

Gem & Jewellery News

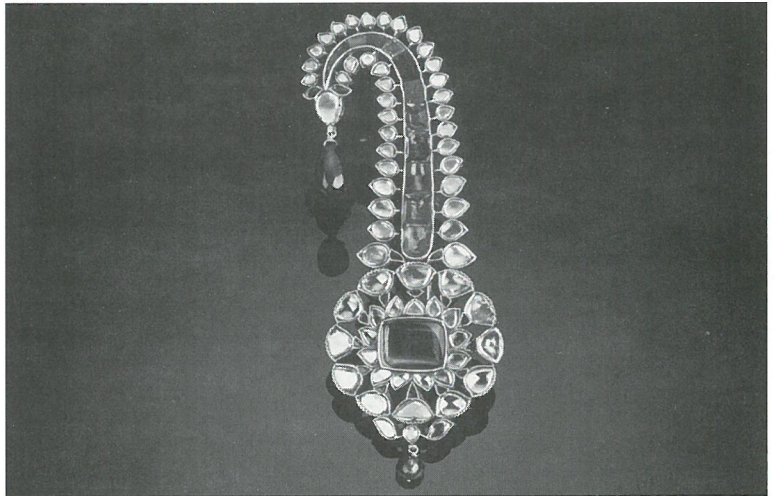
Indian jewellery sale realizes £4 million

The first-ever sale of Indian jewellery was held by Christie's in London on 8 October. The sale realized £4 million, twice the estimate: 30 lines were set up to receive telephone bids.

A 17th-century red spinel bead necklace carrying the names of three Mughal Emperors – Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jahan – was sold for £881,500 against a top estimate of £350,000. The buyer declined to be named. A pair of emerald earrings, also dating from the 17th century and once the property of Clive of India, sold for £276,500 against a top estimate of £250,000. The piece may once have formed part of a royal collection. Clive was also represented by a diamond, spinel, emerald and enamel jigha (ornament for the turban) which sold for £95,000.

Five very rare Mughal cut unmounted diamonds with a total weight of 42.02 ct sold for £243,200. They are equalled in quality among similar specimens only by examples in the Iranian Crown Jewels. A seal ring set with an emerald, used by Maharaja Ranjit Singh ('Lion of the Punjab') to seal death warrants, sold for £27,600 (the top estimate was £8,000).

The catalogue for the sale comes in two parts (the sale was held at the South Kensington and central London rooms at different times) and all



Gem-set jigha

Photo courtesy of Christie's.

collectors of jewellery should try to obtain a copy. Both parts are particularly well-produced, the end-papers bearing reproductions of Indian paintings. As well as the items of jewellery, the catalogues include other paintings, considerable biographical detail on significant personalities and drawings of traditional Indian jewels. An introduction by Oppi Untracht describes Mughal jewellery. Untracht is the author of the book *Traditional jewellery of India*, published by Thames

and Hudson. The book is priced at £62 (US \$108) including UK postage/overseas surface mail.

Lot 416 pictured above in Christie's London sale of important Indian jewellery is a fine antique spinel, emerald, diamond and enamel *jigha* (aigrette), 14.5 cm high and dating from the 18th century. The piece is reputed to have been in the collection of Robert, 1st Lord Clive ('Clive of India'), 1725-1774.

Michael O'Donoghue

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Editorial

Management styles have changed beyond all recognition in the last fifteen years or so, not only in the competitive world of big business but even in such specialized areas as museums and academic institutions. Perhaps anybody who has worked for decades rather than years is inclined to view change with suspicion, but it seems obvious to me that some of the currently fashionable principles are a grave mistake, and that one day, someone will become rich by writing an analysis of the many ways in which time and money are wasted by the consultancy culture and the reliance on short-term contract staff.

In the past, a person who entered a business or other institution when young and recently qualified, and who then proceeded to devote most of his or her working life to the same employer was regarded as admirable, a valuable and loyal asset: now such a worker would be thought hopelessly dull, lacking in ambition and quite unsuitable for promotion and increased responsibility. Today we are even told that we must be prepared to change careers, let alone employers, during our working lives.

Cumulative expertise

There is such a thing as cumulative expertise. We all learn constantly from our colleagues, whether they are older or younger than ourselves, senior or junior in the workplace hierarchy, but long-serving colleagues in particular can advance our knowledge and experience far more rapidly than we could achieve alone. We can build on their understanding rather than starting from scratch. In an institution like a museum, the unbroken chain of ever-increasing knowledge which each new

curator inherits from his or her older fellow employees is vital to the whole research process. A museum is an extreme example, but I am sure there are parallels in any type of work where highly specialized skills are necessary.

Experience

Humans are the only animals which can learn in detail from the experience of other individuals and even from events which took place before their own lifetimes. If we fail to take advantage of that unique ability, we lose the key to the wisdom of our forebears, and we are doomed endlessly to repeat foolish – and expensive – mistakes.

Catherine Johns

New look for Gem and Jewellery News

As *Gem and Jewellery News* enters its seventh volume, it was decided that the time was right for a new look and we hope you are pleased with the result. We will of course be continuing to publish the regular features – Around the Trade, Saleroom Notes, Museum News and the competition – as well as news items and reports.

If you have thoughts on the new layout or on other topics of interest to our colleagues why not put pen to paper and let us have your views and comments?

Members of the GAGTL wishing to raise issues concerning GAGTL activities are reminded that they may contact the Chairman of the Members' Council, Mr Colin Winter, c/o the GAGTL, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8SU.

Treated stones – retailers in the front line

The ulcer that has been plaguing our trade has flared yet again. You will recall the recent story about the jeweller in the United States who sold filled diamonds without declaring the process to his customers. That story ended in tragedy with the jeweller in question taking his own life. One must emphasize that the filling of diamonds is one of the few treatments that is recognized by all sections of the trade to be declarable.

Another case has now occurred in the USA, this time over the fissure filling of an emerald and again the retail purchaser was reportedly not told of the treatment. It is difficult to work out exactly what has happened in this case as the reports one reads in the trade press do not all tell the same story. Briefly, as I understand it, an emerald was sold for \$14,000 and has ended up costing the seller nearly \$400,000 in compensations and fines.

The case occurred in Washington DC. An emerald ring was sold, and after several months was taken to a jeweller for some alterations and the emerald was damaged in the process. The jeweller informed the owner that the emerald had been filled with Opticon resin and heating had caused the damage. The original sellers claimed that the emerald they sold had not been so treated and if Opticon was now present it had not been put there by them and must have been introduced into the stone after they had sold it.

The owner sued the seller and others including the appraiser (the valuer

and the insurance company. The case was heard in front of a jury and in spite of trade testimony as to the present ambiguity about disclosure of resin filling of emeralds in the trade, the jury found in favour of the owner. The jeweller was found guilty on a number of counts including Breach of Warranties, Unlawful Trade Practice and Outrageous Trade Practice. The consumer was awarded treble damages in the amount of \$78,000 and, with legal costs, the total amounted to \$400,000. At the time of writing an appeal against these judgements has been lodged.

Total disclosure?

Those who have advocated 'total disclosure' over the years can now say 'We told you so'. Disclose everything and sleep at nights.

Unfortunately it is not that simple, as I have tried to point out in previous articles, because it is often difficult to detect some treatments. Stones have been treated from the time that they were first used as ornaments and objects of value. Oiling, waxing, bleaching, heating and burning are all treatments, and even cutting and polishing can be considered a treatment. And when one cuts and polishes for example an emerald, oil is used and if the stone has open fissures some of this oil will penetrate the stone.

When the trade began to organize itself through bodies such as CIBJO and the Diamond Bourses, they tried to lay down guidelines as to what treatments should be disclosed. Some

treatments had long been applied to certain stones and those early legislators introduced the concept of 'accepted trade practice'. As new processes come about the trade initially tries to slot them in to the existing rules and if it cannot do this then new rules are made.

They try to use common sense and look at other trades. They too have their 'accepted trade practices'. When you buy an article made of real leather you are not told that it has been treated, oiled, stained, stretched and has had other things done to it. Or when you buy a woollen article again the various treatments it has undergone are not enumerated.

Perhaps we should regard our trade as being *sui generis*, i.e. it is unique of its kind and cannot be compared to other trades. In this modern age, when consumer rights have become paramount, the trade should no longer hide behind 'accepted trade practices' and should tell the consumer everything they know. But this is where the problems start. The only person who knows for certain if a treatment has been applied to a stone is the person who actually carries out that treatment. If he does not disclose, or someone in the chain does not disclose, then to detect the disclosure becomes detective work and not everyone is capable of carrying out such detection.

Repeated oiling

Let us look at the specific case of the fissure filling of emeralds – this after all is one of the problems still not solved within the trade. Emeralds, from the time they are taken out of the ground, are constantly oiled. They are oiled after the rough has been cleaned, they are oiled while the rough remains unsold, they are oiled after cutting, they are oiled after polishing. In the way everyone knows that leather is oiled, dealers and jewellers have assumed that everyone knows emeralds are oiled. Like leather ▶

AIGS Laboratory – Bangkok

On 1 August 1997 the AIGS Laboratory in Bangkok became independent. It is now the Centre for Gemstone Testing, under the proprietorship of Kenneth and Sriurai Scarratt, having taken over the staff and premises from AIGS. Under the

personal supervision of 'Chef-Patron' Ken Scarratt, it continues to offer a complete range of gem testing and diamond grading services, employing 'state of the art' equipment.

N.B. Israel

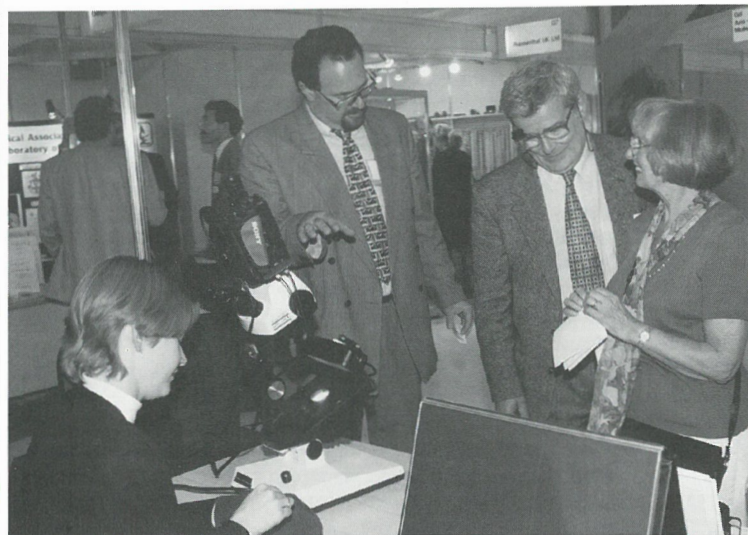
◀ the oil dries out, but in contrast to leather the consumer expects the emerald to retain its beauty. Emeralds are oiled because they have open fissures (only rarely are emeralds free from open fissures) and any oil that goes in will eventually come out again, as is the case with leather.

Over the past few years attempts have been made to keep the oil thus introduced in the emerald for as long as possible. This has been tried using different oils, and also pressure is used in some cases to ensure that the oil penetrates further into the stone and will thus evaporate more slowly. Attempts have also been made to seal the oil in the emerald. In recent years resins are being used, especially ones with refractive indices similar to natural emerald to make them less visible. The most popular resin that was eventually used was a synthetic one marketed under the name of Opticon. This was already being used in the building trade to cover the cracks and fissures in marble and other decorative stones. But since this was still a volatile substance, albeit with low volatility they tried to seal it into the stone. It was found that it reacted with a hardening substance and solidified. At first this was done with all Opticon when it was introduced into the emerald. When it dried it solidified, but in some stones it contracted and gaps appeared inside the stone which gave rise to a rainbow effect and made the appearance worse than the untreated stones. Some fillings also discoloured in time, again spoiling the appearance of the stone. Some techniques involved introduction of the resin under pressure causing the stone to be in tension and liable to shatter if any pressure was applied.

Hardening substance

To overcome these problems the Opticon was introduced into the stone and the hardening substance was applied to the surface only. Thus the theory was that this would seal in the filler without incurring the problems encountered above. But again it was found that tension could remain in the stone rendering it more fragile than untreated stones. So in many cases now the Opticon is introduced into the stone in the way that oil was used in the old days without the use of any

Gemstone Plaza



Lorne Stather on the GAGTL stand demonstrates the use of the microscope in identifying filled diamond.

hardening material. The trade does not like to use the word Opticon, as this is a trade name and other similar resins may be used. So the term now used is resin filled and the resin may be natural or artificial, i.e. man-made.

The traditionalists wanted to differentiate between the oils that they had used and the new resins now being used. It is difficult to find a rationale for such thoughts. Perhaps they wished to protect their old stocks, perhaps they were scared of change, but there was a clamour within the trade, but not by the public, to differentiate between oils and resins. Many more gem quality stones can have their appearance improved with resins than with traditional oils, which was perhaps the reason for a sudden increase in the number of such stones on the market.

Raman spectroscopy

The situation at present is that many people in the trade regard the fissure filling of an emerald with a resin to be inferior to that of an oil and refuse to buy resin-filled stones. The demand was made on the laboratories to make this differentiation, and most labs claimed they could do so. But then came the claim by some laboratories that with the use of a Raman spectroscopy they could now positively iden-

The newly introduced Gemstone Plaza provided a much needed focus for gemstones and minerals at the International Jewellery London '97 fair held in September at Earls Court. Exhibitors in the Plaza, sponsored by the GAGTL, included dealers specializing in gemstones, minerals and beads from worldwide sources.

Visitors to the Plaza took the opportunity to meet members of the GAGTL Education and Laboratory staff, to view the demonstrations and to discuss the variety of new and treated gemstones at the show.

The GAGTL seminars, run by Doug Garrod and Lorne Stather, attracted capacity audiences; 'Everything included' provided a live demonstration of inclusions in gem materials—indeed some bubble inclusions looked alive!—and in 'Colour techniques' some of the mysteries of colour in gemstones were explained through demonstrations.

The Gemstone Plaza was a success and it is hoped to expand it next year.

tify the filling materials. Such a claim implies that without the use of such an instrument, the detection of the filler to be a resin as opposed to an oil was, in many cases, more guesswork than knowledge.

How does the Raman spectroscopy work? In *Rapaport Diamond Report* (20(38)) it is made clear that even the use of this latest technology is not foolproof. Briefly a laser beam of light is pointed at the filler and the resulting spectra are compared with those of known substances. A stone may undergo several treatments with different substances and the Raman analysis will only give a result for the one spot on which the beam has been focused, which is minute. So, many spots would have to be examined to give a more complete answer. Such an instrument costs about \$200,000 so many laboratories cannot afford such an expense.

What is the answer?

Where does the answer lie to such a problem? The trade is beginning to realize that the answer should come through education and not merely legislation. The education must be effective in the High Street shops, for it is the retailer who is in the front line. And it is the sales person who is obliged in law to sell correctly described goods – which means to a certain extent educating the customer.

Many dealers now feel that filling a stone with a resin is no different to filling a stone with an oil. If a hardener is used the situation is of course different. Information is transmitted down the line by the use of general disclosure that stones have fissures filled to improve their clarity and others, such as corundum, are heated to improve their colour and sometimes clarity. This is the best that the trade has come up with at present.

How will all this stand up in a court here? I am no lawyer but I suspect that a judge will listen to trade practice if the dispute is within the trade, but may apply other standards if a member of the general public claims that they have been cheated.

Harry Levy

Visiting New Zealand?

Following the items published in *GJN* and the *Journal of Gemmology* on Kauri copal (see 'The Kauri Pine is alive and well', *GJN*, 1996, Vol. 6, No. 1, p. 7 and 'A study of New Zealand Kauri copal' by Spencer J.A. Currie, *Journal of Gemmology*, 1997, 25(6), pp 408–416) the Matakoho Kauri Museum, Matakoho, Northland, New Zealand, would be pleased to welcome members of the GAGTL visiting the area. The museum is open daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and GAGTL visitors should advise a member of the museum staff of their membership on arrival (telephone 0–9–431 7417).

Recent Events

The Honours of Scotland

**A lecture to the Society of Jewellery Historians on 22 September 1997
by Charles Burnett, Ross Herald of Arms**

The oldest Crown Jewels in the United Kingdom consist of the following three items:

A silver-gilt Sceptre with a finial incorporating an oval ball of rock crystal, which was presented to James III, King of Scots, in 1494 by Pope Alexander VI.

A Sword, with associated scabbard and belt, also received as a Papal gift by James III, the donor being Pope Julius II. It was presented in 1507.

The Crown, which was remodelled from an older crown by James V, King of Scots, in 1540.

The Honours, as we now know them, were used to crown the infant Mary, Queen of Scots in 1542, her son James VI, in 1565, his son Charles I in 1633, and finally Charles II in 1651.

The Honours have been buried twice to prevent them falling into enemy hands. From 1652 until 1660 they were hidden in Kinneff Kirk, Kincardineshire, to keep them from Oliver Cromwell who had chased them around Scotland with the probable intention of breaking them up as he did with the English Regalia. From 1941 until 1945 they were placed underground in secret locations within Edinburgh Castle in case of a German invasion during the Second World War.

The 24th article of the Treaty of Union of 1707 states: 'The Crown, Sceptre and Sword of State, Records of Parliament, etc., continue to be kept as they are in that part of the United

Reports of the Cartier Symposium and the GAGTL Annual Conference and Museum Visit held in November will be published in the March 1998 issue of *Gem and Jewellery News*.

Kingdom now called Scotland, and that they shall remain so in all time coming, notwithstanding of this Union.' Following the ratification of the Treaty and the adjournment of the last Scottish Parliament, on 26 March 1707 the Honours were locked away in the Crown-Room in a Great Chest and gradually forgotten about over the next hundred years. In October 1817 the Prince Regent issued a commission to the Officers of State in Scotland and other persons in public situations (including Sir Walter Scott) to open the Crown-Room and Chest. On 4 February 1818 they executed their commission and discovered the Honours as they had been placed in 1707. The Honours were presented to George IV on his State Visit to Scotland in 1824.

Kept with the Honours in the Crown Room of Edinburgh Castle are other precious items, some with Jacobite connections. The St Andrew Jewel of the Order of the Thistle, the Collar and Great George of the Order of the Garter, and a ruby ring once worn by Charles I at his English Coronation, were all taken into exile by King James VII and II when he fled from England in 1688. These descended to Cardinal York, younger brother of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and when the Cardinal died in 1807 he left these jewels to King George III. King William IV sent them to Scotland in 1830.

In 1953 our present Sovereign also received Scotland's ancient Regalia during a Service of Thanksgiving when she made the State visit to Scotland immediately after her Coronation in London. Unfortunately, having been badly advised, Her Majesty attended the service wearing a day-dress and carrying a handbag, somewhat in contrast to the Scots, who attended in their full ceremonial dress for the service which they considered a solemn affirmation of the Queen as Elizabeth I of Scotland.

Nigel Israel

East African gem safari

Recently I was woken in the early hours by an elephant bellowing outside my window. A couple of days later I awoke to the sound of chattering monkeys. At each stop on our East African gem-safari we came across different sounds, scenery, animals and cultures.

Our first destination in Kenya was Salt Lick Lodge in the Taita Hills Sanctuary, adjoining Tsavo National Park. Built around an artificial water hole, it is a popular place for the animals to congregate. Marabou storks roosted in the trees, baboons raided the dustbins, and herds of elephant – some with beautiful large tusks – came to drink every evening. From Salt Lick we drove out each day in our Land Rovers, through the game park, on visits to Mr Campbell Bridges' tsavorite mine, and to the John Saul and Aqua ruby mines.

The next stop on our tour was Arusha in Tanzania, a large town with a colourful outdoor market. Here we visited gem dealers and saw (and some of us bought) beautiful examples of tanzanite, both cut stones and crystals.

A day's trip from Arusha took us deep into Maasai country to Merelani and the tanzanite mines. As guests of Graphton who mine only graphite at Merelani, we looked across the hills to the other sectors which are honey-combed with illegal tanzanite work-



Campbell Bridges talking about tsavorite, with Dr Gübelin and Doug Garrod.

ings. They are a hive of activity and there are plentiful stories of the dangers associated with such places.

When tarmac roads fall into disrepair the surface is worse than the original dust track. Many of East Africa's roads come into this category, and the road to the Ngorongoro Crater was no exception. One of our group was heard to say that he reckoned all his internal organs had been rearranged by the drive, but the treat that awaited us was worth it. The caldera, or collapsed volcano, with its huge

herds of buffalo, zebra, wildebeest and gazelle; its lions, old bull elephants and a few rhino, and its magnificent scenery, lives up to every expectation. We spent a full day on a game drive, but with horns, antlers, elephant and warthog tusks, and hippo teeth to look at it was still a gemmological field trip.

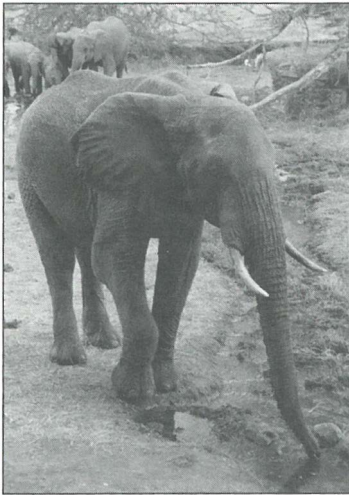
The following day we drove out onto the Serengeti Plain, at that time of year a vast area of golden grass stubble as far as the eye could see, apparently occupied by just a single ostrich. We passed the Shifting Sands, a



Looking through piles of rock at Campbell Bridges' Scorpion mine.



Sorting table at John Saul ruby mine.



A young tusker – ivory.

rescent shape of volcanic ash nine metres high consisting of pyroxene crystals, that has kept a dune-shaped formation whilst being blown over the plains at the rate of about fifteen metres per annum from a volcano over one hundred miles away. Further on we came to Olduvai Gorge, home of the first hominids and therefore called 'The Cradle of Mankind'. Dr Abigail Allison, who had organized the tour from the African side and who looked after us on the whole trip, explained some of the fascinating geology of the area, with its precambrian formations, volcanoes and the Rift Valley. On the way back to Nairobi our final visit to a gem mine took place near Longido where we looked at the zoisite and ruby mine which is now run by the Maasai. Our visit proved to be more colourful than we had expected as we became the centre of attention and our vehicles were quickly surrounded by large numbers of Maasai. It was somehow incongruous to be offered kyanite or garnet crystals or bits of glass in small, plastic gem bags by men wearing nothing but red blankets and beads, and carrying spears.

On our last day in Nairobi we were again guests of Mr Campbell Bridges, and again we had the opportunity to see some wonderful specimens, notably of tsavorite from his Scorpion Mine.

Many of us returned home with lumps of rock containing interesting crystals including ruby and tourmaline



Buffalo – horn.

that we had been allowed to collect, and most of us were given pieces of ruby-rich zoisite by the Maasai. These and the good memories are the best souvenirs one could wish for.

A few words such as these cannot do justice to the sunshine, the picnics under acacia trees, the laughter and the wonderful experiences of those two weeks, or to the magic of East Africa. All of us in the group owe thanks to Doug Garrod for organizing and leading the gem-safari. We are left with only one question: Where are we going next Doug?

Maggie Campbell Pedersen



Maasai women.



Collecting rocks at the Aqua ruby mine.

Treasures from the deep!

For many years the Gemmological Association lived at Saint Dunstan's House in Carey Lane, a building we shared with the National Association of Goldsmiths and our Insurance Broker T.H. March & Co., a company very well known to members of the jewellery trade.

The large basement was shared by all three concerns and when the GA moved out in 1990 much time was spent in trying to identify all the chattels that belonged to us. Some of the items had been placed there by people who were no longer members and related paperwork was proving difficult to locate.

You can imagine our surprise when six years later we received a telephone call from the Chairman of

T.H. March, Michael Ferraro, enquiring if we were the owners of several strange looking instruments. These turned out to be three endoscopes for testing pearls which were made in France in the 1920s, one of which was in pristine condition complete with the arc lamp rods and testing needles. The model shown in the photograph is the pristine one being handed over to Dr Roger Harding, the GAGTL Director of Gemmology, by John Woods, the Managing Director of T.H. March & Co.

We are now curating our treasures in greater detail – whether they be instruments, books or gems – and T.H. March has promised to continue to insure them!

Noel Deeks



John Woods (right) presenting the endoscope to Dr Roger Harding.

Gems

Goodletite

The name goodletite has been unofficially given to an ornamental rock found in the South Island of New Zealand. Already described in the *Journal of gemmology*, I have now examined a number of rough, fashioned and set specimens here at GAGTL, by courtesy of Gerry Commandeur, New Zealand lapidary, living not too far from the area, who had corresponded with me for about a year before his visit in early October.

The material Gerry showed me (apart from the rough pieces) was all cut into fairly thin sections for use in composite finished stones. Two types of goodletite could be distinguished: the first was green only, the colour resembling the 'Bonamite' variety of smithsonite more than either of the jade minerals (by chance, I had a fine Bonamite specimen with me at the same time as the goodletite). However, the stones could pass as 'jade' to the unwary. The other material, cut in much thinner sections, showed a predominantly green colour but with small red crystals of ruby and blue to violet sapphire crystals dotted about in the green. Seen against a light (which would not be so practicable in wear) the effect was very attractive indeed. To those who may wonder whether the effect was in any way like ruby in zoisite, I reply that it was not: the ruby in zoisite occurs in a much larger proportion to the green zoisite and often (not always) forms larger streaks and masses. Each material has its own kind of beauty.

and at the Wednesday Group

Many collectors will appreciate the offcuts of goodletite which the Wednesday evening group was able to examine. Under low magnification green pieces showed ruby and blue sapphire crystals together – not a common combination in any case and especially not when accompanied by crystals of emerald-like material (in small pieces the green resembles emerald much more closely). We were privileged to see a beautiful green slab where chlorite, margarite, tourmaline, fuchsite and sapphire could be identi-

fied, and also an example of the rounded rock which would have to be sliced to reveal its ornamental qualities. The green colour arises from the chromium in the fuchsite mica, a piece of which we were also able to examine.

The Wednesday group has been struggling recently with some gems of the epidote and pyroxene groups. Supposed examples of fashioned clinzoisite, epidote and perhaps others have been lent to us for testing. Mineral groups have not been well explained in the traditional gemmology textbooks but fortunately some of the more recent ones have caught on to one possible explanation of why reported constants for 'the same species' vary so much. The easiest way to find out which mineral belongs to what group (of course, many sturdily resist group membership) is to buy the very cheap *Glossary of mineral species* by Fleischer and Mandarino. The latest edition is 1995 but no doubt there will be a millennium one as they appear about every five years. Copies can be obtained from The Mineralogical Record Inc., P.O. Box 35565, Tucson AZ 85740, USA. It may be worth contacting your local gem and mineral society who may have copies for sale. The book will help you to see that 'it's all a matter of chemistry'—a lesson worth learning in more than one area of life.

Michael O'Donoghue

FEEG

First Diplomas presented

At a ceremony held in Idar-Oberstein on 28 September the first Diplomas in Gemmology under the auspices of the Federation for European Education in Gemmology (FEEG) were awarded. The event was arranged to coincide with a meeting of the German Gemmological Association and with the Intergem Fair.

The president of FEEG, Professor Dr H. Bank, and Mrs Klass, MEP for the Rheinland-Pfalz region, presented the diplomas and congratulated the successful students from France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Spain. Afterwards a reception for the participants was hosted by the German Gemmological Association and FEEG.

Great Jewellery Houses

Cartier 1900-1939, an exhibition at the British Museum until 1 February 1998. This exhibition, curated by Judy Rudoe, displays, as one would expect, a fabulous collection of artefacts, including jewellery, objets d'art, and timepieces. What one might not expect is the enormous care taken, not only in the display, but also in relating the objects to their design, creation and use.

In some cases a piece of jewellery is displayed together with the original design, a plaster cast taken by Cartier when it left the workshop, and photographs of it being worn by its famous owner. One feels that one is being totally immersed in an opulent bygone social era. The exhibition is strongly recommended to jewellers, gemmologists, designers and social historians. Indeed anyone with even only a passing interest in any of these subjects is urged not to miss this spectacular exhibition, which will not fail to fascinate them.

The previously reviewed excellent stand-alone catalogue *Cartier, 1900-1939* by Judy Rudoe, is available in soft cover for £25 only from the British Museum during the exhibition. The hardbound version is available from bookshops for £50.

Recently published by Thames and Hudson at £12.95 each are *Cartier* by Philippe Trétiack (ISBN 0-500-01787-5) and *Tiffany* by Grace Mirabella (ISBN 0-500-01827-8). These small (223 × 163 mm) hardbound books of eighty pages each have respectively 16 and 12 page brief histories of the firm, followed by colour plates of objects, and end with two-page chronologies and lists of plate captions. These two books obviously offer only a very superficial view of these great jewellery houses, but are, nevertheless, very pleasant productions, and would certainly make highly acceptable inexpensive presents for interested friends and customers.

Those interested in great jewellery houses should also seriously consider the following two books:

Chaumet, Master Jewellers since 1780, Diana Scarisbrick, Alain de Gournacuff. Éditeur, 1995, ISBN 2-

909838-10-2. 357 × 227 mm, 368 pages, hardbound in bookbox. £125.

This quite wonderful book is impossible to describe adequately in a few words. Chaumet has its own archive dating back to 1836, including account books, inventory books, showroom visitor books, some 20,000 letters, 80,000 drawings, hundreds of silver models, and 35,000 photographic plates. Further archives relating to the period prior to 1836 are preserved in the Archives Nationales. Diana Scarisbrick has had access to all of this amazing collection to help her produce a history of over two centuries of a great jewellery house. She takes the reader from the beginnings of the firm by Marie-Etienne Nitot and his pre-eminent position as Napoleon's Imperial Jeweller, up to jewellery and *objets d'art* of the 1990's. Along the way we are treated to a jewellery-related history of France. There is, as one has come to expect from Diana Scarisbrick, a wealth of scholarly detail placing the objects in the context of the people, places and times for which they were created. The book finishes with extensive appendices covering premises, archives, bibliography, notes to the text, information on objects illustrated and a comprehensive index. It is not a cheap book but it is certainly one worthy of a place on the bookshelves of all who are interested in the history of jewellery.

Bulgari, Daniela Mascetti & Amanda Triossi, Abbeyville press, ISBN 0-7852-0202-6. 340 x 255 mm, 255 pages, hardbound with DW. £52.

This lavishly illustrated book gives a comprehensive view of this famous Italian house. Bulgari started in Rome in 1884. The first chapter details the history of the firm. Although by the end of the 19th century there were several branches, Bulgari is essentially a 20th century jeweller. The rest of the book deals with the evolution of the distinctive Bulgari bold style, ending with a small bibliography. The wealth of excellent illustrations coupled with easy-to-read text should certainly appeal to those interested in 20th century jewellery and fashion design.

Nigel Israel

De Vakschool Schoonhoven

25 years of FGA courses

Schoonhoven is a little township in the centre of The Netherlands, not far away from Gouda (famous for its cheese) and is an old established centre of silversmithing. For more than 100 years it has also been the home of De Vakschool, a technical college for gold- and silversmiths, jewellers, watchmakers and engravers.

In 1968 I started teaching gemmology there. I had to share a classroom with several colleagues and there were only a few instruments for gem testing available. But we had the gem and mineral collection of the late Mr Bolman, one of the first Dutch gemmologists, and an original pearl endoscope, and little by little the students became more interested in gemstones.

There were some students doing the FGA courses by homestudy at that time. Since they did not have any instruments themselves, I helped them with the practical work. I mentioned this to the then director of the school and he became enthusiastic about the idea of setting up a special course in gemmology for students interested in obtaining an international diploma.

But we had to wait until 1972 when the new school building was ready. Now I had a classroom of my own, with sufficient instruments to do practical

gem testing with groups of 12 students. So we started the first FGA course, as we called it, as an evening class every Tuesday, from September until the examination date in June. We all registered with the Gemmological Association and I taught the content of the preliminary course in English, correcting the homework of my students. We all did our examinations in Leiden, at the Dutch Gemstone Laboratory, which was acting as an examination centre for the GA and with Professor Zwaan as invigilator.

We had a success rate of 13 (including myself, fortunately) and with this group we started the diploma course on Wednesday, continuing on Tuesday with a new preliminary group. For many years I had to miss the Wednesday soccer matches!

In those days the students could obtain the course notes at a reduced price, since the homework corrections were done by me. The teaching was free and the only other fee the students had to pay was the admission to the exams. It was really cheap for them in those days!

Tully Medallist

In 1973 we did the diploma examination in Leiden. I was proud to be awarded the Tully Memorial Medal and 6 other candidates were also successful, two of them with distinction.

From that time on we settled things in a more official way with the GA and in 1974 Schoonhoven acted for the first time as an examination centre.

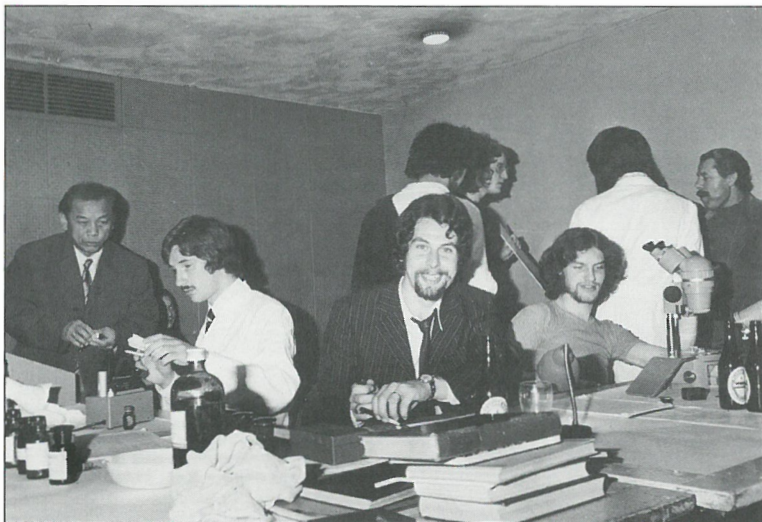
In these early years I did the whole administration of the course myself. This was quite a time consuming job because after a short time the school had to restructure all kinds of evening classes and students had to pay a fee for the course. On the other hand, we were now about to offer the FGA course to others, not only to school students. By the end of the 'seventies we had some 100 people enrolled in the preliminary and diploma courses and in fact our school became the most important examination centre outside the UK.

Every year a number of successful candidates travel to London to receive their diplomas at the official presentation and they always enjoy this, in our eyes, typically British traditional and solemn event. The eighties were very successful when Mrs Julia Drukker and Miss Birgitte Muste won the Anderson-Bank prize in 1987 and 1988 respectively.

Allied Teaching Centre

Of course a lot of things have changed since the early years. The old course notes were replaced by professional books with many diagrams and colour photographs... and with a new price ticket. De Vakschool became part of the Zadkine College, a regional cluster of a wide range of schools and institutions for professional and adult education. Its department of 'Contract Activities' now organises all kinds of evening classes and refresher courses and does all the administration. We obtained a licence agreement with the GA and for six years have been an Allied Teaching Centre.

Although in the early '90s the courses became more expensive and some students could not afford the fees, this year we expect to enrol 30 to 40 students. The Preliminary course is on Monday, with theory from 19.15 to 20.30, a short break and practical gem testing until 22.30. This year for the first time in the Preliminary examination the candidates had to use a loupe, although at Schoonhoven we have been teaching loupe practice during the Preliminary course for some 20 years. Gradually the students learn to



The author (centre) and some students during a gem testing demonstration in 1972.



A practical gemmology session at Schoonhoven.

use the instruments and determination methods discussed in the theory, starting with natural gemstones of the more common types then on to cabochons and then on to the more common imitations, composites and synthetics.

The diploma course is on Tuesday, with the same time schedule. Here during practice, the less common gems are gradually introduced along with the more difficult 'fakes' and treated gems. Moreover they have to learn to identify a certain number of gems within certain time limits, finishing with a series of gemstones comparable to what they may expect during the examination. During the last two months before the exams, we discuss examination questions of the last 10 years.

Trade and non-trade students

For some years, parts of the courses were given by my colleagues at De Vakschool, Miss Drs R.C. Litjens, FGA and Miss B. Muste, FGA, but now, as in the beginning, I continue to do the FGA courses alone and after 25 years still with a lot of pleasure! The students vary in age from 17 to 60, they consist of daytime students from our school, well-established jewellers, goldsmiths, valuers, people from the gem trade and some pure hobbyists. The group is always highly motivated: they all share the same love of and interest in gemstones and often trade contacts and friendships for life are established here.

We have a lot of fun too! I remem-

ber a student teasing the others by asking them to identify what turned out to be bile-stones. One day we obtained a small laser to demonstrate optical properties. So from the classroom, which is on the fourth floor, we tried to find out how far it would project. In fact it made a nice red spot on the newspaper a man was reading behind the window of his house some 150 m away. We saw him freeze and then run out of the house to look for a UFO in the sky

For many of our students not only gemmology is challenging, with its scientific terms, but also the English language and its spelling – spelling is a general problem these days, but it does have its amusing side! I would like to conclude this article with some of the linguistic slips memorable to me over the past 25 years:

- . . . you have to put the stone in an emergency cell . . .
- . . . for the refractometer a sodium light source is used, which is monogamous . . .
- . . . pearls are created by the organist inside the shell . . .
- . . . rubies from Myanmar (Burma) typically show short reptile needles . . .
- . . . 'semi-precious' gemstones do not exist. Neither do 'semi-pregnant' women . . .
- . . . the effect of moonstone is called adolescence . . .
- . . . minerals are inorganic, which means not created by orgasms . . .

Drs G.J.W. Hamel, FGA

Books

***Ancient Jewelry and Archaeology*, ed. Adriana Calinescu, Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 260p. \$49.95**

The twenty papers published in this volume were presented at a conference held at Bloomington, Indiana in 1991. They range from theoretical surveys of jewellery research to wide-ranging treatments of themes in ancient jewellery to studies of specific groups or individual objects. There is an implicit emphasis on the importance of archaeological context and information, even though some of the material discussed, inevitably, completely lacks any such background. The chronological range is from Bronze Age to the early Medieval period.

It is difficult and probably invidious to single out papers from such a wide-ranging selection, but this reviewer would like to draw attention especially to the value of Sir John Boardman's characteristically level-headed and elegantly-written introductory piece, 'The Archaeology of Jewelry', Hélène Guiraud's paper on the Euzé treasure, Dyfri Williams' study of the Kyme treasure, and Andrew Oliver's indispensable 'Roman Jewelry: a stylistic survey of pieces from excavated contexts'.

The book is beautifully printed, strongly bound and illustrated with numerous excellent black-and-white figures. It should be on the shelves of all students of ancient jewellery.

Catherine Johns

Odontolite

Wanted: Information about and examples of odontolite.

Please contact Maggie Campbell Pedersen on 0181-994 8341

How will our Garden grow?

A personal view of a part of London's history – Part 3: Hatton Garden today

A talk by Adrian Klein to the GAGTL on 12 March 1997

By the 1920s many of Hatton Garden's buildings were being used as offices by dealers or as jewellery workshops. Some companies employed up to a hundred workers, but there were many firms employing only two or three people. Every branch of the jewellery industry was represented; from lapidaries to dealers in rough stones, diamonds and coloured stones, as well as mounters, setters, finishers, box makers and even, by 1925, a laboratory.

The trade in pearls in Hatton Garden was large with Britain's connections in Australia and the Gulf area. Even in the '20s a fine row of natural pearls could fetch £120,000. So when cultured pearls found their way onto the market at this time it caused great concern. The London Chamber of Commerce set up a pearl testing station and Basil Anderson, fresh from King's College, was hired to run the laboratory.

An instrument called an endoscope, manufactured in Paris, was used to test drilled pearls. Basil Anderson journeyed to Paris to buy one such instrument but the French would only supply a minimum order of 25, so poor Basil had to persuade 24 dealers to each buy one so that he could acquire his.

Europe, meantime, had gone through the convulsions of the First World War and the Russian Revolution. Jewellery accumulated by the Russian aristocracy and smuggled out by their owners fleeing the Revolution, was sold in Paris and London, often at knock down prices.

The depression of the late '20s and '30s strained the deepest pockets – he who was liquid was king.

Gem dealers had to be entrepreneurial with a great sense of adventure. There was money to be made, but in those days a trip to Shanghai or Hong Kong to sell diamonds or buy jade entailed packing your steamer trunk for a journey that could take several months. Even a quick trip to New York meant an

By 1940 there were two venues where dealers could meet; the Diamond Club, predominantly for dealers in rough diamonds, and the London Diamond Bourse for dealers in polished diamonds, precious stones and jewellery. The Second World War changed everything. Firms that had been making jewellery turned their engineering skills to making precision instruments for military purposes. For the period of the war very little jewellery was made, but trade was lively in second-hand goods and loose diamonds. Although the Garden suffered considerable bomb damage during the Blitz, through it all it was business as usual. The war ended and many who had been called up returned to their offices or workshops to pick up the pieces and continue with their lives in the business.

The post-war period was a time of austerity and the Government allowed only the manufacture of 9 carat gold pieces. New jewellery carried a very heavy purchase tax, up to 125 per cent at one time. Second-hand jewellery was exempt from purchase tax, a loop hole that was fairly well exploited at that time. As the economy improved, purchase tax was gradually reduced until it was superseded by VAT in 1973.

Communications and travel improved dramatically in the early '60s and many of the Garden's dealers took advantage of the new air routes to the Far East – going to India, Burma, Ceylon and Thailand to buy loose gemstones with which to supply the growing band of jewellery manufacturers.

At that time there was not a 'To Let' board in sight, in fact people were paying key money just to get an office in the 'Garden'. I entered the family



Hatton Garden in 1947, looking north from Holborn Circus.

Atlantic crossing of nearly a week each way. The security problems of carrying merchandise and currency were huge – no electronic banking and no flexible friend.

By the late '30s the trickle of refugees lucky enough to escape Hitler's clutches grew to a flood. Hatton Garden was enriched by the arrival of refugee dealers, brokers and cutters from Antwerp and other European cities.

business of A. Freeman Precious Stones Ltd in 1969. At around this time the Gem Lab was situated at 16 Greville Street in a rather dank basement and I have memories of trotting down the narrow staircase to poke a stone through the hatch at Alec Farn or his then young assistant Ken Scarratt, to plead for an instant opinion while the prospective vendor would be waiting anxiously in our office to see if his stone was genuine.

At that time the trade operated within the same framework that had been established over the past one hundred years. Stone importers would sell only to stone dealers or jewellery manufacturers. If we wanted to offer a stone to a Bond Street shop it would have to go through a broker. There was a tangible wall between the West End jewellery buyer and the stone dealers of Hatton Garden. Often we would use brokers if we wanted to offer a stone to another dealer who might have been a competitor of ours and vice versa. So the broker acted as a go-between protecting anonymity.

The oil crisis of the early '70s sent the price of a barrel of crude soaring and made those gentlemen who were lucky enough to own wells extremely wealthy. At that time a new breed of entrepreneurial jeweller emerged who took full advantage of the situation, and had the initiative to put a collection together and zoom off to Brunei or the Gulf States.

In November 1985 Chancellor Nigel Lawson dealt a heavy blow to the dealing community in Britain. From that time the VAT on all imports had to be paid on receipt in cash – and that included consignment goods. It meant that the cost of importing goods for showing to prospective clients was prohibitive. London's pre-eminence as a trading post for goods was lost. The reasoning behind the Chancellor's move was to bring us in line with Europe – but the Antwerp gem industry had always had a special arrangement with the Belgian government to bring goods in at zero rate. The diamond business was too important to the Belgian economy, so the Antwerp dealers had a major advantage over Hatton Garden.

Meanwhile, in Bangkok many of the stone cutters had started up jewellery factories. They found it more profitable to set the stones and offer a complete product to visiting jewellery retailers, rather than haggle over the price of loose stones with a western gem dealer.

Another factor at work was the rise of the auction houses. They soaked up an increasing proportion of fine and not so fine pieces of antique and not so antique jewellery that used to be handled by specialist dealers. Many private jewellery buyers started to decide that they would rather buy jewellery in the sale room than in the show room. Then of course, the dealers responded by putting their unsold pieces into auction. In turn, the auction houses marked 'trade goods' as such, deflating the estimates accordingly. The auction houses were also responsible for promoting the origin certificate. An inferior sapphire with a

Kashmir certificate from a reputable laboratory would make much more money than a truly fine Ceylon stone, a

situation somewhat similar to the 'designer label' phenomenon.

Since the start of the '90s trade in Hatton Garden has contracted. Old timers have gone, and old standards – 'My word is my bond' – are not so universal today. You'd better get it in writing!

The shape of the street is changing. Empty office blocks are being converted into flats – could it be that Hatton Garden is reverting to a mixed business and residential area once more?

The jewellery industry in not only Hatton Garden but Britain as a whole is under threat from:

1. Cheap imported jewellery;
2. Competition from other consumer goods;
3. Security and insurance;
4. Traditional outlets losing ground to supermarkets and TV sales.

So how *will* our Garden grow?

Saleroom Notes

Sotheby's New York sale of jewellery from a private collection on 30 October included the Jonker No.7 diamond weighing 19.74 ct and graded D colour, VVS 2 clarity. The stone is emerald-cut and set in a ring with two tapered baguette diamonds. Accompanying drawings show that the stone may be improved i.e. stepping up at least one clarity grade.

The Jonker diamond weighed 726 ct when found in January 1934 and was then the fourth largest uncut diamond recorded. The stone was bought by Harry Winston in London and later cleaved by Lazare Kaplan in New York: 12 stones were fashioned from the original rough: this stone may once have formed part of the collection of the Maharajah of Indore. The Jonker No.7 sold for \$827,500.

In the same sale was an orange diamond of 5.54 ct. This extremely rare colour earned the specimen the colour grade fancy vivid orange, natural colour. It is type IIa and is the largest diamond of this colour category. The stone fluoresces medium yellow under LWUV and medium orange under SW. This stone sold for \$1,322,500.

Michael O'Donoghue

Tourmaline that linen clean!

This text was spotted in a mail order brochure:

'Powder-saving washing discs. We were understandably sceptical about these revolutionary washing discs which claim to wash with no powder... but when tested with lightly soiled laundry they *really* worked!... Their secret lies in the 300 tourmaline-coated ceramic balls inside. Tourmaline is naturally electrically charged so it acts as a micro-magnet which penetrates the fabric and lifts away dirt and stains.'

Submitted by Liz Woodward

Far from the Madding Crowd's Ignoble Strife

I used to be almost word perfect with Thomas Gray's *Elegy*. Many of his evocative lines seem applicable to those of us in long time retirement. Although not necessarily meant as a reflection of the struggle to catch the 8.20 a.m. to Town or the rush for the 5.20 p.m. home from London Bridge, his line 'far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife', does seem to embrace the elderly among us.

However, far from that kind of life style I was abruptly shaken from lethargically pushing the shopping trolley recently by the words 'Four grain eggs'. This was part of the advertising on a display of eggs in packs of dozens and half dozens (nothing metric). There were eggs barn laid, free range eggs and mention of that much used word 'organic'.

Although I have forgotten many facts and figures which once tripped speedily from my tongue, I do however remember use of the term 'three grainer' for a diamond weighing 34 ct. I also remember reassuring an elderly member of the trade who was worried by the insistence of the use of the metric weights system—even for pearls. He was relieved when I explained that there were four grains to a metric carat and that a three grain pearl was 0.75 ct.

However, four grain eggs? I went back to the egg display and read the blurb about these four grainers. These eggs were laid by hens fed upon a mix of four different organically-grown cereals. Diamonds were not even hinted at and in any case I knew that

diamonds are not organic!

Other whimsical associations or insights into people's perceptions include an elderly dealer who once showed me a pair of lapis lazuli cuff links informing me that 'the brass was showing through'. Once, while driving to the West Country *en route* for our summer holidays there was a road sign warning of 'cat's-eye laying' ahead—no mention of quartz or chrysoberyl. On another holiday we were camping in France and were shopping in a large village. My wife stopped to look at shoes displayed in a shop window. The 'floor' of the shop window was sprinkled with small broken pieces of sub-translucent amethyst, clouded white quartz and sub-translucent greenish chalcedony. There were one or two larger pieces of this material at the rear of the display.

Lapis lazuli with 'the brass showing through'

The French have a flair for attractive shop window displays of quite ordinary goods. I went

in and asked in my limited French if I could purchase the larger pieces of rock at the rear of the window. There was a rapid exchange between two French ladies which eventually culminated into a basic, 'How much?' I offered 10 new francs which was around one pound sterling—unfortunately we were travelling on a restricted budget as my income at that time was also restricted! The chalcedony stayed where it was and we returned to our normal pursuit of food supplies for our camping life style.

A.E. Farn

Forthcoming Events

The nature of diamonds

American Museum of Natural History, New York, 1 November 1997 to 26 April 1998.

The exhibition explores all facets of diamond, from its geological origins to its place in history, art, adornment and literature, to its uses in modern technology and research.

Exhibition highlights include a hands-on model of the diamond crystal structure, a walk-through mine tunnel demonstrating how the explosive eruptions of ancient volcanoes created the diamond pipes and a diamond vault housing some of the most dazzling objects in the exhibition, many of which have never before been on view in North America. The exhibition is accompanied by *The nature of diamonds*, edited by G. Harlow, a richly illustrated comprehensive book on the science, history, art, symbolism and technology of diamonds, published by Cambridge University Press and available from Gemmological Instruments Ltd at £19.95 (softback).

For further information contact Holly Evarts, Department of Communications, American Museum of Natural History, +1 212 769 5099.

American Gem Society Conclave

The 61st Annual Conclave of the AGS will be held on 18–22 March 1998 in Anaheim, California.

The theme will be 'The magic of Conclave' and they claim that attendees will truly understand exactly what makes attending Conclave a magical experience. In addition to an educational programme, Conclave will offer a myriad of special events for the whole family.

For further information call +1 702 255 6500.

Tutti Frutti jewellery

I am writing a thesis on 'Tutti Frutti' jewellery, from its emergence in the 1920s to its influence on more recent jewellery, e.g. Seaman Schepps, René Boivin, etc.

Any reminiscences or experiences in buying, selling or designing

such pieces warmly accepted.

Please send information (which will be treated confidentially) to Nancie Crick, 30 Whitworth Road, Bitterne, Southampton, Hants SO18 1GF (telephone 01703 333236).

The ABC of diamond grading

I read with great interest Harry Levy's dissertation (*GJN*, 1997, 6(4), p. 51) regarding a pair of possibilities for the rationale behind GIA's choice of the letter 'D', as the designation for the top diamond colour grade. They make some kind of sense, but neither is totally accurate.

Before we introduced the GIA diamond grading system in 1953, every set of grading terms had been so degraded over time that we sought terminology that would have no appeal for use in describing the quality of diamonds to consumers. In the early system, 'river, top Wesselton, Wesselton, crystal,' etc., one prominent retailer, in self defence against quality misrepresentation, had started to use extra river, then extra, extra, and finally, three extras before river.

Today, their 'river' is about a 'J'. One 'A' had graduated to two, three and, finally five – AAAAA.

It was obvious that to establish a grading system for use in the jewellery industry, the grades could not have consumer appeal. In America, at least, 'D' had a very poor connotation. 'E', a failing academic grade, could also be short for 'excellent' but not 'D'. It worked. It was years before colour grades began to be exaggerated in diamond quality advertising.

I still think it was the best ploy we could have used. Anyway, thank you, Harry, for giving me an opportunity to sound off on a subject dear to my heart.

Richard Liddicoat
Gemological Institute of America

Collectors

Having read Michael O'Donoghue's Editorial (*GJN*, 1997, 6(4) p.50), I would assure you that we collectors do exist, so a little about myself and my fabulous collection. I have been an FGA for 20 years and have taught a lot of gemology in New Zealand.

I became interested in the rare and unusual ever since the late Alan Fleming trotted out a purple cabochon which I did identify (correctly) as a topaz. I could not get Alan to part with that one. My most sentimental piece is a chunk of hauynite which was owned by Robert Webster. My oddest faceted stone is a blue ruby! – it has the usual sapphire structure but shows the usual ruby pattern through the spectroscopy. In daylight it is blue. Many of my crystals are also quite rare, like the 4 inch piece of rose quartz (not the cryptocrystalline type). The pink points are just beautiful. As I cut gems I have amassed much faceting material. What should I do with 1500 carats of very small pieces of tsavorite garnet? I have tackled the great Barion cuts, and managed to facet a topaz with 300 facets.

Well, this is a start from me in my

cosy corner on the other side of the world. I could go on like this for hours – perhaps some more in the near future. This ghost would be pleased to hear from you!

Francis J. Henrich
Auckland, New Zealand

Peridot

I was very interested to read John Fuhrbach's letter (Letters to the Editors, *GJN*, 1997 6(4), p. 62). I have also been a long-time enthusiast for this beautiful stone for which I personally prefer the mineralogically correct name 'olivine' (an informative term, unlike the rather confused term uncertainly derived from the Greek for 'many-sided'). It is true that it is susceptible to sulphuric acid and it is vulnerable to pressure. Heat can thus cause it to 'burst' and it can also fade the colour (cf. amethyst) but I have become absolutely convinced that light alone will not cause it to fade – unlike the situation with, for example, pink spodumene (kunzite).

Maxwell Hollyhock
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire

Competitions

A puzzle in this edition for the non-gemmologists and non-jewellers – one for the spouses of our members.

I was reading about the old Wild West and how the small towns were usually ruled by the bad guy who not only owned the saloon and hotels and stores but was also usually the Mayor, controlling the sheriff, the judge and the town council.

In one such town the mayor passed an ordinance that no one was allowed to grow a beard, no one was allowed to shave themselves and all had to use the official town barber – of course, the mayor owned the barber shop.

To comply with all the above regulations who shaved the barber? (No, the barber did not come from out of town, the barber was also a resident of the town.)

Harry Levy

Answer to the last competition

We publish the exemplary reply sent in by Dr Maxwell Hollyhock of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire:

Another neat little arithmetic puzzle! Number the bags 1 to 10 and take from each bag the number of coins corresponding to the bag number (one from bag number one, through to ten from bag number 10). Then weigh all the coins together in grams and subtract the total from 550. The remainder number is also the number of the bag with the counterfeit coins.

1998 GAGTL Photo Competition Gems in fashion

What do you think typifies a particular period in history? What are the most sought after or fashionable gem varieties today?

Enter your pictures taken by yourself on this theme for the 1998 Photographic Competition. Full details and entry forms will be sent to all members of the GAGTL.

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London Branch

Meetings will be held at the GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre, 2nd floor, 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8SU. Entry will be by ticket only at £3.50 for a member (£5.00 for a non-member) available from the GAGTL.

14 January. Chinese snuff bottles: the use of stone in Chinese art. *CLARE LAWRENCE*

18 February. Collecting gemstones in Scotland. *BRIAN JACKSON*

18 March. Fired with enthusiasm: the early history of enamel. *DR JACK OGDEN*

22 April. Pearls – a fashion opportunity. *CHRISTIANNE DOUGLAS*

Midlands Branch

For details of meetings contact Gwyn Green on 0121 445 5359

30 January. Bring and Buy Sale; Practical Gemmology Quiz

Trip to Idar-Oberstein, Germany

Sunday 19 April to Saturday 25 April

Included in the price of £475 is travel by coach from London, half-board accommodation in the well-appointed Gethmann's Hotel and visits.

If you wish to book for the tour please do so as soon as possible – very few places now available.

22 February. Gem Club – Microscopy in all its aspects

27 February. Chinese and Japanese pearls. *MICHAEL HOUGHTON*

22 March. Gem Club – Gemstones. *PROFESSOR R.A. HOWIE*

27 March. Subject of choice. *DR JACK OGDEN*

19 April. Gem Club – Bragging pieces – collectors' stones

24 April. AGM followed by A mosaic of gemmological tessera

Field trip to Whitby

Friday 6 March to Sunday 8 March

The GAGTL is arranging a field trip to Whitby, Yorkshire. As well as hunting for jet on the beaches, visits to a workshop and the local museum are planned. For information on Whitby and its jet see *GJN*, 1997, 6, (4), p.56.

For full details and booking forms for the trips contact the GAGTL on 0171 404 3334

26 April. Diploma pre-examination seminar

North West Branch

Meetings will be held at Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. For further details contact Irene Knight on 0151 924 3103.

Scottish Branch

For details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Joanna Thomson on 01721 722936.

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 open only to SJH members and their guests. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status.

26 January. *AMANDA TRIOSSI*, Associate Lecturer, Sotheby's Institute.

Bulgari: tradition and innovation

The Society's AGM preceding the lecture will be open to members only.

Guests may be invited into the lecture, as space permits.

9 March. *DIANA SCARISBRICK*, author and jewellery historian.

Chaumet: two hundred years of fine jewellery. A preview of the forthcoming exhibition in Paris.

20 April. *PROFESSOR HENRY DIETRICH FERNÁNDEZ*, Rhode Island School of Design. *Papal Tiaras.*

1 June. *MARTIN CHAPMAN*, Curator of Decorative Arts, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The Crown of Louis XV.

22 June. *DR GERTRUD PLATZ*, Antikensammlung, Berlin.

Etruscan goldwork and its imitations in the 19th century.

28 September. *MICHAEL SPINK*, Director of South East Asia Department, Spink & Son Ltd. *Islamic jewellery.*

2 November. *KATHERINE PURCELL*, Wartski, London.
Falize: a restless imagination

7 December. *DR JEFFREY SPIER*
Late antique magical amulets.