

# Gem & Jewellery News

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## ANCIENT EARRING



Assyrian relief fragment, ninth century BC (see 'Ancient earring' p.61). *Photograph courtesy of Christie's, London*

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# Gem & Jewellery News

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## EDITORIAL

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is 'how much is this stone worth?' Sometimes I am shown the specimen in question (and sometimes not-oddly enough this is the easier scenario to follow) and I always find it hard to give just that answer that will change the face of the questioner from neutrality to a mid-point in the range between vacuous optimism or dull dejection. Is it ignorance of the secret price structure, embracing all gems, that everybody knows except me or does such a structure not exist? People point to the price lists issued by some overseas diamond houses and, ignoring long-established diamond price maintenance, expect the same information to be available for ruby, emerald, sapphire, opal and probably phenakite and sphene too.

How do jewellers buy their stones? Contrary to what many enthusiastic gemmologists think, it is from suppliers whose stock is always of the same quality and always available. The last word gives a key to some at least of the 'pricing' problem. The more unusual gem species, like the outstanding classic ruby or emerald, have a price of their own: you cannot say that 'stones of this quality are usually in the range of so much to so much a carat'.

Is it true then that any stone's price is what you can get for it? Yes, to some extent at least. The everyday stones that turn up in everyday jewellery progress through the market in such numbers that any out-of-the-ordinary price that a dealer or supplier may quote would immediately be spotted as out of order. There is no need for price lists for this type of merchandise. For the rarer stones which are sought mostly by collectors any price could reasonably be set since there are few opportunities for price comparisons to be made.

Another legend that comes around is that 'you cannot sell stones x or y to British dealers', the implication being that European, American or Japanese jewellery is awash with sphenes and taaffeites. In fact jewellers everywhere stick to the classic stones and are as unfamiliar with the unusual as the trade is here. This is because their customers want the best stones - those that are the best-looking and the most durable. Would-be sellers have difficulty with 'new' goods (which may include classic stones from unfamiliar localities) because they approach those dealers and jewellers whose lines of supply are established and don't need changing. Instead they should seek out those dealers whose trade is with the unusual\* (they do exist and need encouragement).

Despite all this, trade does go on but it is activity rightly directed that makes it work in the best and most profitable way. Yes, it does take time to find out where the specialist dealers and jewellers work (not always in London) but time spent on the search may very well pay off in the end. M.O'D.

\* See 'Is it rare? If so, why?' p. 60.

# 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.

## Serious Treatment

### Diamond grading

Recent events in the diamond world have highlighted the relationships between sections of the trade and the laboratories and in this article I would like to offer some thoughts on the implications. Let us look at the grading of diamonds. The methodology seems straightforward if one has a set of master stones for colour grading, agrees to standards about densities of impurities, and gives relevant measurements such as weight and dimensions. Most laboratories do this and produce grading reports which are as objective as possible and reduce subjectivity to a minimum. The trade uses such reports for passing information to their potential customers to avoid being accused of partisanship in describing their own stones. However, different commercial centres have different laboratories, so the question arises as to how the certificate of one laboratory can be translated to that of another laboratory? This is a problem that the trade and the laboratories have agreed to resolve over a number of years now, and a harmonized system is gradually being established.

Currently there are four systems commonly accepted throughout the world - CIBJO, GIA, IDC and ScanDN. Many laboratory reports have comparison charts showing how their grading can be translated into other systems. But since each system was developed more or less independently, any such chart cannot be exact and border-line stones could get different grading.

A translation manual has been under discussion for many years under the name of harmonization and latterly under the neutral authority of the International Standards Organization (ISO). The ISO is producing a *Technical Report* which establishes a harmonized grading scheme for colourless or near-colourless polished diamonds and this is the basis for the new *London Diamond Report* available from the GAGTL Laboratory.

There have been political moves for some of the laboratories getting this far together, as initially each guarded its own system jealously in order to attract as much business as possible for its own laboratory.

To illustrate this point, one often hears traders mentioning that one laboratory might be 'good' while another is 'bad'. Invariably the seller would say that the good laboratory gives his stones a better grade, while the buyer considers it to be bad because it has given the stone a better grade than his own laboratory. In reality each laboratory is objective as to its grading and in border-line cases a stone graded as H colour may indeed be classified as G by another, but this is probably because the master stones which each system uses do not exactly correspond.

Each system developed its own terminology, and the same diamond could be rare white, Top Wesselton or a G colour in three different systems. In these days of international trade the European seller could classify his Top Wesselton diamond as a G colour to his American customer but should the stone be tested in New York it could get an H colour classification. For a 1.00ct stone this difference could mean as much as \$2000.

### Antwerp laboratory

Recently the interests of different laboratories and sections of the trade have been in the news as a result of the GIA's proposal to open a laboratory in Antwerp.

A large number of diamonds are graded in Antwerp through the HRD (the laboratory of the Diamond High Council of Antwerp). When such stones are sold to the USA through New York they often have to be regraded as the buyers there prefer the GIA grading system. Of course, there are still many that remain acceptable with HRD reports. However, it was generally known at the beginning of 1994 that the GIA had decided to open their own laboratory in Antwerp. This was met by a chorus of disapproval in Antwerp from the Diamond High Council, its laboratory and those traders and trade bodies who for their own reasons, be it partisanship or pure self-interest, did not wish to see an American laboratory on their own doorstep. They objected in every way they knew, taking their objections to both local council and government levels. In Belgium the diamond industry is one of the larger industries and the Belgian government often protects this interest. Nonetheless, the GIA pressed ahead hiring local staff and searching for a location for their project in Antwerp.

The GIA will now not open a laboratory in Antwerp. Surprisingly, the real pressure came from diamond dealers and traders in New York and other parts of the USA, through such bodies as the Diamond Industry Steering Committee. They argued that if the cutters and dealers in Antwerp were able to get GIA grading reports, they could by-pass the dealers in New York and deal directly with the

manufacturers and stores in America using American certificates to sell their diamonds. The dealers' view prevailed and caused an independent laboratory to review its strategy.

## Laser-drilled diamonds

Another situation that is not yet satisfactorily resolved is that of treated diamonds or laser-drilled diamonds. Under pressure from some of the cutting centres the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) is considering the following three-part resolution:

1. laser drilling is an acceptable, permanent process utilized in the cutting and polishing of diamonds;
2. diamonds which have been laser-drilled should not be classified with treated diamonds. Lasering is not a process which infuses a foreign substance into the diamond or otherwise affects its integrity;
3. all diamond grading laboratories should indicate the existence of laser drilling in their grading reports.

If the resolution were accepted in its entirety, members of the Diamond Bourse or Diamond Club in London would be in a difficult position. The UK trade abides by CIBJO rules and these categorically state that laser-drilled diamonds must be designated as treated (Art. 6 of the *CIBJO Diamond Book*).

I remember that, not so many years ago, laser-drilled stones were anathema throughout the trade. If one had tampered with a large stone and increased its value by turning a black mark into a white one, this would have been considered cheating and dishonest. Smaller stones with black marks were sold as naats and these were cheaper than those with white marks. Techniques have now improved to the extent that, due to the angles of penetration and the thinness of the laser beam used, laser drilling is often difficult to detect by dealers, especially in small stones and often in larger ones.

The arguments from the cutters and

polishers is that they can now polish the inside of the stone as well as the outside! They further argue that many very small stones are now laser-drilled to remove the black marks and it would be impossible to separate these from other stones of 1 or 2 points (0.01 - 0.02ct). So here we have a section of the trade trying to establish an increased share of the market at the expense of others who will only deal in natural untreated stones.

## Treatments

In the coloured stone trade, new enhancement techniques are appearing ever more frequently. These are not only designed to give us more beautiful stones, but also to increase the values of such stones. And again, it is possible that one section's profit could be another section's loss. Thus when the colour of Geuda sapphires was first improved by heat treatment, their prices rose dramatically and prices of natural stones of a similar hue dropped. This was because initially it was difficult to detect heat treatment. When the features of heat treatment became established and recognizable, there was some readjustment in market prices. Disclosure became an important issue and its complexities and future implications may only become apparent in such contexts as international meetings. At these meetings, the various groups representing sections of the trade establish their points of view, but for the long term health of the gem and diamond business their altruistic motives must be heard and encouraged. H.L.

Overheard in a coffee bar in Hatton Garden on a particularly hot and steamy July day:

A: 'Do you have air conditioning in your office?'

B: 'You must be joking. The nearest I have is my boss breathing down the back of my neck!'

## FOOL'S GOLD

### Lining up gold

The examination of the materials and technology of jewellery is often far more informative than just helping to determine whether an object is 'right' or 'wrong'. In some cases we can obtain useful information about the 'homogeneity' of a find or group. An interesting example of this occurred a few years ago where two Roman gold rings had been described by the dealer selling them as having been 'found together'. The new owner wanted to know if we could prove this. There were no convenient clumps of earth on them to show that they came from the same bit of ground, but detailed study of the alloys used, the tool marks and the nature and positioning of surface wear did permit us to say, with reasonable certainty, that the rings were made from near-enough identical gold alloys, had been worked with the same tools and had been worn next to each other on the same finger of the original wearer. Thus, if they were made in the same workshop at the same time, with the same tools and originally worn by the same owner, we could assume that the story of their find in the same burial was correct. Needless to say, the technical examinations, plus detailed stylistic considerations, also showed the rings to be fully consistent with an ancient origin!

Showing that two gold or silver alloys are near enough identical in both major and trace elements is often a good guide that they share a similar origin, but even apparently different compositions can help us. Two recent examples will illustrate what I mean.

In the first case an ancient gold torc or neck ring was made of two separate sections hinged together. The owner wished to ascertain that the two parts indeed belonged together. Analysis of the gold of the

two parts showed almost identical compositions, but when we analysed the solder used to join the hinge parts to the back and to the front sections the solder alloys, at first glance, seemed very different. However, if solder is made by adding a little extra silver or copper or both to some of the gold being worked (a common practice in ancient and historic times) the final composition of the solder in the joint area can vary anywhere from the composition of the solder to the composition of the surrounding the gold parts. The higher the temperatures reached in the joint area during the soldering and the longer the area remains at elevated temperatures, the more the solder alloy will mix with, and diffuse into, the surrounding gold. The possible compositions of the final solder region will not be random, but if plotted on a graph they will, in theory, lie along a straight line between the composition of the original solder and the composition of the surrounding gold. In the case of the torc, the composition of the two solders lay in a near-perfect straight line with the composition of the torc itself. This is good evidence that the two joins were made using the same basic solder alloy.

In another case a series of gold ornaments from the peripheries of the Byzantine world were possibly all from the same 'parure'. Here the compositions varied considerably from very high purity - the same as the current Byzantine gold coins - down to quite low levels. However, when plotted graphically, the compositions in terms of gold, silver and copper of seven out of the nine objects analysed lay on an almost perfect straight line. This suggests that these seven objects were made by debasing Byzantine coinage standard gold (quite probably actual coins) with varying amounts of the same batch of a silver/copper alloy. Again a good indication, though by no means proof, of a common origin.

J.M.O.

## EDUCATION

### Classical Jewellery

A weekend residential course is to be held in the beautiful Madingley Hall, near Cambridge (once the residence of a Prince of Wales), on 24-26 March 1995 and is being organized by the University of Cambridge Board of Continuing Education. The course lasts from Friday evening up to and including lunch on Sunday and costs a remarkably reasonable £107.00, full board.

Over recent years there has been a growing interest in the gold jewellery produced in the ancient Classical world, culminating in the magnificent Greek Gold exhibition held at the British Museum, London, from June to October 1994. This course, taught by Dr Jack Ogden, will discuss the stylistic development, materials and production technology of gold jewellery in the Greek and Roman spheres of influence from Mycenaean times onwards. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which art historical, scientific and ancient literary evidence can be combined in order to build up the fullest possible picture of jewellery use and wear during the period in question. The identification of fakes will also be covered.

The course is intended for those with an interest in Classical jewellery - whether as working goldsmiths, archaeologists, museum curators or interested lay people. No prior knowledge will be assumed, but the course will provide a detailed introduction to the subject and be a foundation for possible further study or research.

Further details from The Courses Registrar, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB3 8AQ, Tel: 0954 210636, fax: 0954 210677.

### Gem Education Highlights

After the hectic excitement of exams and results, the new London Evening and Daytime Gemmology courses are under way here in our Gem Tutorial Centre. Contact us now if you require a gem diamond course or an accelerated gemmology course, or if you need a speedy follow-on to your Preliminary success. Do not delay - we have started!

### Global Centres

We have a growing list of proposals for Allied Teaching Centres worldwide. For gemmology in the UK, North Radstock College near to Bath and Bristol, Regents College London and City College Manchester are ready to hear from you. For gem diamond, contact London Guildhall University or Telford College in Edinburgh.

Overseas ATCs soon to be running our gemmology course include Shanghai, Prague, Washington, Tallinn, Singapore, Vancouver, San Francisco and Madrid. Contact us for information. Correspondence courses have been given a boost in North America, with our first USA tutor working there now.

Meanwhile, our HQ and travelling Gem Workshops and Tutorials grow in popularity, with particular success in Ireland where a repeat run will take place in October.

Now is the time to contact us for details; simply ring 071-404 3334 (overseas +44-71-404 3334) or fax 071-404 8843.

## GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre

- 21 Sept. Introduction to Gemstones**  
A day to look into the beautiful world of gemstones. Hold the gems in your hand and discover the individual qualities and characteristics that make them so prized.  
*The price is only £47.00 for the day (including sandwich lunch)*
- 22 Sept. Basic Identification of Gem Materials**  
Spend a day mastering the basic methods of detection. A common-sense approach aimed at helping you distinguish a variety of gem materials wherever you are.  
*The price is only £47.00 for the day (including sandwich lunch)*
- 28 Sept. Enquire Within: Amber**  
A day for observing and handling natural amber, treated amber and imitations both natural and artificial. Demonstrated by Helen Fraquet, the authority on amber history, identification, simulants and enhancement.  
*Price £89.30 (including sandwich lunch)*
- 8-9 Oct. Weekend Diamond Grading Course**  
This successful course concentrates on the practical aspects of clarity and colour grading of polished diamonds, using 10x lens, microscope and colour comparison stones. Mounted stones, simulants and clarity-enhanced stones will be seen. Of great value to all involved in diamond trading and appraisal, the course is taught by Laboratory staff.  
*Price £246.75 (not including lunch)*
- 19 Oct. Preliminary Workshop**  
A day of practical tuition for Preliminary students and anyone who needs a start with instruments, stones and crystals. You can learn to use the 10x lens with maximum efficiency, to observe the effects and results from the main gem testing instruments and to understand important aspects of crystals in gemmology.  
*Price £47.00; GAGTL students £33.49 (including sandwich lunch)*
- 2-3 Nov. Recognizing Treatments and Synthetics**  
An opportunity for you to handle treated and synthetic gem materials currently encountered in the trade, plus materials which have recently appeared. Improve your technique for detection work on these materials. Places on this course are limited so early application is recommended.  
*Price £223.25 (including sandwich lunch)*
- 9-11 & 14-16 Nov. The Gem Diamond Practical Tutorial**  
Limited places are available now to anyone requiring basic practical training or a practical review for trade purposes. This is a tutorial structured over six days and is designed to give home study students a complete grounding in practical aspects. It will cover clarity and colour grading of polished diamonds, using 10x lens, microscope and colour comparison stones. You will also handle simulants and clarity-enhanced stones, rough and crystals.  
*Price £658.00 (including sandwich lunches)*
- 1995 7-8 Jan. Two-Day Diploma Practical Workshop**  
The long-established intensive practical course to help students prepare for the Diploma practical examination or for non-students to brush up on technique. This is the course to help you practise the methods required to coax results from instruments which can be difficult or awkward to use. The course includes a half-length mock exam for you to mark yourself.  
*Price £160.39 (£111.04 for GAGTL registered students) - includes sandwich lunch*

Just phone, fax or write for details to Doug Garrod at the  
GAGTL Education Office - 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU  
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You can enjoy gems and gemmology at all levels with our short courses, workshops and tutorials on a variety of subjects such as Modern Gemstone Treatments, Introductory Diamond Grading, Bead Identification or a Day of Amber.

For details contact GAGTL Education now  
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27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill Entrance), London EC1N 8SU

## RECENT EVENTS

### Nineteenth-Century Jewellery

On 30 October 1993 and 19 June 1994, in the excellently appointed Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, The Society of Jewellery Historians held two all-day symposiums on 'Nineteenth-century jewellery'.

The first day started with *A century of changing style* delivered, with her usual immense expertise and enthusiasm, by Shirley Bury. Her lecture gave a comprehensive overview of the variations in designs as the century progressed. David Beasley of the Goldsmiths Company followed the coffee break with an exposition on *Metal standards and hallmarking*, starting with the competitive pressures on watch-case makers to reduce the purity of gold from 22ct to 18ct at the end of the eighteenth-century and continuing through the various nineteenth-century acts controlling the qualities and requirements for hallmarking of jewellery. Christopher Cavey then gave a most informative and well

illustrated talk on *Gemstones, fashions and discoveries*, covering an enormous range of the natural, treated and imitation materials that were used during the century. After an excellent lunch, Charlotte Gere gave a fascinating lecture *Royal jewellery, mining the ledgers*, in which she told us about many of the discoveries she had made about royal purchases from Garrard, while researching their ledgers for her splendid new book *Garrard, the Crown Jewellers for 150 years*. One of her collaborators on the book, William Summers, lately Crown Jeweller, was in the audience and raised some interesting points after the lecture. Allison Massey then talked about *Jet, a mid-Victorian phenomenon*. She described its immense popularity over a relatively short period, explained the different styles and, terrifyingly, detailed the many ingenious imitations that were, and in some cases still are, used. Following tea, Richard Digby gave a

lively talk on *Cameos and intaglios*. This was presented from a dealer's point of view, and he described many examples that had passed through his hands, explaining the research that was necessary to identify the subjects and thus increase both their interest and market value. At the conclusion of the day there was a much appreciated opportunity to actually handle some of his stones. The last lecturer of the day was Geoffrey Munn whose subject was *The jewellery historian as detective*. In his inimitably entertaining style Geoffrey told fascinating tales of tracking down provenances and long-disappeared items, and finding and identifying important jewels. He demonstrated that many historically important pieces lurk unrecognized in jewellers' stock.

The second day started with *Cut-steel jewellery and other wares* enthusiastically delivered by Tony North. Somewhat surprisingly, this talk started with details of sword hilts. However, Tony explained that these hilts were worn as male decorative items and were often purchased cased from jewellers. He moved on to describe a pierced watch case, chatelaines and more normal jewellery, emanating from Russia and Germany as well as England. Woodstock wares received special mention and may often be identified by the fact that every stud is screwed into the jewellery frame. After coffee Katherine Purcell gave a superbly illustrated and delivered lecture on *Falize, great Parisian jewellers*. Based on her many years of research, Katherine told an absorbing story of a family at the centre of the great Parisian jewellery trade, including their designs, customers and personal relationships. Ted Donohoe followed with a talk entitled *Thereby hangs a tale*. Ted described several items that had passed through his hands together with their associated history. A memorial ring of Jeremy Bentham, the founder of University College London, was shown being worn on a portrait of his friend José Cecilio de

Ville painted some ten years before Bentham's death. The ring, however, had been added to the portrait at a later date. A watch fob commemorating Great Britain's declaration of war against Germany in 1914 comprised copies of the personal seals of the five foreign secretaries who signed the Treaty of London in 1839 guaranteeing Belgium's sovereignty, and a final plaque representing the 'scrap of paper' over which the German Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, said that Great Britain had gone to war. After another good lunch the programme continued with Shena Mason and *Made in Birmingham*. Shena gave a most entertaining history of the Birmingham Jewellery quarter, including details of the buildings, firms and products. Most of the audience were amazed to learn that some jewellery firms diversified in the 1880s into bicycle manufacture and, indeed, that at least one manufacturer combined both jewellery and bicycles in one catalogue. Philip Stocker continued with a talk on *Appraisals*. He explained some of the problems in describing objects, the amount and type of description that is desirable, the different purposes for which valuations are made, and the different types of values that may be attributed to insurance valuations. Philip also discussed the points to look for in objects that might materially affect their value and the legal responsibility of appraisers. Finally, after tea, Judy Rudoie gave a characteristically sparkling talk on *Medallic jewellery of La Belle Époque*. This type of jewellery was little known by much of the audience, and it was fascinating to learn about the combination of the sculptor's, medallist's and jeweller's art. The resulting pieces, beautifully illustrated by Judy, were remarkable for the variety of their subjects, materials, finish (often accentuated with diamonds) and general attractiveness. Nigel Israel

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Annual Trade Lunch

GAGTL are pleased to announce that the Annual Trade Luncheon will be held on Friday 30 September 1994 in London at the Whitbread Brewery. The event is open to all members and their guests and in recent years has become a permanent fixture in the diaries of many connected with the gem profession. The Luncheon is an opportunity to express appreciation to staff for their hard work, to thank customers or suppliers for their support, or simply to meet other trade members in a light and informal atmosphere.

The guest speaker this year is the Managing Director of Cartier Ltd, London, Mr Arnaud M. Bamberger.

The menu has been selected to suit all tastes and the cost per person is £36.00 including VAT and wine. Tickets for single and block bookings are now available from Mary Burland at GAGTL, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU. Telephone: 071-404 3334. Fax: 071-404 8843.

### 1994 Goldsmiths' Fair

The 1994 Goldsmiths' Fair takes place at Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London from 3-8 October. The Goldsmiths' Fair, with the aura of the Goldsmiths' Hall around it, is possibly the most exciting venue for the sale of contemporary jewellery and silverware anywhere in the world.

This year some 80 exhibitors will be showing their wares and the jewellers and silversmiths who are exhibiting will offer a unique range of products of diverse designs and styles. The items will range from the very simplest items of silver jewellery to the most elaborate pieces of gold, platinum-set with gemstones at the

height of fashion. Our silversmiths will be showing items which range from classic functional designs to the more esoteric and exciting demonstration of the silversmith's craft, many of them promising to be the antiques of tomorrow.

Visitors to this exhibition will also have an opportunity to win their favourite piece of jewellery or silverware by entering the Gold Star competition.

### Gemmology in Milan

The fifth series of lectures entitled *Gemmologia Europa V* has been arranged to take place in October at the Milan Chamber of Commerce Gem Testing Laboratory. It will comprise five lectures on successive Mondays all on the theme *Rubies and Sapphires* and the distinguished European gemmologists participating will be Alan Jobbins (subject: Rubies: occurrences and features), Kenneth Scarratt (Sapphires: occurrences and features), Henri-Jean Schubnel (History and legends), Michael O'Donoghue (Treatments, synthetics and imitations) and Eduard Gübelin (Rubies and sapphires: inclusions). For full details, contact CISGEM, Via Ansperto 5, 20123 Milano, Italy. Telephone: 02/85.15.52.50.

### 1994 GAGTL Annual Conference

Registrations for the GAGTL Conference to be held in London in October this year are arriving in a steady stream and we are looking forward to a programme full of interest for many sections of our membership.

Development of a prototype Brewster angle refractometer is



proceeding well and Peter Read hopes to be able to augment his lecture with a demonstration of the refractometer in identifying many kinds of coloured stones, diamonds and diamond imitations.

More and more coloured stones and diamonds are coming on to the market in a range of treated forms and the implications for the trade and for the public of these treatments will form a stimulating and controversial theme for the panel discussion in the afternoon.

In the morning the theme of the Conference will concentrate on diamonds with the keynote lecture to be delivered by Professor I. Sunagawa.

Full details and registration forms can be obtained from the GAGTL office.  
R.R.H.

## Fiftieth Jubilee Celebration

### The Gemmological Association of Australia 1945-1995

In 1995, the Gemmological Association of Australia will celebrate fifty years of spreading gemmological knowledge to people from all walks of life.

The Queensland Division of The Gemmological Association of Australia is host for the Annual Federation Conference in the jubilee year, and the famous Gold Coast has been chosen as the venue. A warm invitation is extended to participate in the celebratory conference.

Alan Hodgkinson, the distinguished Scottish gemmologist, will be the special guest speaker and plans a series of stimulating and educational lectures. This scientific programme will be supported by an Australian presentation entitled *An Overview of Australia's Gems*.

The Conference will be held from 4-8 May 1995 (a beautiful time of year in Queensland) and the venue is

Conrad Jupiters, Broadbeach Island, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, Queensland. For further information please contact Mrs Hylda Bracewell, Conference Co-ordinator, Post Office Box 6055, Mitchelton, Brisbane, Queensland 4053, Australia. Phone: (07) 355 5080. Fax: (07) 891 2862.

## Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree

The Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree is known internationally as the largest commercial gem and mineral show in Canada, and attracts top collectors and mineral/gem dealers from North America and Europe.

It takes place from Thursday 3 August to Sunday 6 August 1995 in the North Hastings Community Centre, Bancroft, Ontario.

For more information please contact Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 539, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0. Tel: (613) 332-1513. Fax: (613) 332-2119.

## MUSEUM NEWS

### The Hoxne Treasure

Earlier this year the British Museum acquired the important hoard of late-Roman coins, silver plate and jewellery which was found in November 1992 at Hoxne, Suffolk. From 8 October 1994, part of the treasure (including all the gold jewellery and the most important silver items) will be loaned to Ipswich Museum for three months.

The colour booklet *The Hoxne Treasure, an illustrated introduction*, by Roger Bland and Catherine Johns is available for £4.95 from British Museum Publications. C.M. Johns

### Victoria and Albert Museum

The Jewellery Gallery of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, will be closed for essential maintenance work from 19 September to 24 October 1994. The Museum regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

## GLEANINGS

### Patent Place

In the past I have brought to readers' attention some of the old patents relating to jewellery and precious metals. There is a long association between the goldsmithing industry and the patent authorities. Indeed, the second patent ever issued, in 1617, was to Nicholas Hilliard for 'Drawing, Engraving and printing portraits of the Royal family' and this included such representations on 'medallies of gold'.

Just three years later (patent number 53 of 1620) David Ramseye introduced a method, sadly not

described, for the more efficient recovery of the traces of silver and gold found in copper, tin and lead mines where, hitherto, they did 'dayly cast awaie and lose much of those mynes which conteyne in them Gould or silver'. He was granted this patent provided that once every six months he delivered to the mint in the Tower of London or elsewhere, all the gold and silver so recovered. In return he received 'readie mony as gold or silver of the like finenes and goodnes is worth'. J.M.O.

# What the Dickens

In this column - which will be, for time being anyway, my last forage through Charles Dickens' thoughts on various jewellery topics - I will start by looking at some more of his notes on pearls.

In the last issue we cited his references to Linnaeus' experiments on culturing pearls. The Chinese were also at work - in *Household Words* for 5 February 1859, Dickens says: 'There is a species of pearl mussel in which the Chinese produce artificial pearls by introducing small shot and sand between the mantle of the animal and its shell. Mr Gaskoine has a specimen consisting of two strings of pearls ...' Is this the earliest cultured pearl necklet recorded in Europe?

The need for some cheaper alternative to natural pearls can be understood when we consider the susceptibility of pearls to the ravages of time. In the same article as the above, Dickens recounts the following:

'Pearls are liable to a disease which makes them sicken and perish. Noble families, who pride themselves upon the possession of ancestral pearls, are every now and then panic-stricken by finding some of their precious gems turning a sickly blue colour and crumbling into dust. The crown jeweller of France applied, not long since, to the Academy of Sciences for a remedy for this disease caused, most probably, by the membranes which form part of the pearls corrupting and decaying, as all animal matter does, by contact with air, and leaving the powdered carbonate of lime as the only remains of the once lustrous pearls. There seems to be no remedy that we can think of for pearl-sickening, except preserving the pearls as much as possible from the influences of the light and air.'

His mention of carbonate of lime, that is calcium carbonate, was remarkably accurate - the decomposition of old pearls appears to

be due, at least in part, to the alteration of the aragonite to calcite.

The doubts that nowadays surface from time to time as to the necessity of strict assay and hallmarking procedures in Britain were also expressed in the middle of the last century by Dickens:

'If manufacturers and purchasers [of gold and silver wares] were allowed to make their own bargains uninfluenced by all this official parade - would it not be better and cheaper in the end that these diets [samples sent for assay] should die away? Are they not relics of the same antiquated system which at one time gave curfew laws, and at another sumptuary laws? When trades are too young to run alone they are protected; but they are all getting out of leading-strings nowadays, one by one. Gold and silver working is certainly an old trade; but (we wish to leave room for correction) it may just possibly not be old enough to be left to itself.'

There is obviously a lot to be learned from Dickens by jewellery

historians and I hope this series of excerpts have whetted some of your appetites. In some cases the information is tantalizing - who was the Mr Gaskoine with his string of cultured pearls? In other cases Dickens does mention people for whom we can at least suggest identities. For example he notes of niello work:

'For many ages no one practiced this pretty art; but within the last few years, M. Wagner, a goldsmith from Berlin, has revived it at Paris; and some of the London Goldsmiths are beginning to turn their attention this way.' (*Household Words* 8 April 1854).

This is presumably Charles Wagner, a jeweller in the neo-Gothic style, one of whose protégés was the revivalist jeweller Jules Wiëse, for a time the head of the Froment-Meurice workshops. Wagner is known for his interest in niello and the London goldsmiths who adopted the technique included S.H. & D. Gass. J.M.O.

## GAGTL EXPANDS

Earlier this year the GAGTL took on the fourth floor in the Greville Street building to expand our on-site educational and tutorial facilities. This is now fully operational and ready to welcome the first students in September to our many daytime and evening courses including the Diploma in Gemmology course. This occupies two full days per week and leads to the Diploma examination in nine months. The new space on the fourth floor will also be used for diamond grading tutorials and for a selection of our wide range of short courses.

Modern facilities that the Education Division now enjoys are essential for providing a competent and professional service, and in July and August it was the Laboratory's

turn for upgrading. The staff were ensconced temporarily on the second floor while the third floor accommodation was being refurbished to a high standard. All gem testing and diamond grading services were maintained during this interval, and the redesigned laboratory layout will provide the better conditions and facilities needed to meet the increased demand for the testing, grading and study of diamonds, pearls and precious stones.

Part and parcel of these changes is that Gemmological Instruments Limited has now been established in a designated area on the second floor of 27 Greville Street where visitors can see the extensive range of new books and gem testing instruments held in stock. R.R.H.

## SALEROOM NOTES

The magnificent jewels of Mme Hélène Beaumont formed part of the Sotheby's Geneva sale on 18 May 1994. For the Jonker II diamond, a step-cut stone of 40.46ct graded D colour and clarity VS1, set in a ring, the price paid was SF 2,863,500. The Jonker diamond was found on 17 January 1934 by the diamond digger Jacobus Jonker and the original crystal weighed 726ct.

In the same sale a magnificent emerald and diamond necklace, c. 1935, fetched SF 1,653,500. It features sugar-loaf cabochon emeralds, a style which perhaps began in the 1920s. A highly important ruby and diamond necklace by Van Cleef and Arpels, c. 1935, fetched SF 905,500. This piece is similar in style and quality to one created for the Duchess of Windsor in 1936.

At Sotheby's London sale held on 23 June 1994 a brooch set with diamonds and rubies originally forming part of the French crown jewels fetched £62,000. The brooch consists of a scroll and interlaced foliate design set throughout with cushion-shaped diamonds and foiled rubies. It was part of a ruby and diamond parure made originally for Marie-Thérèse, Duchesse d'Angoulême (1778-1851), the daughter and sole surviving child of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. It was created by the crown jeweller, Ménière, in 1816 from designs by Evrard Bapst with stones belonging to Empress Marie-Louise. Originally the parure may have consisted of a diadem, two necklaces, a comb, one pair of earrings, one belt, three clasps and one pair of bracelets. M.O'D.



The ruby and diamond necklace from the Hélène Beaumont sale. The accompanying bracelet sold for SF 355,500. (Photo courtesy of Sotheby's, London)

I have been able to examine two new synthetic stones manufactured by the J.O. Crystal Company (who are responsible for the Ramaura ruby). The Nicholas Created Alexandrite has the strongest colour change of any alexandrite, natural or synthetic, that I have yet seen in artificial light; the red is very close to ruby and amazed students, some of whom have not seen many alexandrites. Fortunately this strength of colour change is at least highly suggestive of artificial origin. The stone is most attractive and has a very high potential for jewellery. Judith Osmer has also produced the Empress Cultured Emerald with a bright lightish green. As we expect from any synthetic worth its salt, there are no noticeable inclusions and of course this absence makes any gem tester suspect a synthetic. These are two remarkable stones and more details will be available in due course. The emerald is priced at approximately \$200.00 per carat and the alexandrite at about \$100.00 per carat.

Turning to natural stones recently seen, some of the finest known spessartine comes from the United States. Gemmologists may know the deep orange stones from the pegmatites at the Rutherford no. 2 mine, Amelia, Virginia (the usage 'Amelia Court House' does not seem to be used now) and those from a mine occupying pegmatites on the western side of the Hartfield Creek Valley  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles north-east of Ramona [Sinkankas, *Gemstones of North America*, 1959]. These stones at their best are a fine light reddish-orange and the specimen I saw was especially rich in colour. Crystals showing trapezohedral form occur in clefts in the pegmatite with cleavelandite (a platy or lamellar habit of albite), smoky quartz and black tourmaline. Faceted stones are usually small.  
M.O'D.

## IS IT RARE? IF SO, WHY?

Why is a stone rare? - the obvious answer is there is not much of it. However, this answer is not complete and there are other factors involved. In general terms diamond is hardly a rare gem; fancy colours such as yellows are not exactly common and pinks are rarer; red is truly rare.

Aquamarine, another stone everyone is familiar with, is sometimes found in the Black Forest region of Germany. Therefore, relative to other sources, German aqua is decidedly rare. Similarly, blue to black sapphire is common, green, yellow and pink not uncommon, purple and colourless rarer, shades of orange are rare.

Compared to the above gem species, scapolite is a rare gemstone; it is most commonly colourless or yellow but it is much harder to find purple, and pink is very rare.

Tourmaline, still barely accepted by the British public, has a very wide range of colours, greens and pinks being the most widely available. Even the beautiful bi-colours can be found without too much trouble. Truly colourless tourmaline (achroite), nice blues (Paraiba) and reds are rare.

Over the twenty years I have been associated with rare stones, I have probably seen more spinels than any other species and although this occurs in a wide range of colours, I have handled only one true green, one orange and one attractive light pink from Sri Lanka.

Chrysoberyl can be a beautiful stone in its fine chartreuse colour, though good examples are certainly not common, but in its cat's-eye form

good specimens are rare. Similarly, alexandrite is one of the few rare stones known by name to the public in the UK, usually because they believe that they own a fine example. More often than not they have purchased a stone abroad - Turkey has been mentioned more than once - and invariably the stone proves to be synthetic corundum simulating alexandrite. They are very surprised when you show them a real one and amazed at the difference in price. There is a reasonable compromise available nowadays in synthetic alexandrite. Before leaving this species I wonder why alexandrite, which can only have caught public imagination because of its colour-change albeit via a simulant, has not in turn brought a demand for other colour-change stones such as sapphire which are available in small numbers, or even less commonly spinel and garnet.

To my mind one of the most attractive of the rarer stones is andalusite. It is still reasonably priced and not too difficult to find. It cries out to be used in jewellery.

Until a few years ago one of the world's rarest gems that was pretty and hard enough to be used in jewellery was taaffeite. It tends to look rather like spinel, so someone in Sri Lanka had the bright idea of going through all stocks of spinel - it was surprising how many taaffeites were found though it is still a rare gem.

Mention rhodochrosite and most people instantly think of the Argentinian variety that to my mind closely resembles their corned beef!

There is a much more attractive translucent variety found in Japan (incidentally any gem from Japan is rare in Europe). This, however, is put in the shade by the very beautiful transparent variety from South Africa, only discovered in the late 1970s when there was a lot of it available. Much of it then was in large crystal groups which are most unlikely ever to be cut. The most recent source producing beautiful gem material is

the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado.

Moving to the more exotic, we should consider such stones as the beautiful bright orange crocoite. If you are not familiar with it I suggest you look it up and you will wonder how anyone can cut and put a good polish on it. There are also some wonderful colours in apatite. Amblygonite, adularia, anhydrite, axinite, boleite, brazilianite, charoite and cuprite are other occasional

visitors. Many of these are not easily cut. Nowadays most commercial cutters concentrate on cutting just two or three of the more common species and have no experience in cutting exotics at all. Some are heat sensitive or soft, brittle, unstable, or have difficult cleavages. There are very few cutters in Europe who can cut such exotics - but without them the range of stones available would be drastically reduced. Tony French

## ANCIENT EARRING

### Size of Relief



Assyrian relief fragment

Even those with minimal interest in the ancient arts will scarcely have failed to have heard of the Assyrian relief fragment (almost 2 metres by 1 metre) that was sold at Christie's, London, in July for a staggering £7.7 million after having graced the wall of a school tuck shop for years (see above and p.49). The relief dates from the ninth century BC and comes from a known palace of the King Ashurnasipal II at Nimrud, in what is now Iraq. Until the discovery of magnificent gold jewellery in three intact tombs found in the 1980s at Nimrud, actual gold jewellery from the period was remarkably rare and certainly was hardly ever seen on the market. Assyrian reliefs were thus

almost our only information as to the types of jewellery then worn.

It was a remarkable coincidence (missed by the rest of the world's press!) that a gold earring of almost precisely the same type as that shown being worn by the royal arms bearer or eunuch on the relief, came up for sale at Sotheby's, London, the very next day as the first object in their sale of antiquities. The earring shown here is the only one in private hands known to the writer and is one of the finest in existence anywhere. The workmanship, including the very precise granulation work, is exceptional. Analysis carried out during its previous ownership showed it to be of high purity gold (about 95 per cent gold, 3.5 per cent silver and

1.5 per cent copper, with traces of iron - quite probably unalloyed native gold).

Sadly, like so much jewellery in private hands, there is no recorded provenance for the earring, but it undoubtedly stands as a superb example of jewellery from nearly three thousand years ago. Since it fetched only about 0.03 per cent of the amount paid for the relief, the earring also demonstrates the relative lack of interest in the so-called minor arts. Or, perhaps, size is everything.

J.M.O.



Assyrian gold earring, private collection.

## BOOKS

*The Scottish pearl in its world context*, Fred Woodward, Diehard Press Edinburgh, £6.50. This excellent and most reasonably priced paperback has been written to highlight the danger that the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* is in. The author is a noted mollusc expert with a passionate interest in conservation. The book, as one would expect, contains much material on the natural history of the mussel and the steps that are being taken to conserve it. However, it also contains a wealth of extremely

interesting information on the history of Scottish pearls, the methods and history of culturing, current Scottish pearl fishing methods, and even cameos of six modern Scottish pearl fishers. Copious fascinating quotations from historical works on pearl and pearl fisheries are included throughout the work. The whole book, although containing much technical detail, is written in a most approachable style, and it is unreservedly recommended to all.

N.B.Israel

*Fabergé and his works, an annotated bibliography of the first century of his art*, Christel Ludewig McCannless, Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, New Jersey, \$49.50. This hardbound book of 411 pages lists chronologically with annotations 1772 journals, newspapers, advertisements, other printed materials and audiovisual items, covering the period from 1899 to 1992. Titles of foreign language entries are translated and annotated in English. Exhibition and auction dates, as well as prices realized at auction are included. The index of over 2200 subject headings, together with a chronology of the House of Fabergé, an updated genealogy of the Fabergé family, a glossary of proper names, and 34 black and white photographic plates trace the history of Fabergé and many of the objects made by the firm. One is filled with awe at the dedication (some might say obsession) that must have been needed to compile this work. It comes as no surprise to learn that Christel McCannless is a professional librarian. This not inexpensive book must be considered an absolute necessity for any serious Fabergé researcher. It should, however, be noted that *books* on Fabergé are *not* included in this work. This seems strange as an annotated bibliography of books would have been relatively easy to add, and without it this book seems incomplete.

N.B.Israel

*Greek gold: jewellery of the classical world*. Dyfri Williams and Jack Ogden. British Museum Press, 256 pages, 257 colour illustrations, 21 black-and-white, with maps and line-drawings. Hardback £25.00.

The catalogue of the 'Greek Gold' exhibition currently showing at the British Museum was briefly described in the previous issue of *Gem & Jewellery News*, and attention was drawn to the special offer to GAGTL and SJH members, who may obtain the paperback edition by post for the special exhibition price of £14.95.

## Old Book Department

Edwin Streeter is best known for the six editions of *Precious Stones*, the last of which was published in 1898. But a much rarer book is *Pearls and pearling life*, of which there was only one edition (1886). This book, whose few coloured plates are not of the highest quality, has 329 pages and was published in London by George Bell & Son. As with many of Streeter's books, the paper is often in poor condition and if you have a copy it would be a good idea not to keep it in over-hot surroundings (not close to the central heating, for example). Pearl books have always become rarities quite quickly because print runs were small compared with those on the 'mineral' gemstones. Nonetheless, the text of the Streeter's book is still worth reading and as always some information appears here which is not repeated by later writers. There is plenty on the folk-lore of the pearl and on pearl formation (we know little more today!).

If you look out for *Pearls and pearling life* in a second-hand bookshop note that it is bound in brown with a gilt representation of Britannia on the front cover. Frankly, you would be very lucky indeed to

find a copy unless in a specialist bookshop, where you would expect to pay at least £100-£150. M.O'D.

I am currently writing a book on Montana sapphires for an American publisher. While there are several good texts covering some of the geology of the area they are now very hard to get (you'd have to try US sources): rarest of all, though, is the publicity booklet produced on the Yogo sapphires by one of the many owners of the Yogo deposit. This is the booklet *A Royal Gem*, published in 1914 by the New Mine Sapphire Syndicate. These were English owners and the book was printed in Leicester by the Criterion Press. There are black-and-white pictures of the mine and of mining operations as well as most attractive representations of cut blue sapphires and of sapphire-set jewellery. The author [see Sinkankas, *Gemology, an annotated bibliography*, 1993] is probably Arthur Tremayne, early editor of *The Gemmologist*. I saw this in a shop window in 1987 close to the British Museum and paid £15.00 for it. If I were to be offered it today for ten times the amount I would buy it!

M.O'D.

However, the importance of the publication may not have been sufficiently stressed.

This catalogue is by far the best book available on its subject, and it sets new standards in the publication of ancient jewellery. It combines the outstanding scholarship appropriate in a permanent work of reference with the lavish beauty of an art book.

In addition to the detailed and fully referenced catalogue descriptions of each object, accompanied by colour pictures which reveal the intricate detail typical of ancient Greek gold jewellery, there is a series of introductory essays, each one of which would justify the full price of the book. In these, the jewellery is discussed in its archaeological and social context, and the goldworking techniques are clearly described and illustrated with line-drawings and superb photographs taken under high magnification. It is not necessary to have a special interest in Classical antiquity to enjoy and learn from this volume: anybody with an interest in jewellery and goldworking of any period should have it in their library and, at its price, it must be the book bargain of the decade. C.M. Johns

## COMPETITION

### Dead reckoning

It was a hot but quiet day in Jasper Dopstick's gemmological laboratory and he fetched a much-needed glass of water. There was no clear space to place the glass on his characteristically cluttered desk, so he stood it on the pan of his electronic balance. He noted the balance was switched on, but when he reached to turn it off he accidentally hit the TARE button and zeroed the reading. His attention was then diverted by his local spider whom he called Webster on account of its habits and gemmological environment. Webster was descending straight down from the ceiling on a thin strand. Unerringly he landed in the glass of water. Absently Jasper jotted down the reading on the balance as Webster hung, briefly, in mid-glass, and then

again after Webster had come to rest on the bottom of the glass. Sadly Webster drowned and when Penny Waite called round later in the day she found Jasper inscribing a simple memorial for the already cremated Webster.

'Shame you don't know more details about him,' said Penny.

'Well,' replied Jasper, 'I suppose I could include his weight.'

'And specific gravity,' added Penny.

Well could he? (At least in theory and allowing artistic licence, etc. - and assuming traces of detergent in the glass had prevented air-bubble buildup during Webster's tragic descent.) Jack Ogden

## Education Liaison Officer

### To help with the expansion of gem education

Salary a.a.e.

GAGTL needs an enthusiastic person experienced in dealing with people, adept at spoken and written English, skilful at negotiation and promotion and willing or able to use WP/DTP/ database.

Contact and send CV to:

Ian Mercer, Director of Education at GAGTL,  
First Floor, 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8SU  
Tel: 071 - 404 3334 Fax: 071 - 404 8843

*No smoking is allowed on our premises.*

### Answer to the last competition

Mixed responses to the last competition, including the complaint that I hadn't specified Greenwich Mean Time or not. Anyway, in essence, the questions were - (a) where on earth are there two places very close together but where their local times are 3.5 or 4 hours apart? and (b) where, close together, can you find two places 24 hours apart in time and about 12 hours different from the UK? The first question (a) is tricky unless you have a good map of the time zones and notice that Afghanistan and China have a tiny mutual border although in Afghanistan the time is 4.5 hours ahead of Britain, while China is 8 hours ahead of the UK. In (b) the places must obviously lie just each side of the international date line. No prizes for that!

# 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.

- 28 September **Diamonds and the retail trade** Alan Clark
- 30 September Annual Trade Lunch. See p.56 for full details.
- 22 November **Gemstones on display at the Natural History Museum: past, present and future** Cally Hall
- 5 December **Sapphires in the Laboratory** Stephen Kennedy

## GAGTL Annual Conference

Diamonds and Modern Gemstone Developments

The 1994 GAGTL Annual Conference is to be held on Sunday 23 October at the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, London.

A full programme has been arranged to include lectures by Professor I. Sunagawa from Japan, A.T. Collins, David Callaghan, Peter Read and Eric Emms, as well as a Forum to discuss *Implications for the trade of gemstone treatments*. Further information is given on p 56.

For full details and a booking form contact Roger Harding at the GAGTL on 071-404 3334.

### Midlands Branch

- 30 September **Poking about in gemmological corners** Alan Hodgkinson
- 28 October Bring and Buy - rock swap, instrument demonstration, Do-it-Yourself
- 6 November Autumn Seminar at the Cobden Hotel, Hadley Road, Birmingham
- 25 November **How to buy gemstones** Grenville Millington
- 3 December Annual Dinner

The meetings will be held at Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Further details from Mandy MacKinnon on 021-444 7337.

### North West Branch

- 21 September **Pearls in the Arabian Gulf** Stephen Kennedy
- 19 October A visit to the Liverpool Museum of Geology, specimen minerals and instruments
- 16 November Annual General Meeting

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  
3 October

Catherine Johns, FSA, Department of Prehistoric & Romano-British Antiquities, will speak on the major new late-Roman treasure, the **Hoxne Hoard**.

This lecture will be held at the British Museum, and will be the opening lecture of the *Greek Gold* conference. SJH members who wish to attend this lecture but are not registered for the conference will need to show their **SJH Membership Card** to British Museum security staff. We regret that on this occasion it will not be possible for members to introduce guests to the meeting.

## The Art of the Greek Goldsmith

The Conference *The Art of the Greek Goldsmith*, being organized by the Society of Jewellery Historians and the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum and being held at the British Museum, 4-6 October 1994, is now in its final planning stages. If you wish to come but have not yet applied please do so as soon as possible. The registration fee is £45.00. Contact Dr Jack Ogden, CCPMR, PO Box 391, Cambridge CB5 8XE, fax: 0223 67232.

Monday  
14 November

Lord Balfour of Inchrye will give a lecture about **Famous Diamonds**, the title of his book devoted to that subject which was 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.

Monday  
23 January  
**1995**

Geoffrey Munn of Wartski will give us a view of **New Aspects of Fabergé**. The Society's AGM preceding the lecture will be open to members only. Guests, upon application and as space permits, to be invited into the lecture after the AGM.

Monday  
23 February

Dr Elizabeth Goring, FSA, of the Department of History and Applied Art, National Museums of Scotland, will speak on **Suffragette jewellery**.