, modern-cut



Gabi Tolkowsky examines the polished 'Unnamed Brown'.

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diamond was first practised on this stone.

Fashioned from a 755.50 carat rough brown, it has been polished into a modern fire-rose cushion cut, designed by Tolkowsky. It now weighs 545.67 carats, resulting in an amazing 72.2 per cent yield from the original weight.

The 'Unnamed Brown' is described in detail in the second edition of *Famous diamonds* by Ian Balfour which was launched on 12 November.

# Gem & Jewellery News

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## EDITORIAL

With this issue of *Gem & Jewellery News* we are able to review reception and progress. Comments have been very favourable and we are sent plenty of information—keep up the good work. We have rejected the acceptance of advertising but decided to change colour (the issue, not the Editorial Board) each year. We think that we have got the balance about right between gemmology, jewellery and commerce and so far have not needed to introduce further categories of coverage. We have received many letters, not all of which have been printed and many witty and accurate answers to our competitions whose difficulties have sometimes, if not always, perplexed members of the Council.

The jewellery trade is going through a very difficult period, not for the first time. The training side of selling will be seen as more important than ever and we are pleased to be able to play our part in alerting the trade and others to the developments in colour enhancement and in gem testing, as well as to the discussion of the antique jewellery market. If you have a staff who are being trained (or are trained yourself) you will have the advantage when the recovery comes and sales begin to rise once more. In issues to come we hope that contributions will be published from those who can offer advice on business developments (what about the free market beginning in 1993—how will this affect the cross-border transport of stones and jewellery? What will be the VAT position?)

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and new year!

M.O'D.

## On the Move

The Director of Laboratory Services, Ken Scarratt, left the GAGTL at the beginning of December to take up a new position abroad.

Ken Scarratt joined the Laboratory in 1974 when it was part of the London Chamber of Commerce and succeeded Alec Farn as Director in 1981. In 1986 the Laboratory left the London Chamber and became an independent company before merging with the Gemmological Association in 1990. Under his Directorship diamond grading was established,

modern UV-VIS and infrared spectrometers were commissioned and the Laboratory maintained its premier international position as a pearl testing centre.

The Council of the Association has appointed Dr Roger Harding, D.Phil, FGA, C.Geol., to take up the responsibilities of the Laboratory and to maintain the continuity and quality of its services. He joined the Association in 1990 as Director of Gemmology and has concentrated during the past two years on establishing its educational services and facilities.



## 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.

### CULTURED PEARL GRADING SYSTEM

The Cultured Pearl Grading System introduced in the UK by the GAGTL Laboratory in 1991 is now becoming established internationally. Rows of cultured pearls are being sent for grading from Norway, and a description of details of the scheme was provided for the recent Canadian Gemmological Association Conference.

Approval for the scheme has also been received from members of the trade and particular mention has been made of the independent, repeatable nature of the assessment scheme.

On the European scene discussions are taking place within CIBJO for the scheme to be proposed as the trade standard for cultured pearls, for ultimate adoption by the EEC.

A letter has been received from Rudolf Voll of Kowloon, Hong Kong, applauding the efforts of the GAGTL in introducing the system. He states:

'For the last century grading of cultured pearls at the retailing end of the industry was left to poetically-inclined operators who without any guidelines were trying to simplify quality differences to top, medium and standard. But as the knowledgeable learned, there are hundreds of grades.

'Pearl people know each pearl is marked on one side prior to drilling in order to put the pearl's

best face forward, i.e. to drill into a flaw or protruding spot, and by making it disappear, often renders the pearl flawless. When pearls are turned for inspection, flaws are not so easily detected when they face each other. But the area around the flaw means a thickening of the skin at that area (otherwise an indentation would not be noticeable). Therefore, judging the thickness of the entire pearl-skin by the thickened area would not yield an acceptable, representative value for the globule; the rest of it could be only 'breathed on' by nacre.

'It should be possible, with present day state-of-the-art equipment to determine a cultured pearl's thickness of layer, when a scanning monitor is directed against the perpendicular ends of the mother-of-pearl made nucleus, through the concentric oyster-deposited layers.

'I feel that the GAGTL-rating of 0.15mm as 'standard' does not serve all sizes of pearls evenly. A 0.15mm nacre deposit on a 3.0mm nucleus would be considered acceptable, but should be rejected as a 'quasi-pearl' when the nucleus is 9.0mm.

'Again, my compliments to the GAGTL. I would be glad to discuss the problem with them, if interest existed on their side. I am, after all, a fossil-like relic in the Japanese pearl industry, having been active since 1938 inside Japan.

'I trust that your readers welcome information from the horse's mouth for their own respectability and their clients' value-advantage.'

Alan Clark

### Joint Venture

An agreement of co-operation has recently been announced between the Central Gem Laboratory (CGL) in Japan and the Certificates Department of the Diamond High Council (HRD - Hoge Raad voor Diamant vzw) in Belgium. The new venture will issue reports grading diamonds to IDC rules.

For further information contact the Diamond High Council, Hoveniersstraat 22, 2018 Antwerp, Belgium. Telephone 03/222.05.11. Fax 03/222.07.24.

### Membership Cards Reintroduced

From January 1993 GAGTL will be issuing annual membership cards to its members when their subscription is received. This will entitle members to a

10% discount on instruments and stones and a 5% discount on books purchased from Gemmological Instruments Ltd.



# EDUCATION

## News from the GAGTL Education Office

1993 will see the launch of GAGTL examinations in January as well as later in the year. Gem Diamond students (mainly re-sits) and Preliminary gemmology students at Allied Teaching Centres worldwide, will have this opportunity to organize the timing of their studies more flexibly.

Work on the 1992 exam aftermath is now tailing off as we gather momentum for eleven days of exams in 1993 - there are three separate sessions of Gem Diamond practical and two days of practical and theory exams; two Preliminary gemmology exams; one Diploma theory and three days of Diploma practical. We are now heading for

our busiest ever examination year, with yet more exam centres in Europe, the Far East and the Middle East.

Allied Teaching Centres - ATCs - are increasing in number, particularly in Hong Kong where arrangements are in hand to start running the Preliminary examination in Chinese from June 1993. ATCs worldwide have certain extra benefits compared with other teaching centres, and we here also benefit by being able to plan ahead from knowledge of the details and numbers of students involved. The Education Office is now planning new activities in the Gem Tutorial Centre (GTC) on the second floor, strategically placed between the first floor Education, Membership and Administration Offices and the Gem Testing

## GAGTL GEM TRADE WORKSHOP

19-21 JANUARY 1993

*Do you need to know **how** rather than **why**?*

*How do you use simple gem instruments to give a quick answer?*

*Pick up valuable tips and hints.*

**GAGTL will run their one-day, 'hands-on' Trade Workshop for all those who need basic, practical knowledge of gem identification methods.**

**The Workshop will start with aspects of the use of a loupe for gem identification in gem-set jewellery. You can then consider the choice of gem testing techniques most appropriate to your own requirements. Observe and discuss the gemmologically related features which affect jewellery values.**

**We shall include an update on some important modern synthetics, simulants and treatments to help you improve your knowledge and selling techniques.**

**Contact GAGTL Education now. This is a great chance to add to your stock of both knowledge and experience. As places are strictly limited for this Workshop please contact us soon.**

***Price of one-day Trade Workshop - £60.00 plus VAT***

## GEM UPDATE

12-13 JANUARY 1993 2-3  
FEBRUARY 1993

**A Practical Update on  
Modern Synthetics, Simulants  
and Treated Stones**

**A two-day session for all  
FGAs.**

**Of particular value to  
gemmology course lecturers  
and to all engaged in the buy-  
ing and selling of gems and  
jewellery.**

**Found in new and antique  
jewellery, many synthetics,  
simulants and treated stones  
will yield their secrets to the  
wary eye. In two days of prac-  
tical observation you will  
gather valuable techniques  
and tips.**

**Our two-day Update will take  
place in the GTC at Greville  
Street and will run from  
10.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m.  
each day.**

**Price - £180.00 plus VAT for  
the two days.**

Laboratory on the third floor. The Gem Tutorial Centre has a large teaching area, complete with refreshment facilities, and a smaller seminar room. Before very long, the GAGTL Library will also be situated on the same floor.

The GTC's major uses will be for Educational tutorial Workshops (such as the Trade Workshop, students' Workshops and special stone days), for members' use (such as Members' Evening talks) and meetings (such as the Education Review Meetings).



## TWO DAYS OF DIAMONDS

10-11 FEBRUARY 1993

3-4 MARCH 1993

**A Basic Introduction to the Techniques of Diamond Grading and Detection of Treated Stones and Simulants.**

**Of particular value to FGAs, gemmology course lecturers and to all engaged in the buying and selling of gems and jewellery.**

**During these two days you will be guided through the first steps in polished diamond grading for clarity and colour.**

**You will learn how gem diamond is examined for proportion and make, and how to distinguish diamond from simulants such as CZ, paste, zircon and synthetic stones.**

**Found in new and antique jewellery, many diamond simulants and treated stones will yield secrets to the wary eye. During practical observation you will gather valuable techniques and tips.**

**Diamond rough and crystals will be inspected for quality and form.**

**Discover more about the origins and unique properties of this fascinating material.**

**Price - £180.00 plus VAT for the two days.**

During the first half of 1993 a variety of Workshops have been planned for the members and trade, and with special tutorials for students; these include 'Two Days of Diamonds', a set of Gemmology Evening Workshops, an 'Identifying Hardstone Carvings' day (e.g. jades, lapis, imitations and treated ornamental stones), as well as the Gem Update and the very successful Trade and Preliminary one-day Workshops (see details elsewhere in this issue).

Further events, as well as this normal programme, are in the planning stage for the 1993-4 season; these include one-day public events on Fashion and Trend with Gems in Jewellery; a Day of Colours, Crystal Days (a starter in crystallinity, and also a deeper look into crystals); a 'Mines to Jewels' day to delve into this

dynamic planet and how the Earth makes its own gem materials.

The New Year will see the very first GAGTL Evening Workshop. If you would enjoy a brush-up course on general gemmology, or if you are a Diploma student needing to improve your efficiency and technique, contact us as soon as possible to reserve a place for six monthly evenings for just £45.00 plus VAT. The evenings will include step by step sequences to build up ability to select and use appropriate techniques quickly and efficiently; much of each evening will then be devoted to practice and improving technique, with maximum help from GAGTL staff. The Evening Workshops will be followed up by the long-established Two-Day Diploma Workshop. This practical event includes a mock Diploma practical exam, very much like the real

thing; this has helped many students gain their Diplomas over the past 15 years. Non students who need intensive tuition are most welcome; there are four alternative sessions, two during weekdays, and two at weekends.

We had interesting responses to our Trade course questionnaires this year, with a number of participants suggesting that Birmingham would also be a useful centre for this Workshop, and this is now under discussion. Other participants suggested that, based on our one-day programme, a trade-related practical course in GAGTL's Gem Tutorial Centre would be

## GAGTL PRELIMINARY GEM WORKSHOP

16,17,18 FEBRUARY 1993

**This introductory one-day Workshop is aimed both at Preliminary Gemmology Course students and all of those wishing to gain an initial insight into the fundamentals of crystals, gems and gem testing.**

**Our selection of instruments and gemstones, based on the Preliminary Syllabus, will provide a great opportunity for students and other beginners to become more familiar with the gem materials and with the results to be expected in testing.**

**GAGTL staff will take you step by step through fascinating aspects of gems, using simple models to demonstrate their different optical effects.**

**Preliminary Gem Workshop price - £35.00 plus VAT**

**\*\* Price to GAGTL Students - £25.00 plus VAT**



## GTC EVENING WORKSHOPS

A series of six evening Workshops designed to prepare Diploma candidates for their practical exam and to refresh those who have already qualified

The first Tuesday evening of each month (January to June)

Each Evening based around a particular topic with a practical theme

The Workshops will take place in the GTC at Greville Street and will run from 6.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m.

Price - £45.00 inclusive of VAT for six sessions

very popular; people who are not yet ready for the two Diploma courses feel that they could ease their way into gemmology with a

Trade course, and then progress further as their confidence and interest increases.

Ultimately our aim is to establish Travelling Workshops with materials, instruments, manuals and tutorial aids which can be used to increase the awareness and enjoyment of gems for a wider range of people. I.F.Mercer

## Ancient Gold Jewellery: Art and Technology

Madingley Hall, Cambridge, 30 April - 2 May 1993

A weekend course organised by the University of Cambridge, Board of Continuing Education, to be held at the former Royal Residence of Madingley Hall, just outside Cambridge. The course, taught by Dr Jack Ogden, will examine the various ways in which we can study ancient gold jew-

ellery - ranging from scientific analysis of gold to the examination of contemporary documents - and explain how this information can be brought together to build up a fuller understanding of jewellery and its use, manufacture and function in the ancient Old World. Sessions will cover the study of jewellery, the materials and technology of ancient jewellery, the artistic and technical development of Egyptian, Western Asiatic and Classical gold jewellery, the goldsmiths themselves and, finally, the intriguing problem of forgeries and their identification.

The course is aimed at all those with an interest in early jewellery - from museum curators to interested amateurs.

Fully residential including meals, £86.00 per person.

For further details please telephone 0954-210636 (Fax 0954-210677).

## RECENT EVENTS

### The 60th Anniversary of the Deutsche Gemmologische Gesellschaft

In the past two years there has been an unprecedented number of anniversary meetings, bringing gemmologists together in an international way in much greater frequency than ever before.

The latest event in this sequence took place at the 60th anniversary of the German Gemmological Association (DGG) in Idar-Oberstein. It was timed to coincide with the annual trade fair Intergem at the end of September.

The opening reception was held in the famous Gemstone Museum in the centre of Idar-Oberstein where the world class gems

already on display provided the setting for the welcoming speeches; these culminated in the unveiling of a loan exhibition of exceptional gem crystals and cut gems acquired by private collectors during the 60 years since DGG was founded.

The lectures were held in the Diamond Bourse next to the Museum and occupied two full days, comprising 24 papers in all delivered by authors from 11 countries. A wide range of topics was covered and included new gem discoveries in Nepal (aquamarine, tourmaline, spessartine, danburite and moonstone) and surveys of gems in Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Czechoslovakia; methods of making synthetic gems in Japan were discussed and there

was a comprehensive discussion of cathodoluminescence and of the detection of diamond thin film coatings. Identification of filled fissures in gemstones and the chemistry of polymers were reviewed.

A talk on mining methods and material from the Argyle diamond mine was beautifully illustrated and Saturday afternoon culminated with G. Tolkowsky's absorbing presentation of the cutting of the Centenary diamond. The detailed morphologies of diamond and ruby were discussed and in both lectures techniques for distinguishing natural from synthetic were explained. The lecture on the Brazilian market was delivered to a packed house (with disappointed latecomers straining to hear from



outside!) and some of the aspects outlined could be followed up at the fair.

Intergem is held in two main halls showing a high standard of material. Commercial stones were well represented with the emphasis on fine qualities and there were good examples of blue zoisite (tanzanite), green grossular garnet (tsavorite), alexandrite, opal and tourmaline. Some of the large cut beryls on display were for museums or the wealthy collector but there were other gems such as the diopsides, moonstones or cat's-eye tourmalines more within range for the discriminating enthusiast. Objets d'art, particularly birds and animals exquisitely carved in a variety of gemstones, were this year even more numerous than usual. Most traders spoken to indicated moderate activity but it would be misleading to say business was buoyant.

Education and research in gemstones are important aspects of the work of the German Gemmological Centre and both topics were alluded to in the speech of the President, Professor Dr Hermann Bank, FGA, delivered at the Anniversary Dinner on the final evening. It was both a celebration of 60 years of gemmology and an opportunity to honour Dr G. Lenzen who for 24 years has managed the development of the Centre to its present high level. Dr Lenzen was presented with a certificate to mark his appointment to Honorary Membership of DGG to add to his Golden Pin of Honour.

Some of the pressures for change affecting the gem trade from world trade conditions were reflected in comments by Dr Bank about the need to continue research and the implied threat to its funding, but faith in the future came through in quotations such as

'the best education is to give the right example' and 'it is not bad if you sometimes do not know something, but it is very bad if what you know is already out of date'. This is a powerful incentive for gemmologists to keep 'in the swim' and enjoy the new challenges thrown up both by new discoveries and by the products of synthesis and treatments.

My thanks for contributions to this brief report go to Evelyne Stern and Eric Emms.

R.R.H.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of GAGTL was held on 30 September 1992 at 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU. A full report will appear in the January 1993 issue of *The Journal of Gemmology*.

## The History and Use of Pearls

The symposium on Pearls, organised by the Society of Jewellery Historians and attended by a truly international audience, took place on Saturday 7 November at the Scientific Society's Lecture Theatre, just off Savile Row, London W1.

Following an eloquent welcome by Nigel Israel, the proceedings began with a talk by Alan Jobbins (Lately Keeper of Gemstones, Geological Museum) on 'Pearl Varieties and Pearl Farming'. He illustrated the varieties of molluscs that produce pearls and described the characteristics of those pearls. After discussing the types of natural pearl, ranging from those produced by the giant clam to the

Scottish river pearls, he moved on to cultured pearls. As a result of his travels in the Far East, Alan was able to show slides of cultured pearl production in Japan, Thailand and elsewhere. The great variety of cultured pearl qualities and colours were pointed out, as was the use of dyeing to alter their colours. Many of the audience were surprised by the high prices of fine cultured pearls in the marketing centres in Burma.

After a brief coffee break, the programme moved on to historical aspects. Jack Ogden (Cambridge Centre for Precious Metal Research) talked about 'Pearls in Ancient Jewellery' drawing on a wide mixture of surviving pieces, documentary references and representations. There is minimal certain evidence for the use of pearls in Old World jewellery prior to the fourth century BC and they were not common until the mid-second century BC. After this period they became popular and were one of the most sought after and valuable gems in Roman and Byzantine times. This was underlined by the numerous quotes about pearls and their values taken from classical and early church authors and numerous papyrus fragments from Egypt. Imitation pearls were also a problem and recipes for their production have survived. The second historical lecture was by Ronald Lightbown (President of the Society and lately Keeper of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum) and covered 'Pearls in Medieval Jewellery'. As with ancient times, much of our evidence comes from written sources. There is little surviving evidence for extensive pearl use in Medieval Europe prior to about the 10th century, but after this time they became popular and valuable with most of the trade from the East being handled by the Italians



and the Venetians in particular. The medieval Europeans were conservative in the types of pearls they favoured, the baroque shapes so popular after the beginning of the Renaissance were scorned in earlier times and Ronald had only been able to find a single reference to a black pearl. Even pear-shapes were apparently not appreciated before the 15th century. In medieval jewellery pearls tended to play a secondary role to coloured gemstones.

After a buffet lunch, Ken Scarratt (Director of Laboratory Services at GAGTL) gave a talk entitled 'Pearl Testing'. This followed on from Alan Jobbins' discussion of pearl types and explained the methods used to distinguish the varieties of pearls and, in particular, to distinguish cultured and imitation pearls. Ken demonstrated that, with experience, the 10x lens would often allow identification, but that a variety of more complex equipment was available in other cases. Particularly important was the distinction of true natural pearls from cultured, including non-nucleated, ones. Here radiography and X-ray diffraction were important.

The programme then moved back to a more historical perspective with David Callaghan (Chairman of GAGTL) who talked about 'Pearls in Jewellery, Renaissance Onwards'. During this period the most noticeable feature was the use of pearls in other than regular shapes. Illustrating his lecture with examples ranging from Renaissance pendants through magnificent Lalique jewels to recent pieces, David showed how the shapes of pearls could now form a fundamental part of the overall form. He also discussed the common use of half-pearls in nineteenth century orna-

ment and the beautiful but now often fragmentary ornaments of minute seed pearls bound onto a mother of pearl framework that were so popular in the Late Georgian and Victoria era. Various useful tips and practical hints about looking at pearls in jewellery were also provided.

After tea, Steve Kennedy (also of GAGTL) discussed the historical importance of Bahrain in the pearl trade. Steve had been seconded to Bahrain to help set up a pearl testing laboratory and this provided the opportunity to study the history of pearl fishing there. The natural pearl market is still important in that country, cultured pearls having been banned from Bahrain since 1950. The lessening importance of the Gulf pearl fisheries from the late 1920s was only partly due to the international growth of the cultured pearl market - the combination of worldwide depression, the rapid rise of the local oil industry and the liberation of pearl divers from what was in effect indentured slavery in a very hazardous profession had also made a very great impact.

A more personal note was then added to the proceedings in a talk by Patrick Streeter about his great-grandfather - 'E.W. Streeter's Victorian Pearling Expeditions'. Edwin Streeter had a very eventful connection with gem explorations worldwide - including an early interest in South African diamonds. His pearling exploits - or at least the expeditions he organized, he didn't go on them himself - included an almost farcical attempt to profit from the Ceylon market in the 1880s by buying there, as was normal, a great quantity of unopened oysters. The problems of the horrific smell of putrefying shellfish had not been thought out in advance. His expe-

ditions further east - in Singapore, New Guinea and Northern Australia - were also not without adventures ranging from attacks by a demented *kris*-wielding crew member to poor health. On one voyage 25% of the crew died from beri beri.

The final talk of the day was by the designer Jane Sarginson and this brought the history of pearls right up to date with her account of 'Design and Manufacture of Modern Pearl Jewellery'. The various shapes, colours and lustres of pearls provide both a perfect medium and a challenge for today's designers. Jane illustrated a wide variety of ornaments by herself and by other designers which demonstrated how pearls could be incorporated: sometimes as the central focus of the piece, sometimes as subtle highlights.

The full but highly informative day was brought to a close by Nigel Israel and, after a vote of thanks by the President Ronald Lightbown, the participants left the lecture theatre no doubt agreeing with the early Christian writer Origen that 'A good pearl was delightful to behold and worthy to be celebrated'. J.M.O.

## 1992 Annual Conference

The second GAGTL Annual Conference, held on 8 and 9 November at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, London, proved to be a truly international event with delegates attending from Canada, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the USA, as well as from many European countries.

There was a relaxed atmosphere as delegates had the opportunity to meet informally between lectures,



and to examine various treated and infilled gemstones with the assistance of laboratory staff.

Lectures included 'History of Gem Treatments' and 'Thin Diamond Films' by Dr Kurt Nassau, 'Clarity Enhancement - Fracture Filling' by Ken Scarratt, 'Appraisal and Valuation' by both Terry Davidson of Cartier and Ann Dale of the USA, 'The Windsor Jewels' by David Callaghan, 'Gemstone Certification' by Ana Castro, 'Diamond Certification' by Eric Emms and 'Burma and Vietnam' by Ken Scarratt and Alan Jobbins.

A panel comprising representatives from all sections of the gemstone industry gave their views on the disclosure of fracture filling, which invoked lively discussion.

A full report of the Conference will be published in the January 1993 issue of *The Journal of Gemmology*.

## Presentation of Awards

The 1992 Presentation of Awards was held on 9 November at Goldsmiths' Hall, London. Dr Kurt Nassau presented the awards to those who had qualified in the 1992 Gem Diamond and Gemmological Examinations. Framed certificates were also awarded to the newly elected Vice Presidents, Alec Farn and David Kent.

Dr Kurt Nassau was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his work in the field of gemmology.

A full report of the Presentation of Awards and Address by Dr Kurt Nassau will be published in the January 1993 issue of *The Journal of Gemmology*.

## GLEANINGS

### Falling Standards

In the four issues of volume 1, I looked at jewellery-related patents from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For this and the next few issues the spotlight will turn to another type of documentary insight into British jewellery history during this period - that concerned with the reduction of the minimum gold standards to 18 carats in 1798 and then to 15 and 9 carats in 1854. We will start off here with the discussion revolving round the proposed reduction of standards in the 1780s and '90s.

The *Journal of the House of Commons* for 2 April 1781 records a petition of 'Goldsmiths and Toymen, Watchmakers and Casemakers, Chainmakers, small workers in gold and Chasers and other person concerned in the manufacture or vending of goldwares residing in the Cities of London and Westminster'. This petition complained of the limitation on these trades caused by the lack of any legal gold standard lower than 22 carats fine. Their disquiet was based on a combination of practical and economic considerations.

According to these craftsmen, 22 carat gold was 'considerably too soft, and thereby not only exposed to be easily bruised and injured, but will not admit to so high a polish as gold of an inferior standard'. Also, British goldsmiths were losing out on the international market, since 'the subjects of those countries are permitted, in manufactures that are made of gold, to use and employ gold of two inferior standards, whereby they are enabled to undersell the subjects of this coun-

try at all foreign markets ...'. The existing law was thus 'a ruinous obstacle of impediments', and the craftsmen urged the establishment of two new standards - 20 carat and 18 carat.

The House of Commons ordered that the petition be referred for the consideration of a committee which should report back to them. This committee's report was put before the House of Commons on 9 April 1781. After explaining the carat terminology, the report noted that the existing legal English Standard was 22 carats, that of France was 20 carats and that of the 'Republic of Geneva' was 18 carats. Various witnesses were then quoted who explained the problems involved. Practical considerations were outlined at some length. 20 carat gold would take a far better polish than 22 carat, 18 carat even better - essentially the lower the carat, the harder the metal and the better the polish. The lower purity alloys also retained their polish far better and were far less liable 'to be scratched, or to grow dull by wear'. As one witness noted, 18 carat gold 'does not lose so much of its polish in one year, as the 22 carat gold loses in one month'. Also 'in finishing and polishing gold of 22 carats fine there is much greater waste [and thus expense] of metal than in finishing or polishing of 18 carats fine'. It was noted that gold losses during manufacture and finishing amounted to around 2 pennyweights of gold per ounce with 22 carat (an astonishing 10%), just half this figure with 18 carat.

'The hardness and elasticity' of 18 carat gold was much superior to that of 22 carats fine, this permit-



ted the use of far thinner, and thus lighter but no less strong, components and also allowed an improvement in 'sharpness and beauty of workmanship'. This had an important bearing on engine turning, then becoming popular, which was ideal for 18 carat gold but could not be carried out 'near as fine, neat, sharp or beautiful, in point of workmanship' on 22 carat.

Goldwork could thus be produced more cheaply, be stronger and more durable, accept the highly desirable engine turning better and take a better and longer lasting polish if Parliament would only allow a lower standard. This would let the British goldsmiths compete on more equal terms in the international market and they would no longer have to turn down orders from other parts of Europe and even America.

We might expect that the colours of the lower standard alloys would have been an argument against them, but no, as one

witness assured the committee, 'The colour of the Geneva and French gold is superior to that of ours; and that the generality of his customers did prefer the Geneva and French gold to English gold, in point of beauty'. Apparently the only positive attribute of 22 carat gold was that it was better for enamelling.

Thomas Jeffreys, a goldsmith in Cockspur Street, London, summed up the goldsmiths' feelings - 'It would be highly advantageous to the persons concerned in vending, as well as those concerned in manufacturing, goldwares, if the prayer of the goldsmiths' petition were complied with by Parliament'.

The Bill to permit lower standards was given its first reading in the House of Commons on 30 April 1781, but failed at its 3rd reading on 30 May 1781. After another unsatisfactory attempt to pass the bill in 1797, the Bill 'Allowing goldwares to be manufactured at a standard lower than

now is allowed by law' finally passed unopposed through Parliament in the Summer of 1798. It received Royal assent on the 21 June 1798 and the Statute book records 'That, from and after the first day of October 1798, it shall be lawful for any goldsmith, or other person making, trading or dealing in goldwares in Great Britain, to work or make, of the standard of 18 carats of fine gold in every pound weight Troy, and to sell, exchange, or expose to sale or export out of this Kingdom, any gold vessel, plate or manufacture of gold whatsoever, of the standard of 18 carats of gold in every pound weight Troy ....'.

In the next issue we will move on half a century and look at the discussions regarding the even more drastic drop to 9 carat - and listen (often with a remarkable sense of *déjà vu*) to the eloquent reasons justifying such a downward, if not backward, step.

J.M.O.

## MUSEUM NEWS

### 20th Century Jewellery at the National Museums of Scotland: Acquisitions Update

In 1990 a brief note was published in the *Society of Jewellery Historians Bulletin* (a predecessor of *Gem & Jewellery News*) on the 20th century jewellery collections in the National Museums of Scotland, together with a list of acquisitions made from 1988 to early 1990. The collection has grown considerably since then, and an update seems timely.

Two major collections have been incorporated into the national

collections during the last two years. One was an unusual bequest consisting of several hundred items of popular costume jewellery collected over three decades. The collector, Miss Eileen Crowford, was a typist who lived in Edinburgh all her life but travelled extensively on exotic package holidays. She never wore her jewellery but stored and displayed it with a curator's care all round her tiny flat. Every item of her income and expenditure was recorded in detailed accounts and diaries kept from 1939 onwards: a unique record of her extraordinary life and collecting history. This remarkable lady and her bequest was presented to the public in a temporary exhibition called 'Miss Crowford

Collects ...'; selected items from her collection are now on permanent display.

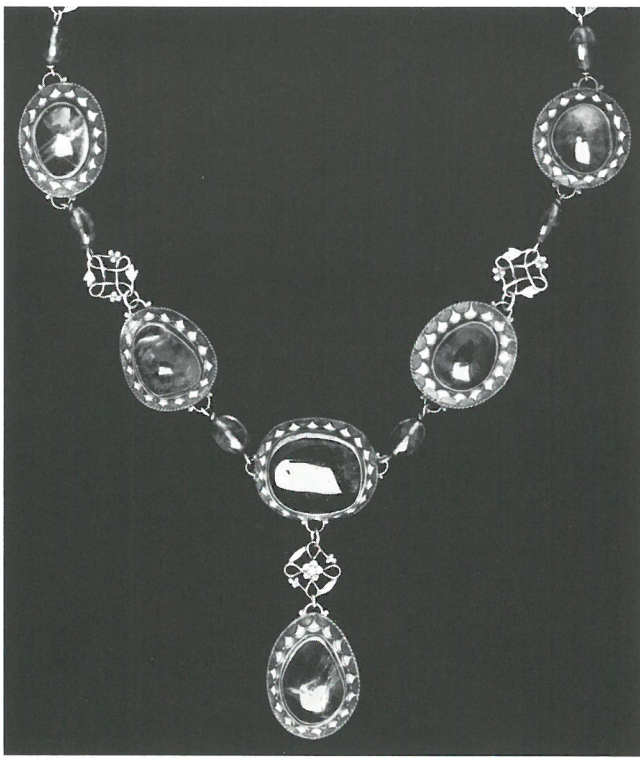
The second collection was built up by the Crafts Division of the Scottish Development Agency during the 1980s. The collection toured all over Britain and abroad, promoting and marketing the work of Scotland's best craftsmen. The Crafts Division was sadly closed in March 1991, and the entire collection (which includes many fine examples of Scottish jewellery made between 1978 and 1988) was transferred to the National Museums.

Nearly fifty other individual items of jewellery have been added in the last two years, from



Britain and abroad. The following selection aims to give an idea of the range of the material:

necklace and bracelet, silver and rock crystal, Danish, by Torun Bulow-Hube for Georg Jensen, 1960s; ring set for Picasso's 'Lady sitting in a window', nickel alloy stand with silver, agate and enamel rings, British, by Wendy Ramshaw, 1989; sea-horse necklace, gold, rubies and pearls, British, by Sah Oved, about 1940; necklace and pendant, silver, rock crystal, moonstones, coral, pearls, by H.G. Murphy, British, 1920s; set of eight brooches depicting the Beatles characters from the film 'Yellow Submarine', Korean, 1968; brooch, acrylic, steel and nickel, Austrian, by Fritz Maierhofer, 1973; brooch, gold, Italian, by Giampaolo Babetto, 1976; ring, gold and ebony, Italian, by Diego Piazza, 1978; watch, gold and silver, German, by Becker Design, 1990; pendant necklace, gold and citrine, French, by Pierre Cardin, late 1950s/mid 1960s; waist buckle, silver and enamel, Austrian, by Koloman Moser, about 1900; brooch, silver and gold, German, by Herman Jünger, 1972; pendant, gold, French, designed by Pablo Picasso, late 1940s/early 1950s; pendant, gold, French, designed by Jean Cocteau, 1950s; necklace, gilt



Silver, amethyst and enamel necklace by Arthur and Georgie Gaskin, about 1910. Apparently in the colours of the Suffragette movement; purple (amethyst), white and green (enamel). Photo by courtesy of the National Museums of Scotland.

bronze, glass, imitation pearls, French, by Chanel, 1945-8; ring, gold, shell and diamonds, British, by Jacqueline Mina, 1973; ring, gold, pink tourmaline and diamonds, British, by Frances Beck, 1969; pendant, gold, enamel and moonstones, on silver-gilt neck-chain, French, designed by Georges Braque, 1960s; necklace, silver, amethysts and enamel, in the colours of the suffragette movement (?), British, by Arthur and Georgie Gaskin, about 1910; brooch, brass, wood, steel, plastic and silk, Spanish, by Marta Breis, 1992; brooch, silver, nickel silver, Spanish, by Ramon Puig Cuyas, 1992; brooch, silver, bronze, Spanish, by Xavier Domenech, 1991; brooch, white metal, yellow metal, stainless steel, German,

by Elisabeth Holder, 1991; necklace, gold, moonstones and opals, British, by Edward Spencer for the Artificers' Guild, about 1905.

There is a permanent display of 20th century jewellery adjacent to the costume gallery on the first floor of the Royal Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street. Further items from the collection will be incorporated in a new display, *European Decorative Art, 1850 to the present day*, due to open in the same building in early 1993.

*Elizabeth Goring,  
National Museums of  
Scotland.*

## A New Gallery in Preparation at The British Museum

Major building works are being carried out which necessitate the closure of the galleries adjacent to Room 46. These include Clocks and Watches and the Waddesdon Bequest (rooms 44-45). The Hull Grundy Gift of Jewellery and the 19th and 20th century collections (rooms 47-48) will also close from January 1993 to Spring 1994. Members with enquiries relating to these collections should contact Dr Dora Thornton (Renaissance collections, Waddesdon Bequest) or Judy Rudoe (Hull Grundy Gift, engraved gems and post-Renaissance collections).



During September/October Alan Jobbins and Ken Scarratt of GAGTL and Edward Gübelin and Adolf Peretti of the Gübelin Laboratory spent five weeks visiting new gemstone deposits in south east Asia at the invitation of Henry Ho of the Jewelry Trade Center in Bangkok.

The ruby deposits at Luc Yen in north Vietnam were visited first. Here the deposits are essentially alluvial, the BH Mining Co. exploiting concessions along a river valley. The rubies are associated with limestones and pegmatites, but the associated alluvial deposits are the main source of gemstones. In the small river valleys in the mountains surrounding the main concession thousands of freelance miners are panning for gemstones and many of these find their way to the morning market in the centre of Luc Yen. A second important source of rubies is at Quy Chau, north west of Vinh, where the rubies are recovered from beneath a thick whitish clay. Torrential rains and flooding prevented inspection of the deposit.

In central and southern Vietnam there are extensive plateaux formed by basalt lava flows, and the weathering of these lavas provides many sapphires. We stayed in the hill town of Dalat and from there visited a small sapphire working in Lam Dong province. The operation was fairly simple, but did include a mechanical digger and a very basic concentration plant. In the nearby rivers many local people were panning for the dark blue sapphires characteristic of lava deposits.

In contrast to the Vietnamese deposits we also saw the extensive sapphire workings in the wide flat

valleys around Bo Ploi in western Thailand, which are comprehen-

## A Taste of New Gem Deposits in South East Asia

sively mechanized with up to 60 feet of overburden requiring removal before the sapphire-bearing gravels are uncovered. Enormous volumes of overburden and gem gravel are moved by fleets of lorries before the dark blue sapphires are won. Most of the material is heat treated to improve the colour.



12-rayed star sapphire from the Chanaburi area, Thailand.

The biggest contrasts are to be found in the Mogok area of Myanmar (Burma). Here the traditional methods of working are still extant but they are restricted in the depths to which they can work due to water problems. However, changes are taking place in at least two ways. The State Gem Enterprise is now operating underground primary mines where the rubies are found in situ in a melange of marble, diopside-marble and altered gneiss. In contrast, in the mine at Thurintaung, sapphires are found in a spectacular syenitic rock composed of white

feldspar, dark phlogopite mica and bright blue sapphire. A very attractive sapphire of 4.90 ct from this mine was offered at the Gem Emporium at Yangon (Rangoon) in early

October.

Sapphires are also produced from an open pit mine at Kyankpyatthat in the Mogok Stone Tract. In an area of hills, valleys and steep gradients it is possible to mobilize a considerable cover of overburden by using high pressure water jets, move it as a slurry to concentration plants, extract the gems and then guide the waste sludge through specially constructed tunnels to lower down the valley where it can be dumped. The energy saving - water hose vs. mechanical diggers and lorries - is considerable, but is only possible in areas of marked relief. Two sapphires from Kyankpyatthat of around 50 ct each were offered at the Gem Emporium. Many of these newer projects at Mogok are joint ventures between government agencies and the private sector. Other interesting developments in Myanmar include the recovery of diamonds (possibly from a secondary conglomerate source) north of Mogok and their cutting in Yangon, and a new ruby deposit at Mine Shu between Mogok and the Thai border.

It was hoped to visit the Burmese pearl farms at Mergui, but this was not possible. Instead we visited pearl farms near Phuket in southern Thailand. Here large cultured pearls are grown in *Pinctada maxima* shells and Mabe pearls cultured in the wing oyster *Pteria penquin*.

Altogether a very informative and enjoyable visit. E.A.J.



## Miscellany

I have now examined a cut specimen of transparent green zoisite as I mentioned in the last issue. The stone, which has a slight colour-change between a yellowish- and a bluish-green (this is not uncommon in any coloured stone) is bright and attractive with a hint of chrome green at certain angles. Speaking to the supplier in California, I was told that the green stones were found in one small part of the mine and that only one find was made, the occurrence pinching out. Such accounts are common in gem mining and it

may be that in many cases it proves more profitable to follow the main colour sought. In this case, however, the green stones are attractive enough to make pursuit worthwhile so that their scarcity seems to be assured.

The green stones were found in early 1991 in the Merelani Hills of Tanzania. Authors Barot and Boehm of the paper in *Gems and Gemology* Spring 1992 state that about 1,000 grams of the green material have come on to the market; this would produce approximately 500-800 faceted stones. Most properties of the green stones fall into the established range for tanzanite though some stones

showed a weak to moderate chromium spectrum - this may not be seen with a hand spectroscope, according to the authors. Most of the green stones have not been heat treated and liquid inclusions are found, forming characteristic fingerprint formations. Black crystals tentatively identified as graphite and some 2- and 3-phase inclusions are also found. Some vanadium as well as chromium is reported.

The green variety of transparent zoisite will be known as green zoisite despite several suggestions put forward for varietal names (I will not add to nomenclature problems by publishing them!). M.O'D.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Antwerp - Cultural Capital of Europe

In 1993 Antwerp will become the proud holder of the Cultural Capital of Europe title. During this period the Diamond High Council, the official representative and professional co-ordinating body of the Belgian diamond trade and industry, will be holding a 'brilliant' programme of events marking Antwerp as the Diamond Capital.

For more information about the programme, venues and dates, please contact: ANTWERP 93 vzw, Grote Markt 27-29, B-2000, Antwerpen I, Belgium. Tel. 32/3/234.11.88 or fax 32/3/226.15.55

### 1993 Gemboree, Alice Springs

At Easter in 1993 the GEMBOREE will be held in Alice Springs for the first time and a lot of tour groups including some from New Zealand and America are expected. Besides the four day Gemboree there is excellent fossicking in the neighbouring Harts Ranges where beryl, garnet, kyanite, tourmaline, moonstone and sunstone can be found. Mud Tank, also in the Harts Range, has been the source of some of the world's largest zircons and there is a caravan park there. A Northern Territory Miners' Right allows digging there - why not by you?

Any enquiries about the Alice Springs Gemboree can be sent to 1993 Gemboree Committee, P.O. Box 2965, Alice Springs, N.T. 0871, Australia.

### Asia Expo '93

8 - 11 May 1993

Hamburg Fairground, Germany

For details write to Headway Trade Fairs Ltd., 907 Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Road, Hong Kong.

### 1993 ICA Congress in Israel

20 - 25 June 1993

Tel Aviv Hilton, Tel Aviv, Israel

The 1993 ICA Congress will be hosted by the Israel Precious Stone and Diamond Exchange and the Israel Emerald Cutters Association. Members of these associations will also be invited to attend the Congress.

The Congress will include the third ICA Intertrade Auction on 24 June 1993. The Intertrade Auction, which was held in 1989 in Sri Lanka and in 1991 in Hawaii, is the first international auction exclusively for wholesalers. A percentage of the sales goes to fund ICA gemstone promotion around the world, and the auction will once again be conducted by John Block, Senior Vice-President of Sotheby's in New York.

The year of 1993 will be the tenth anniversary of the birth of the idea of ICA at the First International Precious Stones Congress which was held in Tel Aviv in 1983, and during those ten years, ICA has grown to 700 members from 37 countries.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Stone Man Goes North

Dear Sirs

I had a call from Ken Scarratt back in April '91. He told me that GAGTL was plotting its fixtures for upcoming GA meetings and would I mind giving a talk on emeralds.

'When?' I asked.

'16 September 1992' he said.

'I've never given a speech in my life!' I responded.

'Don't worry' he replied; 'it will be in Liverpool for our North West Branch - they're a friendly lot up there and anyway, I'll be up there with you to hold your hand and field any tricky questions'.

I thought about it for but a moment - September 1992 was 18 months away and with the Director of the Gem Laboratory by my side what could go wrong? I hadn't been to Liverpool since the Beatles were playing in the Cavern and the idea of having a drink or two after the meeting with my old mate Ken, seemed appealing - so I said OK.

And that was that. Until returning from a trip to the States on 5 September when checking my diary and seeing the entry '16 September - Liverpool' my stomach flipped. I reached for the 'phone to call the Laboratory and the conversation went like this:

'Ken?'

'Yes'.

'I've just checked my diary and I see we're giving a talk in Liverpool next week'.

Pause .....

'I hate to tell you this, Adrian, but you're giving a talk in Liverpool next week'.

'Uhh?'

'Sorry, old man, but I have to go off to South East Asia to examine some new ruby deposits - so you're going to have to go it alone... sorry'.

After a few choice expletive deletives I shot around to the Laboratory where Ken calmed me down and sent me away armed with several heavy reference books and about a thousand slides of emerald mines, etc.

Spending the ensuing week furiously swotting up on my gemmology and writing my piece took my mind off the parlous state of the business.

Anyway, I was as ready as I could be when I arrived in Liverpool to be greeted by the secretary of the North Western Branch, Mr Joe Azzopardi. He immediately put me at my ease and introduced me to Mrs Irene Knight, the North Western Branch Chairperson. I knew then, from the warm reception they gave me, that the evening would be a success - and it was.

It was a small but enthusiastic audience and when I explained that this was my first presentation - they treated me gently.

A delightful evening.

So - you fellows in the Trade - if GAGTL asks you to give a talk and it's your first effort, insist on Liverpool - it's the best way to enter the lecture circuit!

Yours etc.,

**Adrian H. Klein**

A. Freeman (Precious Stones) Ltd  
Minerva House, 26/27 Hatton  
Garden London EC1N 8BR

17 September 1992

### Possibility of Gemmology Courses in Dublin, Ireland?

Dear Sirs

For two or three years now, I have been trying to set up a (part-time) course in gemmology in a centre in Dublin.

Since the Departments of

Geology at Trinity College Dublin and at University College Dublin are uninterested in gemmology (no one seems to have heard of it!) I have approached the City of Dublin Vocational Educational Committee College of Technology at Kevin Street, Dublin 8. Dr J. Taaffe and Dr M. Hussey expressed some interest in a course for aspiring gemmologists - run on a modular basis, say two days (afternoons) or nights per week. However, I would need to know if the jewellery trade in Ireland (Eire) or Northern Ireland would have any interest in such a centre in Ireland? Of course, gemstones, instruments, etc., would need to be available for students' use in first and especially second year and close contact with GAGTL in London would need to be maintained.

I have tried to set up an Irish branch of the Gemmological Association in Dublin to cover both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. Of the (then) 15 qualified gemmologists in Ireland as a whole, only one replied. Come on - there is a real need to keep in touch and a crying need for proper staff training here!

There is now a course available at University College Dublin entitled 'Gems & Jewellery' course no. 1324 - arranged by the writer. This course aims to give an insight into the world of gemstones used in jewellery and the care of gemstone-set items of jewellery. Course fee £5.00. Contact Department of Adult Education Administrator, Kevin Hurley, Extra Mural Studies, UCD, Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

Yours etc.,

**G.F. O'Grady, FGA**

7 Rathfarnham Road Terenure,  
Dublin 6W

Telephone: Dublin (01) 909778.



## One Hundred Years Ago .....

### A SEASONAL NOTE C.R. Ashbee on the Errors of Modern Jewellery

On 15 December 1892, C.R. Ashbee gave a lecture to the Birmingham Guild of Handicraft. Having outlined the fundamental principles of design, the importance of purpose and the use of colour, he described some of the errors of modern jewellery.

'The first, he thought, was its vulgarity. The second was that it went in for effects that were inap-

plicable to the material in which it was executed ... The third error was a very common one, and that was that the design was imitative; we had horseshoes, and whips, and tennis racquets, birds pierced through with darts, letters with the corners turned up, and so on. The lecturer handed round a scarf pin, the head of which consisted of a miniature representation of a crumpled Christmas card. This, he said, was an example of imitativeness in its worst degree.' (from *The Jeweller and Metalworker*, 1 January 1893).

Submitted by Judy Rudoe

## COMPETITION

### CHRISTMAS PRIZE COMPETITION

Here is something to exercise the brain while the stomach is dealing with the turkey.

In 1850 a London goldsmith bought 15 pennyweights of pure gold and 15 pennyweights of pure silver. He alloyed sufficient of these two metals to give him 10 pennyweights of 18 carat gold - to make a wedding ring for a particular customer who was getting married that year. The goldsmith took the remaining gold and silver, melted it into a little ingot and put it into his safe.

After a certain time had passed, the goldsmith bought another 15 pennyweights of pure gold and 15 pennyweights of pure silver and alloyed enough of these two metals to provide him with the 15 pennyweights of 15 carat gold that he needed to make a wedding anniversary present for the same customer - a pretty little hall-marked pendant. Once again, he melted together the left-over gold and silver and put the resulting little ingot into his safe.

Three more years passed until

the same customer visited the goldsmith again and ordered another wedding anniversary present for his wife. This time the goldsmith took the two ingots mentioned above out of his safe, melted them together and used this gold to make a fine necklet for the customer which was to be set with gemstones - one for each year that the couple had been married.

'I can't remember', said the goldsmith, 'have you been married for 6 or 7 years now?'. Well, assuming it was one or the other, how many gems were set in the necklet, six or seven? Also, what carat gold was the necklet?

Answers, giving reasoning, should be sent, as usual, to Jack Ogden at GAGTL. Correct answers received before 14 February will be put into a draw, with a prize for the first correct answer. A statement elsewhere in this *Newsletter* might provide a hint, if you need one!

Explanations and the names of the winners in the next issue.

J.M.O.

## Answers to the Competition in the last issue

I shall try to sum up the problem simply. There are two high-class jewellery shops in a town. For reasons not worth repeating, a ridiculous will made it worth while for each of the owners to try to ensure that his or her shop did less business than its competition over a one year period. Unfortunately, this is to the detriment of the staff (perhaps on commission) who thus, via a wise clockmaker, came up with a simple suggestion that not only helped the owners' interests but actually maximised the business done by each shop. The question was, what was the clockmaker's suggestion?

The answers not only came from far and wide, but also varied. One solution is that the owners could run each other's shop for the year. This was proposed by several correspondents including that veteran of this column, G.M.A. McChlery of Glasgow. Of course, staff loyalty could count against this - the staff would be torn between helping themselves or helping their true owner. An alternative suggestion - offered by several correspondents - was that the staff should simply switch shops for the year. Thus by working very hard (and helping themselves) in the rival shop, they would actually be doing their best to ensure that their real boss would inherit. As R.I. McKay of Hatton Garden notes, the promise of a bonus wouldn't hurt.

My more devious correspondent, Jasper Dopstick, felt that the clockmaker was not wise at all. In his view, the staff of the two shops should simply have joined forces and opened a third jewellery shop in the town. With a comprehensive combined address list, and the owners of the original two shops vying to do as little trade as possible, the entrepreneurial staff would be in an enviable position to establish a fine new business. (Jasper even suggested that the staff might have got together and faked the will, but that is taking it too far!).



# What's on

## Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

### London

Throughout 1993 there will be a programme of meetings on the second floor at 27 Greville Street.

Refreshments will be available from 6.00 p.m. and we plan to start the lectures at 6.30 p.m.; these will be followed by discussion at 7.15 p.m., and closing about 7.45 p.m. The charge for a member will be £3.50 and, since places are limited to 55, entry will be by ticket only, obtainable from GAGTL.

The programme until May is as follows:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 25 January  | 'Gems of Pakistan'. M.J. O'Donoghue                           |
| 8 February  | 'Emeralds in the Laboratory'. Ana I. Castro & Stephen Kennedy |
| 24 February | 'New Gem Testing Instruments'. Peter Read                     |
| 8 March     | 'Colour in Diamonds'. Dr Alan Collins                         |
| 31 March    | 'From the Gem to the Jewel'. David Callaghan                  |
| 14 April    | 'Fluorescence Effects in Gemstones'. Dr Jamie Nelson          |
| 27 April    | 'Rubies in the Laboratory'. Ana I. Castro & Stephen Kennedy   |
| 11 May      | 'Engraved Gems'. Christopher Cavey                            |

### Midlands Branch

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 27 January  | 'Fossicking in Wales'. Edgar Taylor                      |
| 26 February | 'The Art of Engraver'. Robert Campbell-Legg              |
| 26 March    | 'Crystal Healing'. Peggy Stock                           |
| 30 April    | Annual General Meeting followed by a gem collection talk |

Meetings will be held at Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Further details from Gwyn Green on 021-445 5359.

### North West Branch

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 20 January  | 'Mines and mineral deposits of South Africa'. David Pelham |
| 17 February | Video viewing 'Gemstones of America'.                      |

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 17 March | 'Cameos and intaglios in antique jewellery'. Richard Digby  |
| 19 May   | 'Lalique jewels from the 1992 Paris Exhibition'. Dr J. Franks                                       |
| 16 June  | Members and friends evening. Bring and Buy: crystals, books and instruments, and exchange of views. |
- Meetings will be held at Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. Further details from Joe Azzopardi on 0270-628251.

## Society of Jewellery Historians

Unless otherwise noted, all Society of Jewellery Historians lectures are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1 and start at 6.00 p.m. sharp. Lectures are followed by an informal reception with wine. Members are welcome to bring guests to lectures. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday<br>27 January | Oleg Neverov, Curator of Classical Art at Hermitage, will speak on the Museum's collection of Classical Engraved Gems.<br><br>Please note that this lecture will be delivered in French. |
| Friday<br>5 February    | Annelies Krekel-Aalberse will speak on Dutch Jewellery of the early 20th century; a revolution in design.<br><br>The Society's AGM will precede the lecture.                             |
| Monday<br>19 April      | Jacqueline Mina will give a lecture devoted to her own work entitled 'A continuing fascination with precious metals'.  |
| Monday<br>24 May        | Diana Scarisbrick, FSA, will speak on 'Jewels in Britain 1066-1837', the subject of her recently published book.   |
| Monday<br>28 June       | Charles Truman, FSA, will give a lecture on the Gilbert Collection of gold boxes; he has recently catalogued the collection in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.                     |