

Gem & Jewellery News

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DIAMONDS

World producer sources

Robin Walker of the Central Selling Organisation's Marketing Liaison Department opened the 1994 programme of GAGTL members' lectures in London with a 'tour d'horizon' of the various diamond producer sources worldwide, from their earliest historical discoveries up to the present day. He highlighted the different types of recovery and gave

a general overview of developments in each major producing country.

The largest volume producer is Australia and of the 40 million carats produced there in 1992 39 million carats came

from the Argyle Mine

alone, of which some 5 per cent is classified as gem, 45 per cent as cuttable and the balance as industrial material. A few rare and exceptional gem-quality pinks have been found at Argyle. Exploration continues both in Western and Northern Australia but there has been no new significant diamond find since Argyle was discovered nearly 15 years ago.

The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia, Siberia) currently yields virtually all of Russia's production; output remains significant, notwithstanding the challenges posed by nature, where

temperatures can fall to as low as -60°C in winter. The new Jubilee mine is anticipated to sustain production levels though its commissioning date remains uncertain. At the western end of Russia, 100km north-east of Archangel, evaluation for any possible development at a cluster of kimberlite pipes known as the Lomonosov diamond province

continues. Prospecting activity is to be extended to the region of Karelia, adjacent to the Finnish border.

Botswana is one of the most important world producers. Its three mines, namely Orapa, Letlhakane

and Jwaneng, are run by the Debswana Diamond Company ('Debswana'), a joint venture between the Government of Botswana and De Beers. When Jwaneng came on stream in 1982 it was considered the most important kimberlite pipe discovered anywhere in the world since the original discoveries in Kimberley, over a century earlier. Two features of the Jwaneng mine are unusual in that it produces a proportion of gem-quality cubes and diamonds with green surface staining.

South Africa combines a historic past with promising new developments for

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the future. Kimberley, the old centre of diamonds, is in its final phases of underground development and the three remaining mines will have completed their working lives by the end of the millenium. At Venetia close to the border with Botswana and Zimbabwe, however, a major new diamond mine is now in production; specific attention went into the ecological and environmental aspects of Venetia's planning, including an 86 000 acre conservation area around the mine for endangered wildlife species.

The rough seas off the Namibian coast pose a constant challenge to the new technology of recovering diamonds from the sea bed. It is De Beers' first offshore mine and specialist vessels are employed in exploration and recovery. Again, De Beers is conscious of environmental issues and marine biologists are consulted before extraction is undertaken.

Official production from the Endiama concessions in the north-east of Angola was badly affected with the resumption of the civil war at the end of 1992. Prior to this, in mid-1992, there had been a serious outbreak of illicit

Cont. on p.20 col. 1



The Jwaneng Mine, Botswana, producer of fine quality diamonds including gem cubes and green-skinned stones.

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EDITORIAL

Coincidences are so common in life that from time to time theories have been advanced seeking to explain them. In this issue of *GJN* we have a survey of diamond producer sources heading the text: as a counter to this picture I offer a note on the history of diamond synthesis, ably covered by Robert M. Hazen's book *The new alchemists: breaking through the barriers of high pressure* (Times Books, New York, 1993). Reviews may be found elsewhere but many readers, including those in the diamond trade, may not realize how advanced the process of gem-quality diamond manufacture now is. There has been no technical reason for the non-production of synthetic gem diamond on a large scale for some years now; it is the commercial conditions which prevent this. Even the problem of high pressure may not always trouble the experimenter since, with developments in chemical vapour deposition techniques, it may be possible in a few years to grow sizeable diamond crystals at sub-atmospheric pressure. As Hazen says 'easily cooled diamond-coated integrated circuits may be only a few years away ... lifetime razor blades, scratch-proof lenses ... crash-proof computer disks could become everyday objects of the twenty-first century'.

With such speed in development, commercial diamond interests will need to look to the tone their advertising will have to take when synthetic diamonds are available comparatively cheaply. They will not be all that cheap and it is more than likely that the buying public will continue to want natural stones, as they do with emerald and ruby, but the critical area will be in the quantity of man-made stones made available. If quantities are very large the advertising momentum may be hard to resist so that new angles will be needed to attract public imagination.

It is here that gemmological techniques may play a part in commerce to a far greater extent than they have until now. While the public, by and large, know about synthetic rubies and emeralds and jewellers have recourse to laboratory testing, the advent of synthetic diamond will place great strain on both retailer and laboratory. Some strain may be relieved by greater coverage given in the media to the role of gem testing which has never been adequately publicized. The time for consideration of future moves in this direction is now.

There are also changes in the composition of the jewellery-buying public. Employment in secure jobs is probably becoming a feature of the past and may rarely be seen again over so wide a social spectrum. It is hard to see where the impetus for purchasing expensive natural stones will come from. Prizes for working out the relative demand for natural and synthetic diamonds over the next fifty years are not yet on offer!

M.O'D.

AROUND THE TRADE

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

For many years the jewellery trade has acted in a hierarchical system and roughly the chain has run:

Miners
(Rough stone dealers)
Cutters
Stone dealers
Manufacturing jewellers
Jewellery wholesalers
Retailers.

Most people in the jewellery trade fitted into only one of these categories and dealt only with those in the chain directly adjacent to or in their own part of the chain. Thus, a stone dealer would generally deal with a stone cutter, buying his stones from him and sell to a manufacturing jeweller.

Until recently stone dealers adhered to this chain, and would consider it unethical to jump a link. Thus, if a retailer called them for a stone, they would not sell directly but rather refer him to one of the manufacturers they supplied.

In recent years this chain has begun to break down. In this country it began with the Italian shell cameo cutters bypassing the stone dealers and selling directly to manufacturers. This was followed by stone cutters from Europe selling their wares to the dealers and later on the same trip going to the manufacturers. This sequence soon changed with a visit to the manufacturer first and only then going to the stone dealers.

The stone dealers tried to boycott these cutters, arguing that it was pointless buying from them as they would then sell at the same price to the manufacturers. The cutters responded by saying that they had different price structures for dealers and manufacturers, and that they left margins for the dealers to enable them to deal with their own customers. When dealers found that the cutters were not differentiating in their prices, and even at times selling their stones

at cheaper prices to the manufacturers, the cutters responded that the manufacturers were buying larger quantities than the stone dealers.

At about this time manufacturers began to try to bypass the stone dealers and become importers of stones, again in the name of cost cutting. This led to the cutters being able to argue that they had not solicited the business, but were independently approached and could

Business ethics: breaking the chain

not turn the business away. The situation, at times, became farcical. The cutters would beg the manufacturers not to reveal to the stone dealers that they were supplying them and the manufacturers, lost in the maze of import procedures and documentation, would in desperation phone a body like the British Jewellers' Association (BJA) only to be given the number of a stone dealer for help.

The conflict continued. Dealers brought pressure on trade publications not to advertise events like Intergem, a fair of German stone cutters, which appealed to the whole spectrum of the jewellery trade for business. Throughout all this, to their credit, some dealers still tried to adhere to the ethical code of not jumping links in the chain. They would still not deal directly with retailers or members of the general public. They tried to call trade meetings to address this problem, and to modify or release them from the code they were still upholding.

Other breaks in the chain began to occur. One of the first groups to suffer on a massive scale were the wholesalers. Manufacturers began to

deal directly with retailers and retail chains. And as the retail chains became bigger, they in turn would work only with manufacturers and some even began to supply the manufacturers with diamonds and other loose stones that they themselves had imported.

The chain is now under threat in other areas. De Beers, through the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), still only sell rough diamonds to their sight holders, whose role is to be cutters and polishers of diamonds only. But for some time sight holders have acted in part as rough diamond dealers, passing on some of the rough which they are unable to absorb in their own cutting factories to other smaller diamond cutters, who are not sight holders. However, the hierarchical chain is not really broken. But will the system survive if sight holders who claim that they are unable to sell all their polished diamonds are forced to become jewellery manufacturers?

Further, what is to stop large retail jewellers from becoming in-house manufacturers who set up their own cutting and polishing factories? The attempts to remove links in the chain are now occurring in both directions.

Such problems now occur in other trades. In America we now have outlets which sell known brands at wholesale prices; in most cases they claim that they have to remove the brand label, but the article sold is the genuine product. However, it is still very difficult for a member of the public to bypass a Marks and Spencer or a Gucci. But how easy it has become for the public to approach a manufacturer or even a stone dealer to copy a piece of jewellery they have seen and tried on in a retail jewellery shop.

The chain has broken down in other ways too. Some British

jewellery manufacturers have now become in effect wholesalers importing their wares from Italy or the Far East. The question arises as to whether they should be allowed into associations such as the BJA which promotes British industry.

Jobs and skills are being lost in the jewellery industry both here and abroad through the breaking down of this chain. Is this being done with the object of reducing prices to the customer, or with increasing the operator's margins?

H.L.

Diamonds

Continued from p.17

mining. Although this had posed a threat to the stability of the market at the time, it was averted through open market intervention by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO). Angola is potentially an important producer, whose capacity is being disrupted through the ongoing civil war.

Summarizing activities in the other African countries, Robin Walker then commented on Brazil, China and India, before concluding with the newest country to enter the flurry of exploration activity, Canada. Millions of acres of claims across parts of Canada have been pegged by companies both large and small, with the main attention currently being concentrated on the Lac de Gras area in the Northwest Territories. Here bulk sample testing is under way on a well publicized prospect.

He also explained the very significant financial and material resources that went into prospecting and exploration and subsequently the considerable rarity of finding a major viable diamond deposit. Of the many thousands of kimberlite occurrences only 3 per cent have been worth mining on a small scale and fewer than 1 per cent could be regarded as significant producers.

Robin Walker also gave insights into the surprising variety of rough diamonds found in nature. No two sources are identical - indeed no two diamonds are the same.

Hallmarking

The role of Trading Standards Officers

Following recent articles in *GJN*, I would like to outline some thoughts that are relevant to current activity in this field.

The Hallmarking Act 1973 places a specific duty on what it calls 'local weights and measures authorities' to enforce its provisions and this enforcement within local authorities falls to trading standard personnel. The Act fits comfortably with the hundreds of other pieces of legislation enforced by Trading Standards Officers which all, in general, aim to regulate the market place to the benefit of consumers and reputable businesses. Just as food law lays down certain minimum standards for the composition of certain goods, so the Hallmarking Act lays down certain minimum fineness levels for precious metals.

In addition, the Hallmarking Act requires potential customers to be informed as to what hallmarks mean. An obligation is placed (section 11) on dealers who must display a notice enabling customers to understand what hallmarks mean so that customers can interpret for themselves the hallmarking on goods for sale.

Trading Standards Officers undertake spot checks on retailers, antique fairs, flea markets and mail order schemes. These inspections are to verify compliance with the

Hallmarking Act, i.e. that notices are displayed and that goods are hallmarked as required. Officers will, of course, carry identification and will comply with any reasonable request regarding security. However, appointments will not generally be made; visits will be unannounced for obvious reasons.

Visits will also in all probability involve checks under other legislation such as the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and the Weights and Measures Act 1985.

Officers have (under section 9) similar powers of entry to premises and seizure of goods and documents as the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Obstruction of Officers constitutes an offence.

Officers may purchase items in order to further check compliance either using their own laboratory facilities or one of the Assay houses.

Contravention of any of the provisions of the Hallmarking Act could result in prosecution by the local authority. Although such prosecutions are comparatively few in number compared to, say, those under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, the potential penalties are severe. Section 6 which deals with counterfeiting of hallmarks provides for a ten year prison sentence, making it an arrestable offence.

R V Wright

Chairman, Quality Standards Committee, Institute of Trading Standards Administration

NAG

Chief Executive appointed

The National Association of Goldsmiths is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Michael Sanderson as Chief Executive of the Association with effect from 1 March 1994. Dr Sanderson, who has had a distinguished career in the academic world and in industry, has also been nominated as the next Secretary General of CIBJO, the international confederation that represents all sides of the jewellery industry.

Dr Sanderson was Chief Executive of the British Standards Institution (BSI) until June 1993. He was a member of the Executive Board of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and represented the European Standards Organisations (CEN) on the Joint President's Group of European Standards Bodies.

Dr Sanderson sits on the Council of both the Institute of Materials and the Institute of Logistics.

EDUCATION

London Diploma Programme

Following the success of the Gem Diamond evening class in attracting a full house at its October start last year, GAGTL Education has added the **Diploma in Gemmology** to its in-house course programme. In an expanded Gem Tutorial Centre on the second and fourth floors at Greville

Street, students can complete their Diploma in Gemmology course in only nine months using our full tutorial and practical facilities every Monday and Friday. With two full days of top-quality tuition each week for thirty weeks, the Preliminary exam in January and the Diploma exam in

June, course notes, membership and basic gem testing kit provided, this new course will provide the opportunity to gain FGA Membership at maximum efficiency.

We are making life easier for evening class students, too: our new concept is the **Accelerated Evening Class** in which the Diploma in Gemmology can be achieved in a year and a half. Starting early in

GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre

6 April

Preliminary workshop

A day of practical tuition for Preliminary students and anyone who needs a start with instruments, stones and crystals.

Price £44.65

GAGTL students £31.73 (including sandwich lunch)

12 April

Enquire Within: Emerald

A day looking at all aspects of emerald - natural, treated, synthetic and imitation.

Price £111.63 (including sandwich lunch)

19-20 April

Synthetics and Enhancements Today

How aware are you of the various treated and synthetic materials that are likely to be masquerading alongside the gemstones you are buying and selling?

Whether you are valuing, repairing or dealing, can you afford to miss these two days of investigation into the Laboratory's important collection?

Price £223.35 (including sandwich lunch)

10 May

Enquire Within: Ruby and Sapphire

A day looking at all aspects of these gems natural, treated, synthetic and imitation.

Price £111.63 (including sandwich lunch)

27 May

Preliminary Questions and Answers

One day for students about to sit the

28-29 May

7-8 June

11-12 June

7-8 July

Preliminary examination. Meet tutors and an examiner. This is your chance to ask what the exam is all about, to clear up problems, to revise topics and try out gem testing instruments. Ask anything except what the next exam questions are!

Price £25.00 (not including lunch) Runs from 10.15 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Two-Day Diploma Practical Workshops

The long-established intensive practical course to help you prepare for the Diploma practical examination or to brush up your technique. This is the course to help you practise the methods required to coax results from difficult stones. The course includes a half-length mock exam for you to mark yourself.

Price £152.75

£105.75 for GAGTL registered students (includes sandwich lunch)

Gems for Retailers

Two full days of practical experience with mounted stones. Investigate and test the stones you are likely to handle in the retail environment. Discuss suitable selling and talking points with gemmologists who have an extensive knowledge of the retail jewellery trade.

Price £164.50 (including sandwich lunch)

Just phone, fax or write for details to Doug Garrod at the
GAGTL Education Office - 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU
Tel: 071-404 3334 Fax: 071-404 8843

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT AT 17.5%

September, the intensely practical two-evening course (Monday and Tuesday) takes students to the January Preliminary exam in seventeen weeks and to the Diploma the following January. Again, notes are provided in this high-efficiency course. For details and booking forms ring 071-404 3334 or fax 071-404 8843.

Travelling Workshops

The GAGTL Education Department's programme of Travelling Workshops continues with a week-end Practical Workshop being held in Carlisle on 16 and 17 April 1994. This venue is within easy reach of all parts of the north of England and the south of Scotland.

This two-day course has been prepared for students about to sit their Diploma examination, but will be suitable for anyone who wants to brush up their gemmological skills.

Places are limited so contact the Education Department NOW to reserve a place on this course.

Following the success of last year's **Birmingham Workshops**, new dates have been planned for March and May of this year.

On 22 May a Preliminary 'Questions and Answers' day is planned for students taking their Preliminary examination where they can have any questions about the course contents or examination technique answered by experts. Gwyn Green, who is a Correspondence Course tutor, and staff from the Education Department will be leading this one-day event.

To reserve your place on these courses or any of the one- and two-day courses run by GAGTL, please contact Doug Garrod in Education on 071-404-3334. Talk to him also if you would like a course run in your area.

GAGTL Members' Evening

The Gem Tutorial Centre and coffee bar is home to the new members' regular Wednesday evening for serious gem research (or play group, depending upon your outlook). Pre-booking is essential as room is limited, at a fee of £25.00 per quarter or £90.00 per year (members only) - please ring Ian Mercer or Doug Garrod on 071-404 3334 for a booking form and details if you would like to attend.

GLEANINGS

What the Dickens

In his journal *Household words*, later continued by him as *All the year round*, Charles Dickens provides some descriptions of jewellery shops. These include 'On by Cheapside the magnificent, where rows of dazzling gas-reflectors illumine shop fronts, teeming with yet more dazzling stores of watches, rich jewellery, and bales of spoons and forks' (*Household words* vol 4, 1852).

More entertaining, however, are two longer descriptions, one of Oxford Street, the other of Nevsky Prospect in St. Petersburg. It is amusing to compare these.

First, St. Petersburg as described in *Household words*, vol 14, 1856:

'Next in importance to the furriers are the jewellers. Now I comprehend why the profession of diamond-merchant is so important in Leipzig and Amsterdam, and where the chief market for diamonds is to be found. Every jeweller's window has an Alnaschar's basket of almost priceless gems displayed in it. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, carcans, vivières, earrings, stomachers, bouquets, fan-mounts, brooches, solitaires, all blazing with diamonds so large that the stock of Howell and James, or Hunt and Roskell, would look but as pedlars' packs of penny trinkets beside them. No money in Russia! Put that figment out of your head as soon as ever you can; there is enough wealth in these Nevskoi shop-windows to carry on a big war for half-a-dozen years longer. They are not outwardly splendid though, these jewellers. No plate-glass, no Corinthian columns; no gas-jets with brilliant reflectors. There is an oriental dinginess and mystery about the exterior of the shops. The houses themselves in which the shops are situated have a private look, like the banker's, or the doctor's or the lawyer's, in an English country town magnified a thousand fold; and the

AIGS Scholarships

The Asian Institute of Gemmological Sciences is now offering full or partial scholarships for qualified candidates to undertake the 1994 Accredited Gemologist Program.

Candidates with a Bachelor's degree or equivalent may apply. The programme normally requires nine months of study and a Diploma is awarded on completion.

Contact Khun Porntip at AIGS, Bangkok, telephone 010 662-541 4205 or Fax 010 662-541 4204 for further details. The deadline for application is 30 June 1994.

radiant stock is displayed in something like a gigantic parlour window, up a steep flight of steps.'

Oxford Street, as described in Dickens' *All the year round*, October 1860, is something of a contrast! The jewellers of Oxford Street were one of the 'Mysteries of London which it really disturbs one's peace of mind to have to abandon as inexplicable'. As he says,

'... what shall we say of the silversmiths and jewellers in Oxford-street? How seldom people want the wares sold by these gentry; and when they do want such matters, do they employ a small and unknown tradesman? Surely not. When any of our friends require a silver teapot or half a dozen spoons, do they not go to Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, or Mr Hancock, and buy them there? What, then, is the secret of those silversmiths' shops in Oxford-street, with their windows full of what appears to represent thousands of pounds' worth of property? Perhaps,

if you wanted a sixpenny watch-key in a great hurry, you might go to one of these glittering warehouses; but their proprietors will hardly get rich upon such dealings. You give these desperate tradesmen a job, only when some emergency obliges you, when that knob on the teapot lid comes off for the hundredth time, or when you want a glass to your watch. But who buys the hundreds of gilt clocks with inaccuracy written in legible characters on their faces? Who purchases the cheap gold watches, and abandons his appointments thenceforth for ever? Who is in a hurry to possess himself of one of those silver butter-knives, warranted to cut always too much butter or too little, warranted also to swerve wildly away in the winter season when the butter is hard, and to come out of the mother-of-pearl handle once every calendar month without fail?'

Dickens goes on to enquire as to whether these Oxford Street shops were really a 'front' for other

activities and whether the owners were also engaged in other 'nefarious business' - does the jeweller also 'steal out in the dead of night and engage in body snatching? Does he sing comic songs at a music hall?' Sadly for us, and for Dickens, these questions remained unanswered.

J.M.O.

Pots of gold

'Silver is tarnished superficially, by certain vapours, as that of putrified urine, to a colour so like that of gold, that several edicts have been issued in France to prevent frauds of this kind with regard to wires and laces.' *The cyclopedia or universal dictionary of arts, sciences and literature*. A. Rees, London 1819.

MUSEUMS

Matthew Boulton's house to open

Soho House, Handsworth, Birmingham, the home from 1766 to 1809 of Matthew Boulton, is being restored by Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and will be opened to the public in late 1994/early 1995. Boulton was, of course, the 'father' of the Birmingham Assay Office as well as a pioneer of the Industrial Revolution who, with his partner James Watt, developed many applications of steam power to manufacturing.

The house stood within sight of Boulton's world-famous Soho Manufactory, the two being set in a landscaped park which eventually extended to over 200 acres. As well as being Boulton's home, it was the



Soho House, front elevation, 14 August 1969. Photo: Mr B. Matthews

meeting place of the Lunar Society, whose members included Josiah Wedgwood, Erasmus Darwin, Joseph Priestley and other scientific thinkers of the day. The Manufactory and park have long since gone, but the house has been designated a building of outstanding national importance.

The £3 million restoration and development is being funded by Birmingham City Council, the European Regional Development Fund, English Heritage and the

Museums and Galleries Commission.

An appeal has now been launched, under the chairmanship of Sir Nicholas Goodison, to raise £500,000 from the private sector to furnish the house with furniture and objects of the appropriate period, reproduce some original eighteenth century wallpapers discovered behind more recent facings, equip the adjacent Visitor Centre, and complete conservation and cataloguing of the Boulton Archives, which are in the care of

Birmingham Reference Library.

Further information can be obtained from Shena Mason at the Development Office, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, telephone 021 235 3999. Donations, payable to the Soho House and Archives Appeal, would be gratefully received.

The house will be open during the weekend of 16-17 April from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day, to enable visitors to see progress to date.

Thirteenth century brooch

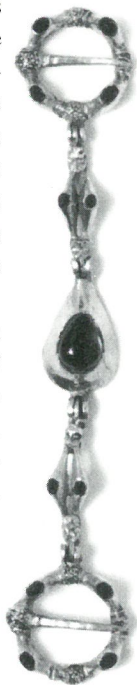
The Victoria and Albert Museum has recently acquired a gold double ring-brooch of a type quite unknown before its appearance in a sale at Sotheby's in July 1992. Each brooch is set with cabochon green pastes in high collets, and the brooches are joined by hinged links; the central one is set with a tear-shaped sapphire, and double straps on either side are set with a pair of green pastes, each flanked by pairs of cast stylized dragon or lion heads. The overall length of the brooch is 6.3cm.

The style of the brooch suggests it to be English work of the thirteenth century. The punching on it is a feature found on various late thirteenth century British brooches, including one in the British Museum and another in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The cast animal heads are miniature versions of a stylized Romanesque dragon or lion head, of a type found supporting the bezels of English rings of c. 1150-1300. On the double brooch each of these tiny animals appears to bite on a pair of gold shanks. The design of these parallels that of gimmel rings dating from the

thirteenth century.

There is a notable lack of evidence for the European jeweller's art of the thirteenth century. Very little jewellery of any sort, least of all in gold, has survived. There is no evidence to indicate either who this jewel was made for or precisely when it was made. Its delicacy and small size suggest that it may have been worn by a woman or perhaps a child. The large sapphire and the use of gold indicate an owner of considerable social standing, at this date a princess or countess.

As well as being functional, the jewel is perhaps symbolic too, its focal point being the central sapphire. Throughout the Middle Ages gems were prized not just for their intrinsic value but also for the curative or protective powers ascribed to them - sapphires were considered to be kingly jewels, believed to cure ulcers, eye problems and the sweating sickness, and to increase devotion. Emeralds were also believed to be beneficial to eyes, and were commended for use as amulets to ward off epilepsy when hung on the necks of children.



Double ring brooch. Photograph courtesy of Victoria and Albert Museum.

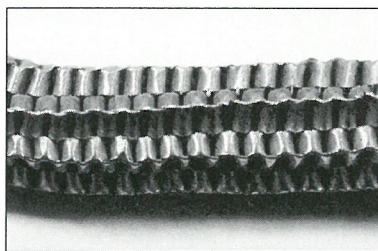
EXHIBITION WATCH

Black bronze and woven gold

The exhibition, *In pursuit of the absolute: art of the ancient world*, part of the magnificent collection assembled by George Ortiz, is at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, London, until 6 April 1994. Although concentrating on the art of Greece from the earliest times, it also includes masterpieces from Mesopotamia, Egypt, and also from Africa and Polynesia. Precious metal objects include some superb Greek and Byzantine silver vessels and gold jewellery ranges from a Mycenaean gold ring to a magnificent Late Roman necklet with a pendant medallion of the Emperor Gordian III (cat. 238). The necklet itself is of particular interest because of its construction. As the photo shows, it is a complex interweaving of thin gold strips - a sort of elaborate 'Chinese Lantern' construction. Simpler necklets of this sort of assembly are quite well known, mainly from the Late Roman period in Egypt, although there are examples from Iraq (eighth century BC), Ptolemaic Egypt, Dark Age Europe and similar work is still produced in India. Incidentally, one of the fine

Greek silver vases (cat. 152) in the form of a stag's head is described as having a little niello accentuating the eyes - if so this would make it one of the earliest recorded examples of niello.

Of particular interest to me is a group of Middle Kingdom Egyptian (c. 1800 BC) bronze statues. These, the most magnificent and technically accomplished examples of the period, are hardly jewellery, but there is an excuse for their mention here - gold. Recent research by Paul Craddock at the British Museum, myself and others have identified a number of ancient bronze objects and ornaments from Mycenaean to Dark Age times, and characterized by their black patination and precious metal inlays, as being akin to more recent Japanese shakudo (a copper alloy containing a small



Construction of the Late Roman necklet

percentage of gold which causes it to acquire a stable black patination when suitably treated). Analysis has shown that the ancient 'black bronzes' also contain a small percentage of gold and a deliberate process seems likely. Of course, the gold inlays in most copper alloys would not show up unless the alloy was somehow deliberately coloured. Anyhow, the magnificent kneeling pharaoh in the Ortiz collection (cat. 37), some 25 cm high and dating to around 1800 BC, has a

fine, even black patina that appears deliberate. If analysis, which I think is planned, does confirm a small gold content, this statue would be the earliest example of the process so far known from anywhere in the ancient world.

Next time you look at a Japanese shakudo sword fitting adapted into a piece of jewellery - or one of the many ornaments made using the same sort of technique during the Japonaiserie craze in Victorian times - you might be looking at a technique with an origin dating back 4000 years.

The art and sheer beauty of the exhibits in the Ortiz Collection can only be judged by seeing them - and this I strongly urge you to do. If you cannot visit the exhibition, and even if you can, do buy the fully illustrated catalogue.

J.M.O.

GEMS

Miscellany

I have recently seen a very fine-coloured aquamarine from Mozambique, a country with a rich gemstone potential. The stone is a strong blue rather than the somewhat steely (though still attractive) colour often shown by aquamarine from Nigeria.

Mozambique also has produced fine-coloured emerald and in the 1970s (before the country was subjected to long-drawn-out civil war) some good stones appeared in ones and twos. A stone I looked at some years ago was translucent but a superb green. Cut as a cabochon, it showed prominent pyrite inclusions.

I have previously mentioned the orange spessartine reported from Namibia. As this has been noted by more than one journal, I expected something out of the ordinary and when I was able to examine a cut stone and a crystal I found the colour magnificent - a bright deep orange with no hint of red. A report by Lind, Bank and Henn in *Neues Jahrbuch für*

Mineralogie. Monatshefte 12, 569-576, 1993, places the material on the pyrope-spessartine series with about 80-90 per cent spessartine. The SG was measured at 4.09-4.15 and the RI 1.790-1.797. Absorption bands ascribed to Mn^{2+} were recorded. The stone is being marketed under the trade name 'hollandine'.

In the last issue of *GJN* I mentioned some synthetic materials

seen at the 1993 Photonex exhibition. Since then I have been able to examine some synthetic ruby spheres and discs; these show fine colour and may have been grown by a sophisticated development of the Verneuil process which is reported to be capable of producing laser-quality crystal today, employing computer control.

Synthetic diamonds

Gems & Gemology, Fall 1993, reports two treated coloured synthetic diamonds which turned up in the trade. The colour was brownish-orange-red. The stones closely resemble synthetic diamonds grown in Russia in their behaviour under UV, their colour zoning and their visible and infrared absorption spectra. Neither of the stones is predominantly Type Ib, the class in which the only commercially available gem-quality synthetic diamonds have been placed, but are mixtures with Type Ia.

In the same issue of *Gems & Gemology* two near-colourless General Electric Type IIa synthetic diamond crystals are described. These are isotopically pure ^{12}C stones. They fluoresce under SWUV, a usual property of synthetic diamond and show metallic and very small triangular inclusions. Uneven cathodoluminescence was observed.

At the Earl's Court show in 1993 Alan Hodgkinson displayed a Russian faceted yellow synthetic diamond by courtesy of Tom Chatham. The stone contained nickel-iron inclusions which made it slightly magnetic. These stones are not yet in the trade but are expected to show up in due course.

M.O'D.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Silver and jewellery

A Silver and Jewellery Session will form part of the Association of Art Historians' Conference to be held at the University of Central England, Birmingham. Over the weekend of the 9 and 10 April 1994, various aspects of the production and consumption of jewellery and silverwork in England during the eighteenth to twentieth centuries will be discussed in a programme of eight lectures by various specialists.

For further details please write to Dr Kenneth Quickenden, Department of Art, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England, Corporation Street, Gosta Green, Birmingham B4 7DX (Fax 021-333 5569).

STOP PRESS

Please note that the Society of Jewellery Historians lecture on Monday 20 June 1994 has been changed. Now Dr Donald Easton will talk on *Priam's Gold: a straightforward story of a controversial treasure*.

The so-called Treasure of Priam, discovered at Troy in 1873 by Heinrich Schliemann, is one of the most famous collections of goldwork from antiquity - and equally controversial. In Dr Easton's words - Schliemann's contemporaries thought he had faked it: The Turkish Government sued him for it: At the end of World War II the Berlin Museums lost it: The Russians are said to have been hiding it: Three different countries are claiming they should have it.

RECENT EVENTS

Fabergé

A review of Geza von Habsburg's lecture

Geza von Habsburg's excellent lecture to the Society of Jewellery Historians on 24 January highlighted the considerable amount of new information on Fabergé that is now emerging from Russian archives. At the same time he gave a comprehensive survey of Fabergé's very varied output and, as the Curator, a wonderful preview of the exhibition that opened two days later at the Victoria and Albert Museum and runs until 10 April.

The origins of Fabergé's working for the Imperial Court were explained in the light of new documents from St Petersburg. The Imperial Cabinet, which maintained a stock of precious objects to be used as gifts by the Imperial family, kept detailed records in which Fabergé is first mentioned as a supplier of jewellery in 1866. Newly accessible reports from the Hermitage show Fabergé working without charging as a restorer and appraiser throughout the 1870s. Thus a steady working relationship was in place long before 1885, the traditional date of the first Imperial Easter egg and the year Fabergé was granted the title 'Supplier to the Imperial Court' and allowed to incorporate the State Coat of Arms in his shop sign. The Archive of the Imperial Cabinet shows Fabergé receiving an increasing proportion of Imperial commissions over the years. It also reveals fascinating information about diplomatic gifts and the large quantities of Fabergé pieces taken on royal visits for recipients ranging from emperors to policemen. European courts were not the only destination

for Russian diplomatic gifts by Fabergé. The Emperor and Empress of Japan, the Emperor of China, the Shah of Persia, the Sultan of Turkey and the Emir of Bukhara also feature in the pages of this very valuable record.

Habsburg quoted from the memoirs of Franz Birbaum which were discovered recently and are published for the first time in the V & A exhibition catalogue. Birbaum was Fabergé's chief designer from 1895 until 1917, and his memoirs written in 1919 provide a detailed and often entertaining account of the business and some of the personalities involved.

The context in which Fabergé pieces were originally enjoyed was shown in previously unknown photographs of Empress Alexandra's rooms at the Alexander Palace, Tsarskoe Selo. Several items currently in the V & A exhibition can be seen in these photographs scattered amongst other ornaments on shelves and in cabinets. Ten photographs have also survived of the 1902 charity exhibition of Fabergé's work held in the von Dervise House in St. Petersburg. The photographs confirm the original ownership of many pieces, and have enabled an apparently unmarked egg in HM Queen Elizabeth II's collection to be positively identified as one of Fabergé's Imperial Easter eggs.

Habsburg drew his lecture to a close with a cautionary showing of 'Fauxbergé's', or fake Fabergé objects, and warned that such pieces had been made for some time in Russia and America. The potential financial rewards ensure that the quality of workmanship is invariably excellent and his advice to prospective Fabergé collectors was that a firm provenance was their surest guarantee of authenticity.

GAGTL AT THE TUCSON SHOW 1994

Gemmologists, dealers, prospectors and collectors gather from all corners of the globe during February each year to join in the *mêlée* of the world's largest gem and mineral fair in Tucson, Arizona. This great gathering provides unrivalled opportunities to exchange information, collect specimens, renew contacts and make new acquaintances.

Tucson, only an hour's drive from the Mexican border, is a sprawling town, spread across a gravelly desert bowl amid high and picturesque, cactus-flanked mountains. Scottish summer-style weather characterized this winter's fair, with chilly breezes, hail, hot sun and half a day of heavy rain (locally welcome!) which made deep puddles across the flat river beds and roads alike. Scattered across the west side of Downtown Tucson, in large hotels, massive tents, halls and the Convention Center, and along a strip of motels, gas stations, parking lots and roadside stalls, the whole Fair presents literally thousands of outlets in 23 shows!

Most were selling mineral specimens, cut stones and rough gem and ornamental material; many offered worked beads, carvings and polished pieces, crystals, museum-quality specimens, fossils, books, equipment and jewellery. Charoite and large tanzanites were available in copious amounts still. Synthetic and treated gems were relatively inconspicuous (apart from dyed ornamental materials) but could be searched out with the help of the hefty show Guide, free minibus shuttles and plenty of stamina. Hundreds of hotel rooms, converted into shops for the duration of the show, were caves of delight for the treasure seeker. Imagine a room full of benitoite crystals, another containing rare and famous mineralogy and geology books, the next full of meteorites and another with great slabs of iridescent labradorite or vast slices of petrified wood, and so on hundreds of times,

hotel after motel —.

Through a hectic week and a half Ian Mercer, Eric Emms and Ann Dale, our USA liaison gemmologist, made the most of this chance to talk face to face with colleagues who operate our courses and examinations worldwide and to meet more of our students and members. We were gratified by the large amount of interest in our courses, notably from Graduate Gemologists of the GIA programme and by the increasing interest in establishing Allied Teaching Centres in the USA.

Work in the Laboratory

While Eric and Ian gave their early Sunday lectures at the Convention Center, Alan Hodgkinson kindly helped Ann run the GAGTL booth. Eric presented major aspects of laboratory work, notably some recent gem diamond items, pearl testing highlights - including work on the Hope Pearl and the Pearl of Asia - and cooperation in education, centred last year on pioneering of the Gem Diamond course tutorial and practical examination in our Allied Teaching Centre (ATC) at Wuhan in the People's Republic of China. Eric's slides included shots of his visit to current kimberlite workings and

diamond recovery in northern China.

World-wide education

Ian continued the theme of our world-wide education by showing scenes around our ATC at the Top of Europe in Swedish Lapland, where a full programme of gem cutting and gemmology is centred at Kristallen Stenslip in Lannavaara, well north of the Arctic Circle. He went on to illustrate the usefulness and misuse of definitions, and finished by demonstrating how an aspect of practical tutorials that is difficult to teach, that of crystal structure, can be demonstrated on the simple, familiar and concrete basis of patterns on wrapping paper and of polarising effects using sunglasses, sticky tape and plastic envelopes - all to aid understanding of optical gem identification methods.

Although they had too little time to see more than a fraction of the Fair, Ian and Eric did manage to acquire a few useful teaching and reference specimens including further examples of synthetics, enhancements and crystal specimens and a good crop of Slocum stone. The full benefits of the visit have yet to come but already the reality of deeper and lasting education and laboratory cooperation with organizations and individuals in the USA and elsewhere has been given a great boost by this year's Tucson visit.

Ian Mercer

BOOKS

The completely revised edition of this classic book by Timothy Green *The world of gold* has now been published. This book, like its predecessor, deals with all aspects of gold trading from mining to marketing and looks also at the politics behind the world gold markets and the nature of the 1990s investor. A new edition of what the *Wall Street Journal* called 'an able guide to the gold phenomenon' is certainly needed - much has changed,

new mining areas now seriously rival South Africa and when the first edition of the book was published 25 years ago gold was trading at just \$35.00 an ounce! The publishers are Rosendale Press Ltd, Suite 515, Premier House, Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB. Copies are available directly from them (£24.00 inc. P&P for Europe, £41.00 rest of world) or from booksellers.

J.M.O.

Old book department

Many readers will be familiar with the works of George F. Kunz (1856-1932). He is probably best known for *The book of the pearl* but another book, rarely found on offer in Europe, is *Gems and precious stones of North America*, which first appeared in 1890. Particularly interesting are the colour plates which show rough and cut North American gemstones; these plates were made by the Taber Prang Art Company who also made similar plates for *History of the gems found in North Carolina*, also by Kunz. Sinkankas in his bibliography, *Gemology*, gives full details of the

plates but here we need only to note that some of them at least stick to their tissue paper guards. The paper is also poor quality with a tendency to break up at the edges from acidification. While the sticking of the plates was due to over-inking, which was later corrected, the paper quality and the binding did not improve; most copies need expert treatment today and anyone owning one should check it out with a skilled restorer.

Before a second edition was published another issue of the first edition was printed; this contains a list of illustrations and an errata slip (see Sinkankas, *op. cit.*).

In 1892 the second edition was published, again by the Scientific Publishing Company of New York.

There are additions to the text and a list of specimens donated to the Harvard Mineralogical Museum. On the whole copies of the second edition have lasted better than those of the first.

However rare the original editions, anyone wanting to read the book will have little difficulty in finding a copy of the Dover Publications reprint, published in 1968. An introduction gives a short biography of Kunz with a critical note on his work. Though readers needing an up-to-date study of North American gemstones will of course turn to the two volumes of John Sinkankas' *Gemstones of North America*, the Kunz book has great charm and anyone finding a copy should buy it.

M.O'D.

HOW I FOUND THE TAAFFEITE

As reported by Count Taaffe, FGA Dublin, 2 August 1951¹

On one of my rounds in search of Gems I came to Mr Robert Dobbie, watchmaker and working jeweller in Fleet Street, Dublin; he allowed me in his genial way to go through all his tins and boxes in which he kept stones, to pick out any stones that were real - most of them were glass - and to make him an offer for them. He only needed the pastes for jobbing. That was one day in October 1945. I started right away in his workshop where he had cleared part of his bench and sorted out what looked like stones, one by one. Most of the stones and pastes, crudely divided according to colour, were in a large cardboard watch-box with eight compartments. The pastes were mostly new, but the stones were without exception broken

1. In 1945 a new mineral was discovered by Count Taaffe and was subsequently named 'taaffeite'. Containing beryllium, the gemstone is transparent and can be brown to reddish-violet but generally pale in colour. Taaffeite is rare with the main source being Sri Lanka. It is hexagonal with RI 1.72; SG 3.60; H 8. This is the account by Count Taaffe dated 2 August 1951 of how he found the original stone.

out of jewellery, badly rubbed or chipped in many cases. They were in the workshop since the times of Mr Robert Dobbie's father, some for 20 years.

I found there blue Zircons, Opals, Garnets - even Demantoids - Citrines, Amethysts, Spinel, very few Siam Rubies, some poor Emeralds and Sapphires, in fact stones of the usual mixture as they accumulate with working jewellers. Their origin as manifold as their appearance.

After several hours I showed Mr Dobbie what I had selected so far, may-be there were 50 stones, or about 100, I do not remember. I made an offer, Mr Dobbie accepted, I paid and arranged to continue the next day, and took the 'bag' home. I continued till I had gone through every stone in the house, it took 2 or 3 more days I think. The total purchase price was £14.00. It was very easy to come to terms with Mr Dobbie.

Now, at home, I washed the stones, which were very dirty, and started sorting them and testing each one of them as I always do, because I am always afraid of a wrong identification if I go only by appearance.

First I sorted according to colour.

The Taaffeite was put into the little tin containing violet and lilac stones. Then, each stone was viewed under a Bausch & Lomb Binocular Greenough microscope, without stage, on white paper, with illumination from above, using a flexible table lamp with tin reflector, ordinary 100W bulb with a flexible lens-holder as condenser. Magnification is 21x (Objective 1.4x, Ocular 15x). Holding each stone in a tweezer and viewing it under different angles and from several sides, I look for double refraction and evidence of the stone's identity, e.g. cracks in the surface on opposite 'poles' denoting corundum etc. (Now I own an intensity lamp which makes the work easier, but I still could not find better than my Bausch & Lomb Binocular.) Mind you, I am doing that with every stone and only in the rarest cases have I to apply other methods to see whether the stone is doubly refractive or not. One of the stones in which I can sometimes not detect doubling with certainty is Topaz, I do not understand why. I have to twist and twist and look into every facet till I can see it. But not so with the Taaffeite. In a certain direction every speck of dust on the back and every

scratch appeared double like on a badly wobbled snapshot.

Next step: Specific Gravity. Sinking in Bromoform. Sinking in Methylene Iodide, but more slowly than Corundum. Clerici solution was unobtainable then. My only balance was a pocket diamond balance which I had to hold by the tassel. As B.W. Anderson taught me in his book *Gem Testing* I determined the SG by hydrostatic weighing in water, holding for dear life the tassel and repeating the operation 10 times. I got 10 results. The average was 3.62.

Facets were scarcely visible in Methylene Iodide, so I gathered that the RI was near Spinel. Refractometer not obtainable. But the double refraction? I checked it with crossed Nicols and got normal extinction at 90c. I became puzzled. I could see no bands in the spectrum. The 2 spectroscopes I had at the time were not very good and the lighting system quite inadequate. I panicked, sent the stone to B.W. Anderson to the LLCC [Laboratory of the London Chamber of Commerce] and begged for help. I wrote on Nov. 1st 1945:

'Very many thanks for your kind letter of Oct. 30th. Yes, my enthusiasm for gemstones is there all right, but my equipment is poor — I made a new attempt a few days ago to get some kind of Refractometer from England, but failed again. Have still no Refractometer, no Clerici solution, no precise balance for hydrostatic weighing, for that reason can not give you the RI of my yellow tourmaline.

'This time a new riddle: what is this mauve stone? It seems to me to answer all characteristics of Spinel, yet it shows Double Refr.; Doubling of Facets visible under the Greenough, Extinction when polarized, though with queer colour effects. Could anomalous DR be so strong? RI too high for Topaz, SG too low for Corundum. What is it? ...'

B.W. Anderson replied on 5.11.45.:

'You have sent a most interesting stone in that mauve spinel (I call it that on the basis of its absorption spectrum: my colleague is so horrified at its anomalous optics that he doubts

whether it is spinel!)

'The indices are 1.717 and 1.721 (inaccurate! Taaffe) clear double refraction, giving a clear uniaxial negative interference figure through the table facet. The stone is so remarkable that I should like your permission to have an X-ray analysis made if possible without harming the stone. I should also like to write it up for the *Gemmologist*, giving full credit to you for discovering it. - Would you agree?'

'More about this later, when we have worked on it more...'

Whereupon I rang up Mr Anderson and, babbling with excitement, gave my consent. It was the first time I spoke to Mr Anderson.

I wrote Nov. 25th 1945: 'Am very curious to hear more about the mauve spinel with double refraction. I think it is fun to find such things.'

A. on 12 Dec. 1945: 'We have not got much further with your Spinel yet,

but Mr Payne has been measuring its indices and dispersion on the spectrometer in our scant spare moments. Its dispersion is fairly normal for spinel (about .020 for B-G.).

'A description of an entirely new Gem mineral appears in the current *American Mineralogist* "Brazilianite" ... Isn't that surprising?'

Coincidence!

What happened to the Taaffeite since then has been published.

Reference

Anderson, B.W., Payne, C.J., Claringbull, G.F., and Hey, M.H., 1951. Taaffeite, a new beryllium mineral, found as a cut gemstone. *Mineralog. Mag.*, **29**, 765-72.

SALEROOM NOTES

A sale of some of Elton John's jewellery by Sotheby's in December 1993 brought results well ahead of estimates. A Cartier emerald and diamond bracelet fetched £91,700 and another Cartier item, a sapphire and diamond bracelet dating from the 1930s fetched £52,100. Both went to European dealers.

Sotheby's sale of fine jewels and jewels for the collector included an emerald, sapphire and diamond double clip flower brooch from Cartier London (c. 1935); estimated at £40,000 it went to £62,000. A fine natural pearl necklace also went well above estimate, virtually doubling to £24,150.

A world auction record for any jewellery sale was set by the Geneva sale held by Sotheby's in November 1993. A highlight was set by a D-colour flawless diamond weighing 100.36ct. This fetched £8,028,603. This, in Swiss francs, was the world

record for any jewel in that currency. The price was also the second highest in dollars ever reached for any stone.

In the Christie's sale of magnificent jewellery held in the same



The Archduke Joseph diamond. Photograph courtesy of Christie's

month, the Archduke Joseph diamond sold for £4.3 million (illustrated). A pear-shaped purplish-pink diamond weighing 10.83ct went for £2.78m. Purchased by London dealer Graff, it has been named the Graff Pink.

Christie's report a record year for jewellery sales in 1993 with a 26 per cent increase over 1992.

M.O'D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The disclosure debate: Enhancement of pearls

Sirs,

Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson's call to basic ethics during the World Diamond Congress in reference to recent diamond enhancing trends (*GJN*, 2, 4, September 1993) reads a bit like Rip Van Winkle when he awoke after three decades.

If Mr Thompson would visit the Ginza's finest pearl palaces and wonder aloud about the pristine whites and pinks of the proffered cultured gems (I saw one, last week, with a price tag, without clasp, for 23 million yen, 10.5-10mm, 410mm long) chances are he would be 'advised' by the clerk that 'my company purveys only natural-coloured gems'.

But everybody who has witnessed a 'hama-age' (lifting ashore) of a pearl harvest knows what the raw pearls look like before they are drilled for the de-spotting, bleaching and dyeing routine. Kunz in his 1908 *The book of the pearl* already mentions the centuries-old 'enhancing' by Bombay merchants who whitened their gems by boiling them in water-filled glass bottles on their roof tops.

Yours etc.,

Rudolf Voll

Kowloon, Hong Kong
15 November 1993

Sirs,

Reference is made to the letter signed P.R. Rome (*GJN*, 3, 1, December 1993) in which the writer pleads for a return to ethics in the gemstone trade that 'offers in Bangkok beautiful, clear, vibrant blue sapphires for \$1,000 per carat, that probably came out of the ground in Sri Lanka as a dense, milky stone with no commercial value'.

Basically, just pride is allowed a person who is able to rescue nature's poor handiwork from the scrap heap and transform it by means of his intelligent, skilful manipulation into a thing of perfect beauty. Compare this to a painter who uses crude materials, like canvas and paint, to create a work of art.

As long as the end result of a manipulated gemstone is identical to the quality standard of an untreated one, and the seller conscientiously presents it for what it is, I see no reason to look down on a perfect rescue effort. How many cultured pearls, for instance, could be proudly offered in the world's leading outlets, if they had not been de-spotted, bleached and tinted with intent to receive a higher price? It is distressing, however, to note that no seller will admit to such treatment and brazenly insists that 'our company sells only natural-coloured pearls' when confronted by my relevant question.

Yours etc.,

Mrs Amara Aloha Jayaphom

Pacific Pearls Tokyo Ltd.
Hong Kong
8 January 1994

Nepheline

Sirs,

I have just read your letter regarding nepheline (*GJN*, 3, 1, December 1993). As I was the person who owned the stone mentioned, I thought you would appreciate clarification.

At no time did I say any of this material came from Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec. I merely said it came from Canada, which was all I knew. Most gem people are happy with a country of origin, but if anyone wants more detailed information, I try to find out.

Some months ago I had four or five stones of nepheline. They were not particularly pink, nor very gemmy. More recently I managed to obtain one more stone which was presold to a customer - this was very vaguely pinkish off-white. The location for the material is Nepton, Ontario.

I trust the above comments clarify the situation regarding the nepheline - I presume someone made a wrong assumption.

Yours etc.,

A.J. French FGA

Brockenhurst, Hants.
18 January 1994

GAGTL Photo Competition

The ins and outs of gemstones

The GAGTL are pleased to announce their first ever photographic competition, the theme for which is 'The ins and outs of gemstones'. There will be two categories for the competition - **Macro** and **Micro**. The photographs can be of any form of gem material, rough or cut, and can be of the exterior or interior of the subject. All entries must be of gemmological interest and be visually attractive.

Photographs will be exhibited at the GAGTL Annual General Meeting to be held on 13 June 1994 in London.

There will be a prize for each category to the value of £100.00.

The closing date for the competition will be 30 April 1994.

For the rules of entry and an entry form contact Doug Garrod in the GAGTL Education Department on 071-404 3334.

COMPETITIONS

The other day a couple went into a jeweller's shop with six loose coloured stones which they wanted set in a line as the centre of a necklace. The stones were, in alphabetical order, amethyst, blue sapphire, citrine, emerald, fire opal and ruby.

'I would like a corundum at one end and a quartz at the other,' said the woman. 'Yes, but I don't think you

should have two corundums or two quartzes next to each other,' said the man. 'OK,' said his wife. 'Put the citrine as near the centre as possible.' 'I thought you should have the emerald near the centre,' replied her husband, 'but not next to the fire opal.' 'That's fine,' said the woman, 'but I don't like the idea of a ruby next to an amethyst.'

When they finally left the shop the jeweller laid out the stones to best comply with all their wishes. The final colour arrangement was rather attractive and the jeweller decided to re-use it for a whole range of jewellery objects - what did he call the range? Answers as usual to Jack Ogden c/o GAGTL.

J.M.O.

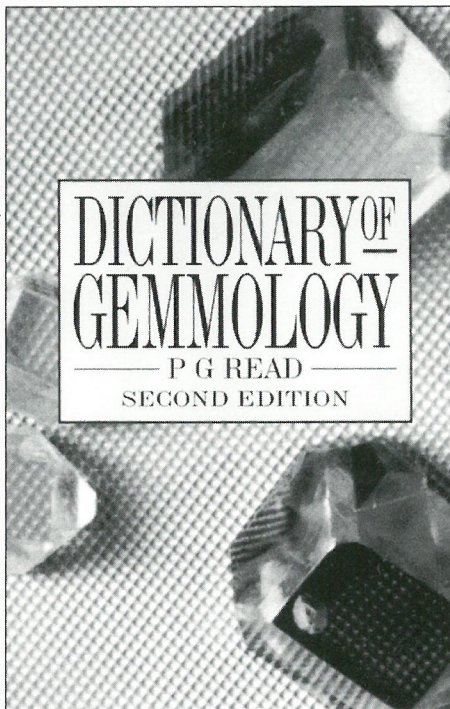
Replies to our Christmas competition

Readers were asked to submit non-sexist or otherwise politically correct alternatives to terms generally used in the jewellery trade, or to compose a brief European directive dealing with such matters. The entries were to be judged on humour.

Some entries were weird, ranging from the suggestion that the unusual mineral Herderite should henceforth be called Hisorherderite to the view that Mother of Pearl should now be called Primary Carer of Pearl. A cat lover complained that the term Tabby Extinction was provocative, while I leave to readers' imagination the cases made by those readers opposed to such mineralogical terms as false-cleavage and interpenetrant twins. R.I. McKay provided some nice examples of politically correct gem terms - I particularly liked his Hesoffspringite, but feel that his proposed terms 'Vertically Challenged' and 'Vertically Advantaged' are unlikely to find general use to describe the wavelengths of ultra-violet and X-rays.

Ken Reay pointed out the discrimination against brown

diamonds and how 'brown diamonds are being disadvantaged by being made to do heavy industrial work, some of it deep underground, whereas their fairer brethren are living in luxury in wealthy homes'.



This state of affairs is contrary to the ruling of the Diamond Discrimination Department. Ken Reay's reply best

appealed to the editorial board and receives this year's prize - a book which has been very kindly donated by Butterworth-Heinemann. It is the new revised second edition of Peter Read's *Dictionary of gemmology* published this month. In both its first and second editions the *Dictionary* has proved to be an invaluable reference source for professionals and students alike. The retail price of the new book is £16.95, obtainable from GAGTL.

Another anonymous reader sent in this extract from a recent study on non-sexist marketing in the 1990s: 'Jewellery advertising and marketing approaches involving the romantic associations of jewellery - viz engagement rings, wedding rings, heart-pendants, valentine gifts, etc. - should now place equal emphasis on same-gender relationships.' Is this genuine?

Still, just to show that we do have a politically correct conscience, I propose that, on the basis of various suggestions received, The Society of Jewellery Historians should henceforth be called The Society of Multifaihellery Non-gender-specific-torians.

J.M.O.

What's on

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London

Meetings are held in the GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre, 2nd floor, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU (entrance in Saffron Hill).

The charge for a member is £3.50. Entry will be by ticket only, obtainable from GAGTL.

- 30 March 'Jewellery at auction.' David Lancaster
13 April 'Time and money: natural and deliberate alteration of ancient gem materials.' Dr Jack Ogden
26 April 'Cutting it fine.' Dr George Harrison Jones
11 May 'Spreading gem knowledge.' Ian Mercer
13 June Reunion of Members and Annual General Meeting

Annual Conference

Make a note in your diary for this year's GAGTL Annual Conference. It will be held in the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London, on Sunday 23 October 1994 and the theme will be 'Diamonds and modern gem developments'. The full programme of lectures and demonstrations is planned and details will be available soon.

Midlands Branch

- 25 March 'Platinum - design and technology in the workshop.' Dr John Wright
29 April 'AGM followed by 'The gems of Sri Lanka.' C. & N. Gems
8 May Gemmological training day (contact Gwyn Green for further details)

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

North West Branch

- 18 May 'Touching gold and silver.' David Callaghan
15 June Exchange and mart

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 stated, all Society of Jewellery Historians' lectures are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1 and start at 6.00 p.m. sharp.

Lectures are followed by an informal reception with wine. Meetings are only open to SJH members and their guests. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status.

Monday
11 April

Dr Anna Beatriz Chadour, formerly of the Kunstgewerbemuseum in Cologne and the Gesellschaft für Goldschmiedekunst, Hanau, will speak on **The Louis Koch Collection of finger rings from 2000 BC to the present day**, collected by four generations.

Monday
23 May

Natasha Kuzmanovic will give a lecture on **John Paul Cooper (1869-1933) Silversmith and Jeweller**. She is preparing her doctoral thesis on this subject.

Sunday
19 June

A second day symposium on **Nineteenth century jewellery**, following on from the highly successful day on this subject last October. Details from Nigel Israel at the SJH address given on p.18.

Monday
20 June

Dr Donald Easton will speak on **Priam's gold: a straightforward story of a controversial treasure**.

Wednesday 14
September

An evening at the British Museum with a lecture and visit to the Renaissance and Later Antiquities Galleries.

Monday 3
October

Catherine Johns, FSA, Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, will give a lecture on **The Hoxne Hoard**. This will launch the conference described below. The lecture will take place at the British Museum.

4-6 October

A conference organized jointly by the Society and the British Museum will be held at the Museum on **Greek Gold - the art of the Greek goldsmith**. This will coincide with the Museum's special exhibition 'Greek Gold' from June to October 1994.

Monday 14
November

Lord Balfour of Inchrye will give a lecture about **Famous diamonds**, the title of his book devoted to that subject first published in 1987.

Monday 12
December

Gertrud Seidmann, FSA, specialist in engraved gems, will speak on **Edward Burch, RA**, Seal Engraver to His Majesty and reluctant Neo-Classicalist.