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Gem & Jewellery News

Treasures of the 20th Century

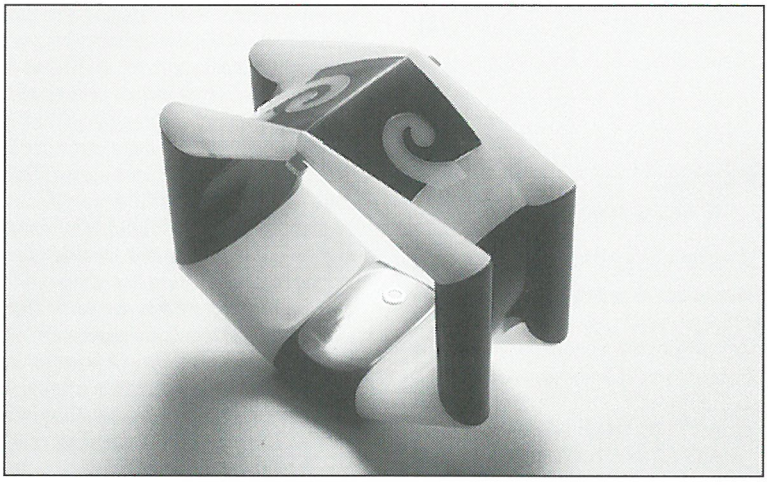
A spectacular exhibition of British designer silver, jewellery and art medals

The Millennium Exhibition is to be held at Goldsmiths' Hall Foster Lane, London EC2 from 25 May to 21 July.

Treasures of the 20th Century will provide visitors with an unprecedented opportunity to see spectacular silver, jewellery and art medals from the Goldsmiths' Company's 20th century collection, Britain's most important collection of modern work in precious metals.

The exhibition celebrates the work of 20th century designer-craftsmen and is a chronological review of some of the key achievements of this century, culminating in works of art in precious metals specially commissioned to commemorate the millennium.

The jewellery collection, started in 1961, illustrates the exciting work of the new artist jewellers, and particularly the use of new techniques and materials, so characteristic of designer jewellery of the last 40 years. Many of the artist jewellers represented are now internationally famous such as Andrew Grima, John Donald, Gerda Flöckinger, Wendy Ramshaw, Jacqueline Mina, Charlotte de Syllas and David Thomas, amongst others.



Bracelet, 1999, by Charlotte de Syllas.
Carved black Wyoming nephrite jade and white Russian nephrite jade, articulated with white gold. Commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths for its collection. © The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Also included in the exhibition is the Prince of Wales' gold coronet by Louis Osman. Graciously lent by Her Majesty The Queen, the coronet was the gift of the Goldsmiths' Company on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's Investiture in 1969.

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Editorial

Jewellery is a subject of universal interest and, contrary to some popular opinion, the study of its history and social significance is very far from being a superficial or trivial undertaking. Like clothing, jewellery is worn only by human beings, and is therefore one of the relatively few things that truly distinguishes us from other species.

Ornaments made from precious metals and stones, and indeed less costly materials, are decorations to enhance the appearance of the wearer, but that is only one part of their social function. Items of jewellery carry a multitude of subtle messages that may be read – and sometimes misread – by other members of the same society, while for their owner, they can also be symbols of deeply personal feelings, beliefs and memories. Probably the most obvious social message is one of wealth: a sumptuous display of gold and high-quality gemstones states that the owner has money to spare. There are subtle variations of interpretation, however. Too much gold and too many gems worn on an everyday occasion will be seen in some cultures (but not all) as a mark of vulgarity and poor taste, so the proud bearer of an array of dazzling diamonds may not always make quite the impression she intended.

Jewellery given as a token of love, or worn as a symbol of marriage, has a very long history indeed, and even the simplest wedding ring has a value for its owner which far transcends the bullion value of the gold. The permanence of gold, a metal which does not rust or corrode, is an important part of the message, and so base metals will not do for wedding rings. The place of 9 carat gold in that equation is open to debate!

Amuletic pieces, incorporating motifs designed to protect the wearer and avert bad luck, are very familiar to those who study jewellery of the ancient and medieval world, and they are still with us today. From religious symbols, such as the cross or the Star of David, to more superstitious devices like horseshoes and clover-leaves, people are still instinctively attracted to jewels that have a 'good luck' dimension built in. We may not seriously believe that wearing our Zodiac sign will bring good fortune, but these ancient symbols are still hugely popular, and few people would deliberately wear the 'wrong' star-sign.

Jewellery provides a real link with the past, in that our complex responses to it have not changed much over the centuries or millennia; its values are both personal and universal.

Catherine Johns

The Millennium Trade Dinner

Goldsmiths' Hall, London EC2
Monday 5 June – 7:00 for 7:45 p.m.

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Gem Testing Laboratory and to express confidence and optimism in the jewellery trade at the start of the new millennium, the Gemmological Association has joined with the London Diamond Bourse and Club to hold a dinner at the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall.

We are most fortunate to have as our Guest Speaker Gary Ralfe, Managing Director of De Beers globally.

Tickets are available from the GAGTL at £50 plus VAT (£58.75). As space is limited we recommend that you book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

We are very grateful to Malca Amit Ltd. for their generous sponsorship of this event.

The diamond trade – attack from all directions

Many jewellers in the UK agreed that they had a good Christmas, but a poor Millennium. The jewellery that they had made to celebrate the millennium did not sell as well as they hoped, but people did come back at the end of 1999 to buy jewellery for Christmas.

The special hallmark produced by the Assay Offices to mark the millennium will be used for the whole of the current year, but this has not generated an interest with the public and so far the millennium mark has not become a collectable item.

The new century has however started with many potential problems for the diamond trade. The stabilizers of this industry, De Beers or the Central Selling Organization (CSO), are being attacked from all directions. On the diamond front their sight holders continue to blame them for loss of profitability. They claim that the sight boxes are too well sorted, and the rough in them are priced on a too accurate prediction of the polished yield, and the prices these could fetch based on the Rapaport listings.

On the economic front the De Beers' share prices have been falling, causing the firm to look again at the value of its assets and the quantity of rough it releases at the sights. The continued complaint that not enough stones are available and thus the price of polished goods rises (but this has been the mainstay of the diamond market), is offset by the complaint that De Beers is dumping goods to reduce their own stockpile and show better profits for their shareholders.

Funding rebels

And now a moral argument is directed at the diamond trade through activists such as *Global Witness* and the media. The accusation is that rebel fighters in several African states are funded through the sale of diamonds. In June 1998 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1173 requiring a certificate of origin on diamonds coming out of Angola to say that they had come through the acceptable government of the country and not the Unita rebels. This was to prevent the Unita rebels selling their diamonds on the world markets thus enabling them to obtain funds to prolong the civil war.

A more recent story has emerged from Sierra Leone that rebels there have been acquiring diamonds to fund their cause. In both countries there is much brutality towards the local civilian population and the argument is that the suffering caused is prolonged through the funding obtained by the illegal sale of diamonds. Simplistically put, the argument is 'No diamond sales, so no money for guns, and so no war'.

Other countries involved in this practice are the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

'Fatal transactions'

The campaign has the potential to harm the diamond industry although it claims to be anti-war, *not* anti-diamonds. The activists have launched a campaign called 'Fatal transactions' to encourage consumers to ask where their diamonds come from and to boycott 'conflict' diamonds.

Of course De Beers, being the main distributors of diamonds in the world, are accused of being the major purchasers of these illegal diamonds. De Beers and the diamond community through the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA) have reacted quickly by denying that such diamonds are being handled and resolutions passed by both the WFDB and the IDMA prohibiting their members from handling such goods and are in support of Resolution 1173.

De Beers has gone beyond the demands of Resolution 1173 by declaring a complete embargo on the purchase of any diamonds that are suspected of coming from Angola. Further they have had no business interests in either Sierra Leone or Liberia for more than 14 years. They have not purchased diamonds emanating from Sierra Leone for a similar period. In fact the Sierra Leone diamonds have been marketed through offices which have no connections with De Beers.

Benefits are not reported

Anyone who sees or hears of the reports of the atrocities being carried out in Africa is horrified and disturbed. One can only pity those who suffer, but such stories make good copy for the press and the media. The responsible responses of the diamond trade and De Beers do not get a similar coverage. Like a few rotten apples, such 'dirty' diamonds can affect the whole trade. The benefits that a well managed diamond trade has brought to those parts of Africa that do not suffer from war and to countries such as India who employ hundreds of thousands of people in the diamond trade, do not make exciting reading, and so are confined to some trade publications and speeches which reach but a minute part of the world population.

Diamond v. synthetic moissanite wallchart

Following the recent seminars held throughout the UK on the identification of diamond simulants, a wall chart has been produced as a visual aid to distinguishing between diamond and the latest simulant, synthetic moissanite.

The full-colour chart illustrates some distinguishing features using observation and a 10x loupe.

The chart is available from Gemmological Instruments Ltd., 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8TN at £4.00 plus VAT (£4.70).

Pegasus is dead

The continued revelations of the amazing colour changes brought about through the GE process of high temperatures and high pressure continue to bemuse many of those involved in the diamond trade. Lazare Kaplan marketed such stones under the brand name 'Pegasus' last year. They have been taken to task as this name is already in use in another context – so they have dropped the name. General Electric (GE) is not patenting the process, as it would have to publish the methodology and it wishes to keep it a secret. So now these stones are referred to as GE-POL diamonds (General Electric – Pegasus Overseas Ltd). The trade's united reaction was to insist that the process should be disclosed and such diamonds be sold as 'treated'. Lazare Kaplan agreed to this by allowing the GIA to inscribe all such stones on the girdle with 'GE-POL'. Such an inscription can be easily polished out and the GIA has been most vigilant in spotting stones that have been resubmitted for grading after having the inscription removed. WFDB has also passed a resolution condemning and punishing any member who removes such an inscription.

Process is not new

This cat-and-mouse game will continue as long as Lazare Kaplan and the GIA are the only players: they act responsibly, the process remains undetectable and there are a few rogue traders trying to make a fast buck. Unfortunately there are rumours that the Russians and the Chinese have been using the high pressure high temperature (HPHT) method for several years. The claim is that brown and off-colour stones can be turned into stones comparable to D, E and F grades, and it may be that not only Type IIa stones are involved. They have not been declaring when such stones are sold and since the process is still undetectable no one knows how many such stones are already in circulation.

Nova Diamonds has announced that it is using a HPHT process to change brown stones to a bright yellow/green colour, usually detectable through its distinctive colour and high fluoresence; detection is also helped by the willingness of the producers to disclose the treatment when they sell the stone!

Value

The valuation of diamonds and coloured gemstones has traditionally been based on the rarity of the larger stones which have a beautiful colour (or no colour in the case of diamonds) and good purity. If technology can improve the colour and purity of stones then their rarity will diminish and this will affect their price – i.e. the price of good quality stones will come down – because there are more of them around. This is the bottom line of the 'disclosure debate'.

Lasering and fracture-filling were easily detectable – you simply looked at the stone – so they did not cause serious problems in the trade. How will the trade react to 'undetectable treatments'?

To the cap all this, a recent Horizon TV program in the UK has looked at the advent of gem-quality synthetic stones. They are still rare because of the expense in producing these synthetic stones – it is as cheap or cheaper to dig them out of the ground. Unfortunately for the diamond trade technology does not stand still. I am old enough to remember the prices we paid for the first calculators and computers. Many in the diamond trade will continue to bury their heads in the sand and declare (sorry for the pun) that these problems will go away. I am not so convinced. *Harry Levy*

'Tampering' with stones

Harry Levy reports on the Tucson Laboratory/Trade meeting

I went to Tucson (Arizona) for another Laboratory/Trade meeting. These meetings are designed to maintain a dialogue between the laboratories and the trade to ensure that the gemstone trade can continue to flourish and to promote a similar methodology on disclosure of treatments.

HPHT was a hot topic which put us all under pressure – but this is all so new that there are as yet no conflicts of interest. The main discussion was on the disclosure of the heating of corundum – mainly ruby – and the fissure-filling of emeralds.

I have written in previous articles about the recent refinement of reports on emeralds to quantify the amount of filler in a stone. To date the fissure filling of emeralds with a colourless filler has been regarded as an enhancement, covered by a general disclosure if one is adhering to CIBJO rules, and not as a treatment. Traditionally emeralds were soaked in colourless oils and in latter years the oil was put in using vacuum and pressure and moderate heating. The advent of synthetic resins, the most notorious being Opticon, left the trade in somewhat of a quandary. At first many sections of the trade wanted to brand fissure-filling using a resin as a 'treatment'. But as more and more stones were subjected to resins rather than oils, and traders found difficulties in distinguishing oils from resins, resins became accepted along with oil. Further it is argued that resins are less volatile than oils, their RI's are closer to that of emerald and are thus 'better' than oils. However, some still want to classify hardened resins as a treatment.

Emerald sellers wanted to distinguish stones which had minor fissures from those that had major fissures and when they were filled both were classified as stones showing evidence of fillers. The trade felt it has two requirements with fillers, (a) an identification of the filler and (b) the quantity of filler used in each stone. The laboratories took up this challenge. Some invested in a Raman spectroscope and set up a data bank of known fillers. Others claimed they could make this identification using microscopic techniques but the trade is becoming persuaded that using a Raman spectroscope is more definitive than other methods.

The degree of filler

As regards the quantification of the filling, important steps were taken to research this at the Laboratory/ Trade meeting held last May in Bern, just prior to the CIBJO Congress, and this was continued at the meeting in Tucson in February 2000. A few of the European laboratories adopted a system for this as did the AGTA laboratory in New York. Emeralds that are clarity enhanced using a filler will be declared as 'showing evidence of clarity enhancement', with an added statement giving the degree of filler as 'minor', 'moderate' or 'significant'. The adoption of these terms came about as a direct result of the discussion held by the laboratories and talks in Bern last May and will probably now be used universally in the trade. This is because the GIA has adopted this methodology and system , as stated in the article in the Winter 1999 issue of *Gems & Gemology*. They also confirmed this at the meeting in Tucson. Different dealers want to emphasize different aspects of the tampering of natural gemstones to improve their appearance – some laboratories will give the degree of filler on request only, whilst with others it will become a matter of routine on an emerald report.

International Jewellery London 2000

A cooler place for business

It has been announced that comfort-cooling will be installed in Earls Court 2 in time for IJL 2000 (3–6 September).

The installation of comfort-cooling is part of a multi-million pound programme which will also include improved catering outlets, toilet facilities and conference centres.

Anyone who endured the unacceptably high temperatures experienced at the 1999 show will particularly welcome this news.

Consistent grading

The laboratories who now do this claim that their grading is consistent internally, but it is too early to say how consistent the grading will be between different laboratories. A 'minor' grade in one report might get a 'moderate' if sent to another laboratory. One point all the laboratories make is that the degree of enhancement does not correlate directly to the value of the stone. One of the factors in determining the value of an emerald is the colour of the stone. Generally a stronger green colour makes a stone more valuable than a paler one. So a pale stone with a 'minor' grade might be worth far less than a darker stone which may have a 'significant' grade of filler.

A similar problem and methodology is now being considered for rubies. Many rubies are now routinely heated to improve their colour and remove the silky effect seen in some stones. Rubies, unlike most sapphires, have open fissures coming to the surface; the heating is often done on a bed of borax which melts and will enter the fissures. When cooled, the residue will turn to glass and leave glassy inclusions. Again the problem arises as to the designation of such rubies. Should they be classified as 'treated'? A similar methodology is suggested for grading rubies depending on the amount of residue found in the stone after cooling.

Treated or synthetic?

But a much more interesting argument now arises. Initially the fissure filled with glass was a by-product of heating. Now the method is deliberately used in some cases to fill and cover deeper fissures within the stone. An interesting phenomenon now occurs. The degree of heat is very high and this causes part of the ruby actually to melt, and with the borax present inside the now melted fissure, the crack closes and is filled with molten ruby which can make the fissure invisible. The argument then arises that this is a method of synthesizing rubies – using a molten flux – so should the stone now be designated as synthetic? According to CIBJO rules, for example, a synthetic stone is one that has been wholly or partially made by man. Part of the ruby has been made by man, so how should the whole stone be designated?

Unusual doublets

A warning from Marcus McCallum

On a recent trip to Hong Kong I made a visit to the jade market in Tsim Sha Tsui and on one of the stands spotted some very nice colour but slightly strange-looking 'Imperial' colour jadeite cabochons. These were offered to me as guaranteed undyed 'A' jade. On closer examination they proved to be jadeite doublets with a domed glass top and a thin layer of good colour jade. When I remonstrated with the owner of the stand, she explained that, yes, they were doublets but the jade part was 'A' jade and undyed!

Look carefully at what you buy in the jade market!

Snowball effect

The tampering with stones, after they have been dug out of the ground to improve their colour and purity, i.e. their appearance, is continuing to grow. It is like a snowball rolling down a mountain; at first it is small and affects a few; it causes minor avalanches which have side effects involving others, and as it continues to roll it gathers momentum causing more major avalanches where its effects are not yet fully evaluated, but it is now beginning to roar and more and more sections of the gem trade are hearing the sound. Those who have to date refused to hear that roar, or not been in its path, continue to malign those that react as alarmist and harming the trade. As we enter a new century more and more scientists and technologists realize that money can be made in synthesizing and treating stones to produce more and more gem-looking items. We are in for a proliferation of treatments and methods. We have a host of methods already but who knows what lies ahead. It is up to the trade to devise acceptable methods to sell enhanced and treated stones to the public.

Price differential

The needs for disclosure did not come from the public but from traders who wanted to maintain a price differential between treated stones and untreated ones. Many felt that they could keep the debate within the trade and were against a dialogue held in public. It was the traders themselves who maligned each other to maintain a price differential. They demanded that laboratories should find methods to separate such stones and now cry 'foul' every time they see a laboratory report or hear of a meeting that will discuss these issues. Our trade is unique in that a very small difference in the stone can make such a large difference in the value. Disclosure highlights such differences.

In a modern world where communication is so easy it is the height of naïvety to think that the trade could keep this debate secret. Better that the trade puts its own house in order than to let outside legislators do this for us. If the trade feels that a treated stone is worth less than one that looks similar to one that has not been tampered with, then so be it. But this price differential must be passed right down the line to the end user.

Disclosure should be used as a tool to explain price differences in similar looking stones, not as a fence to hide behind in case a buyer discovers that he has been sold an inferior product but not at an inferior price. Our trade is plagued with amateurs. Knowledge and education in the products in which we trade will make professionals of all of us and we will not be scared of knowing and telling exactly what we sell.

Book Shelf

Jewellery making in Birmingham 1750-1995

Shena Mason, xii and 212pp, 20 colour and 124 black and white illus. Hardbound with DW, Phillimore, Chichester 1998. ISBN 1-86077-0797-7, £25.

For over two hundred years Birmingham has been a major jewellery manufacturing centre. Amazingly this book seems to be the first attempt at a comprehensive history of the subject. It has, however, proved well worth the wait. The author was for many years on the editorial staff of the *British Jeweller*, and has put her vast knowledge to excellent use in this publication.

The reader is taken through the history of the Jewellery Quarter, which with its Assay Office from 1773, trade association from 1887 and training school from 1890 was a comprehensive self-contained manufacturing centre. The development of the firms and the goods they produced is dealt with in detail, with copious illustrations.

Along the way we learn about many of the fascinating characters, the methods of advertising and the customers. Surprises abound, such as the reproduction of a Ginder Bros. advertisement of 1897 showing rings surrounding a bicycle. Interestingly it says that rings were established in 1871 with cycles in 1875 - one would love to see the minutes of the meetings where this diversification was planned.

Appendices include Precious Metals and Hallmarking, Purchase Tax and VAT Rates, and Members of the Birmingham Jewellers' Silversmiths' Association in 1915 – with addresses. Thirteen pages of notes follow. It is deplorably now almost universal to have endnotes rather than page footnotes. This renders them almost useless when reading a book. Convenient as it is to editors, one would have thought that modern computer editing would enable footnotes to be produced at least as efficiently as they were commonly done in the past.

The book finishes with an extensive, and extremely useful, bibliography and a rather brief index. The production is a credit to the publishers with lovely illustrated endpapers and attractive jacket (although it is always disappointing when, as here, the illustrations on the jacket are not repeated inside the book). *Nigel Israel*

Jewels and Jewellery

Clare Phillips, 160 pp profusely illustrated in colour. Hardbound with DW, V&A Publications, London 2000. ISBN 1 85177 279 0, £25.

In recent years books on jewellery have appeared in ever increasing numbers. Many are written by journalists with no apparent professional knowledge of jewellery. Most of these are highly derivative, add nothing to the literature, and are of dubious educational value even to the beginner in the field. *GJN* readers will know that there are also many specialist books of great importance. Only extremely rarely is one privileged to review a new book such as this that is beautifully produced with wonderful colour pictures, and covers materials, techniques, styles, designers, marks and even manufacturing and distribution, from the Middle Ages to the late twentieth century. The range is immediately apparent from the cover pictures: on the front a French enamel necklace *c.* 1660 set with table-cut diamonds with dependent pearl and drop sapphire, and on the back a geometric necklace of gilded silver, silver, lapis lazuli, chalcedony, hematite and granite, designed and made by Hermann Jünger, Germany 1990.

The book is based on the magnificent jewellery collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum (which includes the mouthwatering Townshend collection of gemstones). It is not a catalogue of the collection! There is an out-of-print Summary Catalogue by Shirley Bury, but this only included black and white illustrations. *Jewels and Jewellery* selects splendid pieces from the collection to tell the story of jewellery, with excellently descriptive captions and authoritative, information-packed text, which is written in an approachable yet concise style (an extremely difficult thing to do, as most authors – and reviewers – realize). The experience and enthusiasm of the author, who is a curator in the V&A Department of Metalwork, shines

through. An Appendix of Illustrations, giving sources and locations (a brilliant idea), followed by a good bibliography and index finish the book.

The colour pictures have all been specially taken for this book by Ian Thomas (many of the pieces have not previously been published and most not in colour). The majority of the pieces jump off the page at one, although a tiny criticism is that some of the pictures that have been inserted into the text with a slightly grey background appear to have lost a little of the life that one suspects they had in the originals. Attention to detail in the production is shown by the fascinating end-papers that reproduce a 1695 French print of a jeweller's shop. An almost unanswerable question often asked by people with an awakening interest in jewellery has always been, Which one book should I get? Clare Phillips' previous 1995 book *Jewelry from Antiquity to the Present*, a World of Art paperback at the extraordinary price of £6.95, has been one answer, but this new book must now be the undisputed answer for anyone prepared to spend £25. It can be read from start to finish, or profitably and enjoyably dipped into at random, by both beginners and jewellery (and gemstone) specialists. Every reader should buy a copy and, if geographically able to, visit the V&A Jewellery Gallery with it in their hand.

Nigel Israel

Gold

Richard Herrington, Chris Stanley and Robert Symes. The Natural History Museum, £7.95 pb ISBN 0-565-09141-7

A quick flick through the 64 pages gives a very good first impression. The book is well laid out, attractive and appealing, with a range of clear bright photographs, maps, graphs and artwork. Page headings are clear and sub-headings guide the reader easily through the sections.

The preface and contents page is an enticing invitation to settle down and read the book from cover to cover (as I found myself doing) or to dip in and just read a section or two. The book tells the story of gold, the secrets of where it is found and the exciting story of how people have sought it out from earliest times, through the days of great gold rushes to high-technology mining. It describes clearly how gold is obtained both from within the ground and from river beds. It discusses gold's unique properties and wide range of uses, from computers and dentistry to commerce and ornamentation.

It is written in a clear and concise manner and the science is explained simply. Photographs, graphs and artwork have been chosen wisely. The artwork on pages 22 and 23 is particularly useful as an overview of the where, why and how of gold formation and serves as a summary of the previous 12 pages. The references to photographs led to a little extra page turning, for example on page 3 we are referred to page 7 and on page 4 we are referred to page 39 and page 13, but this is a minor criticism. A few typographical errors have slipped through the net, but they are obvious enough not to mislead and even cause a laugh or two. A minor point of confusion is between the use of the term carat (as a measure of the purity of gold) and carat (a measure of weight used for gemstones), but this is clarified in the glossary.

Gold was proposed when all three authors worked in the Mineralogy Department of the Natural History Museum, London. Richard Herrington joined the Department in 1991, after working in industry in mineral exploration. Chris Stanley is the Associate Keeper of Mineralogy (the Deputy Head of Department) and a specialist in ore mineralogy. Robert Symes retired as Keeper of Mineralogy in 1997, but remains an active researcher of British minerals. The authors are experts in their field. That expertise is evident in the book. The science is up-to-date and clearly written.

Gold is easy to read, useful, informative and interesting to the amateur and professional. However, the book goes beyond that and there is something for everyone, from mineralogist to miner, from goldsmith to jeweller, from teenager to adult. If the aim of the authors' was to write a book that would have universal appeal, then I think they have succeeded.

Cally Oldershaw

Schmuck der Moderne, Modern Jewellery 1960-1998

Fritz Falk and Cornelie Holzach. Catalogue of the Modern Collection in the Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim. Arnoldsche Art Publishers 1999. Hard cover 232 pp, 161 colour plates, 175 black-and-white illustrations. . Text in English and German. ISBN 3-925369-81-3. £45.

This sumptuous volume documents the most recently acquired part of the legendary collection in the Jewellery Museum at Pforzheim. In a town synonymous with the German jewellery industry, the Museum was first established at the end of the 19th century and moved to its present custom-designed building in 1961. Since then a vigorous and presumably well-resourced collecting policy, focusing on important pieces by leading contemporary jewellers, has brought the story told by the historic collections up to the present day. Now holding nearly 800 objects the modern collection is claimed to be the largest in the world.

The book is arranged so as to examine each of the four decades separately, and to demonstrate the way in which the Museum can show a comprehensive display of work by a succession of makers who have pioneered new ideas, new forms, new techniques and new materials.

Almost all the illustrations are of European designers, with predictably a heavy preponderance of German jewellers. It is disappointing to see so few examples of work by the many distinguished British designers who have made their reputations during the period covered by the book. We must hope that the V&A can redress the balance here.

Although this is primarily a superbly produced picture book, the short linking texts provide a perceptive context for each successive decade, recording

stylistic and technical developments and key events such as important exhibitions and publications. There are useful special profiles of eminent individual makers whose work and influence span a longer period, although more information on all the featured jewellers would have increased the scholarly value of the catalogue. The text throughout is doubled in German and English, which should encourage art college libraries to acquire it as a valuable reference work for students. The quality of both colour and black-and-white illustrations is exemplary. *Muriel Wilson*

Letter to the Editors

Married Fellows – a record?

This year we will have completed 40 years as FGAs – could this be a record for a married couple?

After a long and varied career in the jewellery trade, we retired last September.

We met at Chelsea Polytechnic in 1958 studying with Robert Webster and Dr Rutland, often during lectures listening to Robert's war-time experiences. Ken commenced working with the Northern Goldsmiths company in 1948 and Wendy with Halfhides in 1954. After qualifying in the Gemmology Diploma Examinations we both worked at J.H. Lucas in Hatton Garden gaining knowledge and experience.Twenty-one years ago we started our own business buying and selling new and second-hand jewellery, being one of the first to offer an independent valuation service to retail jewellers giving then the opportunity to visit clients seeing and handling some wonderful jewellery.

Finally, we would like to wish all our friends in the jewellery trade and the Gemmological Association well in the future.

Ken and Wendy Hope (née Hermitage)
Great Missenden, Bucks.

Are you able to beat the Hopes' record? If so, please contact Mary Burland at the GAGTL. Any replies would be appreciated.

New Chinese freshwater cultured pearl varieties

A report by Liping Li, FGA, DGA, and Zhonghui Chen, Hon FGA, Gemmological Institute of China University of Geosciences

As has been recorded in the literature, freshwater pearls have been cultured in China since 1167. Freshwater pearl farming was popular in Jiangshu and Zhejiang provinces during the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911), but after the end of the Qing Dynasty, it disappeared due to social instability.

It was not until the 1970s that it was reintroduced, and since then pearl farming has developed very fast. The annual production of freshwater cultured pearls is now about 200 tons and that of the seawater cultured pearls is 20 tons. Among them are found not only high-quality cultured pearls, but also some new varieties.

Tritogonia is the most common pearl mussel in China. It belongs to the genus *Hyriopsis*, related to *Hyriopsis schlegeli* which produces Biwa pearls in Japan. Both can effectively produce high-quality pearls and almost 90 per cent of Chinese freshwater cultured pearls are from Zhejiang, Jiangshu and Hubei provinces. Most Chinese freshwater cultured pearls are non-nucleated. White, orange, salmon, lavender and mauve are their common colours, and many have overtones of bronze, peach, pink and apricot.

A number of new kinds of freshwater cultured pearls have recently appeared on the market. One category consists of big baroque pearls which have deliberately designed shapes, usually very large. One example seen was in the shape of a cross and this was produced by implanting a piece of mantle tissue which was cut in this particular shape. These pearls are usually used for pendants or brooches.

Another kind of new freshwater cultured pearl is also large, but usually in the shape of an oval or drop. This kind of pearl is produced by implanting a non-nucleated freshwater pearl in the mussel and letting it grow for another period. Such pearls can be implanted several times until they reach the desired size. Their internal structure is the same as non-nucleated cultured pearls, the only difference being that the first circle of nacre grown immediately after implantation is not a closed band. Therefore, it is very difficult to distinguish these from non-nucleated pearls, and many are sold as non-nucleated pearls in the trade.

Some freshwater pearl farms produce another kind of pearl which can glow in the dark. This is a nucleated cultured pearl and a special fluorescent material is used to make the nucleus. However, these pearls are not economic to produce.

Lastly, although blister pearls are not new, there are many beautiful blister pearl pendants which are not round, but in various special shapes, such as Buddha or even in the form of a personal cameo.

Raman User School for gemmologists

A User School in Raman micro analysis of gems and their inclusions will be held at Kingston University, Surrey, on 10 to 12 May.
The rapidity and non-destructive nature of the technique makes it an ideal microanalytical tool for:

- gem and mineral identification
- analysis of solid, gaseous and liquid inclusions
- identification of crowns, coatings and filler substances
- distinguishing between natural and synthetic gems and their substitutes.

The fee for the course, to include three days tuition, practical hands-on experience, a set of course notes, lunches and refreshments, is £320.
Full details and an application form are available from the GAGTL.

Roman Treasures in Britain

As the Archaeological Institute of America's Kress Lecturer in Ancient Art for 1999, I spent nearly three months in the USA last autumn, travelling to branches of the AIA to tell them about Roman treasures from Britain and the Hoxne treasure in particular.

Catherine Johns reports on her recent American lecture tour

My itinerary of 24 planned venues came to an unexpected end after 16 lectures because of an accident in which I broke my ankle and my leg, but up until that point, it was a most rewarding experience, confirming yet again the universal interest and appeal of jewellery and other precious-metal objects. From my base at Bryn Mawr College, near Philadelphia, I travelled to AIA branches in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, California and Hawaii before Nemesis, probably having observed that I was enjoying myself far too much, struck me down. To everybody who has not been to Hawaii, go there if you get the chance, and visit the Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island to discover just how fascinating geology in action can be.

I took advantage of the trip to fit in a meeting of the American Society of Jewelry Historians in New York, where I spoke on *Goldworking in Britain, 2000 BC to AD 400*. Our colleagues in the American society were wonderfully appreciative and hospitable, and in addition to the excellent, responsive reception of my talk, given in the American Craft Museum, I was generously wined and dined on successive evenings by Martha McCrory and by Joyce Jonas, Natasha Kuzmanovic and other committee members. As I had expected, American jewellery historians are perhaps even less familiar with European prehistoric gold ornaments than their British counterparts, and it was gratifying to see how intrigued they were by the elegance and technical brilliance of objects such as Early Bronze Age *lunulae* (crescentic collars), made over 4000 years ago.

Long after my broken bones and ligaments have healed, I trust I shall be in touch with the many friends I made in the USA on this memorable tour.

Obituaries

Howard Blackmore
27 October 1917 – 24 November 1999

Howard Blackmore was for many years a leading British expert on arms and armour, although he also had a keen interest in gemstones, engraved gems, stone tools and axes, and had a broad curiosity in many fields.

Howard was the leading authority on English firearms and was one of the founders of the Arms and Armour Society. He was a well known figure in Hatton Garden during the 1950s and 1960s as he was the Customs and Excise Purchase Tax Inspector for the district. It was during this time that he developed his keen interest in gemmology and gemstones and studied under the tuition of Robert Webster at Chelsea Polytechnic. He spent the years directly after the War scouring the many London shops for examples of weapons, but was often to be found searching through the boxes of old unsorted gemstones on the market stalls of Leather Lane, and in the premises of Rayners, who at that time were at 100 New Bond Street.

He was an accomplished author on many aspects of firearms and weapons, and published a master reference work on the subject in 1961 titled *British military firearms*, a work made possible by his extensive research into the many documents in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane. Howard was appointed as Keeper of Firearms at the Tower Armouries in 1967, and went on to publish a number of major works on firearms and other weapons. He was a man of many interests and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Liveryman of the Gun Makers Company.

The objects of gemmological interest he collected included seals, engraved gems, stone weapons and Chinese jade carvings, and he was still actively collecting right up to the time of his death, never yielding his passionate interests to his illness. In the last few years he spent as much time as possible travelling to take in as many sites and objects as he could, before his health finally gave way.

He was a warm and friendly person with a kind heart and always had an interesting tale to tell of his adventures in Hatton Garden or at the Tower of London. His enthusiasm for gems and his other interests knew no limits and he will be sadly missed by all of those whose lives he touched.

Howard married Kathleen Baylie in 1939, and they had two sons: all survive him.

Christopher Cavey

Dr Timothy Potter

All who have an interest in archeology or in the British Museum will be deeply saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely death at the age of 55 of Dr Timothy Potter, the Keeper of the Museum's Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities. As a leading scholar in the field of Roman archeology, Tim will always be remembered through his numerous publications. For the museum visitor, the Roman Britain and Iron age galleries opened in 1997 will be an enduring and tangible memorial to him.

Catherine Johns

Posy holders
by David Lancaster of Christie's

Looking at the various illustrations of the many Royal weddings which took place in the 19th century is always a rewarding experience, revealing as they do so many details of court dress and accessories.

One notable feature is that the majority of the ladies are carrying a small bouquet of scented flowers and herbs known as a posy, which no doubt sweetened the air in such large gatherings and offered a golden opportunity for goldsmiths to establish a new market.

Diana Scarisbrick in her paper 'Royal Wedding Jewellery, 1863' published in *Jewellery Studies* vol. 1, illustrates a sumptuous posy holder in gold, enamel and carved crystal carried by Princess Alexandra of Denmark at her wedding. This incorporates a chain and finger ring to ensure relaxation does not result in catastrophe. Although there are records of much earlier examples, it was in the 19th century that these holders rose to prominence until the fashion died with the end of Victoria's reign.

In December 1999 Christie's South Kensington offered for sale by auction an unusually extensive collection of posy holders which had previously been exhibited at the Sollerod Museum in Denmark. This collection revealed the very wide range of materials incorporated in the holders, as well as some novel and some vicious devices for securing the bouquet. The sale excited international interest from collectors and dealers with two English gold examples, both *circa* 1850, leading the way at £8050 each. One of these was illustrated on the front cover of the catalogue and described as formed from ten stamped leaves on stalks; four with applied flower restraining spikes activated by a floral cast and turquoise-set sliding ring; the cylindrical handle with spirally engraved scrolled foliage above a cast floral and foliate frieze; with chain and floral cast turquoise-set finger ring, 12 cm; in red leather fitted case with French retailer's paper label. However, many more easily affordable examples were available in silver, Oriental silver filigree, ivory, mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell, selling in the £500 to £1000 range.

The wide range of materials were matched by imaginative use of decoration including micro-mosaic, enamel, porcelain, gems and small mirrors to create an amazing variety of a basically functional object. Viewing the collection gave meaning to the collector's dedication: concentrating on a specific subject can yield an intriguing social history.

A collection of silver posy holders including:
***Lot 209**, a charmingly simple classical design incorporating a sprung tripod stand (c. 1860) which realized £345;*
***Lot 231**, a Danish silver Art Nouveau piece, 1905, at £860; and*
***Lot 213**, one of the two silver-plated examples in this lot which failed to attract a buyer.*
Other prices realized (inclusive of 15% premium): Lot 206 £690, Lot 202 £805, Lot 234 £483, Lot 242 £1265, Lot 238 £1092; Lot 212 £690.

Current Gemmology in China

A brief report by Roger Harding on the Gemmological Conference held at the University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China, on 6–7 November 1999.

The Gemmological Conference is now an annual event and attracted participants from all over China. A total of 120 people attended this two-day event and heard a wide range of papers covering jade, treated diamonds, inclusions, jewellery design, appraisal and a number of other topics. In all 19 papers were presented and brief comments are given below.

The first lecture was given by Dr Tian Liang Guang from Shandong province who summarized and commented upon the events at the GIA symposium in June. Dr Roger Harding then spoke about characterizing the new gem johachidolite and compared it with other borates and borosilicates. The morning session was completed by Dr Huang Weiguang with a comprehensive account of his use of software for designing jewellery in Hong Kong.

Dr Roger Harding presenting the Honorary Fellowship Diploma to Professor Chen Zhonghui during the Conference. The award was made in recognition of Professor Chen's extensive and devoted services to the establishment and development of modern gemmology in China.

Jade

The afternoon was devoted to jade, with the opening talk by Mrs C M Ou Yang on the details of recent production from Northern Myanmar. She described the local geology and mineral complexity of the chrome jadeite jades from that region, with particular emphasis on the very beautiful Hte Long Sein material – the name means 'full of green'.

Professor Cui Wenyuan from Beijing University followed with more petrological analysis of Northern Myanmar jadeites with a range of associated minerals such as kosmochlor formed at high pressure around chromite, and further indications of a high pressure environment came from the presence of eckermannite and from methane inclusions in jadeite (detected using Raman spectroscopy).

Gao Yan from the National Gem Testing Centre in Beijing then spoke on the non-destructive testing of various jadeite and mono-pyroxene jades using X-ray fluorescence and infrared methods. This was followed by the description of a very practical gemmological technique for distinguishing A, B and C jades by Dr Zhang Shenhong from Taiwan. His method involved the careful observation of the behaviour of dilute HCl on jade surfaces, the distinction between types being based on the patterns of droplets of the acid along grain boundaries and the time they took to form.

The final talk of the day was delivered by Dr Tang Deping from the Fuzhou University (Fujian province) and was a comprehensive account of a stone widely used for carving in China – agalmatolite (shoushan stone). Dr. Tang said that although there were more than 100 varieties of the stone, there were three main groups with the red and dark red types often commanding prices higher than jadeite. The majority were composed of kaolinite, dickite or, less commonly, nacrite – all hydrated aluminosilicates – with only a small minority being pyrophyllite which hitherto had been thought to be the main constituent. Hardness (2.5–3.1) and SG (2.57–2.84) ranges were given and the damaging effects of the presence of the clay mineral illite (which may dry out and crack the stone in the sun) were described.

Inclusions

Sunday's programme started with an extensive survey of study of inclusions in a wide range of gem materials by Professor Li Zhaoling of Zhongshan University, Guangdong province. On the basis of inclusions he distinguished Jiangsu from Hainan sapphires, and illustrated convincing chronologies of primary, pseudosecondary and secondary inclusions in sapphires from China, Thailand and Australia. Aquamarine has been mined in Xinjiang, western China for 40 years and this was compared with the rather newer synthetic aquamarine being grown in Guilin.

Wu Shun-Tien gave an interesting account of Taiwan's rather unusual gem material, blue chalcedony. In good colours it commands high prices and imitations abound. The lecture covered ways of detecting the quartzites, opals and glasses used as simulants and also how to spot the dyed chalcedonies by careful observation of structures.

GE POL diamonds

Yuan Zizhong described his studies on the treated diamonds sold by

Pegasus Overseas Ltd (the GE POL diamonds) with details of the graining visible in Diamond View images and of particular peaks in their FTIR spectra. He said that stones with the GE POL inscription removed from the girdle may look like untreated stones at 6× magnification, but traces of the inscription should be visible under a high power microscope.

The new Brewster Angle Meter was described by Dr Roger Harding and its use for identifying diamond and its simulants demonstrated.

Synthetic rubies formed the subject of the next talk by Xi Bo of the Shanghai Gem and Jade Testing Centre and he described the characteristic inclusions of Chatham, Kashan and Ramaura stones. He also analysed in some detail the Raman spectra of natural rubies before and after heat treatment and discussed the possibility of using peak width as an indicator of treatment.

At the National Gem and Jade Testing Centre in Beijing, a new 10-day course based on the Appraisers Society of America course in the USA has been started, and Guo Tao outlined the details. It was seen as an important element in the education of students for the trade and so far there had been a very high pass rate.

The morning session was completed by Chen Meihua from the Wuhan Institute of Gemmology who described his work on the detailed structures of diamonds from Liaoning in northern China. The distribution of N aggregation was described and that and other structures were interpreted in terms of growth conditions of diamond in the mantle.

Treated stones

In the afternoon Xiang Changjin, Professor of Nuclear Physics in Sichuan described his experimental work on irradiation of diamond, beryl, corundum, pearl, quartz, topaz and a wide range of other gem materials, explaining how different colours may be obtained from the same starting material by using different procedures. Colourless beryl can be turned yellow, green or blue with no residual radiation, topaz from Guangdong can be turned violet, beryl from Sichuan can be changed to dull green or deep blue.

A similar theme was pursued by He Jinming, from Xinjiang, who outlined his progress in improving the colour grades of diamonds since 1970. Originally he could produce only darker colours, but since 1979, lighter colours have been achieved and the techniques have also been applied to synthetic diamonds – although here, yields of gem quality material are only between 1 and 3%. An interesting aspect of these two talks is that they dealt with processes which are viewed in China as decorating the gems.

A new range of gem testing instruments was then described by Ms Jian Min Rong from Nanjing. In particular she presented a neat piece of apparatus to measure diamond proportions which consists of gauges and a vacuum system fitted to a microscope.

Research in Wuhan

The final presentation comprised four short papers by Qi Lijian, head of the Gem Testing Centre in Wuhan. An unusual habit of beryl – tabular rather than prismatic – was described from a quartz-fluorite-mica vein cutting marble, and SEM and interference microscopy pictures of spiral and interlocking growth structures were shown.

Recent cathodoluminescence work on Chatham synthetic diamonds and on irradiated diamonds has led to the ability (through growth features) to source synthetic diamonds. Energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence analyses have also indicated the consistent presence of iron, copper and sulphur.

Natural diamonds from the Hunan province have been irradiated with various colours resulting. Work is continuing on the spectra of these stones to try and establish useful criteria for their identification.

Finally, Qi Lijian outlined recent work on chrome jadeite jade (Hte Long Sein jade) and described the changes in peak height and Raman shift in the spectra of a series of jades with increasing chromium.

The above is but a brief resumé of the work of many individuals in many organisations and should only be read as one person's selective appreciation of a wealth of new information. Much of it will be published but meanwhile anyone wishing to follow up any particular topic should contact the author indicated or Professor Chen Zhonghui at the China University of Geosciences, Wuhan.

I would like to thank Ms Li Liping for her very professional and considerate translation throughout the Conference.

The Island of Gems Exhibition

The exhibition on gems and the gem industry of Sri Lanka was held on 13 and 14 November 1999 for the fourth successive year.

The exhibition, organized by D.H. Ariyaratna, was officially opened by the counsellors of the trade and passport divisions of the Sri Lanka High Commission in London and the managing directors of Sri Lanka Information Centre, Mr Colvin De Silva, Trico International Shipping Ltd., and Mrs Asoka Wijesinghe and Mr Sivasundaram of Western Jewellers In London. According to the organizers, it was a great success. A considerable number of visitors attended from overseas including such countries as Turkey, Germany, India, Norway, Switzerland and Sri Lanka.

A free souvenir brochure and sample gemstones (a blue sapphire as well as a garnet, moonstone or topaz) were given to all visitors. Help and advice were available on geology, gem mining, cutting and polishing, and education by assistants well trained in their specific fields. Visitors to the exhibition were able to gain much information on the gems and the gem industry of Sri Lanka.

The Millennium Exhibition at Goldsmiths' Hall

(cont. from p. 17)

An Exhibition catalogue, which will include a Directory of 20th century hallmarks featured in the Goldsmiths' Company's collection, will be on sale at £15.

Evening forums will be held (ticket price £10 per seminar) on 6 June (silver), 20 June (jewellery) and 4 July (art medals). These will be introduced by the company's Curator, Rosemary Ransome Wallis, and will feature craftsmen and experts speaking about their work.

For further information on either the exhibition or seminars, please contact Sofia de Souza-Girão or Rosemary Ransome Wallis on 020 7606 7010.

A GAGTL Members' visit to the exhibition, to include an introductory talk with particular emphasis on the gem-set pieces displayed, is to be held on Wednesday 14 June. Tickets are available to GAGTL members and their guests at £2.00 each.

For a booking form contact Liz Rolph on 020 7404 3334.

Fragments: pages stolen from a book of time

Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh
4 March to 11 June 2000

This is the only UK showing for this collection of stunning new work by the major British goldsmith and jeweller Kevin Coates. The jewels are based on the ancient Greek notion that there are two different kinds of time – one which is historical and measurable, and the more unpredictable time of chance and opportunity. Coates has used evocative found objects – such as a Jurassic fossil, ancient amulets, sherds of Greek, Roman and Oriental pottery, a 16th-century Venetian coin, Islamic glass beads, and a Victorian goldfinch's egg – to inspire precious and elaborate jewels, which are then incorporated into richly worked 'pages' of slate. The series of 29 unique works becomes a journey through time, from the remote past to the present moment.

A superb catalogue, with the same title, is published by Arsenale Editrice, Venezia (ISBN 88-7743-260-8).

New exhibitions at Somerset House

Gilbert Collection

A new museum for the Gilbert Collection of decorative arts will open at Somerset House, Strand, London WC2, on 26 May. American entrepreneur Sir Arthur Gilbert has formed the collection over the past 35 years.

The collection of mosaics is the most comprehensive ever formed, with the Roman and Florentine examples dating from the 16th to the 19th century.

The gold and silver collection has exceptional breadth, ranging chronologically from the 15th to 19th centuries and geographically from India to Continental Europe and South America. Further details on www.gilbert-collection.org.uk/

Hermitage Rooms

Opening Autumn 2000

The State Hermitage Museum of St. Petersburg, Russia's premier museum, is planning to open a permanent exhibition space in London. Rooms at Somerset House, Strand, London WC2, will be devoted to rotating the exhibitions from the Hermitage collections and other Hermitage-related activities, providing London with a window on Russian art and history.

The finest Scottish sapphires

Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh
1 March to 3 September 2000

In response to recent high profile instances of mining companies searching for gemstones in Scotland, a temporary display is being created that will be entirely dedicated to Scottish sapphires. Bringing together for the first time the finest crystals and the largest cut stones from the sapphire locality on the Isle of Lewis, the case will comprise current National Museums of Scotland specimens, as well as items from other Museums and private collections. It will also cover sapphire formation and will speculate on the potential for other similar occurrences throughout Scotland. This locality on Lewis was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest in December 1983, with further collecting banned in the interests of preserving the area. Under the present circumstances no finer specimens can be obtained.

The work of John Nels Hatleberg*

Mineral Gallery, The Natural History Museum, London SW7
8 March to 2 May 2000

John Nels Hatleberg, a conceptual gem artist, is a member of GANA (Gem Artists of North America). John is recognized for the unprecedented diversity of his work with jewels.

A collection of his recent work with pearls will be displayed at the Natural History Museum, including one of his 'Pearl Corn Cobs' which was a winning entry in the International Pearl Design Competition.

**Meet John Nels Hatleberg when he gives a lecture to GAGTL on 4 May.*

British Museum: Temporary closure of galleries

The galleries of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities will be partially closed in the early part of 2000 so that the new fire alarm system and emergency lighting can be installed. The gallery of Clocks and Watches, and the Waddesdon Bequest room, will be closed until the end of March; the galleries containing the Renaissance to 20th century collections will be closed until early June.

Virtuous words, stones and rings: healing through jewellery

This lecture by John Cherry, Keeper of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum, was given to members of the SJH on 24 January.

John Cherry began by exploring the meaning of the gold ring, found near Coventry in the early nineteenth century and now in the British Museum, which has the five wounds of Christ represented as the wells of comfort, grace, pity, mercy and everlasting life. The inside has a continuous Latin inscription which says that the wounds of Christ are my medicine and that phrase is followed by the names of the three Kings Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and the two charm words Tetragrammaton and Annanyzapta. The meaning of these words was explored and compared with the description of the making of rings for the 'lovers' of Sir Edmund Shaa, a rich London goldsmith who died in 1488.

The five wounds of Christ were to be seen on the gold cross found at Milton Keynes and now in the Buckinghamshire Museum. This was very similar to the cross depicted on the portrait painted by Holbein of Sir Brian Tuke the postmaster of Henry VIII. Charms against sudden death, and especially against death without

Tau-shaped gold cross (3 cm) found at Wintringham, Humberside, and now in the Cloisters Museum, New York.

receiving the last rites, were referred to. Particular attention was given to the group of objects known as Agnus Dei containers which often contained wax roundels blessed by the Pope before Easter. A silver example was found near Gleaston in Lancashire, with the device of the Lamb of God on one side and the letters IHS on the other. It is retained in a private collection. It is possible that the Middleham Jewel, published by John Cherry for the Yorkshire Museum, may have been such a container.

The saints on the back of the jewel led into a discussion of metal jewellery associated with saints. He showed the pilgrim signs and jewellery associated with St John the Baptist, whose principal relic was at Amiens, and also with St Anthony, whose relics were brought to the friary in the Dauphiné.

The T-shaped or Tau cross was adopted as the emblem of the Antonite Friars and St Anthony. Lead pilgrim signs and also gold crosses sometimes containing relics were made in the shape of a letter T. One such was found at Wintringham, on the banks of the Humber, and was exported to the Cloisters in New York, since the Export License Reviewing Committee did not think that it was of outstanding importance. Others, however, are still in England, such as the examples in the Norwich Museum and the British Museum.

The lecture concluded with a discussion of the medical effect of the altar piece by Grunewald from Isenheim now in the Colmar Museum.

FEEG Assembly in Leiden

The fourth General Assembly of the Federation for European Education in Gemmology (FEEG) was held in Naturalis, the Natural History Museum in Leiden, The Netherlands, on 28 January.

Seventeen delegates from eleven gemmological teaching organizations in eight European countries met to review and approve the examinations report, to admit new members from Austria and Belgium, and to discuss developments for the future.

A total of 33 students gained the FEEG diploma in 1999 and joined the graduates of previous years in being authorized to use the title European Gemmologist (EG). The dates for the 2000 FEEG examinations were also confirmed at the meeting and are Tuesday 4 July and, for resits, Tuesday 10 October.

The Assembly was followed on Saturday 29 January with a symposium attended by students and gemmologists from all over Holland. They heard talks by George Hamel on diamond cutting in Amsterdam, by Ulrich Henn on new gem occurrences in Africa, by Alexandra Harker on treatments in diamonds, by Loredana Prosperi on synthetic red diamond, Jean-Paul Poirot on tourmaline, Hanco Zwaan on emeralds in Zimbabwe and Roger Harding on the Brewster Angle Meter. The day was rounded off with presentation of FEEG diplomas to successful students by Professor Pieter Zwaan, and a reception for all the participants.

Roger Harding

A sense of wonder

The Association for Contemporary Jewellery is holding its biennial conference in Birmingham, 19-22 July.

There will be a galaxy of international speakers on the theme of the Amalgam of Art, Science and Technology and its relation to jewellery. Delegates are expected from Europe and USA. The all-in fee is £135 for ACJ members and £145 for non-members.

Further information from Anne Malindine, ACJ, 14 Camden Terrace, Bristol BS8 4PU. Tel/Fax 0117 914 9508, E-mail Anne@amalindine.freeserve.co.uk.

Spring Events

10 April: SJH lecture
Great temple of Les Beaux Arts: 18th century Birmingham and the Soho Manufactory
SHENA MASON
Shena Mason is former managing editor of *British Jeweller*. She has been associated with the jewellery trade in Birmingham since 1959 and has conducted research for Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, including work on the setting up of the Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre museum and Soho House, the home of Matthew Boulton. In 1998 she published *Jewellery Making in Birmingham 1750-1995*.

19 April: GAGTL lecture
The colour of diamond and how it can be changed
PROFESSOR ALAN COLLINS
Alan Collins is Professor of Physics at King's College London. His main research interest lies in the optical properties of diamond and he has published more than 170 papers on the subject. In addition to a six-month spell at the De Beers Diamond Research Laboratory, Johannesburg, over the last 12 years he has given 33 invited lectures at international meetings. He is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Gemmology* and of *Diamond and related materials*, and is on the *Review Board of Gems & Gemology*.

Extra meeting
4 May: GAGTL lecture
Famous diamonds and conceptual jewels
John Nels Hatleberg

18 May: GAGTL lecture
The Rose – nature's jewel as a decorative emblem
CORINNA PIKE
Corinna Pike is the Silver Manager and Archivist at Asprey & Garrard. Before the merger she had worked for many years at Garrard in Regent Street where, in addition to her sales role, she organized various exhibitions and special projects. A freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, she is also on the Committee of the SJH and on the Editorial Board of *GJN*.

22 May: SJH lecture
Mediaeval ring brooches in Ireland; a study of jewellery, dress and society.
MARY B. DEEVY
Mary Deevy lives in Dublin and is currently directing archaeological excavations in Ireland. She specialized in medieval ring brooches for her masters degree (published 1998). She is also a part-time lecturer in Nul Maynooth, Department of History.

5 June.
The Millennium Trade Dinner
Full details given on p.18

19 June: SJH lecture
Surviving desire: native jewellery of the American Southwest
HENRIETTA LIDCHI
Henrietta Lidchi is a curator at the British Museum having worked on the North American collections. She was involved with the new Chase Manhattan Gallery of North America which opened in June 1999. Over the last three years she has done a lot of field work and her lecture will reflect first-hand knowledge of that experience.

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

GAGTL Scottish Branch Millennium Conference

The Queen's Hotel, Perth. 28 April to 1 May

To celebrate the Millennium, the Scottish Branch are arranging a specially extended conference. Programme details are as follows:

Keynote speaker:
KEN SCARRATT
'Rubies, emeralds, diamonds – a treat, if not treated'
'The origin of the species'

GUY CLUTTERBUCK
'Emeralds in the raw'

BARBARA LEAL and PETER BUCKIE*
'Grading coloured stones'

CHRIS TABRAHAM
'The Honours of Scotland'

Further details available from Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199.

* Congratulations to Peter Buckie and Barbara Leal on their recent marriage which took place in Tucson, Arizona, on 5 February. We wish them a long life together and great happiness.

Competition

My trickster friend landed in my office again last week. He had parcels of stones separated out into types. He opened three parcels and said that I could buy a ruby and a sapphire for £24, or a ruby and a topaz for £18, or a sapphire and a topaz for £26. The stone of each type were equally priced. For a split moment I thought I had the better of him as I could see how to work out the price of each type of stone.

He could see the glint of satisfaction in my eye and wryly said 'You think it's easy'. He then pulled out a parcel of emeralds and said 'So how much do you think the price is for each of these stones?' How much does an emerald cost and why?

Harry Levy

The answer to the puzzle in the December issue of GJN:

We know the rogue stone is a diamond and has a higher SG than moissanite, so it is heavier than the other eight stones. Divide the nine stones into three groups of three stones each. Call these groups A, B and C. Put, say, A in one pan and B in the other. If they balance then they are all moissanites and the diamond is in group C. For the second weighing compare any two stones from Group C. We now have, say, C1 and C2. If they balance, then the last stone C3 is the diamond, If they do not balance then the heavier stone is the diamond.

If in the first weighing the stones do not balance, then the pan that goes down contains the diamond. Follow the steps taken above with Group C to determine which stone in the heavier group is the diamond.

What's On

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London Branch

Meetings will be held at the GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre, 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8TN or Imperial College, South Kensington, at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. Entry will be by ticket only at £4.00 for a member (£6.00 for a non-member).

7 April. *Visit to Kingston University.*

19 April. *Colour in diamonds*
*PROFESSOR ALAN COLLINS**

27 April. *Visit to De Beers*

EXTRA MEETING
4 May. *Famous diamonds and conceptual jewels*
JOHN NELS NATLEBERG

18 May. *The Rose – nature's jewel as a decorative emblem*
*CORINNA PIKE**

5 June. *Goldsmiths' Hall. Millennium Trade Dinner.*
Details given on p. 18

14 June. Goldsmiths' Hall.
Visit to Treasures of the 20th Century

26 June. *AGM, Reunion of Members and Bring and Buy Sale.*

12 July. *Faceting revolution*
ROGER YOUNG

* Further details are given under Spring Events on p.31.

Midlands Branch

Friday meetings will be held at The Earth Sciences Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. Admission £2 for a member. For further information call 0121 445 5359.

31 March. *All that glisters is not gold*
DR ROB IXER

28 April. *Silver – Designer and manufacturer*
MARTYN PUGH
The evening will also include the Branch AGM.

21 May. *Gem Club*
MEMORY STATHER and *DOUG MORGAN.*

24 June. Summer Supper

Gem Play Groups (held at Barnt Green from 3 p.m.): 30 April, 21 May, 30 July and 27 August.

North West Branch

Meetings will be held at the Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. For further details contact Deanna Brady on 0151 648 4266.

17 May. *MARTIN CONNARD.*

21 June. *Pocket sculptures – gemstone carving?*
MEMORY STATHER

Scottish Branch

For details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199.

27 March. *The Lore of Gemstones*
BRIAN JACKSON

28 April to 1 May. *Millennium Conference*
(Details given on p. 31)

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.

10 April. *SHENA MASON.* Lately Editor of the *British Jeweller,* and author of *Jewellery making in Birmingham 1750-1955.*
*'Great temple of Les Beaux Arts': 18th century Birmingham and the Soho Manufactory.**

22 May. *MARY BRID DEEVY.* Art historian and author.
*Mediæval ring brooches in Ireland; a study of jewellery, dress and society.**

19 June. *HENRIETTA LIDCHI.* Curator of North American Collection, British Museum.
*Surviving desire: native jewellery of the American Southwest.**

2 October. *MALCOLM APPLEBY.* Scottish artist-jeweller and engraver.
A lecture on his own work.

14/15 October. *A weekend symposium on enamelling.*

6 November. *PROFESSOR HENRY FERNANDEZ.* Rhode Island School of Design.
Papal tiaras in early 16th century Rome.

4 December. *HUGH TAIT.* Past President of the Society.
The jeweller's art of émail en résille sur verre: *from antiquity to the 19th century.*

* Further details are given under Spring Events on p.31.

The copy date for contributions for the June issue of *Gem and Jewellery News* is 20 April