

Gem & Jewellery News

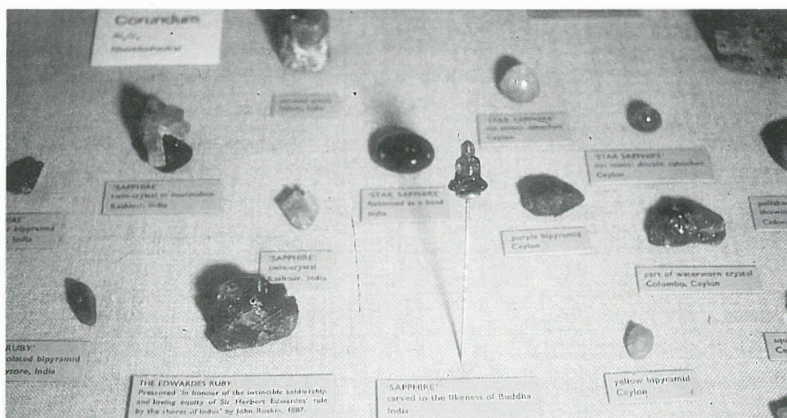
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

MARCH 1995

NEW GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITIONS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

by

**Paul Henderson, Director of Science, and Giles Clarke,
Head of Department of Exhibitions and Education,
Natural History Museum, London**



The Edwardes Ruby and a sapphire carved in the likeness of Buddha, along with star sapphires from Sri Lanka and various water-worn crystals. Currently on display in the Mineral Gallery of the Natural History Museum.

We have recently launched a major programme of exhibition redevelopment in the Museum's Earth Galleries (the former Geological Museum). It will involve a complete redisplay of the collections along with extensive improvements to the facilities of the building. Over the next three years a series of exhibitions will be developed which will present to the visiting public the fascination, relevance and significance of the Earth Sciences to everybody's daily life. These exhibitions will also be designed to address the needs of the National Curriculum. The main aim will be to improve the public

understanding and appreciation of geology, mineralogy and gemmology and to this end we have carried out extensive research work with the visiting public to make sure that our approach to the exhibitions is effective. We have also consulted widely amongst professional geologists and mineralogists about the scientific coverage in the galleries. The Geological Museum's Advisory Panel has been a particular focus for this.

In order to tackle the basic work to the facilities of the building swiftly and safely, the Earth Galleries have been closed to the

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public until the summer of 1996. When they re-open at that stage, visitors will be able to experience the huge new atrium area with spectacular introductory exhibits, they will be able to move directly to the top floor of the building via a new escalator and they will see two large new exhibitions about the earth covering plate tectonics and crustal processes.

Cont. on p. 23

Gem & Jewellery News

Editorial Board

Roger Harding

Catherine Johns

Harry Levy

Michael O'Donoghue

Production Manager

Mary Burland

Published by

Gemmological Association and
Gem Testing Laboratory of
Great Britain

27 Greville Street
London EC1N 8SU
Telephone: 0171-404 3334
Fax: 0171-404 8843

and

Society of Jewellery Historians

c/o The Department of
Prehistoric and Romano-British
Antiquities
The British Museum
London WC1B 3DG

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ISSN: 0964-6736

EDITORIAL

Two items in this issue deal with the display of gemstones at the Natural History Museum, London. The major display is now closed for eighteen months because the former Geological Museum is to undergo major alterations. While some have argued that the display could have been moved elsewhere, those more familiar with the conditions of museum work know that such a move, however desirable, would involve a disproportionate amount of work and there may not, in any case, be a suitable home in London, since there is no spare gallery space. Considerations of security are important to say the least, and no one would want the collections to be put in danger of loss or damage.

The organization of displays, conservation and recording is perhaps not properly understood by what might be called the 'romantic' school of gemmologists. Such back-room work has to be carried out by academically-trained staff who know what results may arise from hasty action and while the trade sometimes may feel that academics do not understand the trade (true sometimes!), from the 'other side' the trade is sometimes seen to be cavalier in thought, or at least in expression, when slightly more complex issues than what can be seen where are involved.

The study of any object, whether natural or man-made, involves a great deal of what some may see as grinding research (a correct use of a debased term). Not to understand how this is done and why shows either a lack of exposure to the appropriate education or a basic lack of imagination. The study of gemstones is interesting in that a few details of the background work can be understood by quite a lot of the people whose original interest begins by the sight of a fine display. The better the display the stronger will be the impetus given to the imagination, so we should hope that the final presentation will so lift the spirits that more gemmologists will want to be in a position to delve more deeply and appreciate some of the less obviously interesting aspects of their study. In the meantime there is still the Mineral Gallery on the first floor of the Cromwell Road building and the Department of Mineralogy has its own library which can be consulted (for reasonably serious reasons) by appointment. This is an equally stimulating resource!

Here is another activity for those weekends when you might have visited the Museum. Look through your gemmological correspondence, invoices and so on. Why not get them into order with a view to preservation? Whoever you are, this sort of thing is valuable, as are teaching notes (so long as you are not just dictating from the written course notes!). Academics call these things 'archives' and as you all have them, you can too.

M.O'D.

GEMSTONES – FACT AND MYTHOLOGY

In this issue a new section is being introduced to focus on the history and mythology of gemstones. It is hoped that this will enlighten both gemmologists and jewellery historians.

Each issue of *GJN* will deal with a particular gemstone or family of gemstones. It is hoped to cover many of the major gemstones such as ruby, sapphire, emerald, diamond, opal and others, but we would like your help. Please send us those unusual tales or unsolved mysteries

about gemstones. We can offer no prizes but acknowledgement will be given to those members submitting items that are published. Where possible we will illustrate the articles and hope to draw on the growing number of postage stamps which depict gems and gem minerals.

So please get your pens out, jot down and send us your favourite story or quotation – the more unusual the better – about your favourite stone.

Garnet

We shall start the series with the garnet, the birthstone for January – well, this is the first issue of *GJN* for 1995!

If you would cherish friendship true,

In Aquarius well you'll do

To wear this gem of warmest hue –

the garnet.

Ancient jewellery

Garnets feature prominently in the gold jewellery of the Classical and early Medieval periods in the Mediterranean world – the wine-red colour of the stone may have evoked the god Bacchus. Garnets from India became obtainable after the Eastern campaigns of Alexander the Great, and were set as simply cabochon-cut stones or made into

Pome-garnet?

The name 'garnet' is derived from 'pomegranate'. One source claims that the garnets, the most common colour of which is red, were set closely together in pieces of jewellery, like the seeds of a pomegranate. But perhaps it was the many small crystals of the mineral in the original matrix seen close together that had the pomegranate appearance.

Grossular
Kenya, 40/-



beads for necklaces and pendants. Occasionally they were carved into tiny hardstone sculptures, for example as heads of black Africans whose exotic features intrigued the artists and patrons of the Classical world.

Although garnets can be found in early Roman jewellery, set in rings and engraved, very many more were used as beads.

In the early Medieval period in northern Europe, Anglo-Saxon and Frankish jewellery still made extensive use of garnets in a highly distinctive manner. Thin, flat slices of gemstones were cut to fit precisely into gold cloisons, and were laid on top of gold foil embossed with a chequered pattern, the result resembling translucent red enamel on gold. Often enamelling has been used to imitate gemstones and yet here the opposite is the case.

Varieties

Garnet is a complex aluminium silicate with calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese or chromium to give it the many colours in which it occurs. In fact, the only colour in which it has not yet been seen is blue. It crystallizes in the cubic system and, with a hardness of 6½ to 7½, is suitable for cutting and polishing and is used in jewellery.

To the non-expert garnet is usually red and this perception owes a lot to the brilliant and rose-cut stones from Bohemia which became popular in Victorian jewellery. Known as pyrope, from the Greek *pyropos* meaning fiery, these are part of a range of red to violet garnets in the pyrope-almandine series. Pyropes have also been found in the diamond mines of South Africa and

The stone of love

Garnet is incorporated in full splendour as the stone of love into the order of the Golden Fleece, which was once donated by Philip le Bon, Duke of Burgundy (1419-1467) in order to propagate knightly virtues and especially the virtue of the art of loving. The stone is supposed to possess the quality that would enhance friendship, happiness and success and would remove anger and discord. It was said that Noah lit the Ark with a 'great and glowing garnet'.

were sold as 'Cape rubies' because of their quality and depth of colour. But then rubies would have sold for much higher values than garnets, so it is understandable that such a mistake would have been made! Pliny mentions the city of Alabanda as a place where garnet was cut and it is claimed that the term almandine is derived from that name. The cabochon-cut stones were known as *Carbunculus Alabandicus*, but the term carbuncle now refers to cabochon stones which have the backs hollowed out to allow more light to pass through the stone and give it a brighter appearance.

A pinkish to lilac-red colour variety of garnet is called rhodolite. It is found in India, Sri Lanka, the Americas and southern Africa. It has become a very popular stone, especially in the United States, and is probably the most popular variety sold nowadays.

The pale green, light pink and yellow examples of garnet generally belong to the variety grossular. A blackish-green fine-grained and massive form found in the Transvaal, used as a carving material for many years, is also a grossular and is called 'Transvaal jade'. The first emerald-green clear grossular was found in Tanzania and is

now known as tsavorite, derived from the location of the mines in or near Tsavo National Park. These green garnets, which owe their colour to vanadium and/or chromium, have a remarkable brilliance and lustre. But to an experienced jeweller they cannot be confused with the European demantoid. Demantoid has been the king of garnets for many years with an outstandingly rich bright yellowish-green colour. It has commanded the highest prices, and is one of the few stones where an inclusion could add to the value of the stone. This is the characteristic 'horsetail' – a cluster of mineral fibres resembling a tail – which is distinctive for this variety of garnet.

The brown, orange or honey-coloured garnet variety is known as hessonite. It is also, less commonly, known as canella stone, and not only does it show the colour of cinnamon, but it is also found in considerable amounts on the cinnamon island of Sri Lanka. It has astrological connotations and stones of certain weights are recommended to be worn for protection.

A tiny branch in the garnet family tree is the dark green uvarovite which occurs in the Urals and in Finland. Unfortunately with only a few exceptions, the stones are tiny and not sufficiently transparent for jewellery purposes.

Manganese is the constituent which gives garnets a distinctive orange colour. Manganese garnets are known as spessartine, due to

Bullets

Red stones were believed to confer invulnerability from wounds and some Asiatic tribes used garnets as bullets on the principle that this blood-coloured stone would inflict a more deadly wound than would a leaden bullet.

their first description from the German Spessart mountains, and the latest discovery is of exceptionally clear crystals from a new locality in northern Namibia. This material has a fascinating orange colour which almost luminesces, i.e. it seems to glow when removed from direct light. In the context of the trade, it was a stone looking for a name. At first, it was marketed as 'Hollandine', trying to appeal to the connotations of the Dutch Royal House of Orange, but the name did not catch on, and it is now sold in some places as 'mandarin garnet'. This name reminds one of the connection between the colour and the fruit and has appeal in the Chinese and Japanese markets. We await

Medicinal qualities

The garnet has been used as a 'medicine stone' as a styptic, having anti-diarrhetic powers, as a cure for melancholia and to strengthen the heart. You only have to pulverize the stone and consume it! As far back as 1546 a doctor recommended it as a substitute for the much more expensive sapphire.

with interest to see whether this stone will become as popular as tsavorite.

So the next time you wish to use garnet as a 'cheap' stone to fill a hole in a piece of jewellery, remember its history and remember also that some varieties are as expensive as diamonds.

I must acknowledge sources for material in the ICA Gembureau, Catherine Johns for the historical information, and Bentley & Co's booklet *The Romance of the Jewel* and *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones* by G.F. Kunz for information used in this article.

H.L.

A WATERY GRAVE

Egyptology often brings to mind the search for treasure ranging from Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon's discovery of Tutankamun's tomb to Indiana Jones' more fictional quests. Modern archaeologists quite rightly frown on such associations but nevertheless the work of some of their predecessors is enough to fire the imagination. Sir Flinders Petrie, often considered to be the grandfather of the science of Egyptian archaeology, was not immune to such reporting. In 1888 he discovered a burial at Hawara in Egypt dating to around the sixth century BC. This is how he described the discovery in *Ten Years' Digging in Egypt* published in 1892:

'Down a well, forty feet deep, and in a pitch-black chamber, splashing about in bitter water, and toiling by candle-light, all the work had to be done; and though I spent a day struggling with the inner coffins, sitting in the sarcophagus up to my

nose in water, I yet could not draw them out from under the rest of the stone lid. So after some days the men raised that, enough to get one's head in between the under side of it and the water; and then I spent another gruesome day, sitting astride of the inner coffin, unable to turn my head under the lid without tasting the bitter brine in which I sat. But though I got out the first coffin lid, the inner one was firmly fastened down to its coffin.

'A third day I then attacked it, with a helpful friend, Mr Fraser. We drilled holes in the coffin, as it was uninscribed, and fixed in stout iron bolts. Then, with ropes tied to them, all our party hauled again and again at the coffin; it yielded; and up came an immense black mass to the surface of the water. With great difficulty we drew it out, as it was very heavy, and we had barely room for it beneath the low ceiling.

'Bit by bit the layers of pitch and cloth were loosened, and row after

row of magnificent amulets were disclosed, just as they were laid on in the distant past. The gold ring on the finger which bore his name and titles, the exquisitely inlaid gold birds, the chased gold figures, the lazuli statuettes delicately wrought, the polished lazuli and beryl and carnelian amulets finely engraved, all the wealth of talismanic armoury, rewarded our eyes with a sight which has never been surpassed to archaeological gaze.'

The official excavation report published in 1890 had described the discovery in slightly less vivid terms, but Petrie's frustration that his find had to remain in Egypt is still evident:

'It was taken altogether for the Egyptian Museum [the forerunner of the present Cairo Museum], in which it will form an important feature. I only wish that every official there could have taken his share of the days of subaqueous work which it cost me to obtain it.'

Jack Ogdan

NEWS OF MEMBERS

The Society of Jewellery Historians congratulates its President, Kenneth Snowman, on his recent, richly-deserved election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA).

The Society also congratulates member, Simon Thornton (lately Chairman of the National Association of Goldsmiths) on his recent installation as Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. In accordance with a long-standing tradition, Simon also becomes President of the British Horological Institute.

SJH Colloquium

Herbert Tillander's long awaited work *Diamond cuts in historic jewellery, 1381-1910*, will finally be published in May. The author, whose long and highly distinguished career has included appointment as jeweller to H M the King of Sweden, describes the evolution of diamond cuts with reference to actual jewellery that he has personally examined over many years of intensive research. The relationship of cuts to availability of diamonds, cutting technology and jewellery fashions are amongst the subjects covered. The hard bound book of 248 pages will include about 150 black-and-white illustrations and 700-800 line drawings. Readers are reminded of the pre-publication offer at £52.00.

To celebrate the publication of the book, the Society of Jewellery Historians is holding a two-day International Colloquium in London on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 November 1995. This event is intended to develop the theme of the book, building on the large amount of new material that it contains, and allowing ample time for discussion. Offers of contributions to the Colloquium are invited. Prospective contributors should bear in mind that the audience will include those with general jewellery and diamond interests as well as specialists in the history of diamond cuts. Please write to the Chairman including, if possible, a synopsis of your proposed paper.

BOOKS

The Paris Salons, 1895–1914, jewellery, the designers. Alistair Duncan. 2 volumes, Antique Collectors' Club 1994. £45.00 each volume. Volume I, A–K, 349 pages, approx. 3000 illus., ISBN 1 85149 159 7. Volume II, L–Z, 305 pages, approx. 2500 illus., ISBN 1 85149 168 6.

The Paris Salons were selling exhibitions held by societies to display the work of their members and other contemporary craftsmen. Entries were carefully governed by committees and juries to ensure that traditional standards were maintained from year to year. Continuity was a prerequisite. Radical designs were routinely rejected, which ensured that change, when it came, was gradual. The system seems to have been similar to that of the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions. These two volumes cover the five annual Salons at which jewellery was featured as well as two important exhibitions – the Exposition Universelle of 1900 and the Composition de la Parure Précieuse de la Femme of 1908. Apart from about ten pages of introduction, a twenty-page list and index of designers (not all of whom are shown) and 23 colour illustrations, these volumes are essentially a black-and-white record of jewellery displayed at the Salons, arranged alphabetically by designer. Approximately 5500 items are illustrated, including the work of such great designers as Boucheron, Falguères, Fouquet, Gaillard, Lalique, Mucha, Sandoz, Thesmar and Veber, as well as that of about 360 lesser known but still outstanding designers. Unfortunately, presumably due to the lack of source material, there is virtually no information about the materials used in the majority of the pieces shown, and it is, for the most part, impossible to deduce much from the black-

and-white illustrations. However, given the importance of establishing provenance, these volumes will certainly be important to museum curators, jewellery auctioneers and both major dealers and collectors in this specialist field, as well as to serious students of the designs of the period. Unfortunately the combination of the narrowness of the subject matter and the paucity of information about individual pieces, when combined with a price of £90.00 for the set, means that this work is unlikely to be widely purchased by those with more general jewellery interests.

N.B. Israel

Chatelaines, utility to glorious extravaganza, Genevieve E. Cummins and Nerylla D. Taunton, Antique Collectors' Club 1994. £35.00. ISBN 1 85149 206 2. 311 pages including 300 colour and 100 black-and-white illustrations, glossary, extensive bibliography and index.

This splendid book covers the development of the chatelaine from 200 BC to the present. After a foreword by Shirley Bury there is an extremely interesting introduction tracing the etymology of the word 'Chatelaine'. This is an unusual but excellent idea that could usefully be copied by other authors. Six chapters cover the chronological history. Then follow twenty chapters devoted to specific varieties of chatelaines. The extraordinary range includes chatelaines for watches, belts, fashionable dress (including perfume bottles, dances, fans, aide-mémoires, skirt holding and keys), spectacles, bags, nurses, sports and recreations. There are also symbolic, sentimental and religious chatelaines, finger ring, hand and bracelet chatelaines, oriental and creative fabric chatelaines, and dolls' and

children's miniature chatelaines. They vary from strictly functional items in basic materials to exquisite examples of the jeweller's art. The book overflows with superb colour and monochrome illustrations, including many showing chatelaines in use, complemented throughout by an extremely informative text.

It is impossible to imagine that there is anyone who would not be both fascinated and delighted with this book, even if they had previously thought that they had no interest in the subject.

N.B. Israel

In 1829 an expedition left Berlin to travel through Russia to Siberia with a view to assessing mineral wealth. The expedition was commissioned by Nicholas I and led by Alexander von Humboldt – it is known as the Humboldt expedition. Gustav Rose accompanied them and wrote an account of the geological and mineralogical finds to form part of the main history of the expedition. His book, *Reise nach dem Ural, 1837–842*, was published in Berlin in 1837 and John Sinkankas has now translated it in a new book published by Geoscience Press of Phoenix, Arizona. The title is *Humboldt's Travels in Siberia, 1837–1842: the gemstones*. The account is a wonderful compendium of all kinds of gemmological detail and should be in all major book collections.

M.O'D.

Weisbrod Chinese Art Ltd of New York City held an exhibition of early Chinese jade carvings in November 1994. The all-colour catalogue, with good descriptions of the artefacts displayed, is well worth getting.

M.O'D.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Cont. from p. 17

Many other existing exhibitions such as Britain's Offshore Oil and Gas will remain on view until they are subsequently redeveloped in a programme which continues up to our target date for completion in 1998. The existing gem displays will be moved to the first floor with initially little change to their content. Later a new exhibition on minerals and gems will be developed. The mineral gallery in the Waterhouse

Building (entrance on Cromwell Road), with its systematic display of minerals and some gems, remains open during and after the closure of the Earth Galleries.

The first phase of work has been made possible by generous sponsorship from RTZ and a grant from the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting new development.

THE GEMSTONE EXHIBITION

A temporary eclipse?

As I am sure many of you will know, the temporary closure of the Earth Galleries section at the Natural History Museum (South Kensington) has been in the pipeline for many years. This came into effect on 10 January 1995 and renovation will continue for at least 18 months. To the public, and in particular students and tutors of gemmology, this is obviously a great loss as the gemstone exhibition on the ground floor has been an important, if not the prime, source of outstanding examples of mineral and gem specimens with which to demonstrate the fundamentals of gemmology.

For nearly twenty years access to this exhibition has always been an essential part of my course. How we shall all miss those beautiful mauve and orange jadeites, the colour

range of tourmalines, the magnificent fluorite vase from Derbyshire, the majestic chrysoberyl necklace, those spinels and garnets... we all have our favourites.

Would it not have been possible for this collection to be temporarily housed somewhere in the museum and still be accessible to the public? Assurances have been given by museum staff that the gemstone exhibition will remain intact and at South Kensington. Fears had been expressed that once this area was closed the collection would be split up and possibly no longer on display.

In the meantime let us look forward to the opening of the new and improved Earth Galleries section and the re-acquaintance with old friends.

Chris Chalk

See also Editorial (p. 18)

Chris Chalk is a Tutor at the Kent Institute of Art and Design at Rochester, Kent, and has introduced jewellery students to the delights of gemstones through courses and outside visits for many years.

NEW GAGTL BRANCH

Scottish Branch to be formed

A small but growing group of enthusiasts have expressed the intention to restart the Scottish Branch of the GAGTL. There are annually approximately ten potential members emerging from the Edinburgh area alone and with the ground swell of interest in gemmology, the general feeling is that time is ripe for the establishment of a Scottish Branch.

It is proposed that the branch will be open to GAGTL members from the whole of Scotland and to extend an invitation to members from the North of England.

There are various ideas for a programme of events currently being mooted but areas the branch would like to cover include lectures, field trips, hands-on clinics, group trips and social events. Currently both long standing and newly-fledged members face an 800 mile round trip to attend GAGTL lectures and meetings, but it is hoped that if the branch can attract sufficient members then international speakers visiting London could be persuaded to come north of the border.

An initial evening meeting where the outlines of the new branch will be presented, supported by a guest speaker, is proposed for mid-May in Edinburgh. Details will be announced nearer the time.

In the meantime all enquiries about the new branch should be addressed to Joanna Thomson, FGA, DGA, P.O. Box 2, Peebles, EH45 8PH. Telephone 01721 722936.

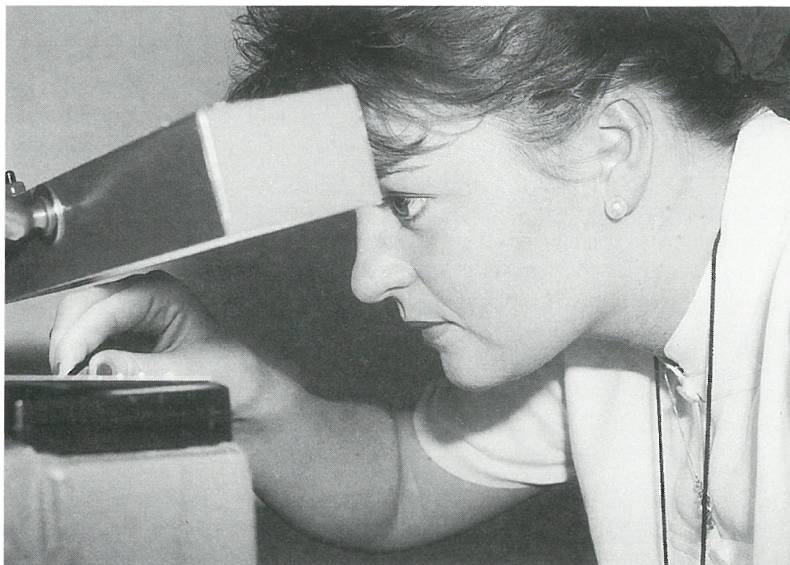
EDUCATION

David M. Robinson Two-day diamond course

Education was off on its travels again in February, when Doug Garrod visited staff at David M. Robinson Jewellers in Liverpool.

Throughout the two-day course various aspects of diamond and how they affect the retail jeweller were studied. The subjects included the '4 Cs', lasered and glass-filled diamonds and the distinction of diamonds from diamond simulants. The difficulties encountered when assessing mounted goods were also looked at. Plans are under way to repeat the course with other members of David M. Robinson's staff.

If you are interested in developing a course tailored to the needs of your staff contact Doug Garrod in the GAGTL Education Office.



Kate Robinson examines the colour range of diamonds.

GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre

4 April

Enquire Within: Ruby and Sapphire

A concentrated look at all aspects of these gems: natural rough and cut stones; treated, synthetic and imitation stones.

Price £111.63 (including sandwich lunch)

10-11 June

Diamond Grading Revision

Designed for students taking the Gem Diamond Diploma, this tutorial will cover information required for the practical examination and will include a mock examination for students to gain familiarity and confidence.

Price £129.25 for the two days (lunch will not be included)

**27-28 May,
6-7 June and
10-11 June**

Two-Day Diploma Practical Workshops

The long-established intensive practical course to help students prepare for the Diploma practical examination or to enable non-students to brush up their techniques. 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 courses include a half-length mock exam for you to mark yourself.

Price £160.39 (£111.04 for GAGTL registered students) includes sandwich lunch

Please ring the Education Office (0171-404 3334) for further information

NOTE: All prices include VAT at 17.5%

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.

Treated or enhanced?

I was delighted to read Martin Schell's linguistic analysis (see Letters to the Editors, p. 30) of our attempts to deal with disclosures in the gem trade.

Traditionally 'connotation' is the meaning of a term, whereas 'denotation' is like a label and refers to the things to which the term can be applied. Thus the connotation of the word 'sapphire' is all the things we can say about a sapphire – that it is a member of the corundum family, has certain hardness, specific gravity, etc. The denotation is merely all those stones that we call sapphire.

What our American friends have tried to do is to try and remove the words that give an inferior connotation when denoting a gemstone from our lexicon.

I well remember that at a past CIBJO meeting I was both amused and bemused when we were suddenly asked to change the word 'treated' to 'enhanced' whenever possible in the *Blue Book*. 'Treated' does have connotations of patching up something that is bad, whereas 'enhancing' is improving on something that is already good. The two terms have acquired somewhat technical connotations in the trade. 'Treated' is used for those processes which have to be fully declared, and 'enhanced' for those circumstances when a general declaration is required. Thus a sapphire which has had deep surface diffusion is treated, whereas a heated sapphire is enhanced.

These terms are still in a process of evolution in the trade, and can be somewhat interchangeable when

carelessly used by writers – myself included.

But this evolutionary change in our lexicon is only just beginning. Our friends in the United Nations of the Gem and Jewellery Industry (totally independent from the United Nations) are working on a system to eliminate all words with a negative connotation. They are keen to make declarations of the technologies used in the enhancement and treatment of gemstones. But they find even such a word as 'enhancement' too negative. They would like to use only 'positive' terms. Thus the word 'information' should be used to replace all past uses of the words such as disclose,

disclosing, disclosure, declare, declaring, declaration, expose, exposing or exposure. They suggest further that the words 'process' or 'processing' should be used instead of enhancements or treatments such as heating, burning, cooking, coating and so on. Thus the seller will in future 'inform' the recipient by transmitting the 'processing information'.

My own fear is not that, like Humpty Dumpty, we shall be accused of giving meanings to words as we want, but that rather like Hans Christian Andersen's Emperor, we will be embarrassed when we discover the new coat we have been made to wear.

VAT on second-hand goods

Moving to financial matters, the VAT system in the UK for dealing with second-hand goods changed on the 1 January 1995 and this is given in *VAT Information Sheet 1/95*. Summaries and interpretations of this paper have been given in the trade press, but still traders have approached me with expressions such as 'About time' and 'Oh no! more paper work controls'.

My own reading is that this is a significant liberation of the VAT regime as applied to second-hand items of jewellery and should be greeted with joy by those involved in this trade.

The basic concept is that the full VAT should only be paid once on any article which is liable for the tax. The full VAT reaches the Chancellor when the end user acquires the article and he is unable to deduct the VAT which he has been charged. When such an end user sells the article he cannot recover this VAT, and it again becomes subject to VAT at the full value every time it is resold through the trade.

Traders such as those in the second-hand car business tackled this problem early on and a scheme was devised to ensure that VAT was paid only on the profit that was made when an article was resold. Thus if a dealer bought a second-hand car for £5000 and sold it for £7000 he would only pay VAT on the difference, i.e. at the current rate of 17.5 per cent, he would pay VAT of £350 on the difference of £2000, instead of paying VAT of £1225 on the selling price of £7000 and thus raising the price to the customers by that amount.

Watchdog group

Antiques and works of art were also covered by such a scheme and VAT became payable on only the profit made each time such an article was sold by a trader. In order not to show the profit to the customer the invoice for sale did not show the VAT charged and the trader had to keep records for each article bought and sold to account for the VAT payable. This is known as the Margin Scheme.

Second-hand articles not classified as antiques were not included in such a scheme, possibly because of the difficulties of controlling and monitoring. All this has changed and traders now have the option to sell second-hand items under the Margin Scheme. This means that VAT is payable only on the difference between the buying and selling price. To comply with this scheme the article must be bought on an invoice on which no VAT has been shown to be charged and the VAT involved must not be shown on the sales invoice.

Such a system has been relatively easy to operate for goods such as cars and works of art, as they tend to be of high value. In the second-hand jewellery trade many items change hands where the value is just a few pounds. This is where our Customs authorities have made the Quantum Leap. Provided the value of the article is £500 or under it can come under the Global Accounting System.

This is devised for low value Margin Scheme goods. Dealers using the system will account for tax on the difference between the total purchases and sales of eligible goods in each tax period rather than on an item-by-item basis. This means that separate records do not have to be kept for the sale of each and every item whose value falls below the magical £500 mark. I assume the value of £500 was somewhat arbitrarily arrived at, but it is the figure the trade has to work on now.

The full beauty of the Global System is twofold:

A meeting was held recently under the aegis of the British Jewellers' Association, bringing together many sections of the trade, to explore the idea of forming a Vigilance Committee.

This would be a group of prominent and influential people in the trade, representing the various trade sectors, associations and institutions to act as a watchdog group. I am informed by Ted Thomson that in the days when the London Chamber of Commerce was more involved with our trade, the committee of the Chamber acted as such a body.

It is hoped that a committee will be formed to deal with problems that arise from those outside the trade against sections of the trade and resolve any disputes that might arise between sectors of the trade.

My own hope is that this will not become 'just another committee', but will rather act under a Director or Chairman who will be there to channel such complaints and problems to sections of the committee best suited to deal with that problem. I hope such a group will act as a unifying body for the trade.

Any input will be most welcome from our readers, as this group has not yet been fully set up.

1. it cuts back on needless records and accounting calculations – the trader merely totals up his sales and his purchases for *those goods only that come under the scheme* at the end of the quarter and calculates the VAT payable on the difference which at a rate of 17.5 per cent is 7/47th of this gross margin; and
2. the figure can be carried forward to the next VAT period if necessary, but must be offset at the earliest opportunity. This will occur should the total purchase exceed the total sales for that period. No VAT becomes payable, but the authorities will not allow a reclaim of VAT in this case, as the dealer has no idea of what VAT has been paid on the goods he has purchased under the scheme. He can carry forward such a difference into each period until VAT becomes payable. In the normal running of any business sales will eventually exceed purchases and this is when the Chancellor will collect his tax.

It is important to note that if dealers operate the Scheme they should

not give VAT invoices to purchasers as they (the purchaser) will not be able to reclaim any VAT on those purchases which are being dealt with within the Scheme. If a dealer wishes to give a VAT invoice for a particular transaction he can, but he must account for Output VAT at the standard rate of 17.5 per cent on the total value of that particular sale. The Scheme is entirely voluntary and purchases/sales can be dealt with inside or outside the Scheme whichever is more appropriate, but dealers must be careful to match the purchase/sale of items either inside or outside the Scheme.

I have tried to cover the points which may not be explicit in the VAT Information Sheet, but for a full understanding of the system it is essential that all traders who wish to use the scheme should read for themselves the *VAT Information Sheet 1/95* which they can get from their local VAT office.

This is a very sensible and practical scheme and I hope traders will not misuse it through lack of knowledge or misunderstanding.

H.L.

Merger

The way ahead

As reported in the December 1994 issue of *Gem and Jewellery News*, the London Diamond Bourse and London Diamond Club have merged to form one united association. The first Annual General Meeting of the newly formed group was held on 8 March and a full report will be published in the June issue of *GJN*.

Freddy Hager, joint President, has reported that a single association has long been the aim of the two organizations. He anticipates that it will now be possible for a far stronger association to evolve and that will have positive benefits for the trade. He felt it would have an important role to play in providing

a service that was essential for the development of the diamond trade through the 1990s and into the twenty-first century.

He stressed that the new association would not be restricted to diamond dealers and that applications for membership would be welcomed from those engaged in all aspects of the trade. Applications would be stringently vetted, however, to uphold the high standards established by the Bourse and the Club. As well as providing a service for members in London, the association is able to offer facilities at 100 Hatton Garden for those outside the area.

JOURNAL OF AMBER RESEARCH

Following the recent meeting of the International Mineralogical Association in Pisa, Italy, Dr S.S. Savkevich commented that the Working Group on Amber was considering starting publication of a *Journal of amber research*. Those interested in either receiving such a journal or contributing articles should contact Dr Savkevich, Mineralogical Society of Russia, P.O. Box 5, 199053 St. Petersburg, Russia, or the German Foundation for Gemstone Research, P.O. Box 12 22 60, 557743 Idar-Oberstein, Germany.

GAGTL AT TUCSON '95 FAIR

Tucson again provided the ideal opportunity for GAGTL staff to renew contacts with members, and with laboratory gemmologists and gemmology educators from all parts of the world. As well as meeting students, tutors and course organizers we were able to make plans with enthusiastic gemmologists to help us achieve new examination centres, teaching centres, (home study) tutoring, practical tuition and course translations.

Ana Isabel Castro, Ian Mercer and Eric Emms, with extra help from Ann Dale and Helle Bendel, ran our booth through six days of the American Trade Association (AGTA) AGTA Gemfair in the Tucson Convention Center.

For laboratory gemmologists, Tucson always proves invaluable in learning about new sources of gems and adding new treatments and synthetics to their reference collection.

Briefly, items of interest which we noted were colour-change diaspore from Turkey, bi-coloured topaz from Russia, surface-coated colour-treated aquamarine, laser inscribed synthetics from Japan, Russian synthetic malachite, new 'recrystallized rubies' and synthetic gem quality rough diamonds from Moscow. More details will be published in a future issue of *The Journal of Gemmology*.

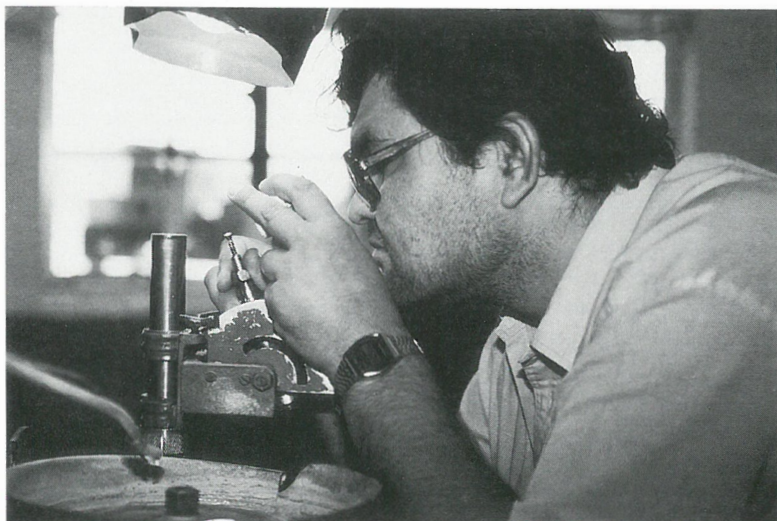
Two demonstrations were given by Ian Mercer during the Wednesday session run by the Accredited Gemologists' Association. Jewellers were introduced to new demonstration techniques in the use of the hand lens and the hand spectroscope. On Friday morning Ana Castro gave an illustrated talk on Gem Testing Laboratory history and current developments following Ian Mercer's delivery of a short history

of the origins of gemmological education in London.

A Saturday evening reception organized by the Accredited Gemologists' Association attracted a roomful of AGA Members with many jewellers and gem dealers and enthusiasts from throughout the USA together with GAGTL Members including Jim Coote (Fellowship 45th anniversary this year!), Kathy Bonanno, Antoinette Matlins, Memory Stather, Lorne Stather and Alan Hodgkinson.

Occasionally we would take a break from the AGTA show and step outside to delight in the blue desert sky and temperatures in the lowest eighties to work our way through other gem and mineral fairs around Tucson. We talked to many dealers and crystal growers in the hotels, motels and on the 'strip', and met by happy chance colleagues from all over the globe.

Gem cutting in Namibia



In what used to be the tennis pavilion at Uis miners' club in Namibia, Carlos Zelubowski facets gemstones: tourmaline, amethyst, aquamarine and silver topaz.

Uis, in a remote wilderness dominated by the tailings heap of its former tin mine, is at the foot of mineral-rich Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg. Not too far away is the Spitzkoppe, source of aquamarine and silver topaz.

Carlos is a member of a Polish gemstone-cutting family who reached southern Africa via South America. At Uis he is in partnership with a Belgian, Patrick Devillet, who has turned the miners' club into the Brandberg Rest Camp, a stop for tourists heading from the coastal town of Swakopmund to the wild beauty of Namibia's north-west. Apart from the faceted stones, they sell minerals to European collectors.

Devillet had a shot at mining for tourmaline and tantalite himself – he gave up when he found no tourmaline and his tantalite was stolen!

David Spark

Carlos Zelubowski at work at Uis, Namibia. Photo by Ian Spark

Miscellany

Peridot from Pakistan is now appearing in small quantities on the market. Stones, both faceted and cabochon, are a very pleasant soft green. The location is said (*Gems & Gemology*, 1994, 30(4), p. 275) to be in the neighbourhood of Basham village in the Northern area of Pakistan and to be at an altitude of 15 000 feet. Crystals have been reported to range up to 45mm in length [though from the stones I have seen some larger stones certainly seem possible]. A journey to the deposit is said to involve a seven-hour ride and two-day hike.

While working on the sapphire deposits of Montana I noticed some promising **garnet** crystals at the Eldorado Bar site. Recently in California I was able to examine some very beautiful faceted stones

from this site. They were a very fine orange, inclining to red, suggesting that they may be spessartines: final identification will be published when achieved. The largest size is around 2ct.

The GAGTL members' evenings on Wednesdays continue to turn up interesting specimens hitherto unsuspected! Last week we noticed blue **sapphire** crystals from Vietnam. A purplish-blue specimen with the spectroscope was found to contain chromium.

Gemmologie Aktuell 3/94 [Deutsche Gemmologische Gesellschaft] reports that **emerald** is turning up from Somalia. Stones show mica platelets, cracks nearly perpendicular to the *c*-axis, healing cracks, 2-phase inclusions: SG is 2.70 and RI 1.580-1.588 with DR 0.008. A gem-bearing belt in Mozambique extends north to Ethiopia and Somalia and a potential for gem deposits would seem to be there.

Also reported in *Gemmologie Aktuell* is an emerald from Capoeirana near Nova Era, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Some stones display a chatoyant effect from numerous parallel hollow tubes. Some growth zoning has been observed and this may suggest a hydrothermally-grown synthetic.

M.O'D.

Gemmological data

It is amazingly easy for unique material to be lost in any subject and gemmology is not exempt. I found that I had a great deal of unpublished information in my two newsletters (*Gemmological newsletter* and *Synthetic crystals newsletter*) and have therefore had them all microfiched (copies are held at GAGTL and in the Library

of the Geological Society). I am in process of microfiching my letters and other papers with useful material in them now and strongly recommend those with similar materials to do the same – it is not very expensive. Do not make the mistake of thinking that your papers will have nothing of interest: you may have price lists from dealers of long ago and notes on deposits that have never been formally written up.

Those with collections – make sure that you microfiche or otherwise copy your *inventory*. The importance of doing so cannot be over-stated. Once you have the master microfiche further copies cost very little.

M.O'D.

SALEROOM NOTES

At Christie's Geneva jewellery sale held on 15–17 November 1994 a pink diamond of 19.66ct sold for £4.7 million. This exceeded the previous record for a pink diamond set in 1990. A blue diamond achieved at this sale. The second highest price ever paid for a blue diamond was £4 million by a stone weighing 19.20ct.

At Sotheby's Geneva jewellery sale held on 16 November 1994 a superb heart-shaped unmounted diamond weighing 62.42ct and graded D colour, internally flawless clarity, sold for Sw Fr 6,823,500. The stone is believed to be the largest heart-shaped diamond with this grading ever to be offered at auction. In the same sale a rare unmounted fancy intense yellow diamond, weighing 10.37ct and certified natural colour, VVS2 clarity, sold for Sw Fr 1,131,000. A cushion-shaped ruby of 12.34ct and certified of Burmese origin sold for Sw Fr 1,323,500. The stone has a relative shallow pavilion which gives it a good spread; it also has an exceptional colour and high clarity.

M.O'D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Gemstone localities

Sirs,

Once again I am writing to you about gems from Mont Saint-Hilaire, Canada. I just received the December 1994 volume of *Gem & Jewellery News* and was surprised to read that most eudialyte gems come from Mont Saint-Hilaire (1994, 4(1) 5). It is certainly true that there is much eudialyte there but, to the best of my knowledge, there exists only one small faceted stone (0.18ct) from that locality. It is in a private collection, unfortunately, not that of the Canadian Museum of Nature. My 'Check-list for Rare Gemstones' discussed eudialyte gems in the Spring 1994 issue of *The Canadian Gemmologist* (14(1), 14–17). The usual source for eudialyte gem material is the Kipawa Alkaline complex, Sheffield Lake, Kipawa River, Villedieu Township, Témiscamingue County, Québec, Canada. To give you a general idea of its location, it is about 300km in a direct line north-west of Ottawa.

I am very concerned about incomplete or incorrect locality information given with some of these rare gemstones. Over the past few years, the increased interest in rare gemstones from Canadian localities has led to problems for those dealing in or collecting them. In many cases there may be only a few stones known of the species, and little or no possibility of more being found. In other cases, the mineral species is so fragile that the faceted example is of interest only to a specialized collector. There may also be significant difficulties in correctly identifying the stone. I believe that those who deal in rare gemstones

from specific localities have a responsibility to confirm the source of their wares. If a premium is being placed on a gem because it comes from a certain locality, then its worth is directly related to that knowledge. I am particularly concerned about Canadian localities, of course, but the same argument applies for similar situations elsewhere.

I am planning to publish soon in *The Canadian Gemmologist* a list of documented gemstones from some specific Canadian localities such as Mont Saint-Hilaire.

Your mention of a faceted ussingite is interesting. I have seen ussingite crystal specimens from Mont Saint-Hilaire, and I understand that a private collector has sent some rough ussingite to be faceted. Regarding ussingite from Russia, however, have you checked its identity? Last year in Tucson, my husband purchased a light pink, transparent crystal (about 2.5 cm long and 0.5 cm across), which was labelled as ussingite from Kuchylat, Kola Peninsula, Russia. [My husband collects at Mont Saint-Hilaire and likes to compare specimens from the similar localities in Russia and Greenland.] It turns out, however, that this lot of crystals (considered to be the best ussingite ever seen) was misidentified; they were not ussingite but scapolite. I wonder if the gem you saw could possibly have come from that lot of crystals?

And so the New Year begins with more interesting questions.

Yours etc.

Mrs Willow Wight FGA
Mineral Sciences,
Canadian Museum of Nature,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
3 January 1995.

Terminology

Sirs,

The December 1994 issue of *Gem and Jewellery News* was as enjoyable and informative as ever. Thank you.

In a footnote to the 'Enhancement' section of his 'Around the Trade' column, Harry Levy seems to imply that this euphemism is justified by American usage of our (still) common Mother Tongue: "[“enhanced” is a] much better word for the trade than “treated”, thanks to our American friends; “treated” implies starting with something that is already good...'

As a gemmologist born on the 'other' side of the Atlantic, and with a Webster's dictionary in front of me, I wish to report:

1. to treat: to subject to some process, chemical, etc.;
2. to enhance: to make better, greater, etc.

These denotations give rise to phrases such as 'sewage treatment' and 'software enhancement'. It is easy to recognize the connotations implied in these two phrases: the former involves transforming refuse into something useable, while the latter involves improving something that already works ('starting with something that is already good'). The application of heat to gauda clearly belongs to the former category (treatment), because such sapphires do not start with 'already good' blue that can be 'enhanced' into 'better' blue.

In this light, I am pleased to see that Mr Levy repeatedly uses 'treatment' throughout the 'Nomenclature' section. From this, and the phrase 'diamonds were used... to enhance other gemstones' (page 8, last sentence), I conclude that the denotations and connotations are fundamentally the

same in both American English and British English. Therefore, the preference for the euphemistic 'enhancement' should be attributed to the current American infatuation with the power of suggestion (which became feverish during the Reagan Era, with its proliferation of political 'spin', bluff and bluster), not to the American variety of English.

Those of my fellow countrymen who are inclined to manipulate language for wish-fulfilment would be well advised not only to refer to a dictionary but also to read some literature, where they can find their position satirized in the following quotation: 'When I use a word, it means that I want it to mean.' Who said it? Humpty Dumpty. And we all know what happened to him...

Now that I have the reader's ear, or rather eye, permit me to draw attention to a kind of hidden prejudice that persists in the occidental use of the term 'classical'. For example, Catherine Johns refers to 'masterpieces of Classical jewellery' in her report on the October colloquium that was organized jointly with the British Museum's Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities (*Gem and Jewellery News*, 1994, 4(1) 6).

Here I paraphrase the Japanese businessman who first awakened my consciousness of this issue:

'When European classical music, etc., is referred to, the single adjective "classical" is sufficient; however, when the classical aspects of other cultures are referred to, it is always necessary to add a qualifying adjective as in "classical Chinese painting", "classical Indian architecture", "classical Japanese music", "Classical Japanese dance", etc. This habit gives the impression that the occidental forms of culture are the "authentic" ones while the oriental forms (even if older) are merely secondary.'

I note that the British Museum

has already begun to transcend the ethnocentric use of language: 'Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities' rather than 'Department of Classics'. With a nod to Humpty Dumpty, I would like to encourage all my fellow 'native speakers' to support the effectiveness of English as a global language by using it less ethnocentrically.

Yours etc.

Martin Schell, AG, FGA
PO Box 1103, Yogyakarta 55011,
Indonesia.

30 December 1994

Response from Catherine Johns

I take issue with Mr Schell on two points relating to the term 'classical'. First, like so many words in English, 'classic' and 'classical' have several meanings. 'Classical' denotes 'authoritative, traditional, standard, excellent', as in 'classical music', or it may be used more narrowly as the antithesis of 'romantic'; more precisely still it has the distinct and separate meaning 'pertaining to ancient Graeco-Roman culture' (usually with an upper-case 'C'). Within the discipline of Greek art and archaeology, the word has an even more limited connotation and refers to a specific period which brings us to the second matter, that of context. We must take into account the importance of context before accusations of ethnocentricity are bandied about. In the context of a report written for non-specialists on a conference focused on ancient Greek jewellery, it should have been clear that 'Classical' meant 'Graeco-Roman' rather than 'standard, excellent'.

I feel sure that phrases referring to Chinese or Japanese classical music, drama or literature are not qualified by words for 'Chinese' and 'Japanese' in their own languages,

whereas a discussion of Western classical music in an Oriental language would surely stipulate 'European'. Notwithstanding its status as a world language, English is a European tongue, and when it speaks of 'classical music', European classical music is implied. To take it one step further, if one were writing broadly of, say, European Medieval literature, one might use qualifiers such as 'Irish', 'English', 'Norse': if writing a paper specifically on Welsh Medieval literature, one would not continually use the adjective 'Welsh'. Some assumptions have to be made, based on the expectations and knowledge of both writer and reader, or communication would require constant legalistic definition of every expression.

Mr Schell is right to encourage us to use language with care and deep thought and, as a woman, I do not feel myself exempt simply because he refers to his 'fellow countrymen'.

C.J.

* A response from Harry Levy is given on p. 25.

GAGTL SERVICES

Medical Insurance Plan

As an added GAGTL benefit for UK members, we will shortly be able to offer Health Care Insurance for individuals and families at much lower Group prices.

The cover will be through groups such as BUPA and PPP and the benefits are achieved by GAGTL membership being granted substantial discounts.

Members wishing to receive further information concerning this benefit should contact Mary Burland at the GAGTL.

COMPETITIONS

When Penny Waite returned from her expedition to record the effects of television on the eyesight of native craftsmen in upcountry N'telli Land, she recounted her experience in visiting a native goldsmith's workshop. While she was there a woman brought in a gold ingot to be made into a pair of armlets. The ingot was a circular section of gold that tapered evenly along its length. In local measurements the rod was 17.5 gzuks long

and 1.75 gzuks in diameter at one end and 2.25 gzuks in diameter at the other end. The goldsmith had no calculator, just a pencil and a simple ruler made from an old bicycle spoke marked off in 1/12 gzuks units. Nevertheless in just a short time the goldsmith had accurately marked where the rod had to be cut to provide two equal weight sections for hammering out into the armlets. How?

Jack Ogden

Answer to the competition in the last issue

The problem, dolled up in usual story-like form, was that a jeweller, starting with 100 spherical pearls of slightly varying size and weight, was able to pierce them and then demonstrate to his customer that they all weighed the same and all measured the same. He was not allowed to do anything too illegal like peeling or filling the pearls.

Note that I said that the jeweller pierced the pearls. If (with considerable patience and skill) he varied the diameter of the drill so that each pearl had a cylindrical perforation of the same length – as shown exaggerated in the sketch – he could demonstrate their similar size if he was careful to measure

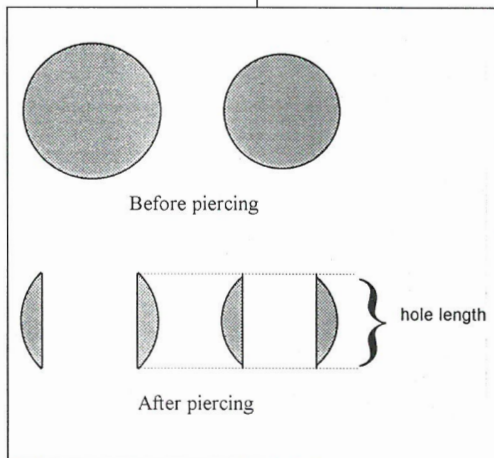
them along the axis of the perforation. Being a good mathematician, our jeweller knew that if holes of similar length are drilled through spheres of varying sizes, the volume of the remaining parts of the spheres will be equal

(a mathematical fact, do not ask me to prove it). So assuming the pearls all have identical gravities, the pierced pearls will also all weigh the same.

The real problem was that

not one of you got it right – clearly all far too busy getting estimates on turkeys and coping with the Christmas rush to devote much time or thought to it.

Jack Ogden



GAGTL PHOTO COMPETITION – Final date for entry 30 April 1995

For full details contact Doug Garrod at the GAGTL

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.

- 20 March **Jewellery at Sotheby's**
Alexandra Rhodes
- 12 June Annual General Meeting, Members' Reunion, and Bring and Buy (no charge)
- 16 June Annual Trade Luncheon
- 16 October **Recent developments in the diamond industry**
Howard Vaughan

GAGTL Conference

The 1995 Annual Conference is to be held on Sunday 1 October at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London W1. A full programme of lectures and demonstrations is being planned and details will be circulated very soon.

Midlands Branch

All Friday meetings will be held at Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Further details from Mandy MacKinnon on 0121-444 7337.

- 31 March **Diamond and its treatments**
Eric Emms
- 16 April Gem Club
- 28 April Annual General Meeting
The Assay Office Mrs Carson
- 21 May Gem Club
- 18 June Gem Club

North West Branch

Meetings will be held at Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. Further details from Joe Azzopardi on 01270 628251.

- 17 May **Diamonds in the Laboratory**
Eric Emms
- 21 June **Luminescence as a means of identification**
Geoffrey Simpson

- 20 September **Natural history of jewellery**
Dr John Franks
- 18 October A gemmology evening
- 15 November Annual General Meeting

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 April Dr Yvonne Hackenbroch will give a lecture about **Early Renaissance Hat Badges**, to coincide with the publication of a book on that subject.
- Monday 15 May Susan Stronge of the Indian Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum will give a lecture on **Imperial Mughal spinels**.
- Monday 19 June Dr Graham Dry will speak about twentieth-century Pforzheim jewellery, title to be announced.
- Monday 25 September Dr Jack Ogden FSA FGA will give a lecture entitled **The Golden Crescent: the origins and chronology of early Islamic Jewellery**.

SJH Colloquium

On 4 and 5 November 1995 at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London W1, an International Colloquium is to be held on the theme **Diamond cuts in historic jewellery**. Further details of the event are given on p. 21.

- Monday 6 November Hugh Tait FSA, past President of the Society, will give a lecture entitled **Problematic Renaissance Jewellery before and after Vasters**.
- Monday 11 December Jane Short, Instructor at Central School St. Martins, will speak on **Enamelling techniques and modern design**.